
New Normal News September 2023

1 message

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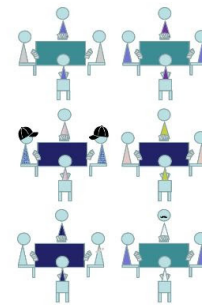
10 September 2023 at 20:13

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New
Normal
News



SEPTEMBER
2023



www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk

In this edition...

The Chess Success

EBU Potential Student Referral System

Monthly Discussions

How are clubs doing?

Next Discussion/Previous Discussions

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the meetings 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](#)

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The Success of Chess

Chess has scored some major PR successes lately.

In popular culture, there is the 2016 film, *Queen of Katwe*, and the 2020 Netflix miniseries *Queen's Gambit*.

Early in August the BBC reported:

English chess is set to get a funding boost to help foster young talent.

[Bloomberg has reported](#) that the government is to announce £500,000 of funding for the English Chess Federation, alongside plans to expand chess in schools and public parks.

An announcement is expected later this month and the federation said it was in talks with the government over how to best invest in the game.

It said the money was "potentially transformational".

A story from USA dated spring this year:

Teachers nationwide are flummoxed by students' new chess obsession

The fad, fueled by social media stars, has left teachers divided between displeasure and delight

April 15, 2023 at 7:21 a.m. EDT

EBU Potential Student Referral System

The EBU recently announced:

"We are introducing a new enquiry service for those who come to our site looking for how to learn the game. Since it can be difficult for the enquirer to find and contact possible teachers (and sometimes frustrating if the first few contacts do not have suitable courses running), we are reversing the process so that we contact teachers and clubs which teach on behalf of the enquirer."

This came out on 24th July, and I was a little sceptical. However, I have received 7 referrals from the EBU by 10th September. I am located in the Midlands so I was really surprised to get so many. The unfortunate part is that every single one is too far away, generally about 30 miles, for face to face lessons.

I understand you will receive these if your are registered with the EBU as a teacher, or with the EBU as a teaching club. These are new lists, the teacher one has 185 entries right now. You do not have to be an EBTA to register. There are significant numbers (15%?) of teachers listed (like me) who are not EBTA members.

Sign in to your EBU member account and click Teaching in the top line.

The Confusion between what the EBU does and what EBED does continues.

Monthly Discussions

Our informal meetings are open to all interested in organising duplicate bridge. They do not have any formal role. Small and large clubs, face to face and/or online clubs, affiliated or not, in England, or outside. Please join us.

We usually hold a discussion about running bridge once a month. The June meeting was sparsely attended. So we have skipped the summer and have the next meeting in September.

It used to take place at 09.00 on a Wednesday morning. This is a difficult time for me as I am teaching on Wednesday mornings for the foreseeable future. So I have switched to 10.00 on a Friday morning.

If there is a reasonable level of interest on 15th September, monthly discussions will resume.

Discussion Theme - September

The proposed theme for the September meeting is **Affiliated Clubs and the EBU.**

Any thoughts or experiences you have would be most welcome. Please reply to this newsletter by end August for the newsletter planned for the start of September.

I would be interested if you receive the "News from Aylesbury" emails and find them interesting? Do you use the EBU forums?

Do you worry about competition for your players from the EBU daily online events, or its Congresses etc?

Have you found the recent webinars (Teaching, Web sites, Charitable Status) useful?

Any comments on EBU admin of membership or fees?

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.

