

Kent Youth Bridge Report – September 8, 2019

The 2019-2020 School's "Bridge Season" will commence towards the end of the month and we will aim to conclude this with the Interschools before the Easter break next year (shortening the season to ensure there are no conflicts with early summer activities and end exam celebrations that affected us this year). During the summer we continued with the Southern Counties alignment (coordinated by William Bourne with some useful energy from the new Youth Officer Giles Ip), and held the Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp (at Bowls Rocks). The focus remains 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. A key enabler in the success of this strategy will be the number of volunteers, willing to set up clubs at local schools.

Southern Counties Youth Bridge Alignment

This alignment between Surrey, Kent and Sussex continues to grow, with the key elements being – an inter-county working group (Giles, William, Tim and myself), coordinated marketing of events (via EBED to ensure email compliance), and a coordinated annual calendar of events linked to each of the county's websites.

Schools Bridge Clubs

Unfortunately the volunteers that initiated clubs at in Folkestone area have called it a day. However, I am expecting most of the rest of the schools clubs established over the last few years to continue (with the possible exception of Weald Primary and Sackville, where interest has significantly reduced). Over the last few years I have developed a good schedule, a series of lesson plans for MB and Bronze/Silver classes and a structured plan for the season-concluding competition. In addition, I have recently purchased a duplimator with the intention of making up a full set of practice hands for each school club, to further ease the process. All of this should allow for the minimum commitment from any volunteer willing to help out, but we need these individuals if we are to grow and spread the game amongst the youth.

The Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp

The 2019 South Eastern Counties Junior Bridge Camp, organised by SCCBA, and sponsored by ourselves and Surrey, took place at Bowles Activity Centre over two days on 6th and 7th July 2019. Including teachers and helpers, 67 attended of which 41 were juniors. The venue was perfect and the feedback was extremely positive, although I would have liked to have seen greater numbers (particularly for those looking for a good introduction to the game). Improved marketing is required for 2020. A full report of the event with reconciliation of expenses, from William, is attached.

Real Easy Kent Congress (including Ray White Trophy)

This event will be held for the second time during the Kent Congress on Saturday the 26th October and we expect to build on the 10 pairs that participated in 2018. This year we will implement a stratification to ensure low-NGS graded participants are encouraged to take part. I would appreciate it if all on the committee could undertake to ensure word gets out to clubs and players. A big drive required here please.

Yours in bridge, Anton