

Larsky Report

An email was sent to KCBA contacts for 32 affiliated clubs. 13 replies were received. 4 were 'no' with a variety of reasons. 5 were 'yes' although some had a desire to confine it to club members. The rest were indecisive.

It is clear from the responses that, despite the length of the email, (or perhaps because of it) clubs had not understood the concept that was being proposed.

We could put a lot of effort into getting more replies and achieving greater understanding but I believe that those resources would be much better used in trying out the proposal below. I think that the only way to test the concept is to go for it.

I therefore propose that:

1. All affiliated clubs will be asked to make one of each of their regular weekly pairs events in November or December (or possibly early January) a heat. They will be allowed to make it a 'members-only' heat. They will be able to give it as much or as little publicity as they wish. We will only put the heat on the KCBA website if that is what the club wants. This will be achieved first by emailing suggested dates and asking the club to suggest alternatives if these are not suitable then following this up by personal contact if possible (volunteers from the committee for this would be welcomed) and by phone if that is not possible.
2. The aim is to have over 50 heats. Any Kent member who scores over 50% in one of these heats will be eligible to play in a semi-final. Members can in as many heats as they like. They should respect those clubs who are holding 'members-only' heats but as most of 'the usual suspects' will be able to qualify at their usual clubs there should not be much of the travelling to 'weaker heats' which is the basis of some of the 'no' answers received above.
3. As each heat is played and the results displayed on the club's website (if they not displayed in this way the club will asked to send a copy of them) those players scoring over 50% who are on the file of Kent members sent by the EBU will receive an email or a letter asking them if they want to play in one of the semi-finals and, if so, to indicate which one.
4. The semi-finals will be single session events playing between 24 and 28 boards. As far as possible local resources should be used for boards, tables, bidding-boxes, bridgemates etc. but we should stand ready to use the county resources as necessary. We should pay for a non-playing director I suggest £35 plus expenses.
5. I suggest 4 semi-finals as follows:

Thurs 6th Feb 7:30pm Canterbury or Bekesbourne

Wed 12th Feb 7:30pm Tunbridge Wells

Tues 18th Feb 7:30pm Farnborough or Chislehurst?

Sat/Sun 22/23 Feb 2:30pm Maidstone

6. Qualification from these semi-finals would be on the same basis as qualification from heats at present and from this stage would be handled by the competitions secretary as at present.
7. I am prepared to do the work for all the earlier stages, although as I have said if there are committee members who have contacts with particular clubs who can make the personal contact that will give us a greater degree of success.
8. In general I believe that our competitions should break even and should not be a cost to the vast majority of members who do not play in them but here where we trying to introduce more members to the delights of our tournaments I believe we should subsidise the effort as much as we need to and set the table money at the semi-finals at £3 per player.