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**Bridge in the New Normal August 2021**

1 message

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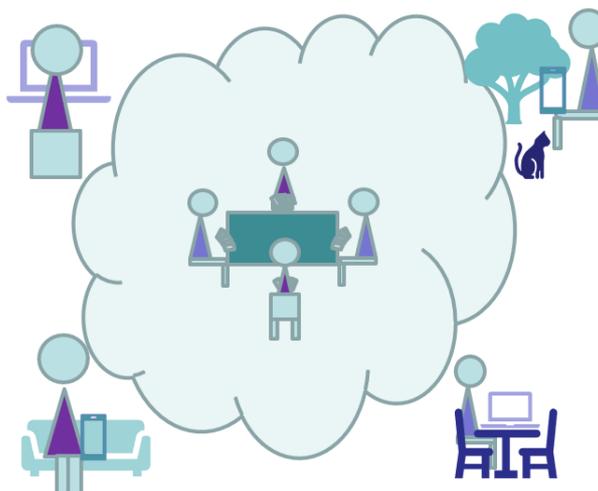
Nicky <bridgeforpleasure@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: bridgeforpleasure@gmail.com  
To: Nicky <nickyrbainbridge@gmail.com>

15 August 2021 at 18:14

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## New Normal News

### AUGUST 2021



[www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk](http://www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk)

In this edition...

- Face to Face Activity
- EBU Restart Seminar and Hybrids
- New Services for Clubs and Counties?
- EBU<->Club Communications
- Zoom Conferences (Including Link for Next Meeting)

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the conferences and gives feedback about the newsletter, or lets me know they watch the conference recordings. As long as I know this is useful, I will keep going!

The audience for this newsletter is fast growing. If you would like to receive it, you can subscribe at:

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## Face to Face Activity

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### The Return to Face to Face is happening!

Face to Face Sessions Offered per Week	201
Clubs Offering Face to Face	78

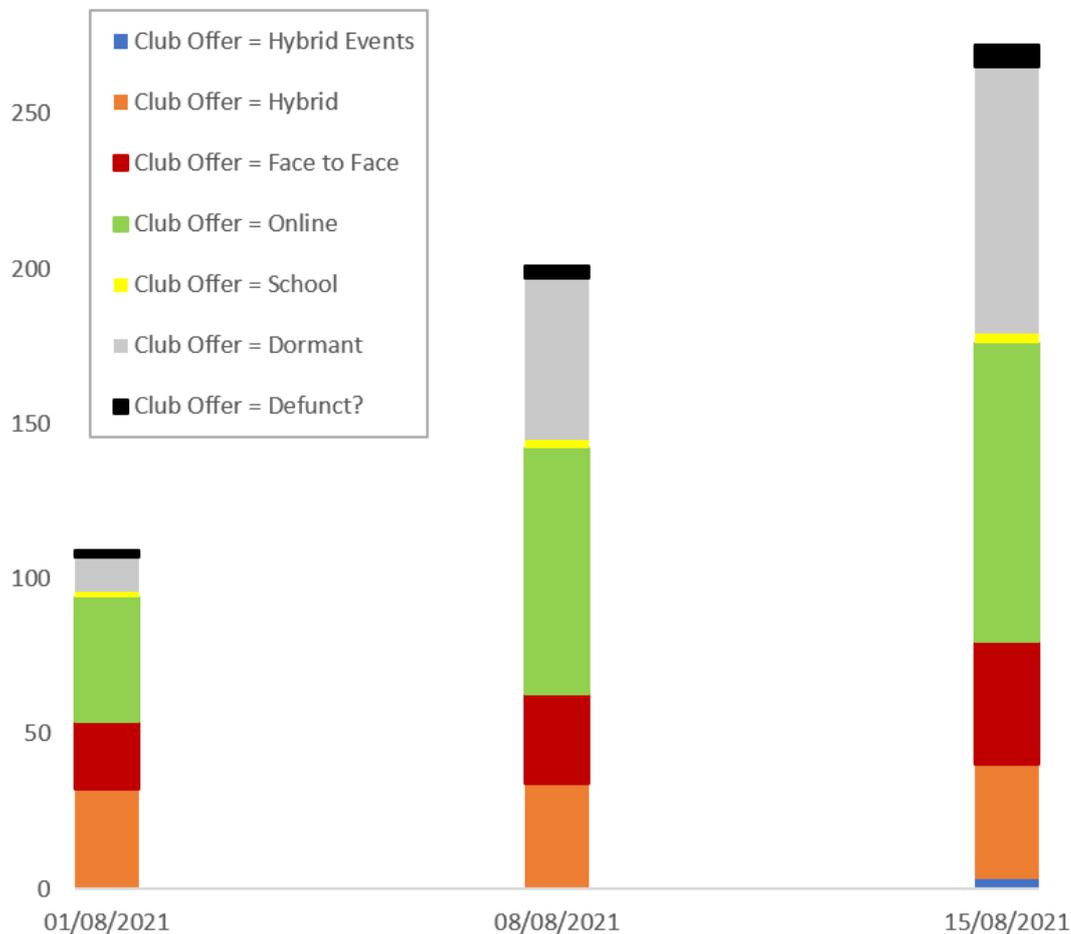
78 clubs have posted the results of face to face sessions. Between them these clubs are offering over 200 in person sessions.

