

## **Returning to face to face play**

Greetings to all members. It seems a long time since we all met up face to face. I know quite a few of us have been playing on BBO and other on line forums keeping our hands in.

Your committee had a virtual meeting recently to discuss the return to face to face bridge and we agreed that I would write you with some of the thoughts we had and to ask your views as we develop a policy for the way forward.

Given current lockdown restrictions the first possible date we could meet would be Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This assumes the government's roadmap doesn't alter and the review of social distancing guidelines doesn't throw up any changes to requirements.

Before that date we would issue guidance to members and ask them to complete a self-declaration form. The guidance would give advice about returning to play and any reasons why members should not return. Vaccination is a particularly sensitive issue and we welcome your thoughts on what our policy should be. Lateral flow tests are becoming fairly standard now and are readily freely available. Should we ask members to take one of these before returning to play on each occasion? We also discussed the use of face coverings and our initial thoughts are that we would not require members to wear these but be quite happy if they chose to do so. What are your views?

We discussed the idea of a booking system to control numbers. Given that we will be sitting round the standard tables limiting the number of tables didn't seem necessary as they would still be further apart than those sitting at one table. We do, however, need an idea of how many members think they are likely to return to face to face during the summer.

I have spoken to the club about the ventilation in the Stotesbury room. Apparently the air con system in there doesn't bring in fresh air. Given that it will be summer before we return, opening the roof vents and the fire door at the end of the room should provide some extra ventilation.

We thought it sensible to at least restrict the catering to drinks only to begin with. We could though not have catering at all to begin with and suggest members bring their own refreshments or buy from the Tennis Club bar. Again your views welcomed.

We are anxious to minimise cash handling. As an absolute minimum we would ask members to ensure they brought the correct money which could be dropped into a collection box. Ann is currently considering alternatives.

In the very nature of duplicate bridge it is inevitable that surfaces will be constantly touched by us all. We of course will ask members to sanitize their hands on entry to the room and the cards will be prepared in the most hygienic way possible. We will use Mitchell movements whenever possible to minimise movement around the room and we could ask members to carry their bidding boxes around with them to minimise handling.

At this stage we don't yet know what protocols the Langley Club may introduce, so that would have to be taken into account.

To summarise we would like your views on:

- Whether you are ready to play face to face again this summer
- Requiring proof of vaccination or negative tests
- Wearing a face covering to play/ others not wearing a face covering
- Provision of refreshments
- Anything else which would make you feel safer/ more relaxed

Best wishes

Tim Burrell

Briter Bridge Club 2 Chairman

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