

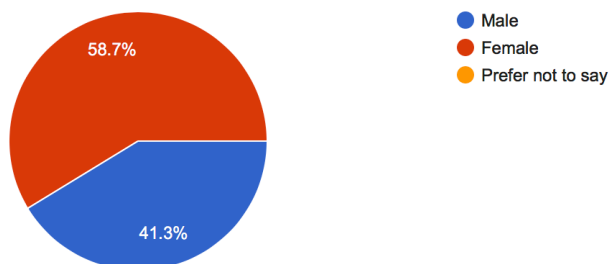
North Devon Bridge Clubs Survey Results May 2021

One hundred thirty eight people completed the survey. Many thanks for taking the time to share your views. The results are shown below: in a few cases, free text responses have been incorporated into other response groups for simplicity and clarity.

Question 1

What is your gender?

138 responses

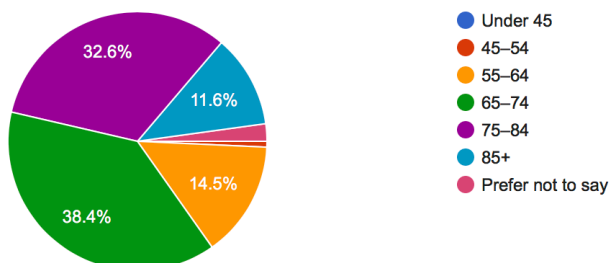


81 respondents were female and 57 were male.

Question 2

What is your age?

138 responses

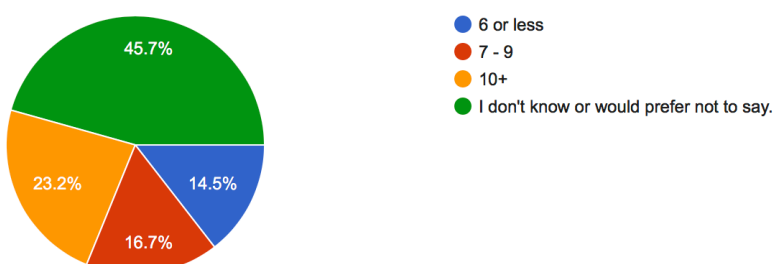


61 (44.2%) of those giving their age are 75+.

Question 3

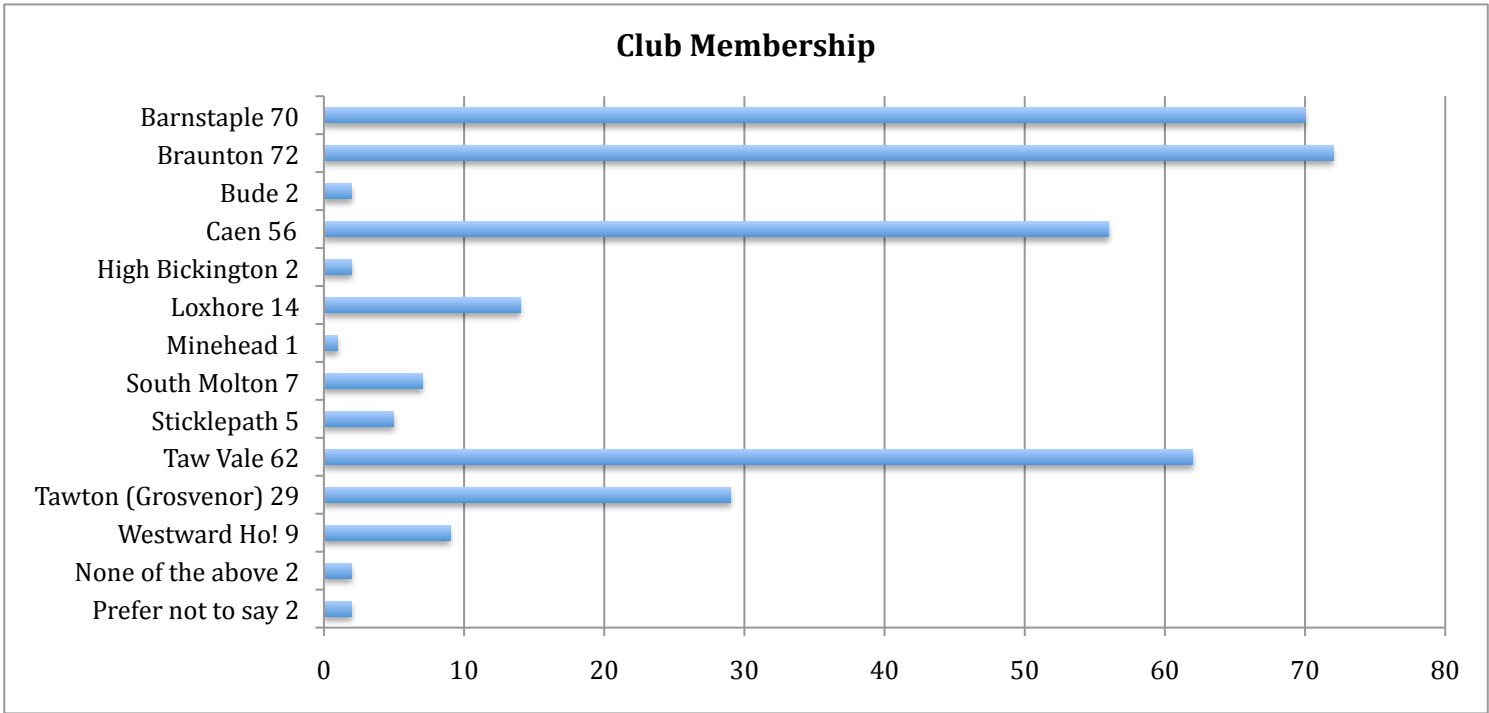
What is your current NGS grade? If you don't know, you can find out by putting your surname in 'player search' at the top right of this page - <https://www.ebu.co.uk/ngs>

