

Kent Chief TD Report for January 2025 meeting

In Kent we have 2 EBU TDs (Paul Gibbons & myself) and two active County TDs (Sharon Bayne and John Oakland). For an online event I occasionally ask Geoff Smith (but he only really does RealBridge now) or Mike Hampton (for BBO but he rarely directs, it was a lockdown occupation).

From outside the County I invite Rob Sassoon (lives a long way away, so costly – but very experienced and the right choice for a large event), Stephen Kennedy (chief TD of Sussex, promoted from trainee in past couple of years and he is directing One Day Swiss Pairs in March 2025 and a Larsky Semifinal in Canterbury, after directing Mixed Pair in Oct 2024). Due to lack of availability of more local TDs, William Clennell (promoted from trainee in past couple of year) is invited to direct the Corbett weekend – but he is almost three hours away by train). Richard Banbury has also helped out for a Saturday BBO event in the Summer.

The county has these additional County TDs (Last updated on the EBU website on: 27th September 2024)

Carol Hawkins	Derek Patterson
Tony Hilton	Stephen Pierce
Gordon McBride	Diane Rogers

Mike Rafferty, Ryan Garrity and Diane Rogers have also directed for the county pre 2020.

John Oakland kindly directs most of the Kent Events (many supported by myself online or at the Congress), and by Paul Gibbons (+Sharon) at events such as the Mixed, Mens/Ladies, Seniors, Phillimore). I am very pleased with John's directing but if he were to decide to retire from directing or to direct fewer events, Kent is then short of county TDs. Paul / Sharon wish to play in many and I am not available for many events since Sunday clashes with church and I am away in Austria for some events.

Charles Scott has also expressed an interest in directing Saturday BBO when Sharon is not available but the opportunity to shadow Sharon / Paul has not arisen. If Charles is still interested in doing this and is available to receive training / shadow me on a Monday, I am happy to move forward with this and allocate e.g. once a month for him to practise.

So we, need an action plan for succession and I just wanted to have a committee discussion in case anyone is aware of other clubs TD who are good, or has further info on the list above.

Suggested action points

- Stephen to contact list of 6 names above and any others suggested by this committee
- Stephen to write to all club secretaries / chairs to act if they are aware of any club TDs who are very good / may be interested in directing for the county.
- Set aside a budget for a County TD training course (£250, perhaps more) when the need arises and later for paying for someone to do the EBU County TD Course (the last one run was in May 2024 and cost £245)
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Stephen Brown, Jan 2025