

New Normal News March 2023

1 message

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# New Normal News

# MARCH 2023

[www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk](http://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. As long as I know this is useful, I will keep going!

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

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## Monthly Discussions

We hold a discussion about running bridge once a month. It takes place at 09.00 on a Wednesday morning, usually the third Wednesday in the month on an informal occasion open to all interested in organising duplicate bridge.

The time is 9.00 GMT/BST to allow those with 10.00 sessions to join us.

### On February 22nd:

We talked about latest numbers, U3A, format of the laws, and, OK, the weather, a bit.

The next discussion is set up for Wednesday 22nd March 09.00.

### Discussion Themes



To make meetings more useful, I am proposing we have a theme for each. Of course we can discuss anything else we want. Following on from f 22nd, I propose we talk a bit more about the u3a, and have included a bit information below.

**Possible Future Themes**

- Methods for accepting income (cash/card/bank transfer)
- Applying Laws and Regulations
- Bank Accounts
- Accounting systems
- Insurance
- Marketing (social media etc)

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please reply to this newsletter.

The Zoom link for the next discussion, and the Youtube link for the recording of the last one are below.

**How are clubs doing?**

The numbers of clubs open, and the mix of online and face to face sessions they offer seems to have largely stabilised. I am reviewing fewer clubs for more detail, reviewing clubs I haven't looked at for a while, and adding new clubs to the databas

**Clubs and Face to Face  
(Much more detail on the web site)**

[https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?pid=display\\_page42&wd=1&club=bridgeforpleasure](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?pid=display_page42&wd=1&club=bridgeforpleasure)

Face to Face Sessions On Offer	1040 (987)
Clubs Offering Face to Face	536 (503)

**Club Statistics Update 5th March (29th January)**

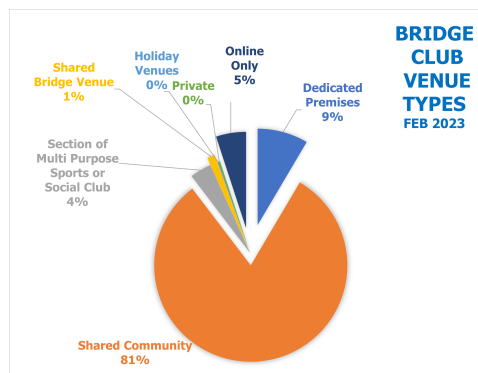
**Table Numbers**

I plan to shift the focus of information gathering from the types of session that clubs are offering to other data. One concern is that many experiencing low table numbers.

This update, with data from more clubs, shows bigger fields at dedicated premises.

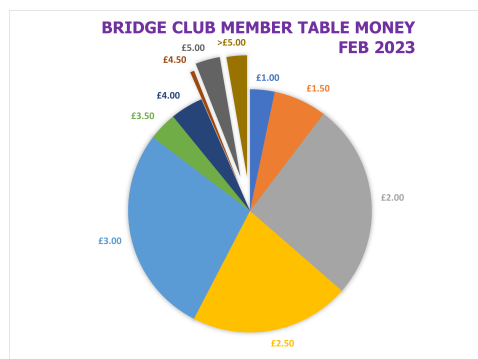
All Clubs Average Tables	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Face to Face	7	6	6	7	7	6
Sample Size	71	66	68	54	51	
BBO	8	7	6	8	8	4
Sample Size	14	12	7	11	8	
RealBridge	9	7	8	5	8	
Sample Size	17	14	10	6	9	
Club Average Face to Face Average Tables	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All Clubs Average Tables	7	6	6	7	7	6
Sample Size	71					
Dedicated Premises	9	7	8	8	8	
Sample Size	14					
Shared Bridge Venue	8					
Sample Size	2					

## Where do clubs play?



## How much do clubs charge?

Updated January 2023 with data from more clubs



There's more information here, typically updated once a fortnight.

## BFP Club Statistics Page

The **u3a** (University of the Third Age) is a charity enhancing the lives of retired and semi-retired people by creating networks of local groups who form groups to learn from each other, practice crafts, sports and mind sports at minimal cost.



<https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

There over 1,000 u3a's across the country, most towns have at least one. Local groups typically provide around a dozen activities.

