

---

**New Normal News April/May 2023**

1 message

---

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

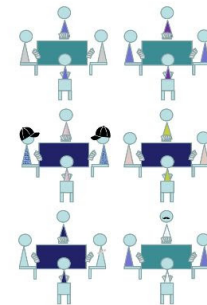
15 May 2023 at 08:13

[View this email in your browser](#)

New  
Normal  
News



APRIL/MAY  
2023



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

In this edition...

Monthly Discussions - Summer Slowdown

*How are clubs doing?*

*Fairness, Friendliness and Cheating*

Next Discussion/Previous Discussions

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 growing. If you would like to receive it, you can subscribe at:

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

[Click here to view previous newsletters](#)

---

## Monthly Discussions - Summer Slowdown

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. It's 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 March 22nd:**

A small group decided to defer the next meeting to June 14th (?)

The next discussion is set up for Wednesday 14th June 09.00.

### Discussion Theme

To make meetings more useful, in addition to discussing current topics, we have a theme for each. In March we talked about the u3a, and have the March newsletter included a bit information about U3A bridge. The proposed theme for the June meeting is **Applying Laws and Regulations**. The proposed theme for the September meeting is Clubs and the EBU.

### Possible Future Themes

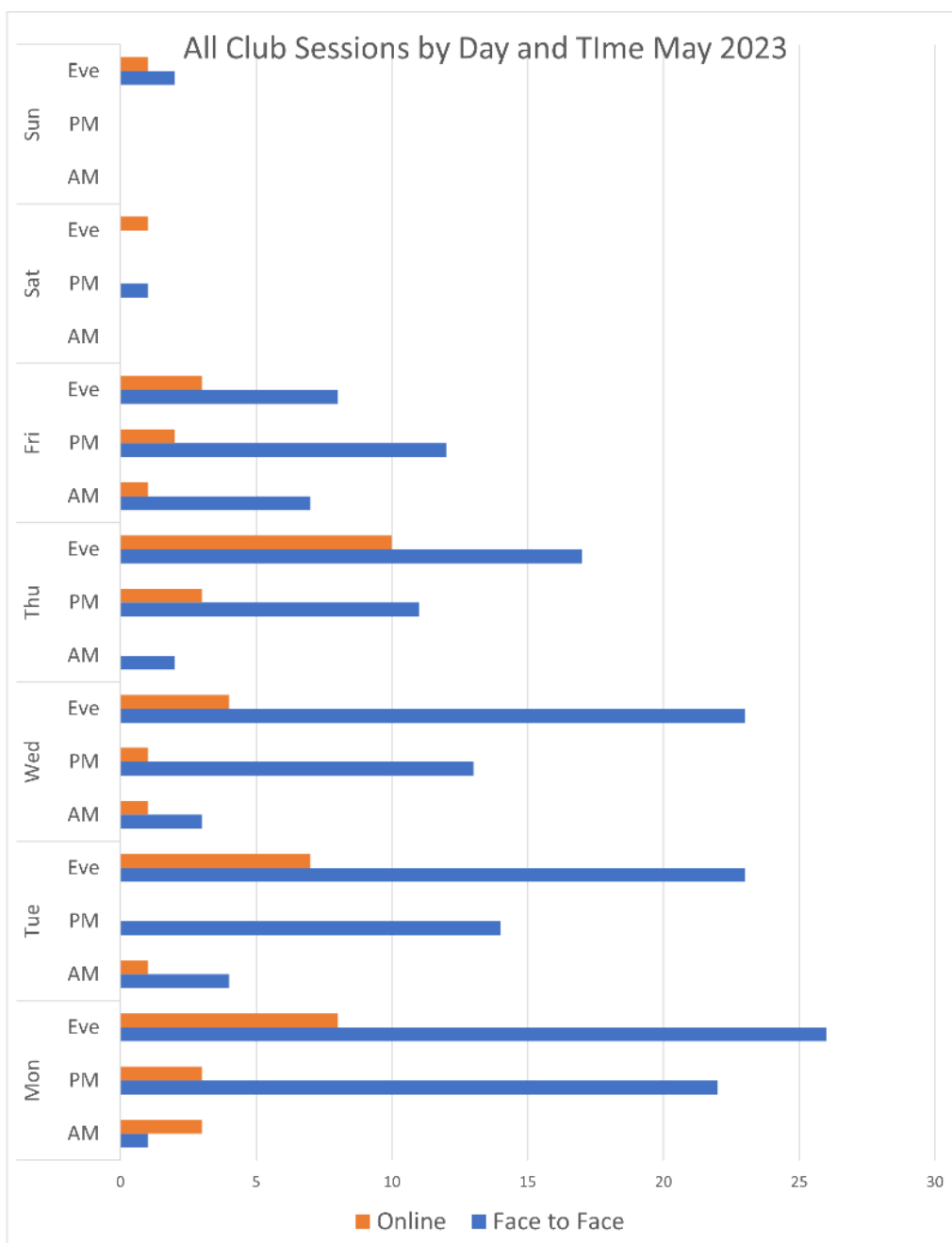
**Clubs and Teaching Bridge**  
**Marketing (social media etc)**

