

Kent Youth Bridge Report – September, 2018

During the “Off Season” for youth bridge in Kent (May 20 to September 2) the following developments have occurred: 1) a move to align youth activities across the Southern Counties (coordinated by William Bourne), 2) Preparation for the new “Season” with at least two new schools seeking to commence BC’s in September, 3) the Ardingly Junior Bridge Camp, and 4) preparation for the addition of a new event “The Real Easy Kent Congress” on the junior calendar. All of this ties in with Kent Youth’s strategy of building a critical mass of school bridge clubs, rolling out EBED’s JAS and increasing the number of Interschool’s Tournament participants.

Southern Counties Youth Bridge Alignment

Sussex and Surrey have agreed to align with Kent wrt a common annual calendar of junior events and an annual teach in event – the Ardingly Junior Bridge Camp. William Bourne is coordinating this initiative and, following a few kick off meetings, actions include: a common calendar of events (currently in draft) and the establishment of a facebook page to better connect with junior players in this regard.

The September 2018 to May 2019 Schools Bridge Season

At least two new schools will add bridge clubs this season – Sackville School (in Hildenborough) and Sevenoaks Primary School. Meetings and recruitment assemblies will be held for these new additions and new intakes at existing BC schools, over the next two weeks. This year I am looking for volunteers from local Gentle and Competitive BC’s to assist with the various schools programmes on a rota basis. The schedule, ending with the Interschools Tournament will be similar to the 2018 one, with quite a few students now moving through the JAS rankings of Bronze and Silver.

The Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp

This year’s event, hosted at Ardingly and coordinated by William Bourne, was a great success and had a record number of attendees. Excellent lessons augmented by good peer learning thanks to the presence of the England Under 16’s, were the order of the day. Kent sponsored attendees from our county with £500 pounds and this reduced fees for the first 11 entries to

£15 per head – a bargain for the quality of learning and competition. The other two participating counties did the same.

The Real Easy Kent Congress (including Ray White Trophy)

Preparation for this new addition on the junior and novice calendar is underway and I have put out a request to all local teachers (that I know of) to make sure all new players and juniors are notified. The event will run from 2pm to 5:30pm on Saturday the 27th October in the upstairs rooms at Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club. The idea is that it will parallel the main senior Swiss Pairs event. To date we have a digital flier and entry form (thanks to Liz Blande) on the KCBA website, re-discovered the Ray White trophy (currently with Stephen Pierce) and arranged for a TD. Entry is £5 for Seniors (Novices with an NGS of 6 or under) and £3 for juniors. Medals (yet to be ordered) will be given to all participants. I would like to get a free parking sponsorship from one of the local shopping centres, to reduce participants costs and keep the cars away from the main event, in return for a poster advertising the shop.

Yours in Bridge

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