138 responses

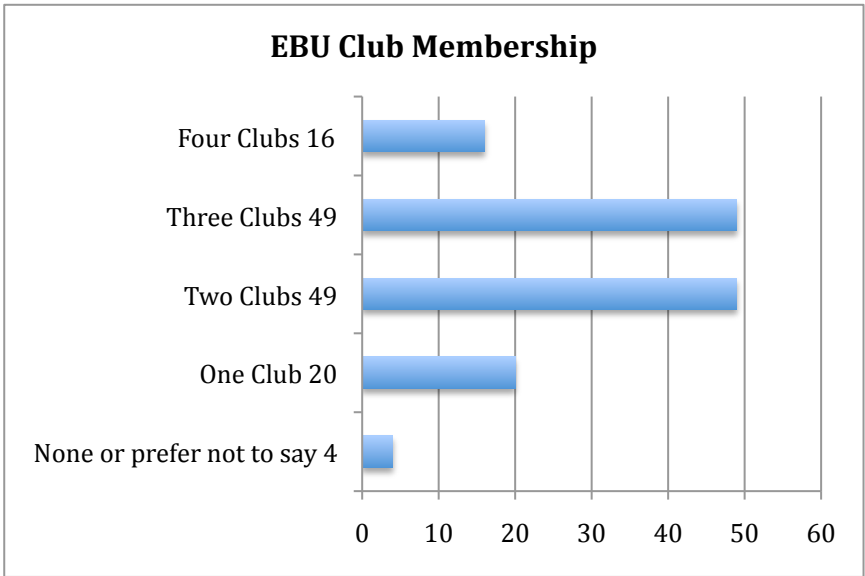


Question 4

Prior to lockdown, which clubs were you a member of? Please tick all that apply.



As shown below, of the 138 respondents, 121 were members of at least one of the four North Devon EBU Clubs.

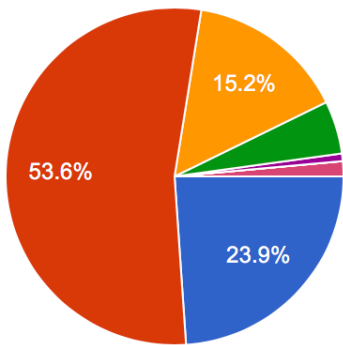


Question 5

Prior to Lockdown, how often were you playing Bridge at any of the North Devon Clubs.



