

Chair's Report for the KCBA Committee Meeting

12th March 2023

I am pleased to report that bridge in Kent is continuing to recover from the pandemic. We had 14 teams of 8 entered for the Corbett Cup, Corbett Plate and Mitchell Salver. Congratulations to Farnborough 'A', who won the Corbett Cup; Tunbridge Wells 'C', who won the Corbett Plate; and Swanley, who won the Mitchell Salver.

We had 9 tables for the Fleming Femina and 10 tables for the Hunter Homines, congratulations to the winners, Helen Erichsen and Fiona Brown; and John Amor and John Hemington respectively.

Last Sunday we held a GP Swiss Pairs and I am pleased to report that we had 24 tables playing. Congratulations to the winners, Norman Selway and Kay Preddy.

Paul Gibbons and Sharon Bayne continue to run our successful 9 High Saturday games, and I thank them for their efforts. We hope to build on the success of this competition and hold a F2F 9 high event in September at Tunbridge Wells. If successful we will hold further such events in the future, in different areas of the County. We may subsidise the initial event to encourage players to enter.

We are going to hold a County wide seminar in May for teachers, together with anyone interested in teaching and club secretaries and chairs, to discuss and explore means by which we can increase the teaching of new players in Kent. Thanks to the new teachers who attended the course in February, we have a good number of teachers in the County now, but of course there is always room for more, especially as there are some areas that have few or no teachers. I think that it is important for us all to work together, the more people that we can bring into the game, the more we will all benefit.

In January the Committee met to have a 'brain storming' session as to how we can further the game in Kent. The teacher's conference was one decision that we came to, others will unfold throughout the year.

I attended the EBU Chairs meeting ((online) in February. Again the emphasis was on teaching and bringing new people into the game, with many useful suggestions and evidence of good practice around the country. Pat Welsh (our Adult Education Officer) gave a presentation on the work that she had been doing as the AEO, and it highlighted the amount of hard work that she has been putting into various teaching initiatives, as well as founding and running her own club in Deal!, and we are lucky to have her in Kent.

We have decided to repeat the combined Congress with Sussex at the end of October. Whilst the attendance, especially from Sussex, was disappointing last year, we hope that we can improve on that this year, and it enables us to run both days as Green Point events, in addition to the Green Point Swiss Pairs in March.

I hope that we can continue to build on the increase in numbers over the rest of the year, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the remainder of the Kent events this year.

My thanks to all members of the Committee, who continue to work extremely hard in furtherance of bridge in Kent.

Norman Inniss

Chair

10th March 2023