

South East Counties 2019 Junior Bridge Camp briefing note for Kent and Surrey MCs

William Bourne

6th December 2019

Tel 07876 350650 william@linchpin.uk.com

Objective: Provide a weekend of enjoyable bridge for up to about 75 residential 8-21 year olds and possibly more non-residential. Same formula as successful 2019 camp (see Appendix B for feedback), but focus on minibridge and younger players in particular.

Sponsorship: Last year Surrey (£500), Kent (£500), and EBU (£180 in support of U-16 training) provided sponsorship, and Sussex (£1,000 offered, £600 used) underwrote the event. Event is marketed as South East Counties Junior Bridge Camp under all four names. Sussex has in principle agreed to underwrite the event once again.

Date: Saturday and Sunday 11th and 12th July 2020

Venue We will be holding JBC 2020 [at Bowles Rocks leisure centre](#) (5 miles SW of Tunbridge Wells off A26, 1 mile from Eridge St.), the same place as 2019. It can accommodate up to 52 in 1-, 2- and 3- bed ensuite rooms, and a further 106 in dormitories of 6 with shared facilities. It proved a successful venue in 2019: good food, all classrooms together with main accommodation block, and supportive and friendly staff. The main drawback is the lack of a large room to hold the main competition: last year we held it across two classrooms, which worked well.

Bowles Rocks also offers juniors a range of activities (dry skiing, rock climbing etc) on the Saturday afternoon, which should add to the attraction of the location. These are included in the projected price, but will need to be pre-booked on registration.

A deposit of £500 has been paid by Sussex to secure the weekend.

Organisation: Planning group has yet to be firmed up, but will be on similar lines to last year. I will involve parents where possible. Initial planning and marketing will start early in the New Year, and I expect the website to be open for entries by end January. I will look to book in a 'guest teacher' for the top group on the Sunday morning, as that has proven popular in the past two years.

Proposed Charge: Based on the three counties and EBED sponsoring or underwriting as in 2019, the proposed charges are unchanged: £75 for residential juniors including a sports activity, £90 for residential adults, £40 for non-residential (includes an activity for juniors). The adult cost does not include a sports activity, but depending on places there may be some room.

Finances

I have set out as Appendix A the costs, based on last year's numbers. I would strongly hope we will attract more juniors after the success of last year. There has been a slight increase in Bowles' charges, but I do not propose to pass this on. The England U-16 squad are likely to use the event as a training event, which will provide a firm core to numbers.

Programme

The concept will be similar to previous weekends with five teaching sessions of 60-75 minutes, two main competitions with prizes, and Speedball for the older and keener on the Saturday evening.

There will be a 3 hour activities break on the Saturday afternoon when participants who have pre-booked can undertake one of the Bowles Rocks activities.

Registration 0945 on Saturday, Prize giving 1630 on Sunday

Enjoyability

From the feedback received last year (see Appendix B), we were successful in making the event enjoyable. The Bowles Rocks activities were popular, and we seemed to strike the right balance between bridge and fun.

Teaching

We will aim for around one teacher (or assistant) per 4 for minibridge and bronze, 8 for silver, and 12 for higher groups. We will teach to the EBED Awards system, but will aim to have all classes, except possibly for minibridge, within the range of 8 to 16 pupils.

Accommodation

Bowles Rocks is set up for groups, both children and adults. The Lodge (where the teaching and competition rooms are) has accommodation for 52 in 1-, 2-, and 3-bed en suite rooms. There is additional accommodation for a further 106 in segregated dormitories of 6 with shared facilities, with individual rooms for up to 4 responsible adults per floor. I have viewed both facilities.

Food is home cooked, and there were no complaints last year.

Health and safety

All teachers and official helpers to be DBS cleared. All to be well aware of Bowles Rocks procedures in case of emergency, number to call if trouble in middle of night.

Numbers

Target is 50 juniors age 8-21 (cf 41 in 2019, 63 in 2018). Planning is for between 40 and 70 juniors plus accompanying parents. We can accommodate more juniors, though there is a maximum number of 52 in the en-suite rooms which adults will be using.

What would I like from the three counties?

