

Chairman's Report for the Committee Meeting

On September 8th 2019

I attended the EBU County Chairs meeting with Malcolm Lewis on 15th May. There was little opportunity to discuss the issue of the Premier League dates, but it was mentioned. There was no useful information or progress. I suggest that we raise this matter again. The EBU Chairs forum is likely to be by electronic means in future, rather than by physical meetings.

Following my election at the AGM, I sent a round robin email to all members, regarding my assessment of the future of bridge and the way forward to increase our membership. I have had a number of messages from members in support of this.

In particular I was contacted by Declan Treanor, the Chairman of Arena Travel which owns First for Bridge holiday company. Paul Gibbons and I met with him on 21st August. We discussed the prospect of holding an 'open day', run by the KCBA and sponsored by them. We came to a rough agreement that we would look at the possibility of running a 2-pronged approach, with one prong to be a 'taster day' for those wanting to learn bridge, the second prong being 'gentle duplicate' taster sessions for those who already play bridge but in an unstructured way amongst friends, or in unaffiliated clubs. We agreed that such a day would have to be regionalised because geographically Kent was too big to make it practical to include the whole county. Declan indicated that, if the 1st day was successful, they would actively consider sponsoring a second day.

Norman Inniss