

Competitions Secretary Report for June 2023 meeting

CURRENT NUMBERS FOR SATURDAY EVENTS

The online events have attracted:

2.30pm 9-High Average, tables

Feb 2023	7.2
Mar 2023	9
Apr 2023	7.5
May 2023	5
Jun 2023 so far	8

Average entries have varied. We are happy to continue running the events weekly for a while longer; Sharon has kindly agreed to vary the TD fee depending on number of entries to cover costs for a while (we did similar for the 10am BBO game at the end of the lockdown period when numbers were low).

IMPROVERS PAIRS as part of the EBU Easter Congress

Easter Monday . 50 & 42 tables entered, with 55 pairs playing in both sessions.

IMPROVERS PAIRS as part of the EBU Spring Bank Holiday Congress

Monday 29th May. 39 & 30 tables entered, with 38 pairs playing in both sessions.

This was the first of one with BBO designating the event as a Charity Event so BBO costs are 15% of entry fee (rather than 30%). Of the profit, 1/3 goes to Oliver Cowan's Junior fundraising (£100), 2/3 (£200) for us to support the Junior Camp in October. The EBU gained MP fees of £210. This simply raises the funds ready to pay what we've agreed for the Sussex/Surrey/Kent joint initiative.

There is a plan to repeat this but the subsequent dates are not confirmed yet.

ARNOLD CUP / PLATE

Both competitions completed and Master Points submitted to EBU (sometimes takes a month to process). Unfortunately the winning team could not raise a team, and by the time they invited the team who came second, they had arranged other things for that week. So Kent was not represented in the Pachabo.

LARSKY CUP

The event was very well run by Paul with 13 tables. But the playing conditions at Maidstone Civil Service club were not ideal. There was poor lighting for 3 tables and noise from the other room across from the bar from around 6pm (there was a party).

In liaison with Jacquie Day from the club, the following is suggested (we were not aware of these before the event

- i. Opening the club earlier. I suggest a 10.30am start, we'd finish by 5.45pm
- ii. On the 'darker' side of the room away from the bar, there is a row of six lights along the middle of the ceiling which were installed specifically for the bridge club. These are not usually in use, but can be turned on if required. We were not aware of this !
- iii. the club has boards it can put up against the bar to help alleviate the sound. Obviously this means the bar will not be available, but they could be removed during the break for people to top up on their drinks if required. Again, we were not aware of this ! There is also some leakage of noise through the connecting door.

I am convinced that this fixed the problems at Maidstone and we should continue to run the event nearer the middle of the County in Maidstone. Fixing the problems with the Civil Service Club does

seem to be the easiest way to achieve that for our smaller events. Players also wrote in support of the location of the event, wanting it still to be run in Maidstone. The club does not open Sundays, so I recommend a similar Saturday in March 2024. We could provide lunch rather than cake e.g. sandwiches. The cost of playing in the Semifinals should increase to £4 per player.

TWBC MOVING TO A CASHLESS CLUB

I've been informed:

For the bar: they are going to purchase an integrated till and card reader, like the ones we see in shops. It does mean that all purchases will need to be made by card (contactless or chip/pin).

BOOKED DATES FOR 2023-2024 (except **, but recommend that it is booked – but on checking find little availability in March except 9th March at Maidstone Civil Service Club))

Sun 8 th October 2023	TW	Dyer Smith
Sat/Sun 28/29 Oct 2023	TW	Joint Congress with Sussex (both days GP)
Sun 14 th January 2024	TW	Homines Mens & Femina Ladies Pairs
Sun 4 February 2024	TW	Corbett Teams
February 2024	TW	Larsky Semifinals
Sun 3 rd March 2024	TW	Green Pointed Swiss Pairs
** Sat 23 rd March 2024	M	Larsky Final
Sun 21 st April 2024	TW	George Griffiths Seniors Pairs (Easter is 31 March)
Sun 14 th July, 2024	TW	probably, difficult to see on EBU calendar

Catering is booked for these events, and confirmed by Sue Wright.

F2F NGS9 EVENT - Saturday 16th Sept 2023

Subject to entries....We would have 2 x 18 board sessions, 11am start, with a lunch like at County events.

Cost would be £5 per session to play (people can play in one or both sessions)

Cost of lunchtime food would be at cost, currently £13 per head.

ONLINE BLUE POINTED SWISS PAIRS

I recommend having an online event on RealBridge on Saturday 18th May 2024.

Just 36 boards, 6x6? £9 per player entry fee. We could donate profits to Juniors or may prefer to ask the Juniors how they would like to fnidraise.

Stephen Brown, June 2023