138 responses

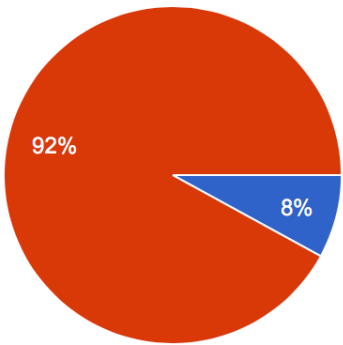


- More than twice a week.
- On average, twice a week.
- On average, at least once a week.
- On average, two or three times a month.
- Usually at least once a month.
- Usually less than once a month.
- I wasn't playing in any of the clubs in North Devon.
- Prefer not to say.

Question 6

Prior to Lockdown, were you playing Bridge regularly online?

138 responses



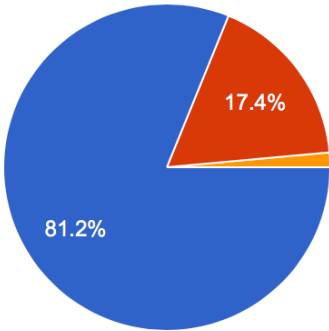
- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Question 7

During Lockdown, have you been playing regularly online?



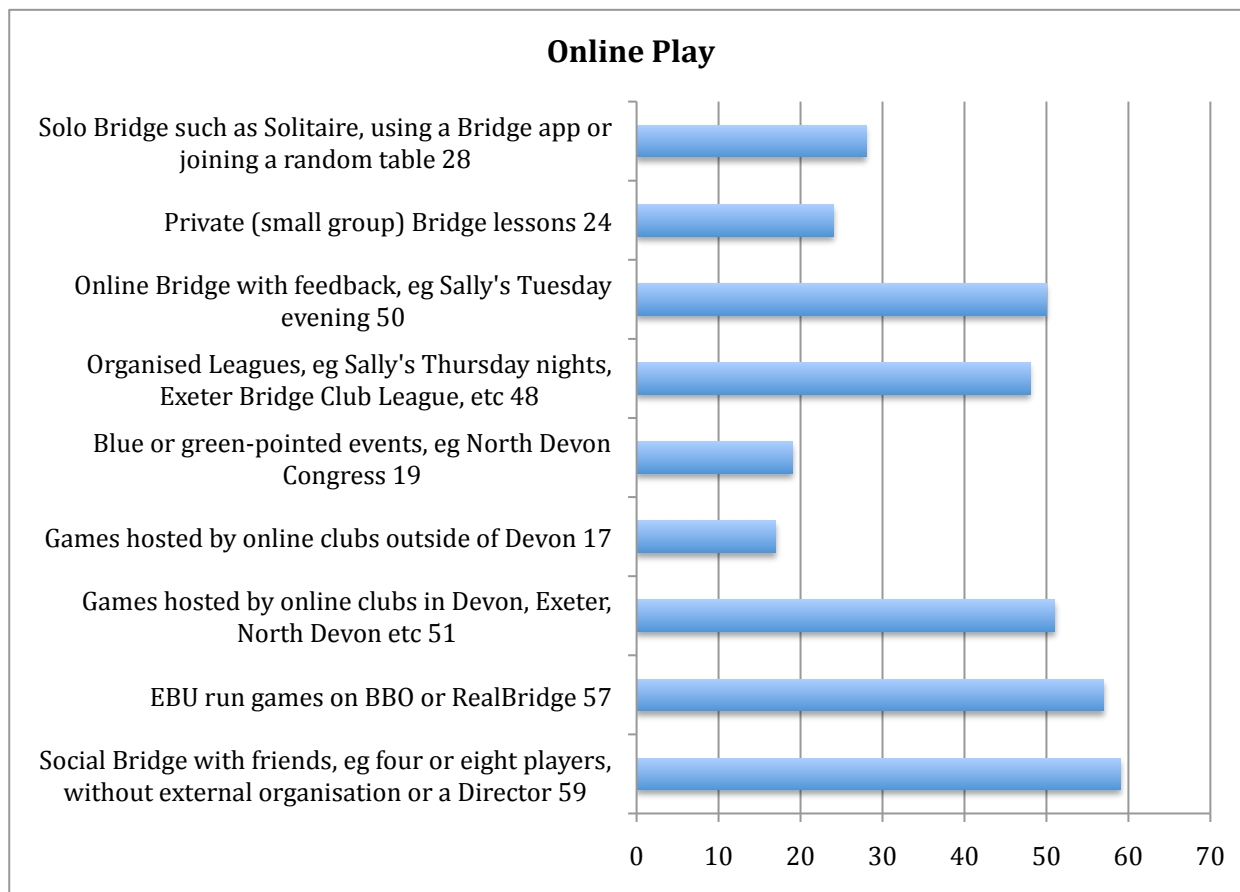
138 responses



- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Question 8

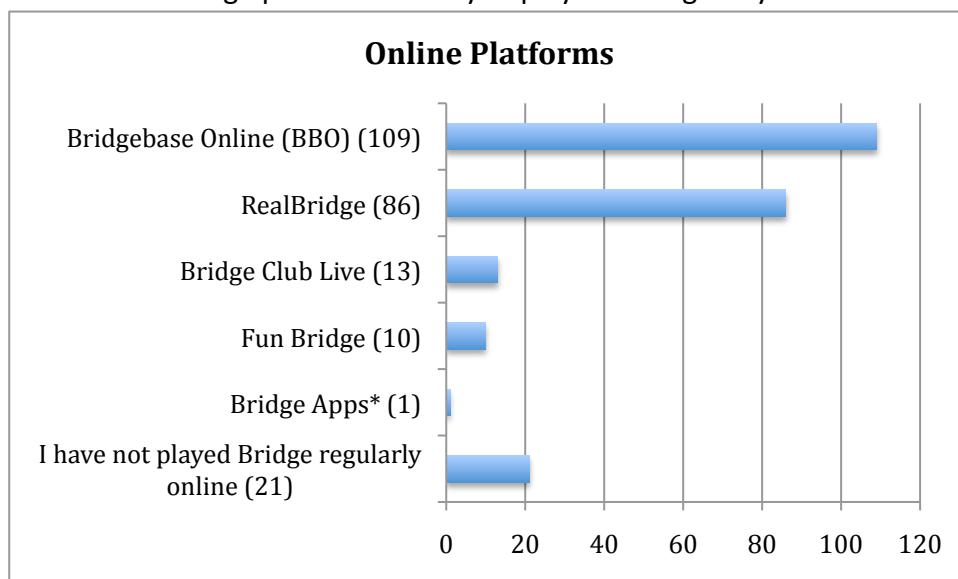
During lockdown, what online Bridge sessions have you been playing? Please tick all that apply.



118 respondents ticked at least one online Bridge activity, and many have played in more than one type of session.

Question 9

What online Bridge platforms have you played on regularly? Tick all that apply.

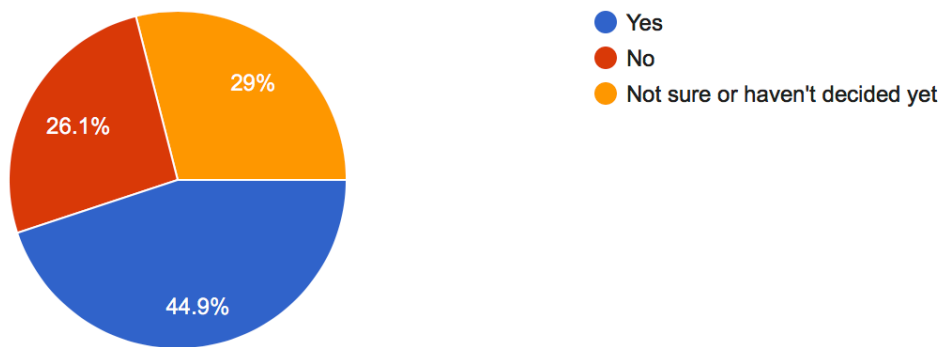


*One respondent added 'Bridge apps' as a free text option. It was not one of the original options and it is possible that others would have ticked this option if it had been available.