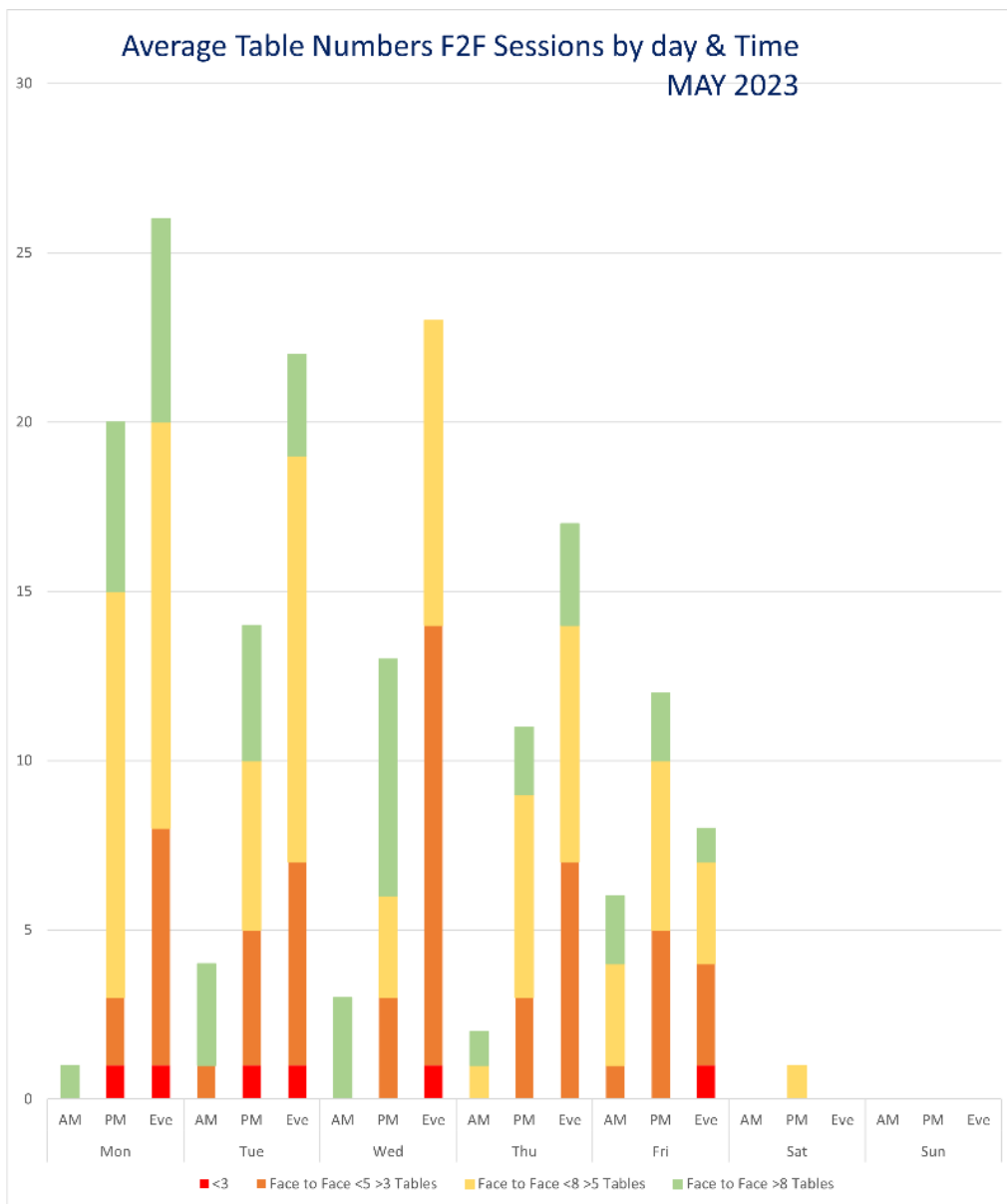
**Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please reply to this newsletter.**

