

**Kent Contract Bridge Association**  
**Committee Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**Chairman's Report**

The development of youth bridge in Kent has continued to be my main focus. Ravi Athwal and I took part in a lengthy discussion with Rob Marshall of EBED, who is responsible for their school programme, junior bridge initiatives, website development and data management. We now have a much better understanding of EBED's objectives and approach to developing junior bridge across the country. We were hoping that Kent would be able to pick up an EBED youth bridge development template (materials, guidance, processes, etc), adapt it for Kent's specific needs and then look to how we might implement it within the county. It became clear that EBED still has considerable work to do to create its own template and limited resources to complete this work. There is a potential opportunity for us to help shape the work but nonetheless in our opinion a working template for youth bridge is some distance away. This leaves us with a number of options for how Kent might move forward from continuing with the status quo of reacting to requests for help, or to working with EBED in some capacity, or to developing our own approach independently of EBED. The Committee will be discussing how we should move forward at this meeting.

There were a number of competitions through the winter which will be set out in more detail in the Stephen Brown's report. I would just like to add that I felt these to be successful, well attended events that were enjoyable to play. My thanks to all the directors, volunteers, caterers and of course the players who made this happen. My congratulations to the winners who are too many to list here but can be found – with pictures – on the KCBA website.

As I write this, the George Griffiths Seniors Pairs is being played online for the first time. I am disappointed that it has attracted only 11 entries. We will discuss at the Committee meeting the lessons we can learn from this and see how these might be applied to, particularly, the Dyer Smith in the autumn. Increasing participation in these smaller events remains a considerable challenge.

Turning to financial matters, the County is in a strong financial position. I would like to find further, perhaps more innovative, means of supporting and investing in bridge in Kent. How best to utilise county resources is an issue for a number of counties and some of the larger clubs. I have raised this with the EBU and I expect there to be a County Chairs meeting on the subject in the near future.

We are now in a new financial year for which we are preparing a budget and forecast. My aim is that the Committee will be as well informed as possible when required to make financial decisions, for example in replacing equipment, supporting county teams, awarding grants, and so on.

The new display cabinet for our county trophies, mentioned in my last report, has recently been installed at Tunbridge Wells Bridge Club. My great thanks to Brian Forty for all the effort he has put into specifying and ordering the cabinet and overseeing its installation.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Helen Erichsen for representing the England Women's team in the European National Teams Championship in Riga in July.

Jon Wittmann

19<sup>th</sup> April 2026