

Face to Face Progress

Clubs reopened w/c: **May 17th 2021.**

Kenilworth Bridge Club

Kenilworth have run three sessions a week for four weeks now. All free. Take up has been about 62%. Early well ventilated sessions were a little cool for some players. Some found the precautions bothersome. Others were delighted to play proper bridge again. Some players had not played online.

Nottingham Bridge Club

Two evening sessions a week playing teams. In eight sessions 31 tables have played.

Rugby Village Bridge Club

We have run two sessions a week for four weeks. We have filled 26 out of a potential 32 tables. The Monday session is very popular, but the Thursday session is slower. Many of the players have not played online. Players are needing a lot of support to book online and to pay online!

Stamford Bridge Club

Stamford are offering five sessions, Monday to Friday. Some sessions don't happen(5), but numbers over the **weeks** have been 17, 15, 19 and 19 tables.

South Croydon Bridge Club

The Thursday evening at South Croydon has 2.5 or 3 tables in its first four weeks.



Writing this on Sunday 13th June, we haven't had the announcement about the "final" step in unlocking.

It looks as though the step may be delayed for two to four weeks.

Most clubs that have announced intention to reopen have based it on the removal of social distancing regulations on the 21st June, so it is very likely their plans will be delayed.

However, what's the odds on some weasel words we'll all have to unpick next week?

Spotting the trends

The trend is for surveys. I have been monitoring over three hundred bridge related web sites and gathering data in an attempts to work out what's going on.

Many clubs have surveyed their members. Some have been about preferences for online platforms (BBO v RealBridge V Bridge Club Live), other surveys have been about attitudes to the return to face to face.

Counties have surveyed their clubs and members.

The EBU has surveyed the opinions of county chairman and secretaries, guiding them not to involve clubs(?).

Zoom has surveyed its customers.

The EBU Survey of Counties

After the Chairman's meeting, at least one EBU Affiliated county immediately published the survey report on its web site, another, when asked about it, forwarded it to clubs, most haven't got round to passing it on yet. The resulting report can be viewed here:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/bridgeforpleasure/2021%2005%20County%20Survey%20Results%20May%202021%20Final.pdf>

B A M S A Conference Lots of Surveys and Research here

Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice

Online Conference: Monday 28 June – Thursday 1 July 2021

Free international conference for academics, bridge players, teachers & administrators



Join *Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMS A)* – a global network – and share best practice

Case studies from: Australia, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Madeira, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Pacific, UK, USA

More than 60 presenters and panelists from 20 countries

<p>28 June: Benefits of bridge as a sport Welcome: World Bridge Federation President</p> <p>[1A] Mindsports in Academia & Society 13:00 (BST UK) / 14:00 (CEST) / 08:00 (EDT)</p> <p>[1B] Wellbeing & Bridge 16:30 (BST UK) / 17:30 (CEST) / 11:30 (EDT) Keynote: Prof Martin Seligman (USA) Book launch: <i>Bridge at the Top</i> (Jill Levin & Chip Martel)</p>	<p>30 June: How can bridge be more inclusive?</p> <p>[3A] Bridging Generations 10:00 (BST UK) / 11:00 (CEST) / 05:00 (EDT)</p> <p>[3B] Gender, Sexism & Bridge 15:00 (BST UK) / 16:00 (CEST) / 10:00 (EDT) Panel 1 Women's Bridge: Pros & Cons Panel 2 Sexism within the Game: Solutions?</p>
<p>29 June: The future hybrid of live & online bridge</p> <p>[2A] Impact of a Global Pandemic on Bridge 11:30 (BST UK) / 12:30 (CEST) / 06:30 (EDT)</p> <p>[2B] Digital Bridge & Cheating 19:30 (BST UK) / 20:30 (CEST) / 14:30 (EDT) Panel: Jan Kamras (EBL), Eric Laurant (WBF) Boye Brogeland & Steve Weinstein (World Champions)</p>	<p>1 July: How to transform the image of bridge?</p> <p>[4A] New Approaches to Teaching & Recruitment 13:00 (BST UK) / 14:00 (CEST) / 08:00 (EDT) Panel 1 Teaching & Retaining Learners Panel 2 How to get more Bridge into Schools</p> <p>[4B] Marketing Bridge 16:30 (BST UK) / 17:30 (CEST) / 11:30 (EDT)</p>