Question 10

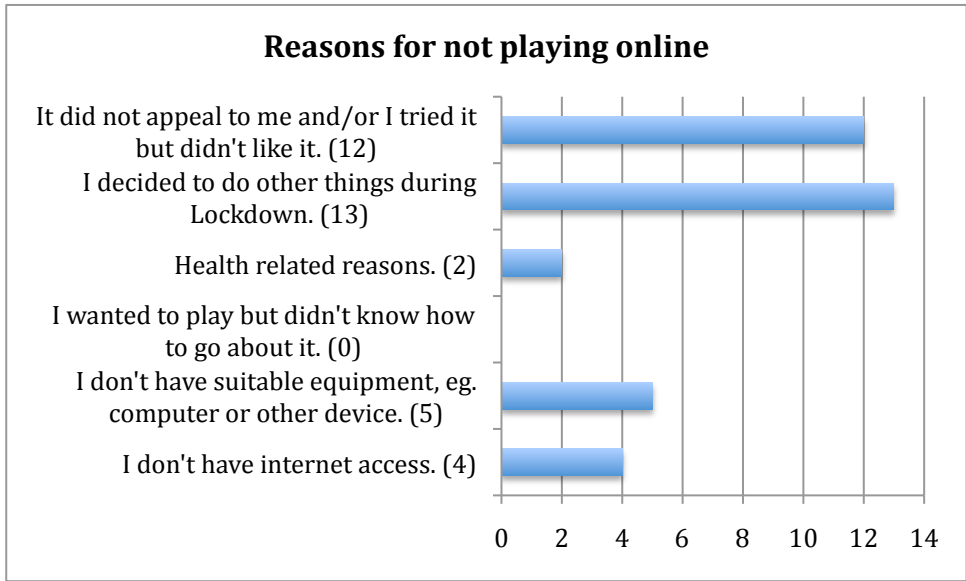
Do you intend to continue playing Bridge Online once Face-to-Face Bridge has started again?

138 responses



Question 11

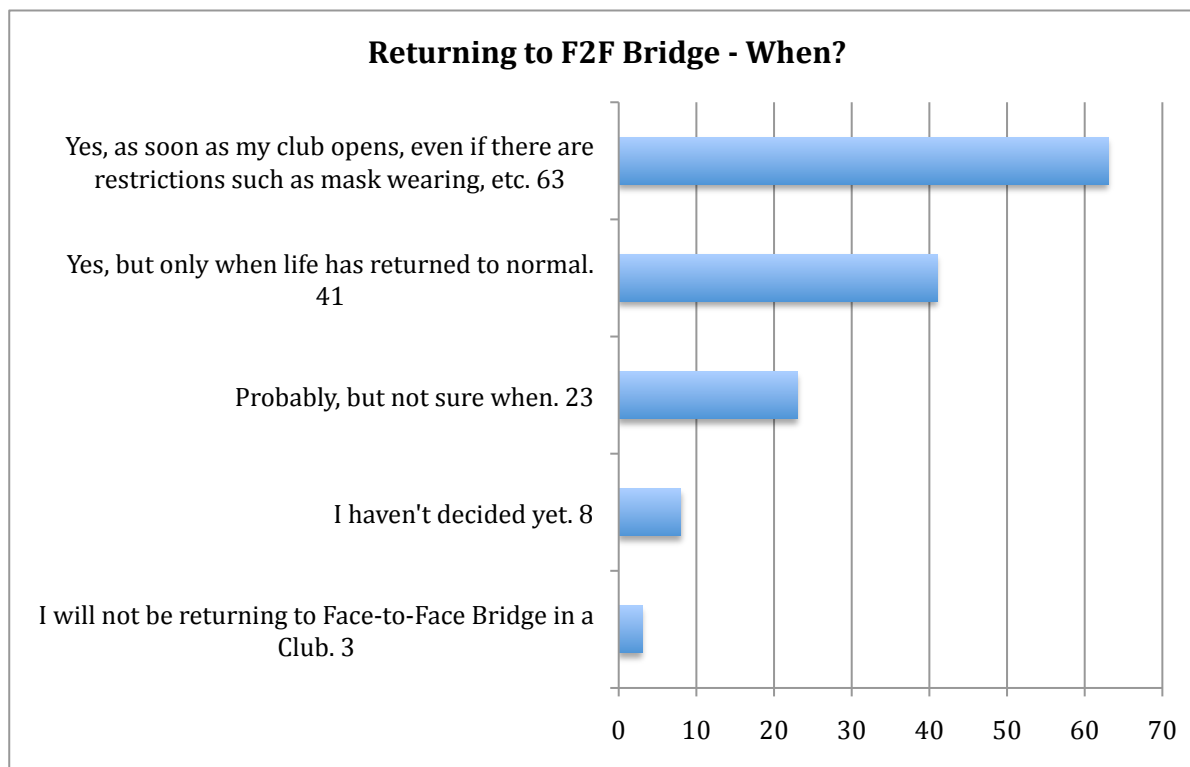
If you haven't played Bridge Online regularly during the lockdown, please tell us the reason(s) and tick all that apply.