Many more clubs have given dates for the start of face to face. The total will be at least 100 by mid September and could be as high as 150.

Many players are cautious, and the relaunch has come at the same time as many other opportunities have opened up. Some fields are quite small, but there is evidence of slow increase in numbers.

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300



A page of statistics and comments from clubs (some direct to me, and some from their web pages) gives a good insight into the emerging new normal. Here's one important chart. You can look at the web site page for more detail at:

[BFP Club Statistics Page](#)

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## New Services for Clubs and Counties?

It looks like there's a new trend to provide services, rather than just technology, to assist bridge organisers.

Bridge Extras (<https://www.bridgeextra.com/>) asks on its web site:

### *Bridge Administrators & Directors*

Are you intimidated by technology but wish you weren't?

Do you effectively give up your playing when you need to run a game?

Does your club rely on a few people with IT skills, without whom things don't happen?

If you answered, yes to any of these questions, BridgeExtras definitely can help.

and several clubs and counties are using them to manage entries to their competitions and/or run the competitions themselves.

Of course, at the start of the pandemic, the EBU's Jonathan Lillicrop, not only helped to get clubs going on BBO, but also undertook the direction of many EBU and EBU approved BBO virtual club events. But now others are offering the same kind of support, and on many platforms.

Perhaps this is a clue to the New Normal in bridge. Maybe there will be remote directors for in person sessions?

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## EBU Restart Seminar and Hybrids

The EBU organised a seminar on the restart on 30th July. A recording is available at on the EBU YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eu7YJF6OZM0>

There will be a second restart seminar on Tuesday 17th August, the day before our next meeting. Contact the EBU for an invite.

On the agenda were items about hybrid events. Jonathan Lillicrop explained the principles of running two simultaneous sections, with the same boards, one in person and one online and then combining the results. The organiser has a choice of online platform, face to face scoring system, and combining software. One new option, presented by Pianola, is to use their online playing platform, bridgemates and EBU Score. This combination has the advantage of the availability of immediate combined results.

(Three clubs are offering hybrid events. Manchester Bridge Club was the first.)

I don't think any way of running a single event section where online players can play rounds against in person players using real cards has emerged yet!

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## 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.

A focus group meeting was held in May and, in June, club attendees were asked for examples where communications could have been improved.

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

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## 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  
16th June 2021  
21st July 2021.

A link for the next Zoom conference is below:

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Normal August 2021

Time: Aug 18, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82059786523?pwd=anBoNzRQUiFpNTg0MkppbkJURGZvQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 5978 6523

Passcode: 820495

Zoom link for the next New Normal Bridge Zoom Conference

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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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