

YOUTH REPORT FOR OBA MEETING 29TH MARCH 2023 3.30P.M

For obvious reasons, youth bridge throughout England, ceased in March 2020. OBA was a leading light in a slow restart.

1. Holly and Kathy instituted the monthly online competitions starting in May 2020 which no one else did.
2. Holly restarted the OJBC as quickly as possible by researching the rules and following them- no parties-but numbers were down
3. Schools did not restart until September 2021 and fewer schools than pre pandemic since many of our previous volunteers chose to retire given the break
4. F2F bridge camps restarted with Kent in October 2021 but numbers have been increasingly dependent on the junior squads since we have lost almost 3 years of intake.
5. An online Interschools league was started in 2021 which was won by Eton (including Henry and Jacob). The 2022-3 league has also been won by Eton including Thomas and Jacob Potter- well done boys and Holly for starting them off. Results are shown on EBU Homepage, youth league results. We find that the younger children do not like playing at home but do enjoy it at school- essentially all together, plenty of noise and fun, but playing on Real Bridge so no shuffling dealing etc.
6. A Grand Prix series was started in 2021-2. 6 events, 3 online and 3 F2F finishing at the summer camp
7. The Loughborough Schools Day was held F2F for the first time since 2020 earlier this month. Main event won by Habs B. Schools Cup was won by MCS containing Zane, Larry Crean, Amaan Kassey and George Aldridge. Freddie brought a team from Abingdon School for the first time, and Holly brought a team of youngsters, all of whom did her credit.
8. Spring Bridge camp on 15th/16th April is looking as though it will be in trouble caused by the chaos in the junior squads. These camps have previously been designated training weekends which is to everyone's advantage and supplies a core of 20-30 youngsters but both U16s and U20s are currently under new management so they are not coming in force. Our first camp held in 2016 provided 5 members of this years junior Camrose (3 English, 1 Welsh and 1 NI)- where next?

Joan Bennett 26th March 2023.