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

## How are clubs doing?

Data gathering is going well. Most weeks two or three clubs are added to the database. Amongst the over 700 clubs in the database there are about 1500 weekly duplicate sessions. The "Session" database now contains details of 267 sessions, and so is a reasonably sized sample. The session records the tables numbers (average of latest three weeks at review data) by day of week and time of day. Here are a couple of key graphics.





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

## BFP Club Statistics Page

### Fairness, Friendliness and Cheating

Most face to face clubs offer one session of bridge, usually face to face, in a shared community space for a field of seven tables. The chance that such a club is EBU affiliated is roughly 50%/50%.

Most players will be there for social purposes, a few will be interested in EBU Master Points or National Grade, but most won't. Very few will be interested in county or national events. If they play outside the club it will probably be on a bridge holiday of some kind.

Players want to play a fair game in a friendly atmosphere. They will probably expect a low level of "social" cheating i.e. face pulling, body language. They will expect to be protected from rudeness/bullying and from systematic cheating.

---

## Laws and Regulations

The International Laws of Duplicate Bridge can be downloaded free of charge. They can be bought in hard copy from the English Bridge Union, the Welsh Bridge Union and probably others. The EBU is not contributing to the revision of the laws due in 2027. These laws are the definition of the game.

International competitions are subject to the regulations of, for example, the World Bridge Federation, or the European Bridge authority.

The English Bridge Union maintains and publishes a substantial library of comment, interpretation of the laws, together with "local" i.e. English regulation. There is the White Book, the Blue Book and Appeal proceedings. These are most important and are applied to competitions run directly by the EBU.

Clubs use of this EBU body of work is at the discretion of the clubs. The distribution of material important to clubs is scattered amongst the laws etc. For example the book rulings on bid out of turn, and use of bidding boxes, or use of the Stop card. Convention cards are important to the regulation of National and International tournaments, but how often are they seen in clubs?

The "Yellow" book contains the a really useful selection of material particularly applicable to clubs. It's not published by the EBU.

---

## Laws, Regulations, Fairness & Friendliness in Clubs

The attitude to the laws and their enforcement varies.

Some clubs, and players are apprehensive that strict enforcement of the laws and/or regulations is at odds with the enjoyment of the game.

The EBU General Manager recently stated (paraphrased): "Failure to enforce the laws and regulations create unfairness, which is itself unfriendly".

Here are quotes from club web sites and an extract of correspondence I had with one of my members lately:

### 1 From an unaffiliated club web site

We are a friendly group which meet every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Martlesham Heath Pavilion. Whilst we are not affiliated to the EBU – English Bridge Union, we do follow their rules which sets the structure for playing the game but then allows us discretion to vary the speed of play and cater for all bridge players – whether beginners, improvers or advanced regulars.

