
New Normal News May 2022

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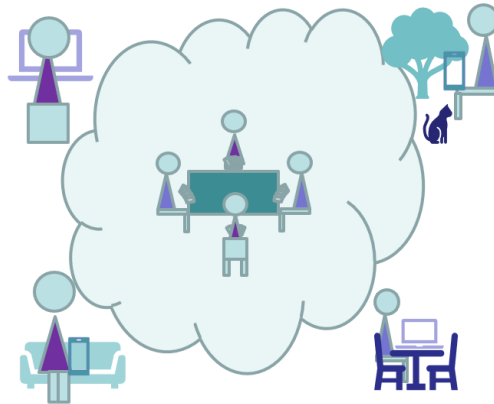
Nicky <bridgeforpleasure@gmail.com>
Reply-To: bridgeforpleasure@gmail.com
To: Nicky <nickyrbainbridge@gmail.com>

17 May 2022 at 07:41

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New Normal News

MAY 2022



www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk

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- Covid - where are we now?
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- Sharing the income
- How are clubs doing?
- Zoom Conferences (With 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:

[Click here to subscribe to this newsletter](#)

Three tips for club web sites

I look at around one hundred club web sites a week. Here are my top three tips for your vital statement to the world:

First, use pictures, or cartoons or maps. These always brighten up and humanize a site. Pictures of players looking happy are great. Pictures of your venue, your trophies or local land marks, produce or activities make a statement of pride and identity.

Secondly, the most important person is the one looking to join in your activities. Put a clear when and where schedule front and center. Don't make your potential player search for it.

Thirdly, check for consistency. There's been so much change lately. Does your front page say you're open at the top, but still have a notice saying you're closed further down? Does what's on your front page match what's on your "Information" page? Do they both match your "Calendar" page?

You're welcome.

EBU Restart Seminar Recording

Now available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIYAHt6IHZk>

Sorry Partner!

This entertaining pod cast on life in the world of bridge interviewed Chris Compton. He had some interesting remarks on the future of the various forms of bridge. Search for Sorry Partner podcast on Google.



Covid - where are we now?

We all want Covid to be over. Some take the view that now there are no regulations, they will organise bridge just like they used to. Some "medical" commentators still radiate alarm and concern. Organisers of face to face bridge have to choose their own path.

Attendance at face to face is down across the whole spectrum. However, the number of clubs, affiliated and unaffiliated, providing face to face continues to grow slowly, now around 450. Fields are smaller than they once were, but there are over 800 events per week. That's about a thousand people organising bridge for at least 8,000 players every week.

Face to face county events are rare and attendance is low. National events are stuttering back to life. The London Easter festival had around 25 tables, and the Yorkshire based Northern Easter festival around a dozen.

So the club scene is the healthiest. Online continues to thrive for EBU enterprises, for most county events, for most national competitions and for a great deal of social playing.

Covid - how do you know what's going on?

My source of data about COVID is the ZOE Covid Study. I would recommend to anyone that they join it, and/or continue to participate.

<https://covid.joinzoe.com>. You can get local updates, as well as the national picture, and video updates from Tim Spector, professor at King's College.

 **2022 05 15 Covid Rugby.jpg**

Latest numbers show the case rate has fallen from very high levels. Levels are still significant though, and we are getting cases amongst our members in Rugby.

There are still a lot of hospitalisations and deaths, though the risk to any one person is much lower now. However, the long term effects of Covid are beginning to look quite serious for a lot of people.

The government has removed requirements for all precautions, is funding far less vaccination, testing and reporting.

What are the choices?

So it's now a question of individual and club judgement.

From my club web site visits, I would estimate that most clubs offering face to face bridge are asking/requiring their members to avoid coming to the club if unwell, tested positive, or in contact with someone recently tested positive. Again a majority are providing extra ventilation, filtration, sanitiser and/or space. All acknowledged masks are no longer compulsory, but many suggest masks can be worn. One or two asks players to put on masks if other players suggest it.

In my opinion this is firstly a responsible attitude, and secondly probably required to keep the return to face going.