SCCBA has agreed to underwrite the event up to £1,000 and to organise it as last year. The event will be publicised with the support of and under the joint names of the three South East counties and EBED in order to maximise attendance. I would like to ask the MCs of the three counties to:

- **Contribute £500 sponsorship as in 2018 and 2019 (Kent and Surrey)**
- **Publicise the event on their websites and through their junior teaching networks. I am particularly keen to encourage higher mini-bridge attendance, even if only for one day.**
- **Encourage the secretaries of bridge clubs within their county to promote it enthusiastically to parents and grandparents**

APPENDIX A PROJECTED BUDGET

Costs	2019	2020
Fixed Costs	Actual	Projected
Activities	700	700
Room hire	150	175
Prize money	40	40
Refreshments	13	15
Prizes	160	160
Equipment delivery	140	140
Contingency	21	200
<u>Total Fixed Costs</u>	<u>1,224</u>	<u>1,430</u>
Variable costs	Cost	
52 Residential	3,952	4,056
14 extra lunches for non-res	105	105
7 extra dinners for non-res	60	85
<u>Total variable costs</u>	<u>4,117</u>	<u>4,246</u>
<u>TOTAL COSTS (= Fixed + variable)</u>	<u>5,340</u>	<u>5,676</u>

Income (based on same numbers as last year)

Residential	3,270	3,270
Non-residential	240	240
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3,510</u>	<u>3,510</u>

Income from sponsorship		1,180	1,180
	Kent	500	500
	Surrey	500	500
	EBU	180	180
Total income		4,690.00	4,690.00
Shortfall (paid by Sussex)		650.01	986.00

APPENDIX B - FEEDBACK FROM 2019

It is us who should be thanking you. A very enjoyable weekend and well organised.

Anton and Jessica were so patient and helpful.

Great venue – hope you can book it again next year.

[REDACTED]

Thank you so much for such an enjoyable time. Maybe to run it over two nights ???
The teaching and food was great and the whole agenda ran very smoothly
Thank you again

[REDACTED]

Fantastic weekend for all although it was a pity that YOU were having to do so much. Yes, it was pleasing to see happy faces. Very gratifying.

Think September might be a good time during half term. The weather normally holds for that month so the children should be able to get some outdoor activities as well.

The balance was just right. If it became a 2 nighter, it may become expensive for some and the children may find it too much unless they had their circle of friends with them or made a circle of friends.

The venue, its location, food and accommodation was right for such an event. Can't comment on the teaching in the other rooms but overall, it was of a very good standard and easy for the children to follow.

The first paragraph says it all for organisation and arrangements. Well publicised at bridge venues although a couple of friends who were bridge players were unaware of it. Something to do with the busy lives we lead! I was wondering whether it might be a good idea to get it publicised at schools, golf clubs and such like too.

Well done and particularly clever of you to get Bowles Rock. I knew it in its early days when my daughter used it to get some skiing practice. It has certainly changed, for the better!

[REDACTED]

Thank you, everything was organised perfectly and our child really enjoyed it!
We are looking forward to the next event. We appreciate the effort of the teachers and our child was pleased with Anton and Jessica.

[REDACTED]

Thank you again for a super weekend, as I said you made it look so easy to run and I know it takes a huge amount of work from you.

They are a lovely group of children and a joy to spend time with and it is easy to see why the venue staff found them a pleasure.

Thank you personally as well for the lifts to and from the station, we had dinner at Cote and Martin managed all the homework before he went to school today. He really enjoyed the whole weekend, his comment this morning was that he had a whirl.

Feedback wise:

- There is never going to be an ideal date for everyone, if we can make it we will
- The balance of events worked really well, I had been worried about 3 hours of activities on Saturday but they had plenty of water breaks and really enjoyed it. The benefit of running a second night would be that the children hit the ground running at about 9am on the Saturday though there will always be those who can't make it until Saturday anyway
- The venue was great and the staff were brilliant. The food was good with plenty of choice and they were generous with it, if we had enough fridge space maybe fruit as well as biscuits for teaching snacks but I know there is a budget as well
- The teaching I saw was brilliant and chatting to a couple of the younger ones they had learned a huge amount in a very short time. My only comment would be around adults sitting in, they were quite vocal both with questions during the class and while making up numbers at the tables telling the children what they should have done
- There was a great choice of activities with great instructors
- The organisation was superb, everything was made easy for us as participants
- I can't really comment on publicity as Martin loves his bridge so much that we hear about each event and Georgio does e-mail the squad quite regularly

██████████

Thank you so much for the bridge weekend. William had an "awesome " weekend and he said he learnt a lot.

He also enjoyed being able to do something outside bridge. The venue looked fantastic and am keen to visit there another time.

It would be great to know when there are any other junior bridge events. Is there a mailing group we can join or do we keep an eye on the website

██████████

Chris really enjoyed the weekend and he tells me the food was much better than the Phasels Wood Activity Centre!

Andrew Clay

Just a quick email to say thank you for the weekend. Henry enjoyed himself and he tells me he learned a lot. It was a big step for him, he didn't know what to expect, and i think settled down over the weekend and felt he had achieved something. I thought the venue and facilities were great, as were the Bowles staff, and everything seemed to run very smoothly.

Aisha Ghani