
New Normal News October 2021

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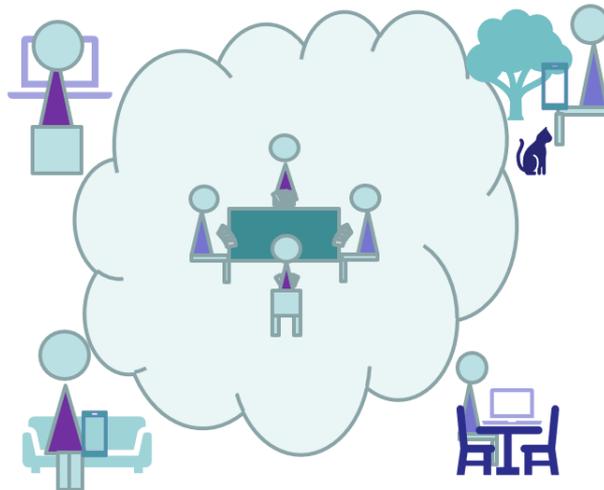
Nicky <bridgeforpleasure@gmail.com>
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18 October 2021 at 08:47

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New Normal News

OCTOBER 2021



www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk

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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

The Return to Face to Face.

Face to Face Sessions Offered per Week	560
Clubs Offering Face to Face	250

Activity on club web sites spiked in the first part of September and continues at a high level in October.

Clubs providing face to face (total of face to face and Hybrid Clubs and Hybrid Events) has risen strongly and is now more than half of the total sample. Clubs offering only online has dropped again, all moving to offer face to face instead or in addition.

The number of dormant clubs in the sample is slowly declining.

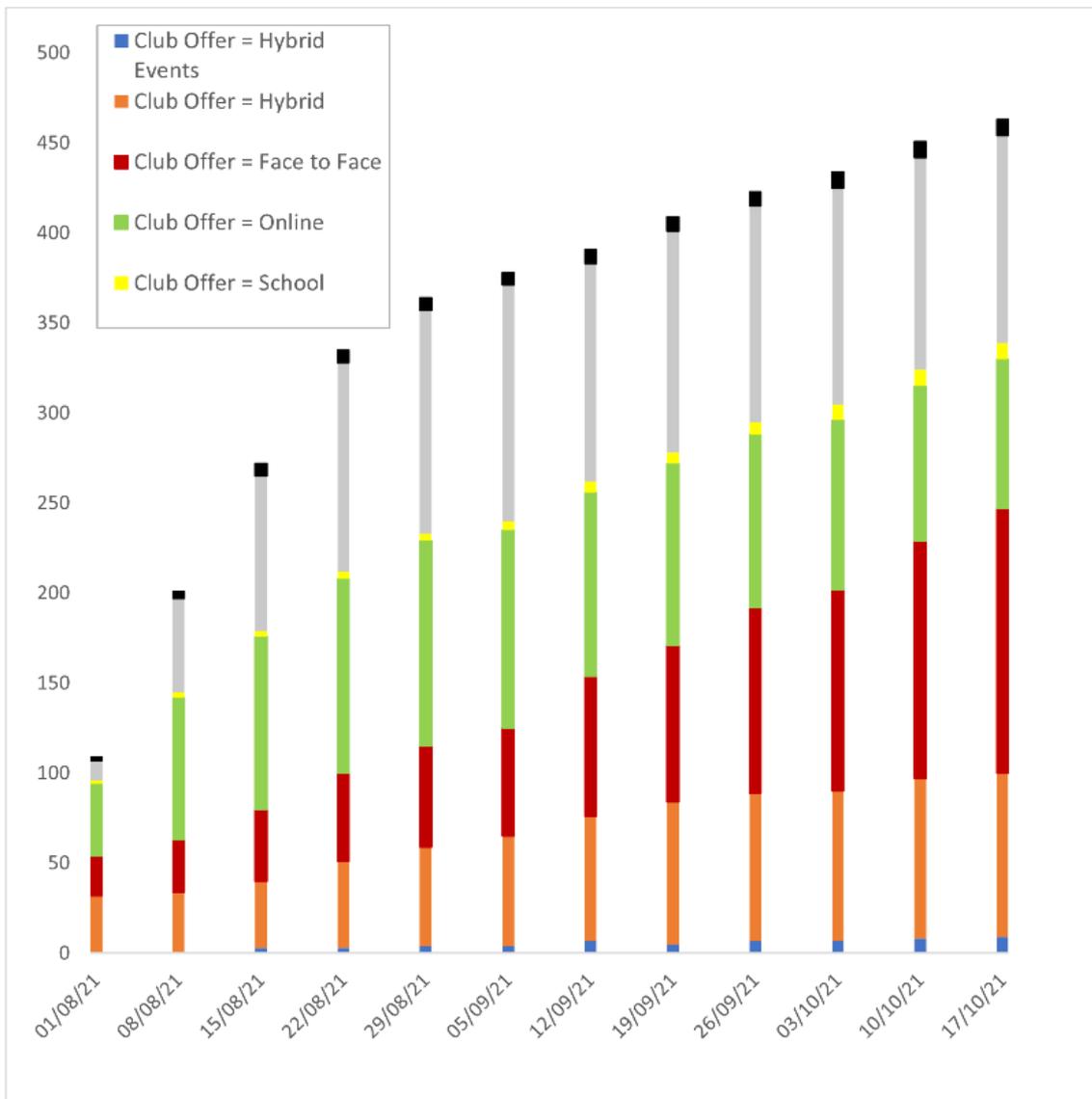
This sample grows as about ten clubs a week are added. The profile of additions tries to follow that already monitored, with a bias to dormant/small/unaffiliated clubs as they are probably underrepresented.

