

Kent Youth Bridge Report – January 5, 2019

The new School's "Bridge Season" kicked off in September 2018 and we are now gearing up for the completion of the JAS levels (mostly Minibridge and Bronze) at the various schools BC's. During the last quarter we: 1) continued to develop the alignment for the Southern Counties (coordinated by William Bourne), 2) started new school's BC's at Sevenoaks Primary and Sackville, 3) initiated planning for the Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp (to be held at Bowls Rocks this year), and 4) went ahead with "The Real Easy Kent Congress" during the Kent Congress. 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.

Southern Counties Youth Bridge Alignment

We now have a combined calendar of youth events with Sussex and Surrey, including a junior tournament at Wimbledon (in which Kent participated), the Kent Interschools and the Junior Bridge camp which is now annual. William Bourne is currently coordinating the compilation of SC's junior distribution list to improve communication about events.

The September 2018 to May 2019 Schools Bridge Season

Two new schools added bridge clubs this season – Sackville School (in Hildenborough) and Sevenoaks Primary School. Meetings and recruitment assemblies were held and we have a total of 32 (new) children doing MB and Bronze at these two schools. Three new volunteers have joined Jess and myself in the Sevenoaks area to assist with the schools bridge teaching (all vetted with DBS and currently learning the MB curriculum). I am hoping that more will join to ease the load and expand the number of schools. We should be able to get about 50 new candidates through the MB certificate by the Interschool's on May 17th.

The Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp

The 2019 event will be hosted at Bowls Rocks (a junior activity centre near Tunbridge Wells) and coordinated by William Bourne. More details on the KCBA website. Once again, William has prepared a budget and motivation (attached) and is asking for a sponsorship of £500 from

Kent and Surrey (with Sussex providing £1,000) to reduce participant's costs. The request is for the Committee to consider the 2019 sponsorship.

The Real Easy Kent Congress (including Ray White Trophy)

The event took place on Saturday the 27th October with 10 pairs participating. All though Junior participation was disappointing, the event went ahead, and feedback was positive enough to consider keeping this in the calendar. Disruption to the main Congress was minimal and participants liked the idea of being part of the day's events. Medals (of which we have a good supply for next year), the Ray White Trophy and small cash prizes were handed out. I welcome ideas on boosting numbers for this year's event.

Yours in Bridge

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