

ANNUAL YOUTH BRIDGE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022 TO DATE.

TARGET. EBED, WMCWG, OBA

OXFORDSHIRE JUNIORS

Henry Rose, Freddie Beneat and Zane Soonawalla are in the U20 squad

Jacob and Thomas Potter played in the Eton team that won the ISL

Lawrence Crean and Amaan Kassey are in the U16 squad

The Schools plate was won at Loughborough by Magdalen College School (Zane, Amaan, Lawrence and George Aldridge). All thanks to Holly

Abingdon is active, 3 groups run by a teacher, Peter L and Freddie. Freddie brought a team that he has taught to the Loughborough Schools Day and they did not disgrace him. Jo Murray has a group at St H and ST C

YOUTH BRIDGE CLUBS IN ENGLAND

The longest standing is the Oxford JBC which has been run from the start by Holly Kilpatrick. It is currently struggling for numbers but has produced several junior internationals and members of the winning Eton school team. Sue Johnson is running a Saturday club at the ACOL, as is Jan Bailey at Cheltenham BC, and Rowena at York, the children coming from the nearby bridge playing schools. Some of Sue's are promising but Jan's are still very new. Cambridge BC are just starting some youth activity. There is a move towards arranging online tuition for the keen youngsters from the camps who do not come from bridge playing schools or families. **Any ideas?**

ANNUAL YOUTH EVENTS

SUMMER CAMP SEPT 2022 and 2023

2022 was the first year held F2F post Covid at Kings Park Northampton. We struggled get 50 children with 70 in total relying heavily on the junior squads. It was enjoyed by those who attended and several of the new youngsters also attended the autumn camp. Last weekend we had 70 children with 20 accompanying adults, the largest attendance for many years. The number of adults reflects the move to the younger age group since teenagers do not wish to be accompanied. It was a fantastic success and we have rebooked for 2024.

INTERSCHOOLS LEAGUE

This was started in 2021 and is run by Stuart Haring of Habs on Real Bridge in 3 divisions between September and March. There is almost no promotion or demotion since the schools choose the division that they think their children will most enjoy playing in for 1.5 hours (D1 12 boards, D2 8 boards, D3 6 boards). The winners play against the House of Lords. It has been won by Eton both years and will probably be so again since their team is young. Results can be viewed on the EBU website. Approximately 30 teams play in the league. In 2024 3 teams will visit the HoL in a change of format.

GRAND PRIX

This was also started in 2021 so has had 2 seasons. There are 6 events, 3 F2F at the camps and 3 online using Real Bridge and 18 board matches are played. The results can be seen on bridge4schools. This requires the youngsters to play at club speed.

AUTUMN CAMP

This is run in the October half term by William Bourne and heavily subsidised by Kent, Surrey and Sussex. This year it is based at Tunbridge Wells and the top groups will be tutored by Espen and Helen Erichsen. This has been running since 2016 and returned F2f in 2021.

SURREY SCHOOLS CUP.

Run by June Middleton Surrey CYO on the first Friday in February for all schools withing travelling distance of the venue. 95 at Wimbledon in 2022, 120 at New Malden in 2023, ???? at Epsom in 2024. 3 levels of competition proper, just bidding and MB

LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOLS DAY.

Run by Duncan Happer at Loughborough GS on the 1st Saturday in March. Returned to F2F in 2023. Attended by 100 children. Online in 2022 attended by 92 children.

SPRING CAMP.

Cheltenham BC on 23rd and 24th March 2024 with accommodation at Cheltenham Ladies College. Started in 2016 except for Covid. 105 children in 2016, but sadly only 24 in 2023. Lessons- we held it on 15th/16th April when the older ones were in revision mode. Wallingford BC gave us an amazing subsidy. There were 25-30 squad youngsters doing serious exams. Easter 2024- 60+?

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

SCHOOLS BRIDGE

This has been slow to restart after Covid and seems to be mainly in secondary schools where there is a keen teacher to support it. OBA has lost its volunteers and the schools their commitment over Covid.

UNIVERSITY BRIDGE

This seems rudderless at the moment. Teenagers have always been disorganised and Covid has made them even more so. This is a problem for the future- since we have no more time

Joan 6.9.23