

GCBA NEWSLETTER

Season 2021-22

October 2021

GCBA RESULTS

Series 9 of the GCBA Swiss is now under way, with teams captained by Allan Sanis and Ben Ritacca setting the early pace.

Series 11 of the 9-high Swiss Pairs reaches the half-way point with Alan and Teresa Thomas holding a slender lead from Jim Berry and Cyril Green.

Autumn Swiss Teams – Oct 4th
1st : Graham Cornell, Paul Denning, Val Constable, Joe Angseesing.
2nd : Mike Lewis, Malcolm Green, Mike Wignall, Roger Williams.

MIDLAND COUNTIES LEAGUES

This year County matches are planned to be a mix of on-line and Face-to-Face matches. September saw the start of this season's campaign against Oxfordshire. The Dawes team lost 7-13, the Porter lost 8-12, whilst the Markham registered a healthy 16-4 win.

GCBA WEBSITE

The EBU website contains a great deal of data, but the site is large and can be a bit daunting for some. Patrick has put a couple of links on the GCBA website (top right-hand side of Home page), to give members easy access to the EBU's Blog and a new Calendar which allows Counties to make their own entries. I am sure these links will be of interest to many.

YOUTH BRIDGE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

GCBA is an active County when it comes to promoting the game for young people. Jan Kinane has contributed the following article outlining the progress so far with the Schools' Bridge Programme.

'Would your club be interested in helping getting children in your area playing Bridge? If so, we would love to be able to come and talk to you about our Schools' Bridge Programme. To be a volunteer, you need to know what a trick is, and like children. All training, equipment and materials are provided free of charge. Please read on for more information about how to get in touch, and what we've achieved so far, including our false start last year...

Early 2020, a team of Bridge players, (all volunteers), led by Alison Nicolson, went to Gotherington and Woodmancote schools, and spent a day at each, giving several taster sessions to pupils in years 4-6. Both days were a huge success, with the ongoing plan being to immediately start a Bridge Club at each school, either during the lunch break or after school. These would be run by some of the volunteers. Alison would then move on to another school with more volunteers. The ultimate aim would be to get enough young players to open a Junior Bridge Club at Cheltenham BC.

As we know, plans like these came to a sudden halt in March 2020. This was just after we'd been into Woodmancote school and, with the plans to start a club at Gotherington school well under way.

I'm happy to report that we have now managed to go back to Woodmancote School, starting from scratch, as two of the year groups from last March have now moved onto secondary school. We were warmly welcomed; the children returned to their classrooms buzzing after their sessions and, as a result, we will be starting an after school Bridge Club at the school from the 1st November. The teachers who attended the sessions really enjoyed it, and even suggested we go back and teach them on an Inset day. The following day we heard that the school had received lots of positive comments from parents.

This is a county wide initiative, and we need volunteers from all clubs to take this programme to a school near you. Is this something you would like to get involved with? We are looking for more volunteers to enable us to offer bridge to more schools. If you have a contact at a particular school, or a particular school that you'd like to be involved with, then please let us know. If you've got grandchildren, an added benefit of getting involved, is that you'll learn how to teach them Bridge.

Please could you reply to me at the email address below if you are interested in being involved. If you would like to discuss this, my number is 07988 810990. There is no commitment at this stage. We will arrange for Alison to visit and speak to you about how the school sessions work, plus give you information about obtaining a DBS, which is free for volunteers '

To find out more, email to jan.kinane@gcba.org.uk

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OPENING LEADS

Continuing the article started last month, you are on lead with this hand after the auction shown

♠Q652 ♥7 ♦A873 ♣KT52.

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 6♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

2NT showed a flattish 16+ and 4♣ was a cue bid. 5♣ showed 3 key cards.

Since South opened the bidding and North has shown 16+, it is clear that partner can hold very few high cards – perhaps a Queen and Knave at most. Let's start by a process of elimination: a club lead could turn out disastrously if East does not hold the Queen and all a diamond lead would achieve would be to set up declarer's King without any advantage.

On the bidding it is highly unlikely that partner holds a singleton diamond. The choice remains between a spade and a heart. The heart lead could be risky if partner holds ♥Qxx. The least dangerous lead to make is a low spade, hoping to make the club King and diamond Ace later. Note that the classic lead of an Ace or a small card away from your King must be rejected when partner is likely to have very little, and when dummy has not got a long suit which would provide the necessary discards

What about this hand?

♠JT85 ♥J7 ♦AJ ♣Q8543.

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | 2♦ | 2NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

One shouldn't really have to think about hands like these. The lead of partner's suit should be automatic except if a different lead is absolutely clear cut e.g. ♠KQJT5. By leading diamonds you clear the suit except when declarer has KTx. Now all partner needs is an entry and the contract is defeated.

IMPROVER'S CORNER

An area of bidding that players often get wrong is sacrificing. In order for a sacrifice to pay off, then a number of things have to be true. Firstly, your sacrifice must cost less than the value of their game. Secondly, you need to be sure that their game is making. Thirdly, you need to be confident that the game will be bid at the other table. In practice, all three of these conditions are unlikely to be met with any certainty, leading to the conclusion that many of us are guilty of over-sacrificing. That is not to say that sacrificial bids should not be made, but emphasis should be placed on what is termed an advance sacrifice. Compare these two auctions

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | 2♣ | 2♥ | 3♣ |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | 5♣ |
| ? | | | |

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | 2♣ | 2♥ | 5♣ |
| ? | | | |

In the first auction, you are guilty of having two bites at the cherry. If you were always going to bid 5♣ then it is far better to do so immediately as you have the added bonus that the opponents might mis-guess and bid on, going down. Auction 1 has given the opposition all the room they

need and will inevitably mean that you play in 5♣x.

So you should know now - which of these auctions is better?

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 4♦ | Pass | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | Pass | 5♦ | x |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

OR

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 4♦ | Pass | 5♦ | ? |

THE WHITFIELD SIX

Your task from last time was to take tricks on lead as South with hearts trumps.

| | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| | ♠ 87 | |
| | ♥ J5 | |
| | ♦ A2 | |
| ♠ Q7 | | ♠ J6 |
| ♥ | | ♥ |
| ♦ Q7 | | ♦ T86 |
| ♣ J3 | | ♣ 8 |
| | ♠ T9 | |
| | ♥ | |
| | ♦ AK9 | |
| | ♣ T | |

You should first cash the Ace of diamonds, pitching the Knave from dummy. Now ruff a spade and lead a trump, discarding your club. East must keep two diamonds so throws a club. West cannot spare a club or a diamond, so must throw a spade. Now the Ace of clubs squeezes East in spades and diamonds

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE

| | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| ♠ AQ | | ♠ JT987 |
| ♥ AKJ | 6NT by | ♥ T9876 |
| ♦ AKJ2 | West | ♦ Q43 |
| ♣ AKJT | | ♣ |

North leads a diamond. How do you guarantee 12 tricks against any layout of the opposing hands?