

Chairman's Report for the Committee – January 2024

We continue to pick up from the Covid situation. In general, numbers are increasing each time we hold an event, albeit slower than we would like. I hope that this trend continues in 2024. We are still looking for suitable venues in more central areas, so that we can attract players from parts of the County who currently seem reluctant to travel to Tunbridge Wells

We held the Kent Congress in conjunction with Sussex at the end of October. We had 17 tables for the teams and 24 tables for the pairs. The collaboration with Sussex allows us to run both events as Green Pointers, and have a GP Pairs in March as well. Congratulations to the winners, Frances Connell and Gerald Soper in the pairs, and Michael Keeping, Matthew Smith, David Benjamin and Matthew Read in the teams.

Also in October we held the Dyer Smith mixed pairs competition. We had 10 tables. Congratulations to Jeremy Willans and Jill Skinner who carried away the trophy.

Full results for all competitions are on the Kent website as usual.

Kent supplied our usual financial contribution to the running of the successful Junior Bridge Camp in October.

Kent continues to have a strong representation in National teams. Norman Selway and Kay Preddy have won the Teltscher Trophy trials, and Derek Patterson is playing in the 1st weekend of the Camrose.

Kent teams won both Divisions 1 & 2 in the National Teams League.

We continue to hold our 9 High events on Saturdays, and numbers are holding up. My thanks again to Paul Gibbons, Sharon Bayne and Stephen Brown for organising and running them.

Paul, Sharon and Stephen also ran the very successful Improvers Pairs at the Year End Congress.

We are looking forward to two County events in January; the Fleming Femina and Hunter Homines on the 14th and our second F2F 9 High on the 27th.

In February we will have the Corbett Cup/Plate/Mitchell Salver competition for club teams of 8 and in March we hold our GP Swiss Pairs. We will also have the semi-finals and final of the Larsky Cup.

In November the EBU AGM was held. There were contests for the posts of Chair and Deputy Chair, with the present incumbents winning by a wide margin. I am delighted to report that Paul Gibbons has been elected to the EBU Board.

The EBU are holding a national campaign in September of this year, in conjunction with Cancer Research, entitled 'Bridge it's a Big Deal'. We intend as a County to support this initiative as strongly as we are able, but we need our clubs to play their full part. I am very grateful that Frances Connell has agreed to take on the role of County liaison for this campaign. If anyone can assist her in this, or has any ideas as to events we can hold or publicity that we can access, then please contact her or me.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and I wish you all the best for the New Year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the year ahead.

Norman Inniss

Chair KCBA

4th January 2024