

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2021-22

May 2022

GCBA RESULTS

Series 14 of the 9-high Swiss Pairs was won by Pauline Mussi and Jonathan Bailey, with Neville Shorricks and Martyn Moxley runners-up. Many congratulations to the successful pairs.

Results of the Bi-weekly GCBA Swiss teams:

1st Val Constable, Jim Simons, Patrick Phair and Garry Watson.

2nd Richard Butland, Richard Chamberlain, Graham Cornell, Andrew Kambites and Rob Stevens.

3rd Patrick Shields, Paul Denning, Diane Kurbalija, Dan McIntosh, Rob Lawy, John Matheson and Diana Nettleton.

The County Leagues have now completed. In Division One:

1st Patrick Shields, Garry Watson, Diana Nettleton, Tom Paske and Ollie Burgess.

2nd Rob Lawy, Jim Grant, Stepan Lindfors and Harry Anoyrkatis.

And in Division Two:

1st Allan Sanis, Brian Goalby, Tony Letts, Roger Schofield, Judy Sanis and Keith Sharp.

2nd Ashok Kwatra, Jack Armorgie, David Atthey and Alison Pritchard.

Cleverley Teams

Division 1:

1st= Stroud M and Tudor

Division 2:

1st Cheltenham Z

2nd Chipping Campden

Division 3:

1st Sharps

2nd South Cotswolds

COUNTY PAIRS

Sixteen pairs competed in the County Pairs Final, which was played as a face-to-face event.

1st Joe Angseesing and Kanwar Rahim

2nd Jackie Davies and Huw Oliver

3rd Roger Eaton and Ted Phillips

Congratulations to the leading pairs in this event who qualify to represent Gloucestershire in the Corwen Trophy.

GARDEN CITIES QUALIFIER

The qualifying competition consisted of 27 teams from across the country split into 2 sections. Cheltenham were comfortable winners of their section and will play in the national final in June. Congratulations to Roger Schofield, Keith Sharp, Richard Butland, Paul Denning, Patrick Shields, Alan Wearmouth, Jack Armorgie and Garry Watson.

DISTRICT CLUSTER

Are Bridge Clubs on Their Own?

It has been a tough time for most clubs these last couple of years. The great majority have successfully restarted and the amount of face to face play has increased, though not back to the previous level. Even before Covid many were concerned with maintaining and growing membership. So what can be done?

We are trying a new approach in the north-east corner of Gloucestershire

In April leading members from four local clubs, a bridge teacher, a social bridge organiser/TD and two members of GCBA's Executive Committee met to discuss this question. The upshot of the enthusiastic discussion was that there were seven things that we wished to investigate and hopefully take forward:

1, Creating a district website to show in one place all the bridge opportunities in the area.

2, All club sites to link to this as well as specifically mentioning teaching.

3, GCBA will source any required technical support for the above.

4, Two of the clubs will investigate the use of a duplimating (dealing) machine so players can see hands together with the results, thus enriching the experience.

5, Trophy competitions, one for more relaxed play, one for more competitive players to be held side by side. Two other events aimed at attracting social rubber players to try duplicate (the EBU/EBED has produced tutorial for this).

6, Addressing the need for teaching. Publicise the existing "improvers" teaching and by the autumn add some for beginners.

7, Publicise and promote our wonderful game. Marketing materials, free from the EBU were distributed.

So to answer the question posed earlier, clubs are not on their own. By getting together with other clubs, teachers, organisers, the GCBA and EBU resources it may prove possible to give the game the boost that it deserves.

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IMPROVER'S CORNER

Opening leads are a critical part of the game and the choice of lead can often seal the fate of the contract. It is important to use the bidding as a aid in selecting your opening lead and equally important to help partner in his lead choice whenever you can. Consider this hand as East with neither side vulnerable.

♠ 84
♥ T973
♦ 95
♣ KJ983

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♥	3♠	?

What should you bid on this hand? Most players would support their partner by bidding 4♥, but does this bid gain anything? You know that South is going to bid 4♠ (or possibly something stronger). Suppose that this becomes the final contract. West will have no clue as to what to lead and will probably start with a heart. If the full hand is like this, the heart lead will give away the contract.

♠ Q952		
♥ 83		
♦ AQ87		
♣ Q54		
♠ J3		♠ 84
♥ AQJ64	4♠ by	♥ T973
♦ KJ94	South	♦ 53
♣ 76		♣ KJ983
	♠ AKT76	
	♥ K2	
	♦ T62	
	♣ AT2	

You had your chance during the auction. If you had bid 4♣ over 3♠ then partner would have led that suit. You would have created an entry to your hand in order to lead a heart through declarer and defeat the contract with one club, two hearts and later a diamond trick.

Of course, you cannot know the full layout when you bid clubs but it costs nothing to show where your values lie, either getting partner off to the best lead or perhaps paving the way to a good sacrifice should there be a double fit on the hand. This is known as bidding for the lead and opportunities for it occur frequently, so be on the lookout.

SOLUTION TO APRIL TEASER

♠ K9743	
♥ AJ	
♦ JT9	
♣ AT3	
♠ 5	
♥ KQ752	6♠ by
♦ Q653	South
♣ Q92	

You were asked to find a defence after declarer had won your ♥K lead with the Ace, drawn trumps, eliminated diamonds and put you in with a heart. You can't afford to concede a ruff and discard at this point, so you have to lead a club.

If partner holds the ♣K you will always beat the contract so assume that declarer holds this card. If he also holds the knave then there is nothing to be done so you must play partner for that card. If you lead a low club and declarer holds the 8, then partner's knave will have to be played and you are then exposed to a finesse against your Queen. However, if you exit with the ♣Q then the defence can always prevail since partner can cover dummy's ten with his assumed knave, promoting your 9 to winning rank.

MAY'S PLAY PROBLEM

♠ A3
♥ AQT3
♦ J8542
♣ AQ

♠ K865
♥ KJ72
♦
♣ KT872

Plan the play of 6♥ by South when West leads ♥9.

THE ODDS ARE NEVER OBVIOUS

Have a think about how you play the trump suit in this contract, when they lead the ♣6 against your 7♥ contract.

♠ AQT	♠ KJ943
♥ AJT54	♥ K987
♦ 5	♦ AK6
♣ AK73	♣ 9

The vanilla odds in the trump suit are to play for the drop; after winning the ♣A, and cashing the ♥A and leading the ♥J and seeing a second small card from LHO, we know that LHO has 10 vacant spaces to the 11 vacant spaces held by RHO – giving an 11/21 chance of dropping the queen next.

What we need to do however is factor into that the fact that a trump was not led. We know the lead would not be made from ♥Qxx but if just 5% of the time, a trump would be led from ♥xx, then the odds have shifted and strongly favour the finesse.

GCBA TREASURER

Just a reminder that GCBA is looking for a replacement treasurer. Any interested person should contact the GCBA Secretary Patrick Shields for more information.