

Kent Youth Bridge Report – March 2021

As with most bridge events, youth bridge has moved online and there are several events being co-ordinated on a regional scale.

Most popular are the Friday Evening sessions (run by a university student - William Chenal) which attracts around 150 youths per week on Real Bridge (poster attached below). Less popular, is a Sunday morning international youth session on Real Bridge; and a monthly Sunday afternoon session (poster also attached). These events are open to under 26's and a lot of the participants are part of the EBU junior squads. Also held online recently was a Young Bridge Challenge, which was a team based inter-schools event attracting 78 participants from secondary schools (the winning team had 2 Kent youths – Tom and Ben Gardener - although they were in a mixed team with another school).

In the recent past Kent & Sussex & Surrey have joined forces to hold a “southern counties” youth bridge event. This was held for 2 years at Ardingly, and in 2019 was held at Bowles Outdoor Centre near Tunbridge Wells. Another Bowles event was planned, and previously budgeted for in 2020, but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

As restrictions lift, it has been proposed that the Southern Counties Youth weekend be scheduled for the 23-24th October during the mid-term break, again at the centre at Bowles Rocks. I believe this has been discussed with the National Youth Bridge Co-ordinator Giorgio Provenza, and does not clash with any other youth bridge events planned to date. Last year the event included overnight accommodation, meals and one non-bridge activity such as rock climbing, pool kayaking, archery or dry slope skiing. The event was fully booked by attendees & organisers, and a range of skills was present from beginners up to the national youth squads. Many prizes were given, with an emphasis on beginners, to encourage more learners.

Previously, Kent Bridge, Surrey and Sussex donated £500 each in sponsorship to this event, supplemented by EBED prizes and coaches, and a host of volunteers. It would

be appreciated if the funding approved from 2020 could be reallocated towards sponsoring this event in Oct 2021.

Yours in Bridge

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