

New Normal News January 2024

1 message

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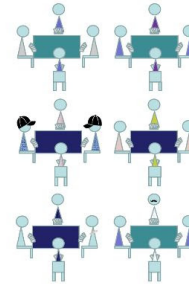
14 January 2024 at 20:21

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New
Normal
News



JANUARY
2024



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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](#)

Time for Change

David Parry and I would like to thank everyone who gave us their attention, their support, or their vote at the November English Bridge Union Annual General Meeting.

We were in contact with well over a hundred people involved in the game, and the vast majority supported our aims and our sense of urgency. Very few of those actually had a vote.

We think the future of bridge is too important to give up on, so we intend to keep working for change. In particular we want to see better support for hard working clubs, a major drive to teach young people and faster action.

Five goals for the EBU in 2024

1 EBU Member Numbers

It emerged, during the 2023 EBU AGM, that while there were 4,000 new members signed up during the year, 7,000 members were lost. So there was a 3,000 net loss in membership.

Let's see this deficit get smaller in 2024

2 The Annual General Meeting

The AGM reverted to Face to face in a London hotel. This meant that representatives from counties some distance from London faced more expense and travelling time. Many resorted to proxies. The meeting was only open to shareholders and their proxies, no public, no press, no playing members, no representatives of clubs, teachers or other bridge organisers. It was not recorded, so the record of the proceedings is limited to formal minutes and informal notes and discussions.

The chair undertook to look at a hybrid online and face to face form with electronic real time voting. This would allow a far greater audience, more participation, and a recording easily made widely

available.

Let's have a more practical, more open, more democratic format in 2024.

3 Updates from Aylesbury

The monthly update from Aylesbury is largely used as a vehicle for marketing EBU run events. However, it can contain information important to club and county organisers, and of interest to teachers and players.

At present, the EBU sends to its own distribution list of club and county officials. It is difficult to keep this list up to date.

Let's make any member able to request this newsletter by opting for it in their member account details.

That way more people can be informed about bridge organisation.

4 EBU Teachers Directory

This directory is used by the EBU to pass on enquiries for lessons. Any teacher can be on the directory. It's not limited to EBEDTA members, or to those who use particular materials, systems or methods. It shows real potential to boost numbers learning the game.

Teachers have to put themselves into the directory. There are about 200 entries at the time of writing.

With wide publicity, let's double this number in 2024.

5 Freeze UM

UM is a cost of doing business for affiliated clubs. The level of EBU plus County UM has reached about 50p per player per qualifying session.

Table money is generally £2, £2.50 or £3. The median is £2.50. That means the EBU UM is 20%. Clubs have venues, and various other expenses to meet.

Freeze UM in 2024/25 to reduce financial pressure on clubs.

Opportunities for EBU Affiliated Clubs

Annual (UM) free sessions for clubs.

Use code 03. All clubs are entitled to one free session a year. Larger clubs can have more. "Annual Exempt Sessions A club

may submit up to three special sessions per year which are exempt from a subscription charge. The number they are allocated depends on the number of player-sessions they submitted in the previous year, as follows: 1. Up to 10,000 player-sessions a year: one exempt club session. This can be a charity or party or social event. 2. From 10,001 to 20,000 player-sessions a year: two exempt club sessions. The extra session must be a charity event. 3. Above 20,000 player-sessions a year: three exempt club sessions. The extra two sessions must be charity events. All such sessions should be submitted at CODE 03. This is in addition to the EBU-supported Children in Need event (CODE 06) and any other special 'one-off' session/event for which specific exemption has been granted by the EBU.

Clubs could consider running Blue Pointed events

The UM fee for these is higher, but they offer members the chance to win more valuable master points, some of which can count towards green points for higher master point ranks.

5.3 CLUB EVENTS 5.3.1 As set out in 1.2.2 and 1.2.4 clubs may hold two blue-pointed events per annum, with an additional two for every 10,000 player sessions submitted by the club in the previous year. These may be either open or closed. 5.3.2 If open, the requirements are the same as for county blue-pointed events set out in 5.2.1. 5.3.3 If closed, they are restricted to the club's major pairs and teams championships as defined in 1.2.4. Closed sessions will not require a licence but will pay an enhanced Universal Membership subscription equating to 1/3 of the green point licence fee.

<https://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/laws-and-ethics/licensing/masterpoint-and-licensing-handbook.pdf>

How are clubs doing?

