

Gladys Hakki 2019 – Nomination for Helen Kent

Five years ago, Crawley Bridge Club was on the brink of folding up, membership and attendances were so low. We were down to two and a half tables on occasion. In response, Helen instituted a teaching programme using the EBUTA Beginning Bridge course. She has delivered this every year since and the club's fortunes have been transformed. Membership has more than doubled and attendances are so high that sometimes we can scarcely fit everybody in! Anyone who has been involved in teaching will understand the level of effort and commitment necessary to do that.

In addition, Helen has been our chairman for approximately 16 years and has been a club director for about the same time. She is the heartbeat of the club.

But, not content with what she's done for bridge at club level, Helen has also done a lot for the county. Helen was on the Management Committee and was Trophy Coordinator for 7 years. But, undoubtedly, Helen's most notable achievement for the county has been to maintain high levels of attendance in the East Grinstead Basic Bridge Pairs which she has organised for 13 (and counting!) years. This has been during a time when attendances have been falling in almost all other competitions and when the other two county Basic Bridge Pairs events have been suspended through lack of numbers.

So, for her commitment to club and county bridge and the game in general, Helen would clearly be a very deserving recipient of the Gladys Hakki Trophy.

Crawley BC

Jan 2019