

## Chairman's Report

### KCBA Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Firstly I must mention that Chris Lohan is standing down as Adult Education Officer at the AGM this year. Chris has been an outstanding AEO and teacher for many years and she will be sorely missed. I would like to put on record our thanks to her for the hard work that she has put into this role and the considerable benefit to Kent bridge as a result. However I have the pleasure of welcoming Pat Welsh (who is already on the Committee), who has agreed to take on the role of AEO and I look forward to working with her. I also congratulate Kay Preddy who has been elected to the EBU Board. It will be good to have a Kent voice in the corridors of power!

Another 3 months has passed and we can at last see light at the end of the tunnel with the accelerating vaccine roll out. Fingers crossed that we can see a return to face to face bridge some time in the spring/summer this year. The Government road map provides for all restrictions to be lifted by June 21<sup>st</sup> but we will have to see what transpires between now and then. It is possible that there will be some reluctance to resume close contact, after all we have been through in the last year, but we will continue to review the situation. Meanwhile we have agreed that we will hold the George Griffiths and the May GP Swiss Teams on RealBridge online. We will keep the situation regarding the Phillimore/AGM under review. The Larsky Cup semi-finals have been held online and the final is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Saturday games have continued online, both on BBO and RealBridge. The numbers for the morning open game have declined some, and in particular the numbers for the RealBridge sessions have declined to a point where some weeks there are not enough entries to run a separate section. This is particularly disappointing as a number of members, who replied to my survey last year, stated that the lack of social contact was the reason that they were not playing online. RealBridge is not perfect but it is the nearest that we can come to 'normal' bridge.

The 'NGS 9' games have been a spectacular success, with a record 27 tables last week. My thanks to all those who are involved in organising and directing the Saturday games, Stephen Brown, Paul Gibbons, Sharon Bayne, Chris Lohan, John Oakland, Geoff Smith and Mike Hampton. We have also successfully run the Hunter Homines, Fleming Femina and our March GP Swiss Pairs online.

My congratulations go to the winners of the Kent Competitions;

Hunter Homines – Gerald Soper and Colin Wilson

Fleming Femina – Maggie Piazza and Jean Paxton

GP Swiss Pairs – Frances Connell and Gerald Soper

Kent have also recorded a number of significant triumphs in other competitions;

Kent won the Tollemache Cup, an outstanding result against very stiff competition. The team was Jeremy Willans, Ian Draper, Milke Hampton, Phil Bailey, Norman Selway, Kay Preddy, Colin Wilson, Gerald Soper, Peter Law and Gerald Tredinnick.

Mike Hampton, Michael Prior, Norman Selway and Kay Preddy won the (delayed) 2020 Hubert Phillips Bowl.

Ian Draper (playing with Anne Rosen) won the Mixed pairs at the EBU Year End Congress

Helen Erichsen (playing with Fiona Brown) won the Lady Milne trials

Jeremy Willans and Jill Skinner won the Surrey Swiss Pairs

Stephen Brown and Michael Collins won the Bedfordshire Swiss Pairs

Myself, Konrad Mau, David Stern and Sue Parkins won the Dorset Swiss Teams

Norman Inniss

Chair KCBA 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.