

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2017-18

Feb 2018

PROGRAMME

For this month we have -

- Sun 4th : Cotswold Cup
- Mon 5th : Winter Teams 5
- Mon 12th : Winter Pairs 6
- Mon 19th : League 8
- Mon 26th : Spring Teams

This month sees the closing sessions of the Winter Teams and Winter Pairs, but we make no promises about the weather. The Spring Teams (first of five sessions) is a multiple teams event to which any foursome can turn up at any session.

GCBA WINTER PROGRAMME

The next county-wide weekend event is the Newent Bowl which takes place on Sunday 4th March at Newent. Details are on the [Newent BC website](#).

After that comes the final of the County Pairs on Saturday 17th March. Heats have already taken place at CBC and GCBA, at Newent, with Stroud to come on 21st Feb.

BRIDGE OUTSIDE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Forthcoming events in neighbouring counties include these -

- East Wales hosts a 2-day Swiss Teams in Newport on the weekend of 10-11 February.
- Wiltshire run two 1-day Swiss events in Bath on the weekend of 3-4 March, and a handful from Gloucestershire usually attend.

DIRECTORS' THOUGHTS

There was some discussion (as a follow on to last month's resolutions about the STOP card) as to what penalties can be imposed on those who flout these regulations and just ignore the STOP card.

The first thing we all have to accept is that the STOP card procedure is (a) at times pointless, but (b) at other times valuable. Its function is to help mask a player's pause for thought which would otherwise create a break in tempo (and Unauthorised Information), but it applies only to jump bids which sometimes are surprises (and cause a pause for thought) and sometimes are not.

The rules are made very simple because we know of no other way of forecasting that a bid will cause pause for thought. The system is not perfect, but it is simple and it can avoid later UI problems, so we are all encouraged to use it.

There are no specified penalties for ignoring the STOP card (or any of the other regulations) – we rely on people understanding that regulations are there to help, and therefore worth following. The EBU recommends two warnings to an offender before imposing a Procedural Penalty – the latter on the basis that the failure to comply with the regulations is having a negative effect on the enjoyment of others by potentially disrupting the management of the event.

The EBU magazine runs a Christmas Quiz every year, and this year the winner of first prize was our Keith Sharp, from Malmesbury.

GCBA RESULTS

The first event of the new year was the County Individual and we had a lovely 20 people compete; the winner by a serious margin was Ian Constable, ahead of Paul Denning and then Geoff Foster.

The Winter Pairs had its fifth session, the winners of which were Ashok Kwatra & John Skjonnemand ahead of Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley. There is one session to go in this series and Joe & Keith are leading ahead of Roy Collard & Pam Pearce.

The County League has had seven sessions now; top scores in the first January match went to the Letts team in Division One, and to the Jones team in Division Two. In the second match (using the fifth Monday) the top scoring teams were Alan Wearmouth's team in Division One who got 20 VPs and in Division Two it was again Mary Jones' team (17 VPs) who thereby move into the lead there with two matches to go.

In the Cleverly Teams League, Wanderers are just ahead of Stroud M in Division One, while the three regional leagues are currently being led by Pear Jars (in the NE), EDF Energy B (in the NW) and Nympsfield (South).

The January County match against Derbyshire generated two wins for the county (Dawes and Porter) while the Markham team lost 8-12. All three teams lie third in their divisions in the Midlands Counties League.

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COUNTY SUCCESS

Away from Cheltenham, Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields have won two events in the past month – the Swiss Teams at the Midlands Congress at Solihull, and the Consolation PAB Teams at the Young Chelsea Club. If you think you've ever had a bad accident, look at this one from which they benefited ..

♠ --		
♥ 983		
♦ KJ6		
♣ KQJ7532		
♠ AKQ642		♠ JT73
♥ AKQJ74	B 38	♥ T6
♦ --	DLR E	♦ Q9862
♣ 8	VUL: EW	♣ AT
♠ 985		
♥ 52		
♦ AT743		
♣ 964		

West had quite a hand to open in third seat and the opponent chose 2♣ to start with. North wanted to obstruct the conversation and tried 4♣, but after P-P, West was still intent on bidding a slam. He didn't know which suit to choose, so he decided he'd ask partner, and to get partner to choose at the 6-level he bid 6♣. His partner scratched his head for a while, and couldn't understand what was going on, and eventually passed, leaving partner to play 6♣, down 9.

At the other table, West started sensibly with a 4N opening – asking partner to show any aces held. A perfect hand for this convention! Or at least it was until North decided to overcall, and not just 5♣, but he bid 6♣. The responses to 4N in such circumstances were not known to either partner, so they settled for 6♥, and once South decided on sacrificing against that, they doubled 7♣ and collected +800 (and 17 imps when combined with teammates' +900).

General Data Protection Regulation

The new GDPR comes into effect in May of this year, and applies to all bridge clubs, whatever their size. The EBU has provided useful guidance to all affiliated clubs. All clubs are encouraged to read the information on the Information Commissioner's website.

The key thrust of the changes is that organisations give stronger than ever protection to all personal data (names and addresses and more) they have collected.

The measures which are recommended include the encryption of such data if it is held on computers, and the locking away of any hard copy material. Passwords which protect data need to be changed whenever the set of people entitled to the password changes.

Members' contact details can be shared only where they have given explicit permission to allow this, and this applies to sharing which occurs in any visible email addresses on broadcast emails.

The EBU has created the capability for scorers to upload results with minimal access to the club's account on the EBU website. We should all be using this.

Clubs will need to learn about Data Controllers and Data Processors and the contracts between them, and about Privacy Notices, and some clubs will need to register with the Information Commissioner.

The above only outlines the issues which arise – definitive advice must come from the ICO or from legal advisors.

Best Conventions (6)

Number six on my list of "must have" conventions is that which goes by the name of Lebensohl. The basic idea is to give up a response of 2N in certain circumstances making the bid there into a puppet bid, asking partner to bid 3♣.

This approach gives you two ways to bid a suit at the three level (directly or after 2N-3♣), and you trade the loss of one bid to gain many more. The need is strongest where there is a wide range of hands on which you want to (or need to) bid. The two areas of common use are

- When opponents overcall your 1N bid, where a direct bid is now forcing and bidding via 2N-3♣ is just to compete
- When partner had doubled their weak two bid for takeout, and now a direct bid shows values and invites game, while bidding via 2N-3♣ is weak.

As well as two ways to bid your suit, the 2N puppet offers you two ways to cue bid their suit, and two ways to bid 3N. Meanings are attached to the four options, most commonly with direct bids denying a stopper in their suit and with cue bids promising four of the other major.

The same concept can be applied in the wider context of just anytime you might want to compete over the opposition's bid of 2♥ or 2♠. For example it can apply after

1♠ – X(takeout) – 2♠, or

1N – X(penalty) – 2♥

in both these cases to distinguish between a weak hand competing, and a decent hand inviting support.