

# GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2020-21

March 2021

## GCBA RESULTS

Series 6 of the **Weekly Swiss Teams** was won by Patrick Shields, Dan McIntosh, B.J O'Brien, Filip and Diane Kurbalija. Second place went to Paul Denning, Richard Butland, Rob Stevens, Joe Angseesing, Andrew Kambites, and Richard Plackett, who beat Patrick's team in the final match of the series but not by enough to take the title.

**9-High Swiss Pairs** (Series 6) was won by Richard Williams and Janet Miles, well clear of Derek Boreham and Moya Jackson. Neville Shorrocks and Jill Hunter are currently setting the pace in series 7.

**Monday Swiss Teams** winners:

February – Paul Denning, Joe Angseesing, Val Constable, Andrew Kambites.

March – Mark Rogers, Peter Waggett, Alan Wearmouth, Tony Hill.

### February Remembered Pairs

1<sup>st</sup> Joe Angseesing and Richard Chamberlain.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Wearmouth and Diana Nettleton

This event has so far raised £990 for 'Save the Children' and the donations page is still open [at this link](#).

## MCOL

In the Midland Counties On-line League, teams have played a varying number of matches, but based upon their average VP score: in Division 1, Glos are in second place behind Oxfordshire. Divisions 2 and 3 both see Glos in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Warwickshire. There are still 4 matches to play in these leagues so lots of opportunities to shine.

## TUDOR BRIDGE CLUB

*Whilst this newsletter has always been aimed at players from all corners of our County, I am conscious that many of our members will be unaware of how our game is conducted as is indeed thriving in different parts of our wide-spread region. I am indebted to Nigel Mortimer of the Tudor Bridge Club in Chipping Sodbury for the following contribution about their Teaching Programme.*

'Tudor has been an active teaching club now for nearly three years, and is fairly unique in that it offers teaching based on the EBU Teaching Programme but has 3 EBU qualified teachers and 3 more club players who give up their time to assist in the set boards after the initial seminar. This means we will always have an experienced player for each table of four students.

Due to Lockdown and Social distancing we felt unable to start a new first year group in Sept 2020, as it would have all been online, making the initial introduction to bridge difficult. However, there was plenty of interest shown and hopefully they will all be still keen when things eventually return to normal.

We currently offer two classes. Tuesday afternoon has a Year 2 group learning online through Powerpoint displayed over Zoom. Examples are shown on BBO (also through Zoom) together with the occasional DVD from other teachers (such as Bernard Magee),

The seminar lasts around 45 minutes and is followed by set hands play (currently 5 tables) managed by our 3 teachers and 2 experienced players who are on hand to guide students (currently numbering 22).

Thursday afternoons sees the Improvers/Advanced course, which is open both to those who have completed the initial two year course and to ordinary club members. The topics range from Refresher courses to more advanced topics, such as Weak Twos, Multi 2D and Lebensohl. The play seminars have included card reading and counting.

Notes and/or a quiz are issued in advance along with a copy of the presentation and details and commentary on each of the set boards is provided after the session.

The teaching programme is supplemented by our Wednesday 'Mentored Pairs' event which attracts 7 tables currently and where each student gets to play with one of 5 mentors on a rotating basis. The event is open to regular club members who appreciate that students are learning and so the game is played in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Students typically make up about 20% of the numbers at our normal club pairs events, showing our programmes are achieving their aim of getting more players into the club and enjoying their Bridge.

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## CHELTENHAM CONGRESS

This year's on-line event has something for everyone. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April sees 2 events dedicated to players with an NGS of 7 or below or to those with less than 5 years playing experience. There will be a pairs event on both BBO and a teams event on RealBridge. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May features a seven round Swiss Pairs event on BBO, whilst Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May has a seven round Swiss Teams but this time on RealBridge.

Entries can be made through a dedicated web page at:

<https://www.bridgeextra.com/cheltenham21/>

Pre-entry enquiries to

[congress@cheltenhambridgeclub.com](mailto:congress@cheltenhambridgeclub.com)

## COUNT YOUR WAY HOME

♠ Q8753  
♥ A974  
♦ J872  
♣

6♣ by South

♠ AKT642  
♥ KJT2  
♦ 4  
♣ K8

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♣	4♣	5♣
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This hand occurred in the recent County match against Worcestershire. Following North's splinter, South's 5♥ bid showed length in that suit and North was able to visualise a diamond control opposite so a slam was reached on a combined 21 count. How do

you play on the lead of ♦AK? You need to find the ♥Q and the way to play is to count the hand. Ruff the second diamond and cross-ruff the minors having drawn trumps with the Ace and King. On this hand, West shows up with at least 4 diamonds, 2 spades, and a likely 6 clubs on the bidding. Hence he has short hearts so a heart to the Ace is followed by a finesse. When West shows out on the second round, dummy is entered with a trump to repeat the finesse. This board was a handsome swing in Gloucestershire's favour.

## BLINDSPOTS

Like most of us, I spend a lot of time – my wife would say far too much time - looking at playing cards, and have done so for over 50 years, yet sad to say I could not answer any of the following questions correctly from memory. Can you do any better?

- 1-- What does the ♥J hold in his hand?
- 2-- Which King has no moustache?
- 3-- Which King shows two hands?

I will leave you to find the answers for yourselves but the point is that most of us do not take in the detail of what we see in front of us. That isn't so important in the case of playing card imagery perhaps, but just this week I had a more serious lapse. Holding the ♠A and ♥AQ I had to find a response to Roman Key Card Blackwood where hearts were agreed as trumps. I denied holding the trump Queen.

No, this wasn't because of some fine judgement on my part. Neither was it a mis-click and I most certainly hadn't

forgotten the system. The explanation was that I simply hadn't 'seen' the ♥Q! All I could say to partner was "sorry, I had a blind spot."

## SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY'S INFERENCE PROBLEM

In order to make 7NT against any defence, the full layout must be:

♠ 876543		♠ KQJT9
♥ AKQJT98		♥
♦		♦ QJT9
♣		♣ QJT9
♠	7NT by South	♠ A2
♥ 2		♥ 76543
♦ 765432		♦ AK8
♣ 765432		♣ AK8

South wins the opening lead and runs the hearts. East can initially discard three spades and one from each minor. On the sixth heart, a spade discard allows South to run the suit, so East must give up his guard in one of the minors, South shedding a small spade. If East discards all his spades, South throws the ♠A on the last heart and dummy is good.

## TEASER

Sometimes you can do well when holding poor cards.

Suppose your side has zero combined high card points and you are vulnerable. Construct a deal where it is possible to score +1920 against best defence, and how do you play the hand?

Solution next time.