

KCBA Chairman's report for AGM 2024

We continue with the 9 High and Beginners online games on Saturdays and we continue to run the EBU Improvers for the EBU simultaneously with major Congresses such as the Easter Congress and Year End. Once again my thanks to all those involved in running all of these, in no particular order, Paul Gibbons, Stephen Brown, Sharon Bayne and John Oakland.

The Dyer Smith in October attracted 9 tables, slightly down on last year. Congratulations to the winners, Paul Gibbons and Sharon Bayne. The Kent Congress attracted a pleasing 26 tables for the pairs and a slightly disappointing 16 tables for the teams. Congratulations to Kent players Croz Croswell who won the pairs playing with Faith Holland; and Colin Wilson, Diana Avis, Frances Connell and Gerald Soper, who came 2nd in the teams.

The F2F NGS9 held at TW in September attracted 8 tables and 7 tables respectively for the 2 sessions. Congratulations to Maresa Crook and Penny Eliot who won session 1; and David McLenahan and Chris Robbins who won session 2 (Maresa and Penny came 2nd in session 2, so a very successful day for them). I hope that we get a good turnout for the next one, on 9th February at Canterbury.

We are looking forward to a number of Kent Competitions in the next couple of months, the Hunter Homines and Fleming Femina on 12th January, the Corbett Cup, Corbett Plate and Mitchell Salver on the 26th January, the NGS9 F2F on the 9th February and the GP Swiss Pairs on the 2nd March.

Kent clubs took part in the 'Bridge It's A Big Deal' festival in aid of Cancer Research in September, I hope to have final details for my next report.

In November the EBU AGM was held as a 'hybrid' event, part F2F and part online. This seemed to work well. There were some far reaching reforms agreed in the way that the EBU operates, as follows.

The proposed Articles were agreed, with the aim of the governance being more in line with modern practice. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer will no longer be elected by the AGM separately, but will be appointed from within the Board of Directors. The functions of the Law and Ethics Committee have been split into a Regulatory Committee and a Conduct Committee, both appointed by the Board and answerable to them.

UMS will rise by 1p this year.

Maidstone Bridge Club won a prize of £100 in the EBU draw.

I hope that all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Kent Competitions in the coming year.

Norman Inniss

KCBA Chair

6th January 2025