I haven't had a single bug in over two years. I am getting older and so are the players in my club. I am carrying on with the sort of approach outlined above. Most players seem happy with this, though I have had one or two comments about taking bidding boxes and individual sanitisers with you when you move. Astonishingly, one was freshly out of a course of chemotherapy.

We played in the Northern Easter festival at Ilkley and enjoyed it. Tables were down to 13 for the pairs and 10 for the Swiss. That meant a very comfortable level of space. Also no Covid transmission.

More space, bigger tables and side tables makes for a relaxed and quiet atmosphere. It's also noticeable that taking bidding boxes with you has led to more use of left handed boxes presumably easier and more welcoming for their users.

But clubs have choices and so do players. For choices to be made there must be information and trust. So the presentation of the offer is very important. Hence the next suggestion.

Safe Bridge Code

The idea of this, entirely voluntary, code is that a bridge club can replace or express a formal risk assessment of virus transmission in a simple list of principles and use a simple "badge" to let players know the club's attitude.

The message to players hesitating to return to face to face is that the bridge does what it reasonably can to limit virus transmission. The hope is that this encourages players to give it a try.

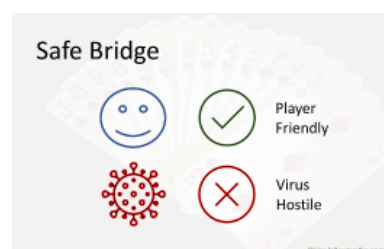
Safe Bridge Code

Summary

Discourage Spread of Germs

Space

Ventilation



Clean Hands
Well Players

Encourage Players
Players Welcome
Lots of information
Balance Fair Play and Enjoyment
Lessons and Coaching

Choose your approach from the following adapting as needed:

Discourage Spread of Germs

Space

- American recommendation of a minimum 9 feet (2.75m) from table centre to table centre. (or your club's standard)

Ventilation

- Perceptible air movement from one external opening to another through the room; or
- Extractor fan(s) moving the volume of air in the room every two hours; or
- Air Purifiers to the specification for the room size and shape; and/or
- Wearing of masks is received positively/ is encouraged/requested if players at the table ask.

Clean Hands

- Sanitiser provided to at least every table; and/or
- Players encouraged to use it on arrival, between rounds, on departure; and/or
- Equipment duplicated and/or quarantined.

Well Players

- Players are asked/required to be fully vaccinated; and/or
- Players asked/required not to attend if feeling unwell; and/or
- Players asked/required not to attend if testing positive for Covid; and/or
- Players asked/required not to attend if recent contacts are testing positive for Covid

Encourage Players

Players Welcome

- Make eye contact and smile at new players
- And everybody else
- On the web site, notice boards, social media, newsletters

Lots of information

- At the beginning of sessions
- On the club web site
- In club newsletters
- On social media

Balance Fair Play and Enjoyment

- Discourage/forbid discussion of laws/regulations at the table without director present
- Discourage vexatious calls to the director on trivial points
- Ensure anyone complained of understands the complaint, how it applied to what happened, and any rectification
- Tackle table bullies

Lessons and Coaching

- Provide lessons or coaching; or
- Refer enquiries for lessons or coaching to a named teacher with contact details; or
- Refer enquiries for lessons or coaching to a known directory of teachers.

Sharing the Income

Here are two proposals to share income more fairly and promote grass roots bridge.

Halve Club Face to Face P2P/UM

The Pay to Play levy on clubs for face to face sessions should be halved. This will help make the returning face to face sessions financially viable.

Charge for EBUScore Support

The EBU should make an annual charge for support of EBU Score in clubs. It was recently made clear that EBU staff spend some time supporting this product.

It's presently supplied free of charge to affiliated clubs.

Despite this, many affiliated clubs still choose to use ScoreBridge, and pay an annual service fee. These clubs, often smaller and more socially minded, are subsidising the use of EBU Score by others. The EBU could charge around half the typical annual support fee of ScoreBridge for EBUScore restore fairness and gain a little income.

How are clubs doing?

I've struggled to keep up lately. Took a holiday and started more teaching when I got back!

