

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2017-18

July/August 2018

PROGRAMME

For this last month of the year, August, we have -

- Mon 6th : Summer Teams
- Mon 13th : Summer Pairs
- Mon 20th : Summer Teams
- Mon 27th : Summer Pairs

MONDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER

The new GCBA season starts on Monday 3rd September, and the pattern is similar to last year

- First Monday of the month is teams – Winter Swiss Teams for four sessions, then Spring Teams, and finally Summer Teams.
- Second Monday is pairs – Winter Pairs for five sessions, then Spring Swiss Pairs, and later Summer Pairs.
- Third Monday is League, and later Summer Teams.
- Fourth Monday varies each month, and starts with the Women's & Men's Pairs on the 25th September.

The League needs prior entry (list on the board at CBC, or email to league@gcba.org.uk) but for other events you can just turn up (as a pair or a foursome, as appropriate) on the day.

BRIDGE AROUND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Coming up in September ...

- On the 28th-30th is the West of England Congress at Weston Super Mare. See [the Somerset SCBA website](#) for details.

England's Junior Teams

During the week of 9-12 July, we organised a Simultaneous Pairs event around the county, and across the eight heats held at Cheltenham BC (CBC and GCBA and Nomads) and Southam and Tewkesbury, and with the help of donations (vmt to Chipping Campden BC), we raised £453 to go towards the fund. Many thanks to all.

The Juniors themselves have been involved in the European Youth Pairs over the past month and have won two Bronze Medals. The four England teams will be heading off to China next, where the World Championships take place from 8th-18th August. You can follow them on-line through BBO, and we will be recording progress on the Youth Bridge website, www.bridgewebs.com/gloucestershireyouth

Cleverly Teams League

Last season finished off with a CTL day at Cheltenham Bridge Club where 7 teams competed, and with Ian Sigdwick & Paul Spencer, Jeanette Simon & George Strang (the North Cotswolds team from the NE Division) coming out on top.

Entries for the new season are now being sought, so that the assignment to divisions can be organised. If you know any group of people who might want to make up a new team, please encourage them – and if they want to know more, point them to the web site or ask them to contact ctl@gcba.org.uk.

GCBA RESULTS

There have been 4 sessions of Summer Pairs and Summer Teams during June and July. In the Summer Pairs, session winners were Tony Letts & Roger Schofield, Joe Angseesing & Roger Jackson, Tony Letts & Mike Wignall, and Pam Pearce & Steve Sasanow. Across the series Pam has top score but Joe Angseesing leads those who have already partnered the necessary five partners.

In the Summer Teams there have been multiple wins for Joe & Wendy Angseesing, Roger Jackson & Mike Wignall (20 points) but pipping them to the post currently is Allan Sanis on 21 points with a win, a shared win, and a second place. Across the four sessions, over 40 people have earned points.

Ross-on-Wye Green Point Swiss Pairs & Teams

The best results from County players were Allan & Judy Sanis, and Pam Pearce - who were 14th out of the field of 72 pairs. Allan & Judy were also our best in the teams ending equal 3rd playing with Jonny & Keith Sharp; but also on the same score was Jon Nicholls & Kanwar Rahim playing with Steve Sasanow & John Stirrup.

Simultaneous Pairs Success

In the Kidney Research Sims on 12th July, in the heat held at Gloucester, Norah Allen & Stewart Harrison produced a 71.5% session and came 1st out of 898 pairs competing. In the EBU Sims at Wantage on 26th July, Malcolm Green & Mike Lewis produced a 69% score nationally and came 3rd out of 493 pairs.

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GCBA SIMS, WED

This South hand from the Simultaneous Pairs was arguably the most powerful which arose in the four days -

♠ 9543		
♥ KQ543		
♦ 4		
♣ AQ3		
♠ J62		♠ T
♥ T962	B 14	♥ AJ87
♦ JT8	DLR E	♦ 953
♣ 852	VUL:none	♣ K9764
♠ AKQ87		
♥ --		
♦ AKQ762		
♣ JT		

With East-West silent you might expect North-South to have an easy time bidding the slam, but the fact is that hardly anybody did. On the plus side, nobody got left in a part-score and nobody went down in a contract!

How should the bidding proceed? Clearly South needs to make a strong opening, and for some that would be 2♣ and others 2♦. If South's strong opening is justified then North has an enormous hand and should expect always to be in slam. If however South opens a "strong" bid on hands which could be opened at the 1-level, then North won't know that.

[There is always less space available after a 2-level opening, so a 1-level opening is preferred unless you see a serious danger of the opening being passed out, and you have an easy game to make]

After a strong opening and a positive, South should take time to bid the suits, first diamonds and then spades. Once spades are supported, slam is a clear option and cue bidding should get you there.

Do check with your partner how you would have easily bid the excellent grand slam in spades.

Derek Rue

RIP

There will be many bridge players in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and the rest of the country who will be saddened to know that Derek Rue died on July 10th, just after his 84th birthday.

In 1966 he was one of the founder members of the Cheltenham Bridge Club with the foresight to purchase the building in Tivoli Road. In the decades since, he was a regular member of the committees of the Bridge Club and the County Association, fulfilling a number of roles in each. In 2010 he received a Dimmie Fleming Award for services to bridge.

Derek first came to prominence as a top county player in the 1960s and was a regular winner at county and national level in the decades since, right through until this year. He helped Gloucestershire win the Tollemache Cup in 2007. Derek represented England in its Senior Team in the European Championships and the World Olympiad in 2004, and he was also a silver medallist in the 2001 European Bridge Pairs Championship. He wore his England blazer with pride.

Derek also found time to enjoy sport. He was a life member of Worcestershire County Cricket Association and watched them regularly. Some of us will also know how much he enjoyed a social round of golf.

Most importantly Derek was a very good friend to so many of us. His excellent conversation, his knowledge of world affairs, his wit and his kindness will be a loss to us all.

Best Conventions (11)

Number eleven on my list of "must have" conventions is having a two-suited defence when the opponents open 1N. Particularly playing match points, being able to interfere is important as 1N is so often a comfortable spot.

Over their 1N, having just simple suit overcalls as your weapon gives you no second chance so that your intervention is much more dangerous. The usual approach people take emphasises the majors, as when you have the minors you expect the opening side to outbid you.

Playing match points against a weak NT field, the most important thing it to get in as often as possible – which is why variations on Aspro (2♣ for hearts & another, 2♦ for spades & another) are so popular. Over both of these bids partner can support or bid one step up (2♦/2♥) to discover partner's five card suit.

If you play this convention you should make sure that when you have both majors you let your first bid show the shorter major, or if you have 55 in the majors you choose 2♣. It is worth bidding over 1N with almost all 5-5 hands; with 5422 defending is often best and with 5431 you should bid unless you might be forced into bidding a so-so 5-card suit at the 3-level (when partner fails to support you immediately).

More common in teams bridge and internationally, is playing 2♣ to show the majors, 2♦ to show one major (multi-style) and 2M to show five cards in that major plus a minor suit. You get into the auction less often with this, but you never get crowded out of a major suit fit.