

Competitions Secretary Report for March 2021 meeting

RealBridge prices in GBP £ (excluding VAT), are:

- Short event of up to 20 boards: £0.30 per player. **i.e. NGS 9 & below**
- Single-session event of up to 32 boards: £0.40 per player. **i.e Sat AM**
- Multi-session event on a single calendar day, up to 64 boards in total: £0.70 per player. - **i.e. Men/Ladies/GP events and costs do not increase with entry fee-** Almost the same as BBO

TRAINING FOR REALBRIDGE

I ran a training session for our County TDs in December 2020 (whilst a Farnborough Duplicate was running, so had an event to show). All had also been on RealBridge training run by RealBridge. So I felt that our TD team is well prepared and set up to run Kent Events on RealBridge. I've also directed on RealBridge for the EBU and have learned skills to enter pre-set starting positions, learn about Howells and also how to create two session events (although most county event would be set up as one session).

Our team includes Paul, Sharon, Mike Hampton, Geoff Smith and John Oakland - who is really picking it up fast having only just started and shared the recent RealBridge changes with us all on this training day (he did his training the previous week), whereas others did our training over a month ago.

CURRENT NUMBERS FOR SATURDAY EVENTS

The online events have continued to be popular, but numbers on RealBridge have been disappointing – 5 or so tables both in the morning and afternoon recently. We have played the same hands in both events and scored overall. Small numbers in the RealBridge results in the scores in there only giving a rough indication of performance (e.g. top of 10 MPs). Both Paul and I have send suitable emails encouraging RealBridge entries. If they do not improve Saturday events will revert to just BBO events.

Recommendation: Both Saturday events are entirely on BBO for three Saturdays per month but on 2nd Saturday of each month (viz 10 April, 8 May, 12 June) they are entirely on RealBridge. I've received lots of helpful emails from players this week suggesting this and saying that our current approach is not working because

- i. It splits the competitions and players want one large section
- ii. 5-7 tables in RealBridge results in players playing the same pairs each week
- iii. People are reluctant to be in the RealBridge section due to it being too small

Although we may lose some players on the second Saturday, this allows practice on RealBridge for large county competitions and EBU events, and encourages people to be sociable in readiness for return to F2F bridge. The proportion of demand is reflecting the frequency of events and should offer events for all our membership

This recommendation was agreed – so BBO on all Saturdays except 2nd Saturday for RealBridge. Review after doing this for 3 months i.e. Apr-Jun. **ACTION:** SB to email members

Average numbers overall for the 10am duplicate were 13-18 tables in December, 13-16 tables in January and February. Number for the NGS9 & below events were 18-24 tables in December, 24-29 tables in January and 23-26 tables in February. We have continued offering £3 or £2.50 prizes to the winners i.e. a free game. **This is excellent with around 40 tables playing each Saturday.**

The Mens & Ladies pairs each attracted entries of 11 tables and were our first competition events run on RealBridge, similar to entries face to face in 2020. The attempt to attract NGS 9 & below player with prizes and a separate ranking list was unsuccessful (4 pairs completed despite lots of encouragement). So I propose we run the NGS 9 and below event on the Saturday before the George Griffiths (but no Saturday 10am event on the Saturday).

Recommendation: That the George Griffiths be on BBO rather than RealBridge. Agreed. This is clearly what the players would like. **ACTION:** SB to email members

The Larsky Semifinals attracted a total of 71.5 tables compared to 53 tables face to face in 2020. Excellent, ensuring the maximum of 7 GPs are awarded to the winners of the final.

The Green Pointed Swiss Pairs attracted 49 tables of entries. The Largest any Kent event has been since the Swiss Teams in 2012 (48 teams). This attracted a strong field (NGS 57.22). The entry fee was £12 per player and allowed prizes at 20% of entry fee (£430) and a profit of around £700. I managed to get 15 counties to advertise this event on their homepage and for the final 3 weeks we had an advert on the EBU homepage (£60). I've already asked these counties to change their advert to the May Green Pointed Swiss Teams, but it's harder to get the same numbers for teams.

I tried to make this as much like a face to face event as possible with players choosing where to sit, chatting to a pair before it started and then moving for round 1. Over 90 links were created to EBU Convention Cards. RealBridge now gives the TDs the facility to change the player name to the proper format if the player name is incorrect. This was used very successfully at this event.

Green Point Swiss Teams – 23rd May 2021

Although we have had a few complaints about RealBridge for the Swiss Pairs, I think we should still run it on RealBridge. When teams finish the players return to their team table which is an excellent feature. Perhaps we should consider: Session times 11am – 1.30pm, then 2.15pm – 5.45pm i.e. break after 3 rounds to make it closer to lunchtime. **Agreed.**

Suggested 2021-2022 Competition Dates:

All equivalent dates and agreed at the meeting. **ACTION:** SB to ensure date of congress is on the EBU Calendar. **Done**

Sun 10 th October 2021	Dyer Smith (Mixed)
Sat/Sun 30/31 October 2021	Congress
Sun 9 th January 2022	Homines Mens & Femina Ladies Pairs
Sat/Sub 29/30 January 2021	Corbett Teams
February 2022	Larsky Semifinals
Sun 6 th March 2022	Green Pointed Swiss Pairs
Sat 19 th March 2022	Larsky Final
Sun 24 th April 2022	George Griffiths Seniors Pairs (Easter is 17 th Apr)
Sun 22 nd May 2022	Green pointed Swiss Teams
Sun 19 th June 2022	Phillimore Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs & AGM