

## KCBA COMMITTEE MEETING - JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2020

### ADULT EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

The meeting in November to promote our membership campaign was very successful indeed with a great deal of very positive feedback from many attendees. It was very pleasing to see so many teachers and representatives from clubs throughout Kent – some already thriving, some newly set up, some looking for help in increasing their membership - we had the whole range – including the chairman from one unaffiliated club.

Tim Anderson's contribution on behalf of the EBU was very well received - as was Norman's outline of the proposed Taster Day in April, Shirley Goldwin's on teaching in Primary Schools, David Ellerby's on efforts to link up with U3A in the Folkestone area – and on my campaign to increase the number of trained teachers in our County. Regretfully Diane Rogers failed to attend but sent in her contribution on teaching at Secondary level following the meeting - with her apologies. I distributed this to the attendees by email.

Participants had the chance to exchange ideas during the coffee break which they found very useful and there was a Q and A session at the end of the meeting – which Norman had to draw to a close since the questions kept coming!

Disappointingly there were 2 Kent clubs who are clearly in danger of failing and yet were not represented by their chairman/ lady or similar representative. I refer to Ashford and Dover. The Ashford club failed to reply at all to the many Emails sent by Norman and myself. The chairman has since called me following their AGM – at which the issue of their falling membership was raised. Ashford has a trained teacher among its members of which he was not aware and he has now approached her. However I fear it is too late since Bridge for All is a 2 year learning course and by then the club in all probability may not exist. Upper Deal has already closed after 30 years and the Deal club itself refuses to affiliate. Dover is running at 4/5 tables – 2 years ago it was more like 7/8. The Chairman committed to attending the meeting but failed to arrive – nor did he send an apology before or afterwards.

It is the Kent clubs in the 7/8 range of tables that I strongly believe now need to be targeted for, like Dover, 7 or 8 can very quickly become 4 or 5. I believe they need to be encouraged to act quickly to keep their membership at its present level – by using local EBED trained teachers to teach new players and then setting up a workable system of Gentle Duplicate to integrate them into their clubs. This will be my new focus.

I am running a further Teacher Training Course at Faversham on February 29/March 30. I would like this published on our website please and also a notification to be sent out to every club and indeed every member to encourage participants from our own County. 3 of those who attended the meeting have already signed up for it.

Chris Lohan

KCBA Adult Education and Development Officer