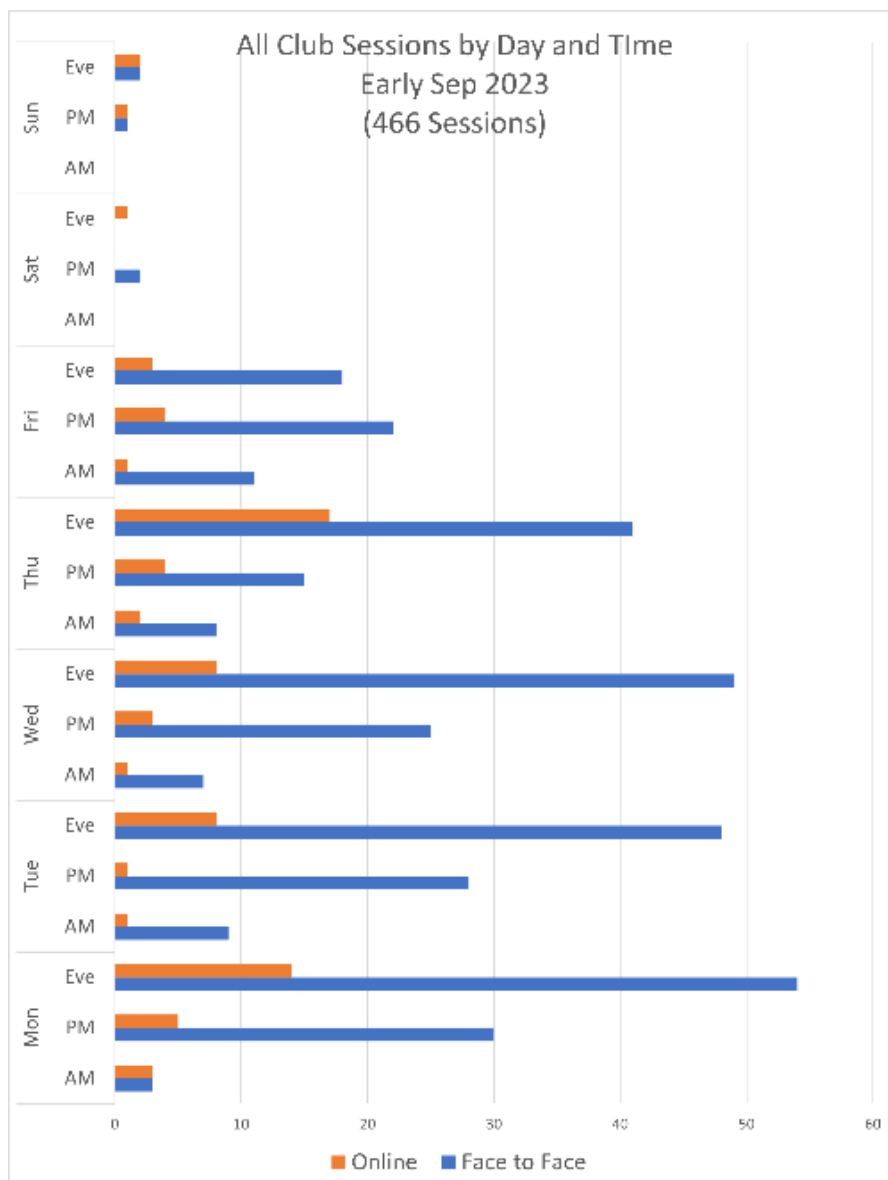
How are clubs doing?

