

Chairman's Report for the KCBA Committee Meeting

11th September 2022

The return to F2F bridge has continued, albeit slowly in some areas. Without doubt some of our County competitions will continue online in the future, but we aim to hold the major competitions as F2F. The Dyer Smith Mixed pairs is being held F2F on 8th October at Maidstone Bridge Club. The Kent Congress (being held jointly with Sussex) is being held F2F on 29th and 30th October, I encourage all of you to come along if you can. There are Swiss Pairs on the Saturday, and Swiss Teams and really easy Pairs on the Sunday.

Our NGS 9 High games have continued on Saturdays. Numbers are slightly down on their heyday, but they continue to be viable and we will run them as long as there is demand.

We continue to believe that our overwhelming priority is to try to attract new players into bridge. We had intended to participate in a trial of 'SmartBridge' being run by EBED this September. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of everybody involved from Deal, Thanet, Maidstone, Farnborough and Bromley North, insufficient numbers of people signed up, so we have postponed the trial until January. The reasons for the paucity of pupils are unclear, we normally have quite a number of people wishing to learn whenever we advertise. The timing may not have been good, trying to interest people in sitting in a room with others, whilst in the school holidays and in the middle of a long hot summer, may not have been that attractive at the time. Perhaps we would have had more luck if we had guaranteed air conditioning when the temperature reached 40 degrees!

There have been some Kent successes over the summer.

We sponsored Tom Furness and Thomas Gardner to attend the European Youth Championships. Tom was part of the U16 team that won the silver medal, an outstanding result, and Thomas was part of the U21 team that came 8th and thus qualified for the World Championships.

Kent won the Home Counties League. The team was Bill Charlwood, Jon Chapman, Stefan Syplczak, Phil Jones, Stephen Brown, Michael Collins, Mike Griffiths and Phillip Williams.

The Arnold Cup was won by John Amor, John Hemington, Jon Chapman, and Bill Charlwood. The Arnold Plate was won by Peter Bibb, Jamie Donald, Charles Mocatta, and Nick Osler.

The Phillimore Cup was won by Jill Skinner and Jeremy Willans. Second were Paul Gibbons and Tim Randall.

At the EBU Eastbourne Congress, Louise and Norman Selway came 3rd in the Mixed Pairs.

At the English Riviera Congress Mark Mortimer and Angela Treen came 2nd in the Swiss Pairs.

My congratulations to all.

Lastly I would like to welcome Quantum Bridge Club from Blackheath, who have now affiliated to the EBU. They are a club that leans heavily towards teaching, further details are on the Kent website.

I hope that you are all staying well and enjoying your bridge, however you are participating, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future Kent events, especially the Congress at the end of October.

Norman Inniss

Chair KCBA

7th September 2022