

## Kent Youth Bridge Report – January 7, 2018

---

Kent Youth remains focused on its strategy of building a critical mass of school bridge clubs, rolling out EBED's JAS and increasing the number of Interschool's Tournament participants in May 2018. Thus far we have seen an increase in the number of bridge clubs (towards our target of 20) and the emergence of a new, potential regional "hub" (in Sevenoaks). I attach a map, illustrating the increasing number of established and targeted clubs

William Bourne has taken over coordination of the Ardingly Youth Teach-In (from Andy Ryder) On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. This weekend of JAS-based youth development and junior competition will now be organized for the "Southern Counties" and I have discussed with William as to how Kent Bridge may assist him with this venture, providing teaching resources and, possibly a monetary contribution. My proposal for the latter would be a fixed annual amount or a contribution for each Kent child attending the weekend (if this can be accommodated in the Kent Bridge budget). Detail and budget for the event are attached as a separate document.

In addition to the Southern Counties Weekend and the Interschools event, we ran the first Junior SIMS for Kent Youth at Ruffians, with the dual aim of advertising the Sunday club and providing access to competition for juniors, in October 2017. My intention is to host two SIMS events at the club annually, going forward.

Liz Blande has assisted us in creating a Junior Section on the Kent Contract Bridge website. This will be used to advertise and provide updates for all junior events in the county. I am hoping to have all of the Interschools related information posted on this site by mid-January.

EBED have been excellent in their support of the two new Secondary School Bridge clubs – Sevenoaks School and Weald of Kent Grammar School – thanks largely to Richard Banbury's drive in this area. I would like to see as many 12-16 year-olds purchase Book One (the red book from the EBU) as possible. This is a great aid to youth development particularly for this age group and event find it helps to bring parents and grand-parents to the table. Richard is

trying to arrange a discount for school bridge club members and we are trying to encourage school bridge clubs to invest in a few copies that can be loaned to members.

Another focus area for 2018 will be the enrolment of Six Formers who can support Secondary School Bridge Clubs (in some instances for “service credits”) and may then be able to take the game to universities. Diane Rogers is willing, given a good show of interest, to run a Fast Track Bridge course over two weekends for this “target group”. So far we have 6 interested Six Formers at WOK and a few at TOGS.

Yours in Bridge

Anton

**Request** – Consideration as to how best Kent bridge can support the Southern Counties Weekend, with a view to sharing ownership of the event and installing it as a premier event in the calendar.