36 responses from the 21 respondents that stated above that they have not played online regularly

Question 12

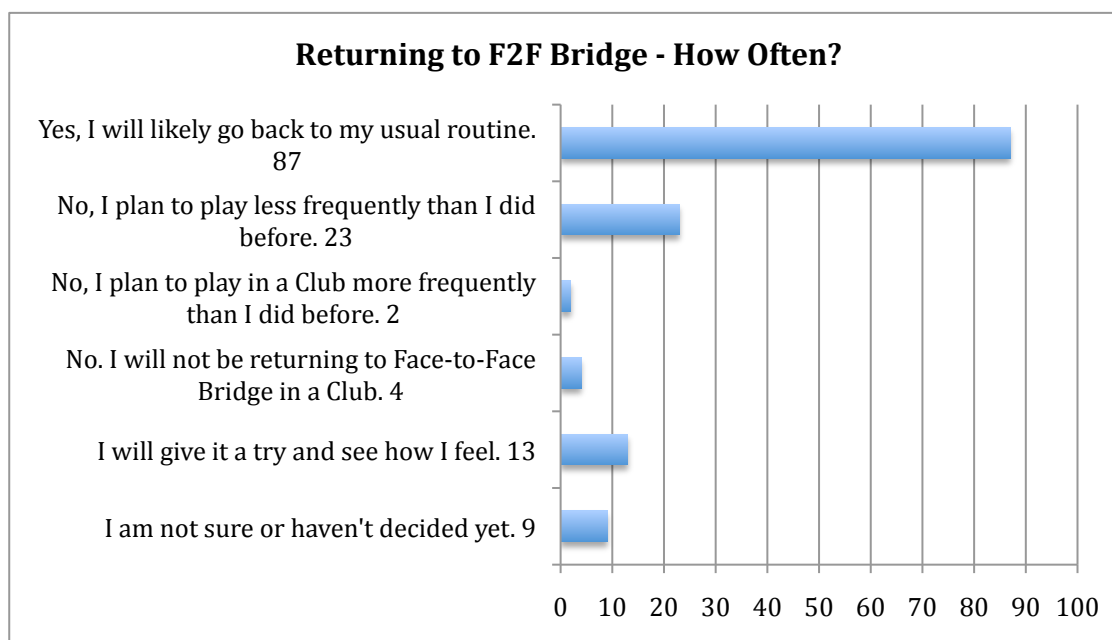
When Face-to-Face Bridge (F2F) in a Club is allowed and felt to be safe, do you intend to return?



45% of respondents will come back to Face-to-Face Bridge as soon as it is allowed.

