

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2020-21

January 2021

GCBA RESULTS

Series 5 of the GCBA Weekly Swiss teams was won by Paul Denning, Rob Stevens, Richard Butland, Joe Angseesing, Andrew Kambites, and Richard Plackett. They won all of their matches and were comfortably clear of the runners up led by Patrick Shields.

Series 5 of the 9-high Weekly Swiss Pairs was won by Pauline Mussi and Jonathon Bailey, a match clear of Mark Browne & Richard Berrington.

Series 6 is now under way and is currently led by John Polhill and Hugh Wilkinson.

Congratulations to all of the above.

Monday Swiss teams winners:
December Peter Swales, Paul Lilley, Lesley Harrison, Martin McWilliams.

January Jim Simons, Patrick Phair, Jon Arblaster. Mel Barlow.

The cumulative scores over the four Monday Swiss Teams sessions to December saw Mark Rogers' team well clear of Paul Denning's team. Well done to them on a consistently good performance.

The Christmas Handicap Pairs saw an impressive turn out with 25 tables competing in this on-line event. Winning Pairs were:

- NS1. Paul Gunning and Karen Monaghan.
- NS2. Jo and Jim Simons
- EW1. Terry Britton and Geoff Bent
- EW2. David Schiff and Ian Plewis

David & Ian came first EW on scratch but were overtaken on handicap.

The GCBA on-line County League has reached the half way stage. Division One is currently headed by Dan McIntosh's team, with Patrick Shields' team in second place. In Division Two, Ashok Kwatra's team has a small lead over Mike Lewis so all to play for in the second half of the season.

TOLLEMACHE

Gloucestershire qualified for this year's final which will be held February 20/21. We wish our team the best of luck for this event. The final will be played on RealBridge, and you will be able to watch the play on-line through a link on the EBU web-site posted at the time.

NEWENT BOWL

Newent Bridge Club are running the Newent Bowl this year using RealBridge. It will be held on Sunday 7th March as a Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs competition, playing 36 boards in 6 x 6 board rounds with a mid-session break. Entries should be sent via email to janet@kilreague.com and the entry fee of £6 per person can be paid via bank transfer. Full details on the Newent BC website.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

I am keen to have contributions from a wider audience and will be contacting different clubs over the next few months to see if they would care to submit a short article for publication. Contributions from individuals are also very welcome, so if you have an interesting hand, a funny story, a good or disastrous result etc that you would like to share, please email (address below).

REALBRIDGE

I'm sure that although some of you will have played on-line using the RealBridge platform many will not yet have had the opportunity to try out this relatively new but exciting development in on-line play. RealBridge (as the name suggests) is much more like the face-to-face games that we were brought up on (if we can still remember those days).

It has an audio/video interface, so you see your partner and opponents and chat just as you would at the table. In its basic form, you use the face-to-face alerting style, and can verbally answer opponents' questions. RealBridge also offers the option to play with screens (as they do in Internationals).

This option uses the 'self announcing' style that will be familiar to you from BBO. When playing with screens, the screen "comes down" after the first bid is made on a hand and allows you to see and talk to exactly one of the opponents (not partner), and provide them with any extra information needed about your or your partner's bidding or play. It supports a much better game of bridge (a lot less Unauthorised Information to worry about) and you will find it becomes very natural very quickly. The GCBA Committee has agreed we should adopt this as our standard mode for running games here.

Do use this platform whenever you get the chance. It really is very intuitive and a much more sociable way to play. **Warning** – since you are on video, some of you may want to consider whether playing in your pyjamas with a pile of dirty dishes in the background is such a good idea!

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SOLUTIONS TO NOVEMBER PROBLEMS

Problem A

♠ 954
 ♥ 7542
 ♦ Q98
 ♣ AQ6

♠ A6
 ♥ T963
 ♦ A76543
 ♣ 7

4♠ by South

West	North	East	South
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads ♦2. Plan the defence *West has clearly led a singleton, but there is no rush to give him an immediate ruff. Win the diamond and return a club. Then you can win the Ace of trumps on the first round, give partner a diamond ruff and get a club ruff in return.*

Problem B

♠ KQ98
 ♥ 9832
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ KJT

♠ 765
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ 975432
 ♣ A7

4♥ by South

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

On your ♠A lead, West plays the 6 and declarer the 8. You continue with a club to dummy's King and partners 2. How do you plan the defence from here?

When you win the Ace of trumps, you need to put partner in to get your club ruff. Partner's ♣2 at trick two should be treated as a suit preference signal for the lowest side suit, so you should switch to a diamond. If partner had held a spade entry, he would have played a high club on the second round.

COUNTY KNOCKOUT

This year we have an entry of 13 teams for the County Knockout, with the winning team not only being crowned County Champions, but also getting the chance to represent Gloucestershire in the 2021 Pachabo competition.

This year the event saw a number of byes in Round 1, but one of the fancied teams has fallen at the first hurdle. The team of Val Constable, Jack Armorgie, Lesley Harrison and Martin McWilliam managed to beat Peter Shelley's team by 9 IMPs. Going into the last board, Shelley was 2 IMPs in front (although none of the players knew this at the time). This was the final board, played in the same suit and level at both tables, yet it resulted in an eleven IMP swing to Constable.

♠ A9843
 ♥ Q743
 ♦ K3
 ♣ 74

♠ QJT652
 ♥ T9
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 865

♠ AKJ52
 ♥ 9862
 ♣ KJ92

♠ K7
 ♥ 86
 ♦ AJT54
 ♣ AQT3

At the first table the bidding proceeded thus.

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass

Now this contract can be beaten by any sensible defence and North duly went one off for -50. At the other table the bidding was –

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♠	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On this occasion, silence proved golden for North. East's 2♠ bid showed a Weak Two opener and when South was able to make a takeout double, E/W have nowhere to go. Declarer was held to 5 tricks and -500. 11imps away and the match was lost by 9.

DISASTER

This hand came up in a league match on 31st Dec and was not a happy end to the year. You hold the following hand as South

♠ J8642 ♥ void ♦ QJT3 ♣ JT42 and hear the bidding go

North	East	South	West
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You know that if declarer is relying on spades he is going to be disappointed. The full deal is shown below

♠ 7
 ♥ J9872
 ♦ 9875
 ♣ 953

♠ 5
 ♥ AKQT54
 ♦ AK
 ♣ AKQ7

♠ AKQT93
 ♥ 63
 ♦ 642
 ♣ 86

♠ J8642
 ♥
 ♦ QJT3
 ♣ JT42

7NT by West

The heart lead gave an extra trick and declarer then squeezed you in the blacks by cashing his red suit winners. Minus 2220 went with team-mates normal minus 200 from 6♥ - a loss of 20 IMPs. Yes, perhaps partner should have a led a safer diamond, but I could have helped by doubling 7NT to say 'I think this is going down – lead a spade if you can, else the safest lead you can find'.