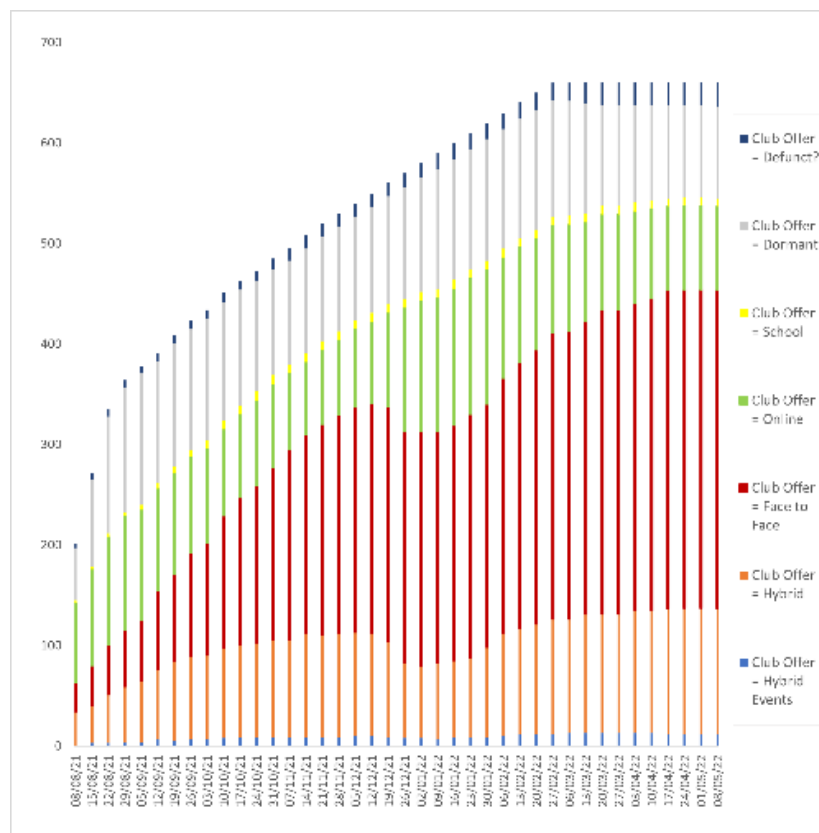
The statistics are up to May 8th. There were a quieter couple of weeks after Easter, but the week to May 8th was noticeably busier, mostly due to Annual General Meeting notices.

Clubs and Face to Face

Face to Face Sessions On Offer	867
Clubs Offering Face to Face	455

Club Statistics Update 8th May 2022

This chart represents the trends in a weekly snapshot of the offer from the clubs in the current sample, now 660, being monitored weekly.



Hybrid Events means the club is offering Face to Face AND Online and some in the form of Hybrid Events.

Hybrid Club means the club is offering some Face to Face and some Online Sessions.

Face to Face means the club is only offering Face to Face Sessions.

Online means the club is only offering Online Sessions.
School means the offer is principally lessons and practice.
Dormant means the club web site is there, but the club is not offering sessions dedicated to its members.
Defunct? means the club web site appears to have been closed down.

There's much more information at the page below, typically updated once a week.

BFP Club Statistics Page

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.

Previous Zoom conferences:

2020	16th September 18th November	21st October 16th December
2021	20th January 17th March 19th May	17th February 21st April 16th June
	21st July 18th August 22nd September	https://youtu.be/PbTyAz9vuHA https://youtu.be/pPEzFxs8VBA https://youtu.be/QJlu3PIn02s
	20th October 17th November	https://youtu.be/VRP7eaeqaH8 https://youtu.be/DAv-7POhNHU
2022	19th January 16th February 16th March 20th April	https://youtu.be/3w9hl3UWG70 https://youtu.be/Z5jOfwcpueU https://youtu.be/nlW1BIMG6-0 https://youtu.be/ekPnjt-KIZs

A link for the next Zoom conference is below:

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Normal Meeting May 2022
Time: May 18, 2022 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86588093863?pwd=nzSg_wHKp3WS1HCsTZh0OcinxuzWI.1

Meeting ID: 865 8809 3863

Passcode: 507113

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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