

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2018-19

October-November 2019

PROGRAMME

The pattern on Mondays continues into October and November with

- First Monday of the month is Swiss Teams.
- Second Monday is the Autumn Pairs
- Third Monday is the League
- Fourth Monday is special, and for October is County Knock Out, and November is Mixed Pairs.

Apart from the League where entries are already in and fixed, you can just turn up for as many or as few sessions as you fancy – but do come as a pair on pairs evenings, and as a foursome on teams evenings.

COMING COUNTY EVENTS

The next special weekend event is the Bredon Vale Cup on Sunday 16th November. This is an inter-club competition, restricted to at most one player per team being of National Master rank or above. Every club in the County can submit up to three teams (of four). The event starts at 1330 and will run to about 1730; the entry fee of £5 per head includes tea and cake. It is useful to know the numbers ahead of time for catering, but entries will be accepted on the day.

BRIDGE AROUND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Don't forget

- Worcester Congress on the 26th-27th October

EBU SCORE

One of the services provided by the EBU is a set of scoring software called EBUScore. It was developed by Jeff Smith from Manchester over many years and supports all the forms of duplicate played in this country. It is free to Affiliated Clubs and is offered to others for a fee; the flexibility is similar to that found in the commercial ScoreBridge, and together these two products dominate the electronic scoring in bridge clubs in the UK.

Fairly recently the EBU has created a discussion forum, at which questions about the software are asked and answered. Reading others' questions is also a great way to learn more about the software. The forum is at

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/forum/discussion/385>

One facility the GCBA only investigated recently is the use of NGS ranks as handicaps in scoring (with NGS ranks falling into bands from +6 to -6). It has proved very easy to use, and an example of its use can be found at the results from 26th August on the GCBA website. The key step is, before scoring the event, to use the "Player Management" facility within the Player Database to collect the NGS rankings across the network from the EBU system.

If anyone needs advice about EBUScore then feel free to ask (email to scoring@gcba.org.uk) or look at the excellent resources produced by Pinner Bridge Club – available at

https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwom/bw.cgi?club=pinner&pid=display_page10&

GCBA RESULTS

The first two sessions of the Swiss Teams were well attended and there is only one team left with four wins (Joe & Wendy Angseesing, Paul Denning, Mike Wignall) and they are in the lead. There are two sessions (four matches) to come.

In the Autumn Pairs, the leaders after two sessions off scratch are John Councer & Mark Rogers ahead of Roger Jackson & Peter Waggett. Leaders off NGS handicap are Rod Gass & Pete Jackson.

In the County League after two matches the only team in Division One with two wins is that led by Joe Angseesing, while in Division Two the two teams led by Wendy Angseesing and by Alison Pritchard both have two wins.

The County Ladies' Pairs was won by Val Constable & Alison Pritchard. The Men's Pairs was won by Tony Letts & Allan Sanis.

AND FROM OUTSIDE

In the World Championships in China in the second half of September, the England team in each of the Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed categories reached the last eight, at which point the Open team lost to the top US team. Women and Mixed fell next but the Seniors reached the final. In the end England took the Silver Medal in the Seniors and the Bronze medal in the Women's – and was the only country to collect more than one set of medals at the event.

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MIDLANDS COUNTIES LEAGUE

After two matches the Porter and Markham teams are leading their divisions, while the Dawes team is 2 VPs behind the leaders. Here's the hand from the last match against Oxfordshire which produced the biggest range of results.

♠ 743		
♥ Q76		
♦ 732		
♣ J862		
♠ KT96		♠ AQJ52
♥ K4	B 25	♥ 532
♦ A6	DLR N	♦ KT85
♣ T9743	VUL: ew	♣ 5
	♠ 8	
	♥ AJT98	
	♦ QJ94	
	♣ AKQ	

Every North found a pass but then the tables diverged. The East who passed and then bid 1♠ after South's 1♥ opening was passed round, got a strong raise from partner and with such a maximum for a passed hand, he was soon in game. South doubled and with 11 tricks that was always there and he clocked up a +990 score.

This was however a small loss to the man who chose to open 1♠ in second seat. At that table the auction proceeded 2♥-4♠-P-P-X and North took the decision to remove this to 5♥. When that was doubled, declarer was in trouble – to the tune of -1100.

Compare that to the table where South opened 1♥ but North didn't pass but responded 1N (a useful tactic) East-West remained silent and South played eventually in 2♥ and went one down. The score was just -50 and everybody thought it was a "nothing board".

What would you have done?

ADVERTISING BRIDGE CLUBS

The main mechanism used by the County to keep people informed is the county website at www.gcba.org.uk. It has been running as a Bridgeweb site since October 2011. The RESULTS page is the most frequently used, showing an average (can we believe this?) of over 100 hits per day.

There are newer internet means of communication now available, and we have established a GCBA presence on Facebook, and there is more we should do. Anyone with suitable expertise is welcome to join our publicity team.

Other counties and the EBU has recently published some useful guidance material for making your bridge club more visible on-line. You might want to look at these articles ...

["setting up social media accounts for your club"](#) (from August 2018) or at

<https://ebumemberdevelop.org.uk/index.php/facebook/> (only available to EBU Affiliated Clubs and you need a login for this, but an account is available simply for an email to tim@ebu.co.uk – and there is more than just this available from that website)

Finally in the Appendix A of these minutes, you will find ideas as to how to make your club more visible in Google searches

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/minutes-and-reports/counties-working-group/2019/20-june.pdf>

STRENGTH OF 2NT

We are all aware that a stronger hand is less likely than a weaker hand, but the statistics for very strong hands was surprising – it shows that the chances of holdings are

20 HCP	0.40%
21 HCP	0.24%
22 HCP	0.14%
23-24 HCP	0.11%
25+ HCP	0.03%

You can use these numbers to compare the relative frequencies of a 2N opener and a 2♣ opener with a 2N rebid. If you run with 20-22 for the former and 23-24 for the latter the former happens seven times more often than the latter.

Another factor in deciding how to group these strengths is the requirements for a raise, and the balance of HCP matters. With an even share it is worth trying 3N if the pair of hands contains 24 HCP, but when the hands are not equal it needs more and for a 21-4 split of HCP game averages about 47%. Looking at the odds from a large simulation, you find that to make game worth bidding

partner has	my raise needs
25 HCP	1 HCP
24 HCP	2 HCP
23 HCP	3 HCP(maybe 2)
22 HCP	4 HCP(maybe 3)
21 HCP	5 HCP(maybe 4)
20 HCP	5 HCP

There is no easy answer of how to group these strengths into two bids (2N and 2♣ then 2N). One favourite is to split the 22-counts in two, and putting half in the lower basket, half in the higher basket. That does partly rebalance the use of the two sequences.