The EBU has cancelled the two face to face Midlands congresses planned for October and replaced them with online versions.

Most counties are sticking with online Green Point events, though Manchester ran an in person multiple teams event in August and the Western Congress took place in Weston Super Mere.

Bridge Holiday Companies have provided about half a dozen bridge breaks and their calendars for next year are filling up rapidly.

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

Other Club Trends

I check out changes on about 150 web sites a week.

Trends I have spotted lately:

7th October successful Cafe Bridge event in Guildford;

Ventilation is a hot topic, some clubs buying equipment, others worried about keeping doors and windows open as the weather declines;

Several clubs have had to find new premises to resume face to face. The impression is that this usually works out well!

Fields in face to face sessions are usually in the 3-5 tables range, though a few clubs have steady higher turn outs;

Only a handful of clubs are offering combined online and face to face events, but it is working well in some of them. (Check out Castle Morpeth)

Researching Current Player Attitudes

I have done a very very rough draft of an approach to this. It's on the shared library. Please have a look and give me some comments or ideas.

https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ai-jyaX9jW_2iZkqZgLcUf7QlQn0aw?e=6ahASf

EBU Strategy (Proposed Master Point Handbook Changes)

The EBU AGM is coming up in November. There appear to be some proposed changes to the EBU Master Points Handbook. This is an almost impenetrable document, parts of which have a big effect on play in affiliated clubs and counties.

Tucked away in Club news are what appear to be really radical proposals. They are hard to make out, as frankly the way they written leaves a bit to be desired but..

The EBU has been considering its position on its own events, their type, and the likely income from them, and those run by counties and clubs. It seems that the EBU wants to introduce a distinction between online and face to face events. It then proposes different charges for licensing each type, apparently feeling it should take more for face to face events because counties can run them cheaper. Most radical of

all, it seems to propose limiting counties to one online day event a year. So if your county was planning to run a two day congress online next year, it seems that won't be permitted. I think all counties should check these changes out carefully and agree their position on any vote.

Check out "Update on EBU Competitions and Master Points"

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/newsletters/Summer-2021>

EBU<->Club Communications

The above information, "more of interest to counties than clubs" appeared in Club Management Focus: Summer 2021. I wonder how many clubs read this regularly. It doesn't seem to be affected by the project on EBU-Club communications.

However, clubs and counties have received a "monthly" update from the board. It has taken the form of a simple email (rather than the link to a web page used for Club Management Focus) and therefore is likely to get read. This alerted me to the MP hand book proposed changes.

The monthly update arrived without announcement. It is the first I remember seeing, and I look forward to the next edition. Members have also received the apparently online only "Discovery" magazine and been asked to forward it. It contains much material repeated from English Bridge. There's no sign of edition number 2. There's no statement as to how it relates to English Bridge.

Something is happening, but no statement about the strategy or the future. Has the project completed and delivered?

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
18th August 2021
22nd September 2021.

A link for the next Zoom conference is below:

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Normal October 2021

Time: Oct 20, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87637222283?pwd=UzMwYi9USk1leVU2ZWRAZLzRVcTlNdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 3722 2283

Passcode: 257248

SAVE THE DATE
NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 20th November

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

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