

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2017-18

June 2018

PROGRAMME

For this month we have -

- Mon 4th : Summer Teams
- Mon 11th : Summer Pairs
- Mon 18th : Summer Teams
- Mon 25th : Summer Pairs

Starting in June we have three months of the Summer Pairs and Summer Teams. In both you can play with different partners every session, and the more times you turn up the better chance you have of winning the series.

GCBA WEEKEND PROGRAMME

On the 17th June we have a new special event specially for those who play in the Cleverly Teams League. It will be a multiple teams game and will incorporate play-offs for the top teams in each regional division to determine promotion for next season. All current players – and prospective players - are welcome to come along.

On the 9th August we have arranged a friendly match with AVON (county). There will be three teams-of-8, comprising tournament players, club players, and novices. It will take place at Cheltenham Bridge Club (this year). Invites are going out to a number of clubs to provide pairs – if you don't hear but are interested please email to patrick@gcba.org.uk.

BRIDGE AROUND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Coming up in July ...

- On the 21st/22nd is the annual Green Point weekend organised jointly with Herefordshire. See [the website](#) for details.

JUNIOR FUND RAISER

The GCBA is going to run a series of Simultaneous Pairs across the county on the nights of Monday 9th to Thursday 12th of July. These are being organised to help support the English Junior teams who are heading to China this summer to play in the World Championships.

We are asking all clubs to participate; the hands (with commentaries) will be provided, and scoring will be done centrally across the county. It will be a different set of hands each day, so people can play in as many sessions as they like, at whatever club they choose. The only catch is we are asking clubs to collect an extra £2 per head table money, to make up the county donation to the fund.

Please chase your club organisers to make sure they are on board with this!

Booking matches at CBC

The process at CBC has changed and if you have a match to play there, please read carefully the instruction in the booking diary. In particular you must email the request as well as write it in the book.

The County TD roundtables continue all year – at 1800 on selected Fridays at Cheltenham Bridge Club. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The dates are

- Friday 15 June,
- Friday 20 July,
- Friday 14 September,
- Friday 26 October,
- Friday 7 December.

GCBA RESULTS

This month saw two of the Bank Holiday Summer Pairs sessions which are run jointly with CBC. The winners were Joe & Wendy Angseesing on the first session, and Ashok Kwatra & Mike Wignall on the second occasion.

The final session of the Spring Swiss Pairs also took place, where Ian Constable & Lesley Harrison overtook the previous leaders to win by 9 VPs from Joe & Wendy Angseesing. Best scorers in the final session were Malcolm Green & Mike Lewis with 52/60 VPs.

The fourth session of the Spring Teams was won by Ashok Kwatra & Paul Lilley, Steve Sasanow & Mike Wignall. Together with Lesley Harrison & Pam Pearce that team collected 19 VPs across the series, to finish 1 VP ahead of the Constable team (Ian & Val, Roy Collard, Steve Evans, Patrick Phair) who also overtook the previous leaders.

Top Congress Winners ...

At Cheltenham, the Men's Pairs was won by John Councer & Nicky Ferguson, and the Rolf Garside trophy was won by Jane Allison & Robert Macrae. In the Swiss Pairs, second place went to Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett.

In the Avon Swiss Teams at Bath, the winning team included Angelos Agathangelou & John Councer.

Finally, well done to John Atthey & Richard Plackett, Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields whose recent win at Southampton helped their team reach the last 8 of the Gold Cup.

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FROM CBC PAIRS LEAGUE

Playing in Stratford at the May Bank Holiday we were all surprised to come across a balanced 27-count, but then a few days later this happened -

♠ AKQJ		
♥ AK2		
♦ AK82		
♣ KJ		
♠ 7		♠ T95
♥ J97643	B 9	♥ T
♦ 7	DLR N	♦ QJT9643
♣ 98432	VUL: EW	♣ Q6
♠ 86432		
♥ Q85		
♦ 5		
♣ AT75		

The vulnerability generally kept EW quiet on this but after the bidding started 2♣-P-2♦-P some Norths had a problem. A leap to game at this point could easily be made on a long suit with a hope for 9 tricks, and we can find no other excuse than doing this for the two tables who played the hand in game.

When North was able (see the right hand column) to show a game forcing balanced hand by continuing with 2♥-2♠-2N then South could give a good description of their hand - transferring into spades and bidding clubs. The catch for most was that after South showed spades, North got too excited and denied South the chance to show a second suit.

Showing a second suit was vital and where the bidding was allowed to proceed 3♥-3♠-4♣, then North knew South had at most 4 red cards. The ♣A was the key missing card, and with a check for aces North was able to bid the grand slam confidently. Only two out of twelve tables managed that - so if you can get your act together on big hands and slam bidding you can earn a lot of points!

Miscellaneous

Planning : for the new year's GCBA programme will start very soon. If you have any thoughts on what would make our events more attractive to the bridge players currently missing out on these, please tell us (email ctd@gcba.org.uk).

GCBA Strategy : for promoting bridge in the county is up for revision. The current version is on the [web site here](#); any thoughts are welcome (email to strategy@gcba.org.uk)

GDPR : the county has just created its first Privacy Policy and published it [on the website here](#). Please read through and be aware of how we treat your personal data.

Facebook : the county has a minimal presence there - do you think it would be helpful if we did more? Please let us know what you think - email to publicity@gcba.org.uk.

Youth Bridge : is currently still trying to get off the ground in Cheltenham before we consider other places. If you are interested to help, please let us know through an email to gyb@gcba.org.uk.

TD training : there are multiple EBU and EBED driven courses taking place over coming months, starting with Bath on 13th June. Details can be found on the EBED website at

<http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/td-training>.

GCBA Financial Support to Clubs : this has now extended to provide support to Stroud for TD training and its new Monday afternoon venture. Of course there are only limited funds, but if there is any way the GCBA could be helping your club, please make sure we know about it.

Best Conventions (10)

Number ten on my list of "must have" conventions goes most commonly by the name of "Kokish" and is a mechanism for handling game forcing balanced hands. As you might expect, these are opened 2♣ but they are distinguished from the "normal" 23-24 balanced by use of an artificial 2♥ bid after partner's 2♦ response.

The 2♥ bid here is a two way bid - either a standard heart suit or a game forcing balanced. Partner finds out by bidding 2♠, and the balanced game force bids 2N while hands where 2♥ showed hearts now bid at the 3-level.

The great advantage of being able to show a game forcing balanced (usually 25 hcp but if you can count the tricks, say with ♠A2♥A2♦AKQ432♣A32, you might have less) is that that you have space to use Stayman and Transfers to investigate possible contracts - something you could not do easily if partner had been forced to jump to 3N.

What about the 2♣-2♦-3N sequence? That is best used to show long hearts in a no-trumpish hand, a bit like the example above but with long hearts. Partner can now judge whether to play in 3N or 4♥.

You might be concerned that this is a frill, that so rarely comes up it is not worthwhile. In fact a hand of 25+ hcp and a balanced shape will come up 1 hand in 3000, which means that a club playing once a week would see almost two a year.

But if you are a good card holder - aren't we all? - it will come up a lot more often! And you want to be able to do the right thing when it does.