Bridge is well established in the **u3a** network. Some groups focus on learning and informal card play, possibly rubber or chicago group manage considerable duplicate fields. There are 27 **u3a** group web sites in England on Bridgewebs and a couple of EBU affiliated clubs.

For example:

The Rugby **u3a** group offers four different bridge sessions a week, in different locations and offering different levels of play.

In Kenilworth a group meets weekly and plays duplicate in a church hall with ten or twelve tables.

Steve Carter is the u3a national Bridge Subject Adviser and has long taught and promoted online bridge in the **u3a** network, particularly for Bridge Club Live. He has created a **u3a** web site on Bridgewebs.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/u3abridgegroup/>

Steve looked to start a major low-cost online beginners learning programme online and hoped to use the Smartbridge resources that EBU provide. This has so far not been successful.

There is a u3a annual Spring Charity Bridge Festival, open to both Face-to-face and online Clubs, starting w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 which is target £1,000 each for Alzheimer's Research UK and Age UK.

Warrington bridge club have written a paper on collaboration between their club and their local U3A.

[https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=u3abridgegroup&pid=display\\_page41](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=u3abridgegroup&pid=display_page41)

There must be potential gain for both worlds here. **u3a** groups could benefit from duplicate bridge club teaching, organising skills, resources, and even venues.

Many **u3a** players will never be interested in playing duplicate. However, others might enjoy it and find their way into club duplicate session contact with clubs.

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### Sharing the Income - a small backward? step

It has become clear that the EBU's need for income to sustain its current operations overrides all other considerations and there is no room for c

In the year 2023-2024 the EBU UM rises by 2p to 44p. Most clubs will also pay an additional county amount bringing the fee per seat to 46p

It emerges now that clubs whose offerings are wholly online can affiliate direct to the EBU. These clubs will not have to pay a county UM. So ra assist clubs in the financial struggle to provide face to face bridge, the EBU has created a small financial advantage for online only organis

Equally clubs really need to consider raising their table money. This would still be the best value organised leisure activity!

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### Previous New Normal Zoom Discussions

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 on YouTube.

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 <a href="https://youtu.be/pPEzFxs8VBA">https://youtu.be/pPEzFxs8VBA</a>	<a href="https://youtu.be/PbTyAz9vuHA">https://youtu.be/PbTyAz9vuHA</a>	18th August	
	22nd September 20th October 17th November	<a href="https://youtu.be/QJlu3PIn02s">https://youtu.be/QJlu3PIn02s</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/VRP7eaeqaH8">https://youtu.be/VRP7eaeqaH8</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/DAv-7POhNHU">https://youtu.be/DAv-7POhNHU</a>		
2022	19th January 16th February 16th March 20th April 18th May 22nd June 20th July 17th August 21st September 19th October 23rd November	<a href="https://youtu.be/3w9hl3UWG70">https://youtu.be/3w9hl3UWG70</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/Z5jOfwcpueU">https://youtu.be/Z5jOfwcpueU</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/nlW1BIMG6-0">https://youtu.be/nlW1BIMG6-0</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/ekPnjt-KIZs">https://youtu.be/ekPnjt-KIZs</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/hond7ZCvKzM">https://youtu.be/hond7ZCvKzM</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/cz1sBGPMisE">https://youtu.be/cz1sBGPMisE</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/1McE5pexdjg">https://youtu.be/1McE5pexdjg</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/5pegkP_R_Ro">https://youtu.be/5pegkP_R_Ro</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/uxmPqzTQNqo">https://youtu.be/uxmPqzTQNqo</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/uxmPqzTQNqo">https://youtu.be/uxmPqzTQNqo</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/H-xaZ-moSGg">https://youtu.be/H-xaZ-moSGg</a>		
2023	18th January 22nd February	<a href="https://youtu.be/aRoMH6l68g0">https://youtu.be/aRoMH6l68g0</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/Og5VRoX9lXY">https://youtu.be/Og5VRoX9lXY</a>		

### Next Zoom discussion

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bridge in the New Normal March 2023  
Time: Mar 22, 2023 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002600598?pwd=S0xrR2QrTExZQm1EWW1RZERQM3NtZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 0260 0598  
Passcode: 039106

## New Normal Newsletter

This is issued once a month. 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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