

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2021-22

February 2022

## GCBA RESULTS

Series 13 of the 9-High Swiss Pairs is now well under way and the current leaders are Rosalind and Tony Reeves ahead of Neville Shorrick and Martyn Moxley.

Spring Swiss Teams – Feb 7<sup>th</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup> Jim Simons, Patrick Phair, Rob Wilkinson, and Nigel Edmondson  
2<sup>nd</sup> David Atthey, Alison Pritchard, Patrick Shields, and Garry Watson.

The Bi-weekly GCBA Swiss Teams event is at an early stage and is currently led by Val Constable, Garry Watson, Jim Simons and Patrick Phair.

## WIDER RESULTS

Many Congratulations to Patrick Shields and Richard Chamberlain on winning the Teltscher Trials. This means that they will play in the set of Senior Camrose matches (home internationals) to be played in May. We wish them every success in this competition.

Congratulations to Ashok Kwatra and David Simons who convincingly won one of the EBU on-line pairs evenings with a score of 72%

## MCL VERSUS WARWICKSHIRE

There were mixed fortunes for Gloucestershire in this match. The Porter team managed a 15-5 win but the Dawes and Markham teams both lost by a 7-13 margin. Gloucestershire now lie third in the Dawes League, second in the Porter and third in the Markham.

## WESSEX YOUTH BRIDGE WEEKEND

The Youth Bridge Weekend is taking place, Covid permitting, on the 9th/10th April at Cheltenham Bridge Club. If any Bridge players reading this have children or grandchildren who would like to go to this, roughly age 6+, then you would be very welcome to bring them along. We would love to see local children joining in. There will be lessons for children of all levels, including MiniBridge for beginners. The cost is £35 for the two days; meals are provided apart from the Saturday lunchtime, when the children will need to bring a packed lunch.

Children from out of County will be staying at the Ladies' College, and local children will be able to go back to the boarding house after playing at the club, for some post bridge fun and an evening meal, before going home. There is some flexibility. If a child wants to try the Saturday, the cost is £20. If they then want to come back on the Sunday, that's not a problem, they just need to pay the £15 (lunch is provided on the Sunday). There is also the option of staying overnight, we realise Cheltenham isn't on everyone's doorstep. The cost is £70, bed and breakfast, and meals as stated above. The children will still need to bring a packed lunch on the Saturday.

For more information, and to get an application form please contact Ro Kaye using

[wessexyouthbridge@gcba.org.uk](mailto:wessexyouthbridge@gcba.org.uk)

## IN MEMORIAM

Anne Swannell passed away last month, just hours after playing with us in the Monday night pairs league. Anne was a stalwart of bridge within Gloucestershire, fulfilling many roles at both Gloucester and Cheltenham Bridge Clubs and GCBA over several decades. Anne was the first woman in the county to achieve the rank of Grand Master, and she won many of the Gloucestershire competitions. Anne was a guiding force in the organisation of the annual Cheltenham Congress, and in 2010, received the coveted Dimmie Fleming award for services to Bridge. The following hand is an example of Anne in action.

		♠ K2		
		♥ JT64		
		♦ Q3		
		♣ AT7		
♠ J94			♠ AT3	
♥ A72	4♥ by		♥ 95	
♦ KJ9875	South		♦ AT642	
♣ J			♣ 963	
		♠ Q8765		
		♥ KQ83		
		♦		
		♣ KQ82		
South	West	North	East	
		Pass	Pass	
1♠	2♦	2♠	3♦	
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	
Pass	Pass			

As South, Anne did well to introduce her heart suit and the good game was reached – the only table out of twelve to play there.

A more complete obituary may be found [here](#)

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## WINNING WAYS

Here are a couple of hands that helped Patrick Shields and Richard Chamberlain on their way to a superb win in the England Senior Trials.

♠ QJ9873 ♥ KT ♦ J ♣ T876	♠ 4 ♥ AQ652 ♦ 932 ♣ KQJ4	♠ AKT52 ♥ J9 ♦ AKQT76 ♣	
South 3♥ Pass Pass	West 6♠ by West 4♠ 6♠	North 1♥ Pass Pass	East 2♥ 6♥ Pass

Whilst it was possible that partner held the vital heart control, Patrick followed up his Michaels cue bid (spades and a minor) with a brave bluff cue bid of 6♥ designed to avert a heart lead. The slam duly made with an overtrick when North led a top club. The second hand features some fine bidding judgement.

♠ KQJT84 ♥ 4 ♦ J8 ♣ 7643	♠ A952 ♥ A972 ♦ Q ♣ KQT2	♠ 763 ♥ KQ865 ♦ T93 ♣ AJ	
South Pass Pass	West 4♠x by West 3♠ Pass Pass	North Pass X Pass	East 4♠ Pass

The double of 4♠ shows general values else partner would have doubled 3♠ for take-out. Patrick judged well to find the double. Of course

there is no guarantee of beating the contract, but you have enough to suggest that declarer won't be making overtricks and that the opponents won't be redoubling. This makes the double a fair proposition. Richard judged well to pass rather than try to make 5♦. The contract was duly defeated by two tricks on the ♣K lead and a useful IMP gain on the field, where pairs were often left to play undoubled.

## STRANGE THINGS DO HAPPEN

Consider this suit at no-trumps.

♠ 42	
♠ AKQ3	♠ JT876
♠ 93	

West led the King and East fears that his partner has led from AKxx and that declarer has Qx. He plays the Knave at trick 1 to deny the Queen and prevent his partner leading a low one next. When West sees the Knave, he fears that partner has JTx and declarer has 9xxx. He therefore leads a low spade at trick 2. Now East thinks that West has led from KQ9x and doesn't want to block the suit so plays the 7. Declarer wins trick 2 with the 9. Don't let this happen to you. Have an agreement as to which card you lead from certain honour combinations.

A suggested method that works well is to play that an Ace or Queen lead asks for an encourage/discourage signal from partner and that a King lead asks for an unblock or count signal if partner has no honour with which to unblock.

## LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

You were asked to make 7♣ on a trump lead at double dummy.

♠ K5 ♥ T9872 ♦ JT9 ♣ 876	♠ JT3 ♥ AKQJ4 ♦ 76 ♣ 532	♠ 987642 ♥ 65 ♦ K3 ♣ JT9
	7♣ by South	
	♠ AQ ♥ 3 ♦ AQ8542 ♣ AKQ4	

The solution is to squeeze West in three suits. Start by cashing all four trumps. On the fourth round the only card that West can spare that doesn't immediately concede defeat is a heart. Now take the A♠ (an unblocking play that is known as the Vienna Coup). Then when you play five rounds of hearts, West cannot hold both his spade trick and diamond guard.

## TEST YOUR PLAY

♠ QT3 ♥ A72 ♦ Q74 ♣ K983	3NT by South
♠ KJ3 ♥ QT8 ♦ KJT2 ♣ A52	

You receive the lead of the ♥5 to East's Knave. What is your plan for making 9 tricks?