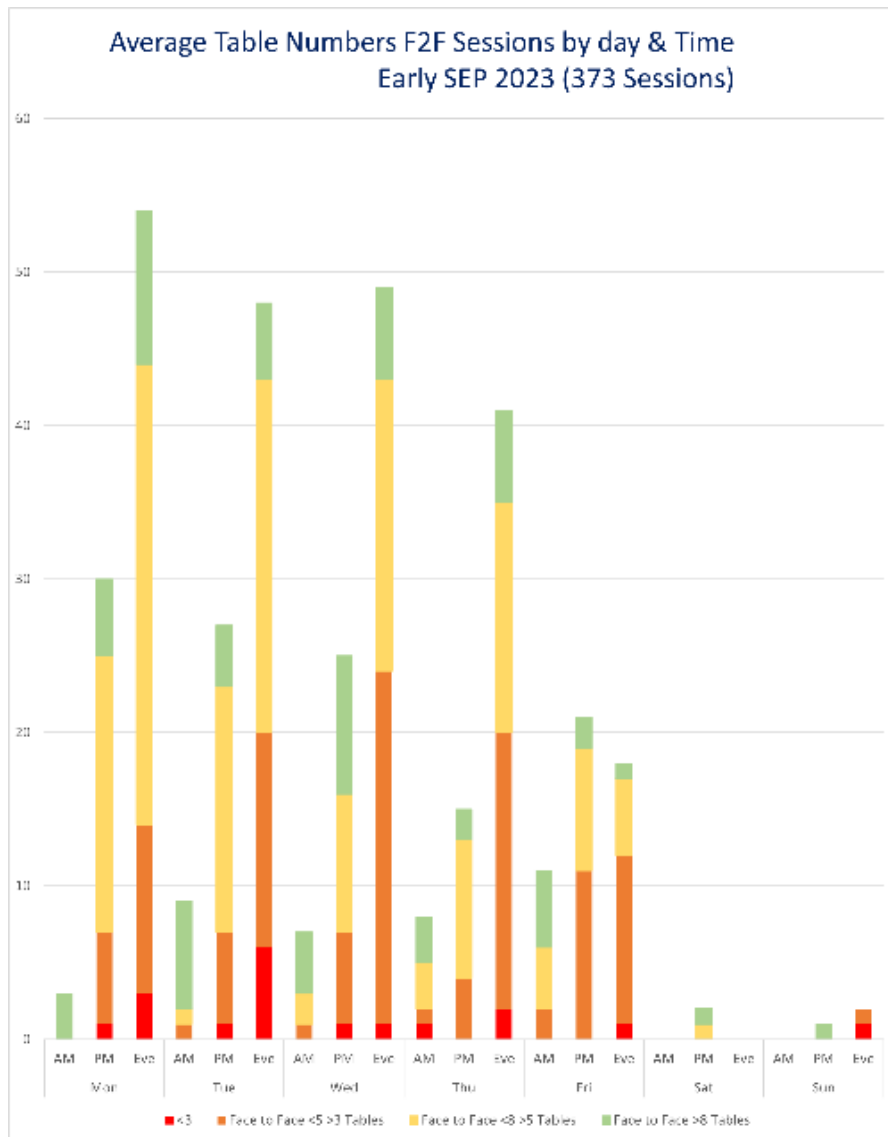
Data gathering is going well. Most weeks two or three clubs are added to the database. Amongst the **774 clubs in the database** there are about **1700 weekly duplicate sessions**.

The "Session" database now contains details of **466 weekly 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.

The average face to face **field size amongst the weekly sessions** has risen **7.18** (affiliated and non affiliated).

Here are a couple of key graphics.





Clubs are being resurveyed now (roughly annually), any trends are from new clubs being added, new data being added, and a bit of changes in the "existing" data. September 2023:

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

BFP Club Statistics Page

Next Zoom discussion

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bridge Clubs in the New Normal
Time: Sep 15, 2023 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85088826517?pwd=>

Meeting ID: 850 8882 6517

Passcode: 644957

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 are 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	https://youtu.be/PbTyAz9vuHA https://youtu.be/pPEzFxs8VBA https://youtu.be/QJlu3Pln02s
	20th October 17th November	https://youtu.be/VRP7eaeqaH8 https://youtu.be/DAv-7POhNHU
2022	19th January 16th February 16th March 20th April 18th May 22nd June 20th July 17th August 21st September 19th October 23rd November	https://youtu.be/3w9hl3UWG70 https://youtu.be/Z5jOfwcpueU https://youtu.be/nIW1BIMG6-0 https://youtu.be/ekPnjt-KIZs https://youtu.be/hond7ZCvKzM https://youtu.be/cz1sBGPMisE https://youtu.be/1McE5pexdjg https://youtu.be/5pegkP_R_Ro https://youtu.be/uxmPqzTQNqo https://youtu.be/uxmPqzTQNqo https://youtu.be/H-xaZ-moSGg
2023	18th January 22nd February 22nd March 6th June	https://youtu.be/aRoMH6l68g0 https://youtu.be/Og5VRoX9lXY http://youtu.be/ZdhdvzIVeZw https://youtu.be/WY2PUDMHBQA

Zoom link for the next New Normal Bridge Zoom
Conference

New Normal Newsletter

This is issued roughly 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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