

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2022-23

Nov 2022

GCBA RESULTS

Series 17 of the 9-High Swiss Pairs brought a close result. Jim Berry and Cyril Green just pipped Derek Boreham and Moya Jackson, with Rowan and Michael Lytheer just one point further back in third. Series 18 is now underway with Margaret Foreman and Nicole Arkell heading the field, closely followed by Alan and Teresa Thomas.

Autumn Teams 3 (F2F)

D1:1st Peter Waggett, Ben Ritacca, Tony Hill and Alan Wearmouth.

D1:2nd Jack Armorgie, Tom Jarman, Paul Denning and Roy Collard.

D2:1st Colin Lennox, John Jenkins, Pat Emery and Ian Plewis.

D2:2nd John Stirrup, Kanwar Rahim, Steven Sasanow and Nick Haynes.

County Leagues current standings:

Div 1: Lawy then Shields

Div 2: Sasanow then Roberts Cleverley leagues

Div1: StroudBadgers then EDF

Div2: Thribb then S.Cotswold B

EVERETT CUP

This charity event was well supported with 15 tables playing F2F. The team of Paul Denning, Diane Kurbalija, Gordon Atkinson and Robert Huguenin were clear winners with Ro Kaye, Roger Eaton, Robert and Nicola Torrance runners-up. Over £620 was donated to the Sue Ryder Foundation. Many thanks to all who were involved.

MIDLAND COUNTIES LEAGUE

Gloucestershire played Staffs and Shrops in the third match of the 22/23 season. Once again, our teams managed wins in all three division. The Dawes team won 12-8, the Porter team 16-4 and the Markham team 14-6. Well done to all those involved.

NATIONAL TEAMS LEAGUE

Gloucestershire has members playing in all three divisions of the National Teams League. Our teams are currently lying fourth in Division One, second in Division Two, and 11th in the Third Division.

TOLLEMACHE QUALIFIER

Gloucestershire competed in a strong group in this year's qualifier for the national County teams-of-eight championship. The team started with a loss and recovered, but overall a less than ideal performance saw the team finish in equal fourth position, losing out on qualification via a split tie.

TEACHING BOOSTS MEMBERSHIP

Tudor Bridge Club, in Chipping Sodbury has been running Teaching Classes for some 4 years now. These have been very successful and have contributed to its membership rising from 55 to 92 over that period of time.

Tudor runs 3 sets of classes:-

- Year 1 EBU course for complete beginners (30 weeks)
- Year 2 Refresher Course combines EBU year 2 with a refresher course for mature students (30 weeks)
- Intermediate Course for ordinary club members (16 weeks).

The first two both run face-to-face whilst the intermediate course is online. Tudor has three EBED qualified teachers and three additional helpers (all club members) so that there is always an experienced player at each table for the set hands.

HANDS FROM THE TOLLEMACHE

Little things can make a big difference as this hand demonstrates.

♠ KQ4
♥ K543
♦ Q642
♣ AK

♠ A93
♥ T76
♦ 3
♣ QJ8764

♠ 875
♥ A
♦ AKJ97
♣ 9532

♠ JT62
♥ QJ982
♦ T85
♣ T

West	North	East	South
	1♥	X	4♥
5♣	X	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Gloucestershire was unlucky on this board. When North opened 1♥, East was able to make a take-out double and West decided to bid on after 4♥ rather than defend. This turned out to be the winning decision as 5♣ cannot be beaten.

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Declarer can always win a spade lead and finesse in diamonds to dispose of the spade losers. At the other table North opened one diamond, effectively silencing East, and the opponents played in the heart game going 2 down for a loss of 10 imps to our side.

This second hand also proved expensive.

♠ 95		♠ AKQ86
♥ AT63	3NT by	♥ 9
♦ AK653	West	♦ Q9
♣ AT		♣ J6432

North leads a heart and you hold off for two rounds and win the third, discarding clubs from the table. Now one line is to lead the ♠9 from hand and run it if not covered. When South has no more hearts to lead, the contract makes on any 4-2 spade break or the diamonds coming in. This was the winning line as North could not cover the spade without conceding the whole spade suit. Unfortunately, our declarer played for either spades or diamonds breaking 3-3 or South holding four spades. When none of these chances transpired, he was one off for a big imp loss.

IMPROVER'S CORNER

Leading one's fourth highest card is a standard method and is taught to all beginners, but do you make the most of it when defending?

On our hand at the top of the next column, West leads the ♥7 and declarer plays low in dummy. Now East should use the 'Rule of Eleven' to deduce that if West has led his fourth highest heart, then declarer cannot hold any hearts bigger than the opening lead and therefore it is safe to play the ♥6 at trick one.

♠ K6		♠ J752
♥ Q832		♥ AT6
♦ AQ3		♦ 9742
♣ QJ73		♣ T2
3NT by	South	

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When this holds the trick, West continues with the Knave of hearts and again you underplay with your ten when dummy plays low. A third heart is won by your Ace and you return...?

Partner needs an entry either in spades or clubs to get in to cash the last heart winner. The correct return should be easy for a thinking pair. When partner led the Knave of hearts at trick two, he was giving you a suit preference signal to tell you his entry was in the higher ranking of the remaining suits. If he had wanted a club switch, he should have been playing the heart nine at the second trick. Hence you return a spade and the contract goes down when the full layout is as shown.

♠ K6		♠ J752
♥ Q832		♥ AT6
♦ AQ3		♦ 9742
♣ QJ73		♣ T2
♠ A843		♠ QT9
♥ KJ97	3NT by	♥ 54
♦ 8	South	♦ KJT65
♣ 9654		♣ AK8

Note that if you had mistakenly switched to a club at trick four then declarer would have been able to take nine tricks.

Did you also spot the winning line that South missed?

At trick one, if declarer had covered the lead with the ♥8, then the defence would not have been able to take four heart tricks as well as the spade Ace. Try it and see.

OCTOBER PROBLEM SOLUTION

♠ Q95432		♠ T876
♥ 653	4♠ by	♥ AKT
♦ 3	West	♦ AQJ
♣ 543		♣ KQJ

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North leads ♠J. South cashes two top spades and switches to the Queen of hearts. Play from here on the assumption that the 1NT opening shows 12-14.

You can dispose of your heart loser by taking a successful finesse in diamonds. You can play either opponent for the missing King so you should embark on a discovery play. Drive out the Ace of clubs. If North holds this card, then South will hold the ♦K to give him enough points for his 1NT opener. If South has the A♣ then he cannot also hold the K♦.

PLAY PROBLEM

♠ AKT97		♠ QJ2
♥ 954	4♠ by	♥ 63
♦ A3	East	♦ K742
♣ K52		♣ A973

How do you play this contract on a trump lead assuming that the defence will play trumps whenever they get in?