29 June: Conference Pairs + Q&A with RealBridge 15:00 (BST UK) / 16:00 (CEST) / 10:00 (EDT)

30 June: Bridge Taster for First-timers 18:30 (BST UK) / 19:30 (CEST) / 13:30 (EDT)

Full programme and to register:

<https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/>

@bridgemindsport

Queries: bamsa@stir.ac.uk

#BAMS A2021



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

A Cautionary Tale

I watched the "Aces and Knives" documentary film, made available in the run up to the BAMSA conference. It's a fascinating story of the American bridge scene, including elite players passing on their love of the game. It also tells the story of the cheating scandals leading to allegations and actions against some famous names. One clearly shocked player commented that bridge players are driven by "money and ego".

Well, there's not that much money in the English game, but there must be plenty of ego. A recent edition of English Bridge magazine listed a page and a half of negative judgments on players caught cheating online. This is only the outcome of those cases, plenty more are in the pipeline. Ian Payn is quoted in a Telegraph article; "The overhead to dealing with online cheating has been horrendous".

This must the elite competitions mustn't it?

Surfing club sites, I came across this story.

A small West Country club, playing in local shared community facility once a week, was forced to close, like all of us, in March 2020. After a few months, they launched an online weekly session and got many of their members playing. They were approached by a couple of new pairs to join.

It had been sometime since new members had arrived, and they were rather thrilled to welcome them. After a few weeks it became clear that there was a serious problem with one of the new pairs.

The club referred the matter to the EBU and the EBU disciplinary process did its job. The pair were found to be cheating and banned from the game. This is a reminder that online cheating is not just an issue in international competitions or tournament circles.

It is also a confirmation that a long standing club, with members who know each other well, is a relatively safe environment.

At Rugby Village, we took a decision not to admit new members in March 2020. This was to reduce transmission risk of the virus by limiting players to those we knew well. However, a possible additional benefit is not having to deal with suspicious behavior by strangers. We have taken on new members only from beginners' courses and from personal recommendations by existing players.

Congratulations to the club for dealing decisively with the problem, not only protecting themselves, but other clubs as well.

Traditional face to face clubs have an uncertain future. Many

players will be lost to duplicate bridge for ever if these clubs cannot provide a service for them.

It's important to consider the advantages such clubs can offer, and perhaps a open game, in a well lit room, against players you can see, and you may have known for years, is one of them.

EBU/Club Communications

The existence of this project was confirmed at the May Chairmen's meeting, but no idea of progress or when clubs can look forward to improved information flow. With the emphasis on "collaboration" in the meeting, a two way dialogue is hopefully on the cards.

We really hope to see regular communication, to all clubs, about this project.

New Normal Zoom Conferences

The meetings are informal gatherings. They are intended to bring together a wide range of perspectives. They should allow constructive debate.

The proceedings are not secret and will be recorded and published widely.

Zoom conferences took place on:

16th September
21st October
18th November
16th December 2020
20th January 2021
17th February 2021
17th March 2021
21st April 2021
19th May 2021.

A link for the next Zoom conference is below:

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Normal June 2021
Time: Jun 16, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84196494227>

Meeting ID: 841 9649 4227

Zoom link for the next New Normal Bridge Zoom Conference

New Normal Newsletter

This is issued once a month generally on the weekend before the third Wednesday. It is written and distributed on an entirely non profit basis, takes no advertising or commission.

Previous New Normal newsletters and a subscription form are available on the Bridge for Pleasure web site.

There is also information on playing Covid-secure bridge.

A freely available bridge teaching scheme with lesson plans, notes, deals, homework quizzes and answers is there for all.

Bridge for Pleasure - Information Web Site

Please forward the letter to anyone in the bridge world who might be interested. Anyone can subscribe using the link below,

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