

## LCBA EDUCATION FORUM 20/06/19

Simon Stokes, Education Liaison Officer, LCBA, chaired the Forum. Fifteen LCBA members attended, including representatives from Ashby, Bradgate, Blaby, Loughborough

### Aim of Forum

- Share the work of the LCBA Education Committee (Simon Stokes, Richard Rees, Brian Stockdale, Dean Benton, Howard Leigh and David Pollard)
- Identify the extent and nature of bridge teaching in Leicestershire
- Raise issues, discuss and establish ways forward eg Bridge in a Weekend event in September
  
- Paul Bowyer outlined the Committee's proposal to hold a Bridge in a Weekend Event to be held on 7&8 September (cost to be determined). Stressing the need/responsibility for all clubs to educate, he had developed a coordinated course for clubs to take learners on from the weekend, proving a curriculum covering 3 years (60 lessons). Part of the pack would include a computerised resource to supplement the lessons. Cost: \$30 (c£25)
- In discussion, the very wide range learning needs was recognised eg age related emphasising that the learning event was broad-based and was designed to help a broad spectrum
- Richard Rees outlined the range of marketing materials/strategies under preparation to promote the event
- A budget of £2000 was currently available to promote and develop bridge in Leicestershire Initially it would be used to underwrite the event, then to finance EBUTA courses for affiliated and non-affiliated clubs. There was general agreement that £40 was a reasonable charge for the event with concessions students etc
- Although attendance at the Forum was lower than expected, several clubs had been in touch with Simon. Following the forum, the nominated person from each club would be informed, updated of all developments, including the Forum. The issue of maintains meaningful co tact with clubs was discussed
- Brian Stockdale presented ideas from Loughborough, John Storer House and Bradgate on ways to promote bridge learning. This focused on identifying problems and developing ways of overcoming them: shortage of teachers and helpers, venue, syllabus, timing of lessons. He suggested a need for a co-ordinated, shared approach across the county ie all clubs offering similar lessons so learners could choose a preferred venue. Other ideas: offering a promotional event in a public place/as part of a larger event, supported by follow-up materials; contacting golf clubs, schools (DoE award); carrying out a range of promotional activities across Leicester/ Leics, in order to research what was successful
- Forum members discussed how clubs might best manage the transition of learners from class to club. Ways forward included beginner sections/annex movements, use of mentors, supervised play
- Payment of teachers and helpers was discussed. Should teachers be seen as officers/ committee members ie volunteers or paid as professionals?

At 4.15pm Simon closed the Forum, thanking people for their participation and inviting them to stay on to look at Paul's materials