

Kent Contract Bridge Association**Committee Meeting 4th July 2026****Chairman's Report**

Following the actions agreed at the April Committee meeting, I wrote a paper outlining the actions taken so far and the possible models we see for supporting youth bridge in Kent. This was circulated to the Club Chairs and Secretaries in Kent asking for their comments and specifically whether they believed there was demand for youth bridge in Kent, or at least whether it could be created, and whether their club was in a position to respond to such demand. I am disappointed to say that only one response was received from the clubs and this was from our Committee member Pat Welsh and the Ace Bridge Club. I propose that we now wait to see what emerges from the development work being carried out by EBED and then whether we can take advantage of this at the county level. This does not preclude us from responding to individual requests for assistance if we can. A request for assistance has recently been made to EBED by Oakwood Park Grammar School in Maidstone. It is currently being handled by EBED but this may result in further requests for the involvement of Maidstone Bridge Club and possibly Kent.

At the last Committee meeting we agreed to hold a face-to-face NGS-9 High pairs event at a new venue, Hartlip. This took place on 13th June. It was a promising start, attracting 6 tables with many players who do not commonly attend county events. We will discuss how we can capitalise on this at the Committee meeting.

Following an enquiry from an entrant to the Phillimore Cup, I have agreed to discount the entry fee for U26 players by 50%. Although, this is currently a one-off concession, we will discuss at the Committee whether we should make this a permanent arrangement for future county competitions, possibly extending the discount further for U19s.

The issue of catering provision for county events at Tunbridge Wells has been resolved, at least as far as the Phillimore Cup is concerned. I have been assured that all the necessary arrangements are in place, including providing support for Monica with the serving of the food. Nonetheless I will be looking for a permanent solution to be in place before the Congress in October. I am expecting a request to increase the cost of the food before that time. This will present a number of challenges as we try to balance the provision of good quality catering with that of potentially deterring participants through the overall cost.

The full financial results for 2025-26 will be discussed as a separate agenda item. In summary, our finances were stable over the year, returning a small profit but which was significantly reduced when compared with the previous year. It is a clear manifestation of reduced numbers participating in our competitions.

Our trophies and equipment kept at TWCBC are now insured through the Club's contents policy. My thanks to Julian Ozanne and Brian Forty for their efforts to put this cover in place.

Martin Davies has decided to step down as the auditor of our accounts. I would like to express my thanks to Martin for carrying out this role with great diligence. We will need to find a volunteer to take up Martin's role.

Lindsey has decided to step down as North-West Kent Area Secretary at the AGM. Although the role of area secretary has substantially diminished, Lindsey has provided Stephen with considerable help with the promotion of Kent events, I would very much like to thank Lindsey for her work on the Committee am equally pleased that she has agreed to continue to help Stephen.

Gerald also comes up for re-election to the Committee at this AGM. He has put in a great deal of work to get the county archives into excellent shape. I am very grateful that he has kindly agreed to continue in this role which I trust will have much more of a maintenance aspect going forward.

Jon Wittmann

30th June 2026