

Chairman's Report for the Committee June 2023

Bridge in Kent has continued to recover from the turmoil of the last few years.

In May we held a very successful teaching seminar at The Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone. We invited anyone who was a teacher or was interested in teaching to this, as well as club representatives. We also extended an invitation to non-affiliated clubs in Kent. I did an opening address, then we had presentations from Tim Anderson (EBU), John McCoy (Essex Chair) and Pat Welsh (our AEO). We then had an open forum to discuss the issues and exchange good practice. As a result we have a number of people interested in becoming teachers.

We continue to hold our successful 9 High competitions on Saturdays. Numbers had dropped in May but have seen an uptick in the last couple of weeks. We will continue to run these as long as there is a demand and it is financially viable. My thanks again to Sharon Bayne, Paul Gibbons and Stephen Brown for organising and running these. Sharon, Stephen and Paul also organised and directed the highly successful EBU Improvers competitions at both the Easter Festival and the Spring Bank Holiday Congress. This enhances the profile of Kent as well as being a financial benefit to us.

The Larsky Cup Final was held in March. Congratulations to the winners, Jeremy Willans and Jill Skinner. Jeremy and Jill also competed in the EBU Corwen Trophy, representing Kent, and came a very creditable third.

We held the George Griffiths Trophy (Seniors) in April and had a slightly disappointing 9 tables. Congratulations to the winners Jeremy Willans and Peter Law.

Farnborough represented Kent in the Regional Heat of the Garden Cities Trophy. Unfortunately they came third, narrowly behind Sussex, and thus failed to qualify for the final.

I attended the EBU County Chairs meeting last month. We had a presentation from Lee Guy, head of EBED, on their plans for improving the teaching of bridge. He reported that they have amended the SmartBridge programme, which is currently being trialled, with the aim of rolling it out later this year. We also had a presentation from Patrick Shields on changes to the EBU Competitions. They are continuing to hold a mixture of F2F and online competitions. Further we had a presentation from Paul Gibbons on the role of EBU Shareholders.

Due to issues with the catering we have had to change the date of the Phillimore Cup and AGM. It is now being held on Sunday 6th August.

The Committee continue to work extremely hard on organising and managing bridge for all our members, and I thank them again for all their hard work.

Norman Inniss

Chair KCBA

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