

AEO report for KCBA Committee Meeting 6th January 2024

KCBA Website proposed changes

In my last report I proposed we consider making some changes to the Teachers directory we have on our website under the menu heading Learn Bridge.

Following the last committee meeting, I started by emailing 38 teachers . This is a copy of the letter I sent them.

I should like to start work on updating the teachers directory on the KCBA website as I am aware that some of the information about both our current teachers and their classes are out of date. In addition, I am keen to be able to assist all Kent teachers to find new students, if you have space in your classes or are able to offer another course in addition to those you already do. I am therefore writing to you directly to ask for your help.

Would you be able to give me the following information please:-

1. Are you currently teaching Bridge or intending to take on any students in the near future

If so, would you be able to let me know whether you teach Beginners, Improvers, Intermediates etc, the days and times of your classes, and whether you provide them F2F or online. If they are F2F would you let me have the address of the venue you use please. It would also be helpful to know how you would like new students to contact you, e.g. your email address, phone number or via your Club's website.

2. Do you work closely with one or more local Clubs, perhaps your name and details of your classes are on their website or maybe you enrol your students in a local Club once they are ready to join. If so, which Club(s) do you work with.

3. Do you currently have a waiting list or capacity to offer places to students and, if so, at what level do you have vacancies. Would any new class be held during the day or in an evening?

*4. Have you registered your details on the EBU website. If you go to **My EBU, Show all Menus, Teaching, Info** then you will be able to add your own details to the new EBED Directory and sign up for the **Find a Teacher service** which will enable EBED to send you information from potential students, who are wanting to learn to play Bridge, and who have contacted them via their website.*

I should like to thank you all in anticipation of your help in this enquiry and I hope that by updating the KCBA website we shall be able to assist any potential students to find a bridge teacher in their local area.

Like Norman, I had only a few replies.

I had 8 full replies giving details of current classes and teaching capacity.

2 others are no longer teaching

1 is on long term sick

2 don't want their details on our website.

A total of 13 replies from 38 emails.

Of those replies only one took up my offer of help to find students – I had a long chat on the phone with him and offered various suggestions of ways he could find more students including adding details of his courses and offering teaching on their existing club website. I have checked the website and he has not done this.

Proposal for the way forward

It is clear from the lack of response, that many teachers have no interest in having their classes listed on the KCBA website and I am therefore recommending that my initial proposal to remove links to teachers classes from the KCBA website is implemented and that I write to all Kent teachers to tell them that we shall no longer show their details on the KCBA website and ask them to list their own classes on the EBED Teacher Directory site.

I shall advise all clubs and teachers that the information about classes and clubs will be removed in, say two month's time, to give them the opportunity to move the information over, but that no further amendments will be made in the meantime.

We should then be able to dispense with the Classes in Kent section on our website. and just have a link from "Teachers Area" to the EBED Directory. I shall need to send a further email to the teachers who didn't reply before I shall be in a position to update the Map of Kent with current teachers in each area.

All of this would also be a benefit to Stephen as it means he will no longer have to continue to amend class details for teachers and clubs on our website. It has an added advantage to teachers and clubs as they will then have the ability to amend information themselves on the central EBED directory as this also links to a Find a teacher service which was recently set up.

Teacher Training

I have not yet had the opportunity to contact all Kent clubs again to promote the new EBU Development area on the website <https://www.ebu.co.uk/development>

which provides 'Resources for clubs and county associations for teaching and marketing Bridge, to attract new players'. However, I shall endeavour to send out an email this quarter which should give me the opportunity to raise the question of another TTC as I now only have 1 name of potential teachers on my waiting list as Susan Child has now advised me she qualified as a teacher by going to a TTC held in another area.

Pat Welsh

AEO

5th January 2024