Question 13

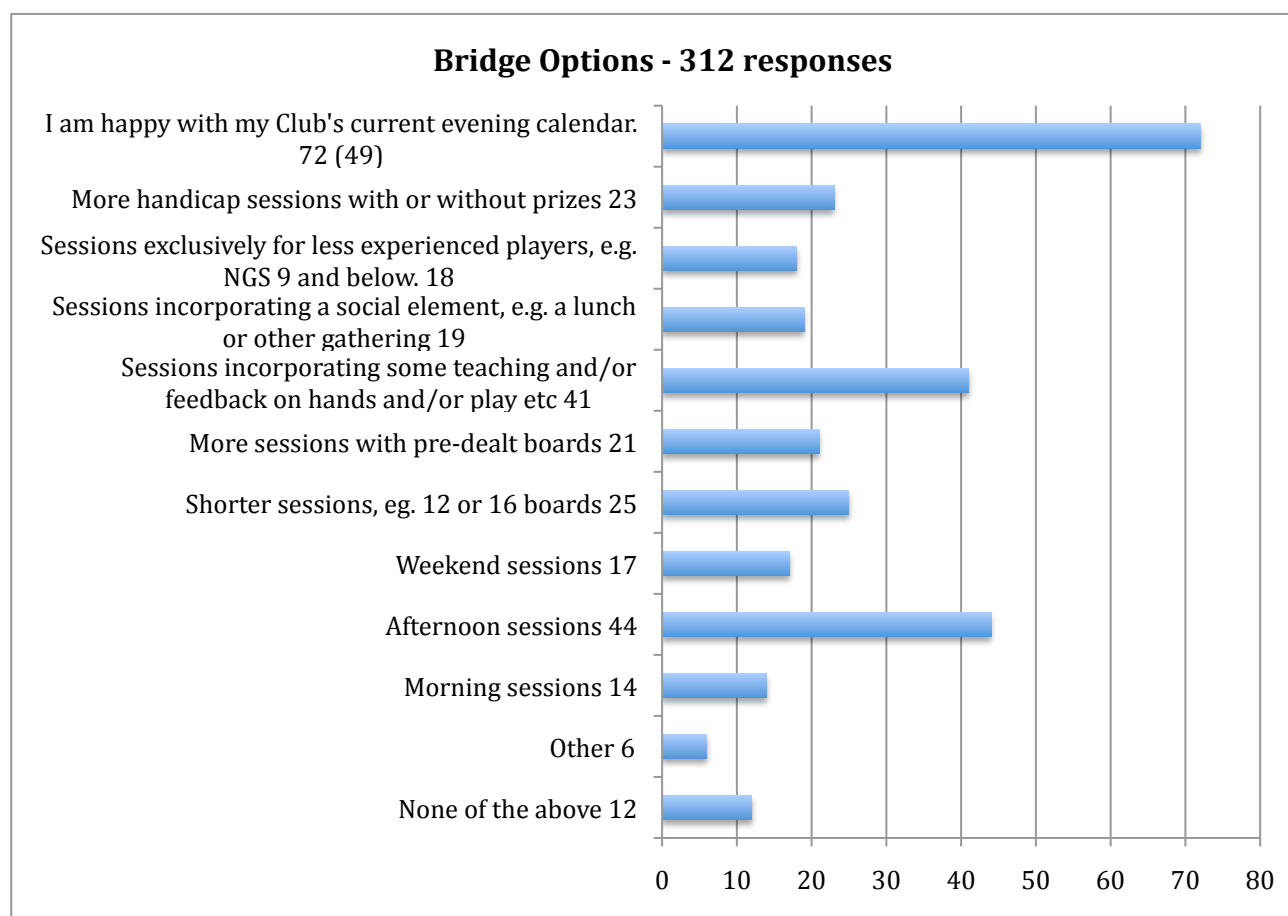
When you return to Face-to-Face Bridge in a Club, do you plan to attend as frequently as you did before Lockdown? Please choose the option that most closely applies to you.



63% say they will likely go back to their usual F2F routine.

Question 14

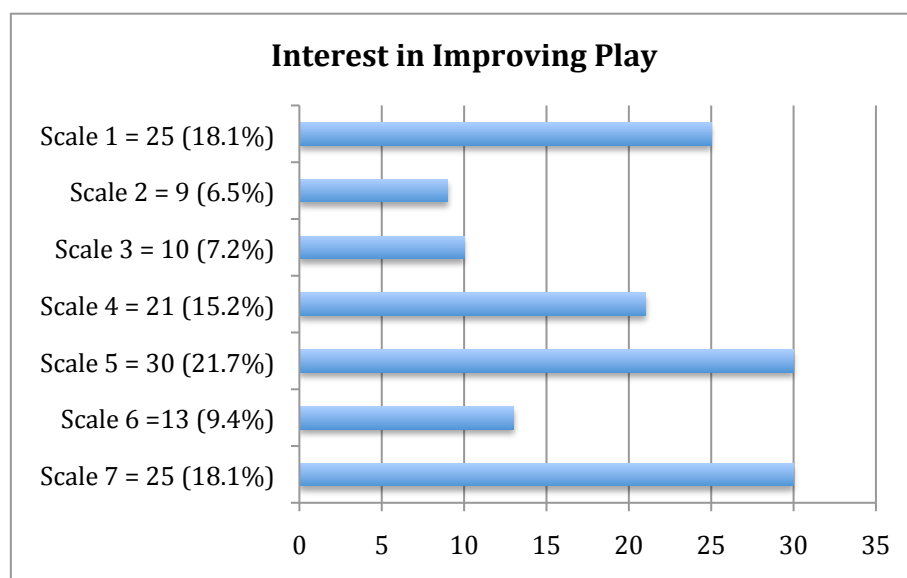
When Face-to-Face Bridge returns, would you like to see any of the following introduced into your club's calendar, either Face-to-Face or Online? Please tick all those that interest you.



