

AEO Report 5th September 2021

Since taking over as AEO at the AGM I have spent time making myself a database by collating the details of all Kent Clubs and adding contact details of Club Chairman/ Secretary. In addition, I have looked at each of their websites and identified those clubs which have designated Teachers shown as being part of their club and added these names.

My database has been sourced from the KCBA website, EBU website, and the EBED Teachers Directory however these documents all have different information on them. e.g. According to the EBED Directory in the Kent County there are 21 teachers who are listed but it is interesting that only 6 of them show that they teach online which would indicate to me that throughout the pandemic the levels of teaching in the County will have reduced. On the KCBA website there are 28 teachers listed but it is not clear how many of them are actively teaching as the list of their classes does not appear to have been updated for some time.

Turning now to the Survey information, which Paul has kindly collated for me, of the 39 potential teachers who indicated they are prepared to teach bridge to newcomers, unfortunately, only 20 of these members gave an email address and, in fact, at least 5 of them are already teachers.

Moving forward

I remain convinced that the primary way to grow our Club membership over the next few years will be to increase the number of bridge teachers in the County. It is clear that I shall need to start by having a firm understanding of the number of teachers we already have to enable me to build on that for the future.

I intend to take the following actions if these have the backing of the Committee.

1. Write to all Club contacts and advise them that I have taken over the AEO role and enquire whether they currently have any bridge teachers in their club and if so would they please provide me with names and contact numbers.
2. Ask those Club contacts to also forward my email to all their members to enquire whether any of them are prepared to teach Beginners Bridge to newcomers and for any members to contact me direct if they have an interest in doing this
3. Once I start to get emails from potential teachers I shall liaise with Chris Lohan and Jack Morcombe to arrange to provide local Teacher training sessions.
4. I shall email the 20 members who gave their contact details on the KCBA survey to see what their current teaching status is and how I can be of help to anyone who is willing to teach to enable them to move forward with this.
5. I shall also contact all the teachers on the KCBA and EBED websites and get up to date information on what teaching they are doing or if they not currently active whether they are intending to start to teach again in the future whilst offering any help I can provide to them.

Pat Welsh 4/9/21