### 2 From another unaffiliated club web site

Our ethos is to provide a welcoming Bridge experience that supports pairs new to duplicate bridge as well as more experienced players.

We do not bind ourselves strictly to English Bridge Union laws, however, 'calling for the Director' is still fine where there is a genuine dilemma, and the Director's ruling is final.

Players are treated with tolerance and respect and new players are always very welcome. Above all, we remember bridge is only a game of cards and whilst we all do our best to win:

"Bridge is for Fun"

"Enjoy bridge - it's only a game!"

### 3 Recent Correspondence

Is there a time limit when replying to a bid from your partner? I couple weeks ago an opponent told us there was however all four of us didn't know what this is? I can't find any information on this? Xx

No, there is no time limit.

If you think for a long time, argumentative opponents may feel that the pause has informed your partner that you had a difficult/marginal choice. If your partner then bids, opponents may ask the director to check that the bid would have been the same without the pause. If the director judges that it would, then everything is left as it is. If the director feels that your partner's bid was influenced by the pause AND that it made a difference to the result, then the score may be changed

to a more expected result.

The lesson is first: always try to bid at a regular, perhaps slightly slower, pace than you need to.

Secondly, if your partner has paused, be sure that your bid is not influenced by the pause, as it may hint at unauthorised information.

Thirdly, ALWAYS call the director if anyone at the table makes any comment about laws or regulations. This is expressly forbidden at our club (was it at our club?). One reason is that players are frankly more often wrong than right, another is that this is intimidating behaviour, and finally we would want to stamp on it.

---

## Tournament Director!

The TD has to carry out the duties of Master of Ceremonies, problem solver and referee.

As MC, there is the tone to be set. The TD needs to establish authority, but also accessibility and must get players to relax and intent on their own enjoyment and that of others. The movement must be selected. Players must understand their part in it, and moves must be called. At the end something must be done with the results.

As problem solver there will be an unpredictable mix of everything from lost cards, to wrongly entered scores, misinformation claims, slow play and outbreaks of bad manners or worse.

As referee the critical balance of ensuring fair play with maintaining an atmosphere appropriate to the event.

There must be around a thousand people doing this weekly.

The majority will be volunteers, some will be untrained, or trained many years ago.

The attitude to and support for the director will vary from club to club.

I would love to know your stories, problems and suggestions to ensure we look after, train, and make life as easy as possible for our TDs.

---

## Next Zoom discussion

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Normal Discussion Wednesday 14th June 2023 09.00

Time: Jun 14, 2023 09:00 AM London

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86237753903?pwd=MVdUUkh5QIRGN0tETGFKTUNDQldPdZ09>

Meeting ID: 862 3775 3903

Passcode: 855046

## 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 informal 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 18th August 22nd September	<a href="https://youtu.be/PbTyAz9vuHA">https://youtu.be/PbTyAz9vuHA</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/pPEzFxs8VBA">https://youtu.be/pPEzFxs8VBA</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/QJlu3Pln02s">https://youtu.be/QJlu3Pln02s</a>
	20th October 17th November	<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/nIW1BIMG6-0">https://youtu.be/nIW1BIMG6-0</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 22nd March	<a href="https://youtu.be/aRoMH6l68g0">https://youtu.be/aRoMH6l68g0</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/Og5VRoX9lXY">https://youtu.be/Og5VRoX9lXY</a> <a href="http://youtu.be/ZdhdvzIVeZw">http://youtu.be/ZdhdvzIVeZw</a>



Zoom link for the next New Normal Bridge Zoom Conference

---

## 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,

---

## Subscribe/Unsubscribe

If you don't want to receive this newsletter, click "Unsubscribe" below. I am always keen on feedback, good or bad, so do tell me...

*Copyright © 2023 Rugby Village Bridge, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

**Our mailing address is:**

Rugby Village Bridge  
Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall  
Rugby Road  
Dunchurch, Rugby CV22 6PN  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

