

AEO report for KCBA Committee Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### **SmartBridge**

Following the last Committee meeting I can now give you a final update regarding the SmartBridge trial.

Following EBED's further postponement of this trial, Deal Club had 10 students ready to start on 9<sup>th</sup> January who did not want to wait a further 4 months to start their course. It was therefore agreed with EBED that I would take on these new students as a Beginners Group for 12 weeks, providing them with the same discounted price offered by the SmartBridge trial. This online course is being run using the Bridge for All syllabus and EBED offered the course books free of charge to the students so the costs were kept to the price previously agreed.

I have delivered 9 of the 12 sessions to date and the course will finish on 27<sup>th</sup> March with all ten students still enjoying learning to play bridge.

EBED sent out an email on 6<sup>th</sup> March to advise that with effect from the end of May, Giorgio Provenza, CEO, is relocating back to Italy and they are currently advertising his position. As SB was his project, I don't know whether the trial will now go ahead in other counties so, in retrospect, my decision to take on this group in January and safeguard 10 potential new players for our County was constructive.

### **County Chairs meeting**

I was invited by Tony Russ to give a presentation to the County chairs on behalf of Kent about the role of an AEO which I delivered on 1<sup>st</sup> February

### **Club and Teacher Seminar/Conference**

Norman Innes has now finalised the date for this for 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 between 2pm and 5pm. I suggested that we may want to have a small working group to take this forward and have submitted an outline plan with my suggestions to Norman for initial discussion purposes.

In preparation, I have also attended an EBU seminar on 'Running a teaching Programme' which provided me with some useful ideas which will be helpful when we are planning this event. During the Seminar, Tim Anderson presented the findings of the Teaching Survey which Norman sent details of this week. Part of that mentioned that the top requests by clubs to help them to recruit were

Needing more teachers

Help with recruiting students

Funding towards premises

He suggested that, with regard to funding, if clubs are struggling, they should firstly approach their County who may be able to help. This may be something KCBA wish to consider.

Tim Anderson also delivered a presentation on the new Club Membership Development area on the EBU website which can be found at <https://www.ebu.co.uk/development>

This provides 'Resources for clubs and county associations for teaching and marketing Bridge, to attract new players'

This would be a valuable resource for us to share with our clubs and it may be helpful to provide this information to them at our conference.

Pat Welsh

AEO

11<sup>th</sup> March 2023