

Adult Education Officer's Report

Committee Meeting

12th May 2019

1. I ran a very successful teacher training week end in February
2. 10 very committed delegates attended – 9 of whom were from Kent
3. Several of them are already teaching, one using fast track.
4. Special mention should be made of Pat Welsh from Deal. This was an area of Kent without qualified teachers. As you can see from the map, Pat has now plugged that gap. She has taken over the improvers' class at the ABC club which is now so successful she has had to close the membership. She has also started a new beginners' class and with very excellent advertising has received a very good response to this also. This can only benefit the local clubs such as Dover DBC where membership has fallen. I wish I could bottle her enthusiasm, commitment and professional approach..
5. On that subject and having studied the results in April of all Kent affiliated clubs the following statistics make for interesting reading:-
 - We have 28 registered clubs
 - 9 of these had 4 tables or less in April (including Dover and Upper Deal) and never more than 6 ½
 - One even published on its website that bridge had been cancelled for several sessions because of insufficient tables
 - 7 others are in the middle range of 5 to 8
 - 12 are, at the moment, thriving with regular table numbers of 9 to anything up to 17
 - 5 of the delegates at the teacher training sessions – Pat (Dover and Deal), Stefan Syplywczak (Gravesend/ Rochester) Brigid Lavelle (Ashford) Tony Owen (Orpington) and George Wise (Medway) are now teaching in areas where clubs are struggling with the drop in numbers. I believe, long term, this will be halted as students filter through from their classes.
 - One of the other clubs in this position advertises classes but they are run by a non qualified EBED teacher.
6. Shirley Goldwin at Folkestone DBC is still hoping to obtain fully qualified status. To do this however, she needs a teacher with professional status to observe her class. I am her friend and in her club so it would not be appropriate for me to do so. The two other Kent teachers who could help have refused her request. The two professional teachers in East Sussex it seems do not teach from the EBU Bridge for All courses. I am about to approach Doug Wright in Surrey. I will raise this at the Teachers' Congress which I am attending in June.

Chris Lohan

5th May 2019