GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2021-22 November 2021

GCBA RESULTS

Series 9 of the GCBA Swiss is at the half-way stage with teams captained by Val Constable and Ben Ritacca leading the way.

Series 12 of the 9-High Swiss Pairs has now concluded. The winners were Jim Berry and Cyril Green, with Derek Boreham and Moya Jackson a close second.

Autumn Swiss Teams – Nov 1st 1st Roger Williams, Mike Wignall, Malcolm Green, Alison Nicolas.

2nd Roger Schofield, Keith Sharp, Ben Ritacca, Tony Letts.

MIDLAND COUNTIES LEAGUES

In the second match of the season, Gloucestershire played against Derbyshire and recorded wins in all 3 divisions. Congratulations to all our representatives.

TOLLEMACHE QUALIFIER

November 13th/14th sees the round of qualifying the Tollemache Trophy - the inter counties teams of championship. Gloucestershire will be represented by Paul Denning, Richard Plackett, Richard Butland. Garry Watson, Patrick Shields, Dan Richard McIntosh. Chamberlain and Andrew Kambites, and we wish them all the best of luck. [STOP PRESS: they qualified for the final]

NATALIE DAVENPORT

We are sad to report the death of Natalie Davenport. Natalie was a frequent player at both Stroud and Cheltenham Bridge Clubs and played in the pairs league until July until her illness forced her to stop. She will be missed by many.

TWINNING

Cheltenham is lucky to be twinned with the beautiful towns of Göttingen and Annecy.

Cheltenham BC has enjoyed mutual hospitality over many years with the bridge clubs in both towns. Unable to travel, we have recently played matches on RealBridge and it has been such a pleasure to renew friendships with our German and French friends.

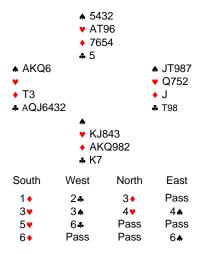
Our last match on 28th October attracted 28 teams from Annecy and Cheltenham and it was a great success. We congratulate Annecy on their win!

RealBridge is offering free use of their platform for all twinning matches and they are being very supportive. We are have a Pairs game planned with Annecy on 18th November which we hope will prove equally popular and we are still welcoming entries. (if you want to play, contact Judy Sanis on judithsanis@gmail.com

If you play in a town that has a twinning arrangement, why not see if you can set up something similar – it is great fun!

BIG SWINGS

This hand from a recent league match resulted in a big swing – but it might have been even bigger.



This contract made with an overtrick on the club finesse after the Ace of hearts lead. At table 2 the bidding was only a little different -

South	West	North	East
1♦	2*	3♦	Pass
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♣	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♥	

This contract finished 2 down for a 15 imp swing. At either table, if South had bid 5. directly over 3. it might well have bought the contract for a gain of 18 imps. Better still, if South's final bid had been 7. rather than 7., then this contract may well have made on a spade lead for a gain of 22 imps.

On distributional hands such as these, it is important to make your opponents take the final guess and the best way to do this is to bid high and quickly.

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OPENING LEADS

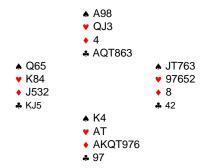
When defending against a game, you don't need to be too heroic. You can expect to get the lead again after the dummy has been exposed and the early play offers further clues as to what you should do. Not so against a slam. Unless two tricks can be cashed at once, the defence must strike a telling blow to develop the second trick with the opening lead! Later is too late.

The one factor that works in favour of the defence is that declarer is rarely willing to risk immediate defeat if any alternative seems attractive. Sometimes such an alternative can be created by the lead itself. Consider this hand:

♦Q65 ♥K84 ♦J532 **♣**KJ5.

North	East	South	West
1 🚓	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Prospects are poor. Partner is virtually broke, and the cards look well placed for declarer. Take advantage of what you know that declarer doesn't – trumps aren't breaking. Lead the jack of Clubs. The fact that you let him see the Jack makes it even more likely that he will be able to establish the suit for no more than one loser. The full deal is:



IMPROVER'S CORNER

Third hand play is an area that abounds with errors and confusion. Suppose you are lucky enough to KQJ(x) of a that partner leads. Beginners are taught to play the lowest of touching honours and hence the correct play is the Knave. In reality, the number of tricks that your side can win in the suit is not related honour that you contribute, but If you were to play the Queen on the first round, then partner will not believe that you hold the knave and will thus be confused in the subsequent play and may easily mis-defend later. Thus the 'rule' of playing the lowest of touching honours is a sound

However, there are situations where you do best to break this 'rule'. Suppose you defending a no-trump contract and partner leads the 5, dummy displays 32 doubleton and you hold QJT. If you insert then ten and declarer wins the King, then when partner gets the lead in some other suit, he may be wary of leading this suit again from an original holding of A9754 in case declarer has false-carded with the King and has a second stop with the Queen. Indeed, if this is the case then partner may try to find an outside entry in your hand so that you can lead through declarer's holding.

If instead you had played the Knave at trick one, losing to the King, then partner has no problem in leading another low card in the suit as this does not give up a trick regardless of whether you started with QJx or Jxx. This is exactly what you want him to do and thus the Knave is the correct play. If you followed that one, then you

should have no problem with this one. At no-trumps, partner leads the 4 (from say K8642) and you hold JT9 over dummy's 73 doubleton. If you play the nine, when declarer wins the Queen, partner will fear that declarer holds the Knave as well and may not continue the suit as this would concede an extra trick in the suit. However, if you play the ten and lose to the Queen, then partner will not have the same fear. Your ten must have been from Tx or JTx and in either case a trick is not lost by continuing the suit from his

BEWARE! Do not make a habit of playing the middle of 3 equals. This is a play **ONLY** for no-trumps and **ONLY** when you have QJT or JT9 and dummy has no high honour.

OCTOBER PUZZLE

A AQ		▲ JT987
AKJ	6NT by	♥ T9876
AKJ2	West	Q43
 A K IT 		

You were asked to guarantee 12 tricks against any layout of the opposing hands on a diamond lead?

Win the lead in hand and play the ♠Q. If this loses you have 4 spades, 4 diamonds, 2 hearts and 2 clubs. When the spade holds, you continue with the ♥J. If this loses, then you make 2 spades, 4 hearts, 4 diamonds and 2 clubs. If the heart holds, you make your 12th trick by playing clubs from the top.

THIS MONTH'S TEASER



Plan the play – the defence start with 2 rounds of diamonds.