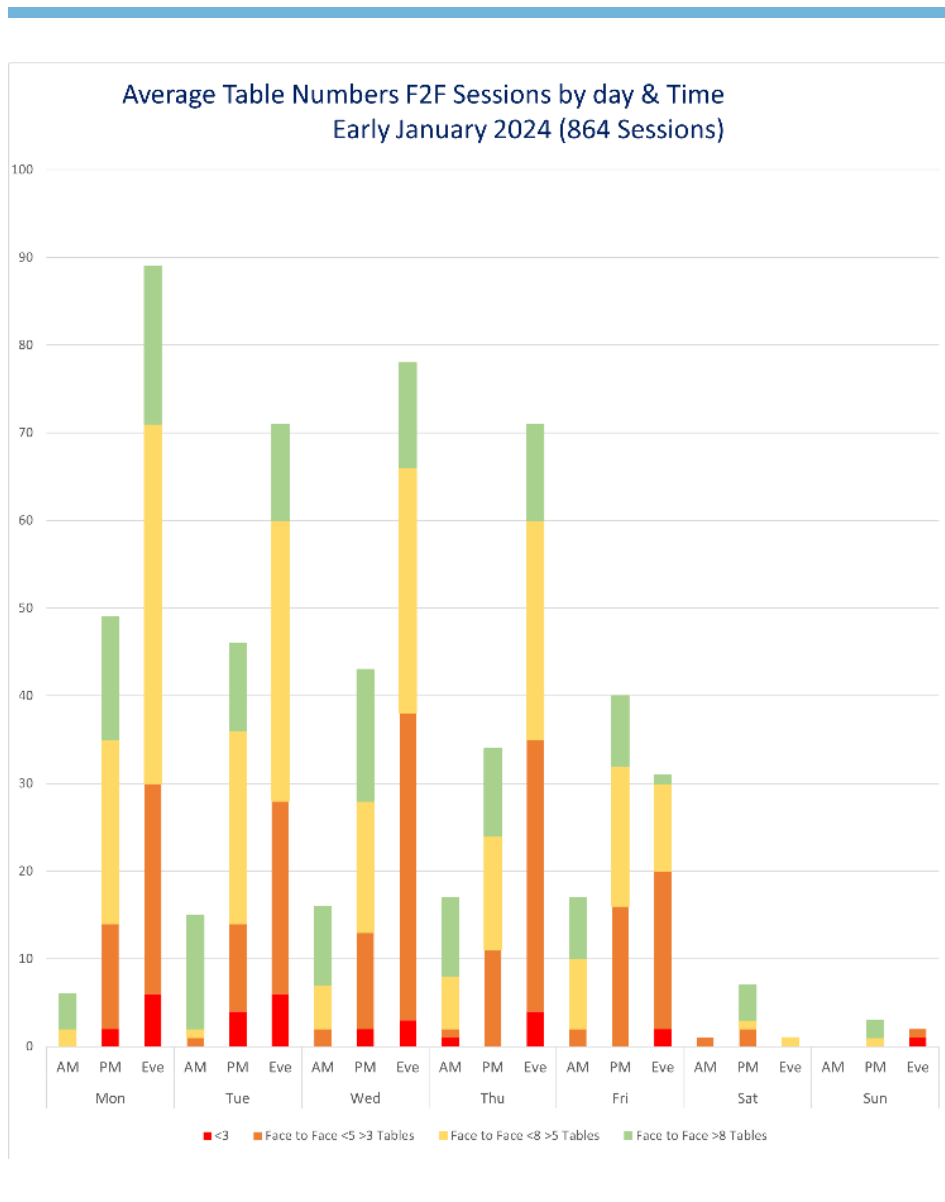
The 805 clubs in the database offer about 1178 weekly duplicate sessions.

868 weekly sessions have been analysed in some detail. The session details include tables numbers (average of latest three weeks at review data) by day of week and time of day. The type of venue or online platform is also recorded.

This data shows clubs typically offer an average of 1.4 sessions a week. This is distorted by a few clubs offering many sessions. The typical club (well over half) runs one session a week.

F2F Average Tables

All Clubs F2F	6.68
EBU Clubs F2F	6.94
Non Affiliated Clubs F2F	6.32
Dedicated Premises	7.98
Shared Community	6.22
Section	5.39



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

RealBridge-BAMSA Teacher and Coach conference

The RealBridge-BAMSA Teacher and Coach conference took place in October last year.

Have you been watching the videos from the conference?

The presentations were really interesting, so it is worth watching some of them.

There have been about 7,000 views so far.

The YouTube Channel is here.

<https://www.youtube.com/@RealBridgeBAMSAteacheran-rw8gd>

There are 28 videos available.

[Click here to view previous newsletters](#)

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 about once a month at 10.00 on a Friday morning.

Next Zoom discussion

Nicky Bainbridge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Normal Discussion

Time: Feb 9, 2024 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89252871404?pwd=eHV2UGhJbXpWaXNOTldJT1drczlhQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 5287 1404

Passcode: 415976

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/QJlu3PIn02s
	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 15th September 20th October 1st December	https://youtu.be/aRoMH6l68g0 https://youtu.be/Og5VRoX9lXY http://youtu.be/ZdhdvzIVeZw https://youtu.be/WY2PUDMHBQA https://youtu.be/1j6yXjO_cLc https://youtu.be/J6R8u_a5CdI https://youtu.be/J6R8u_a5CdI

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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