

Managing the boards and the movements in a Covid-secure environment

Our club room had capacity for ten tables in the old days. To keep tables two metres apart, we have reduced our capacity to four tables.

Boards

We deal four identical sets of four boards for each session. We sanitise our hands before and after dealing. The sets of boards are stored for a week before use. When we set up the session, using disposable gloves, we put each set of boards on a side table near North. To reduce further handling, we arrange the boards in the order in which they will be played. Each North takes one board at a time by the North end. The board is placed in the centre of the table in the aperture in the screens. Each player removes their cards from their side of the board. The hand is played. The cards are returned to the board. The board is placed on a "used" pile on the side table. The board and cards are not used again in the current session. At the end of the session the boards are removed using disposable gloves and redealt.

We can do this because we have enough boards and cards. Other possible solutions are the Bridge Plus More table dealing machine with cards immersed in sanitiser between rounds (the company say they can do this), or to print curtain cards for each seat and have each player deal their hand from their own pack.

Movements

With our reduced capacity, we arrange our room so that it is possible to move between rounds, safely, pair by pair. We ask players to use face coverings when moving.

Nevertheless, we keep movements to two per session.

With four tables we play three rounds of multiple teams, the rounds are six board matches.

With three tables we play a three round non arrow switched Mitchell, each round of six boards.

With two tables we play a three round Howell, each of six boards.

In all cases, the tables are so far apart that we can safely marshal the players between rounds.

Bidding Boxes and Scoring Tablets

Each player uses only one bidding box throughout. If they are moving, they take their bidding box. North is the only person to touch the scoring tablet, holding up to the screen for East/West to approve. In the case of two tables we provide a replacement tablet to the new North at each movement.

Nicky Bainbridge

Rugby Village Bridge Club

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