Of the 72 that ticked the first option, 23 also chose other options. The six 'other' options were free text comments. These have been added to the comments below.

Question 15

On a scale of 1 to 7, please indicate how interested you would be in Bridge sessions with the aim of helping you to improve your play. For example, sessions with pre-dealt boards that incorporate a teaching element and/or feedback. 1 = Not interested at all, 7 = Very interested.



68 respondents (49.28%) expressed an interest in improving their play (Scale 5-7) while 44 (31.88%) were not interested (Scale 1-3).

What have you most liked or disliked about playing Bridge Online?

- Likes; Convenience and time efficient - specifically no travelling - Dislikes; No / minimal interaction with friends and competitors.
- The lack of face-to-face contact.
- Like the ability to still be able to play but it is not the same as playing in person and the social interaction
- Disliked not seeing people, disliked poor connections, liked keeping my hand in.
- Enabled me to continue bridge during lockdown
- Disliked the relative lack of social interaction.
- Missed direct social contact
- I don't play online Bridge
- No contact with people
- RealBridge. I still don't like the layout of the cards and I hate the audio/visual distractions including seeing people eat! Our Internet can be inconsistent particularly on RealBridge.
- The great advantage is staying at home to play bridge especially in bad weather
- Time controls good reduced social interaction bad
- Enjoyed being at home - playing with coffee, nibbles and in my dressing gown!!
- Likes: comfort of home, zero travel, 16 board sessions seem just right! On BCL, chat with people who are in far-off or interesting places. Dislikes: no meeting friends in person. BBO's self-alerting and the unfriendly and sometimes extremely rude people you meet on BBO if you play away from our club matches. In my limited experience the only time BBO players use 'chat' is to abuse their partners, and if they are in the process of getting a bad board they just leave the table.
- Liked convenience disliked socially distant although Real bridge less problematic than BBO.
- At the moment it is the only way to get a game of bridge and I like a game of bridge. Also no travel is involved.
- It enabled me to continue playing Bridge.
- Liked: ability to concentrate on the game. Disliked: other peoples' technical issues.
- Saves a lot of time, that's good. Reduced real human contact, that's not so good.
- The opportunity to play with a range of abilities worldwide. No dislikes.
- Like the convenience.
- Dislike: lack of alerts/announcing and only rarely knowing ops convention.
- Messaging e.g. saying what other people have played or making negative comments.
- Prefer BBO to real bridge as fewer technical problems meaning slow play, which becomes frustrating. I enjoy the availability of a game whenever I feel like it. Good for practice and analysing hands (if I have time).
- Impersonal.
- Opportunity to see scores, hands and data not available during Club Bridge. Digital record of other pairs and their scores for comparison.
- The suspicion that opponents are communicating illegally.
- It's what it says RealBridge, you can see people and chat to them.
- Too impersonal.
- Like RealBridge, others open to cheating.
- Missing the social contact.
- Missed social contact.
- Practice.
- Like: saves having to travel (esp. in winter). Dislike: online bridge is a bit relentless, a short break halfway through would help.
- Problems with Eye strain from staring at a computer screen for 3-4 hours.
- With RealBridge you see and can talk with the other people at the table.
- Can play a good standard almost whenever you want.
- Easily accessible. Enjoyable.
- Convenient, helped to survive lockdown.
- Availability.
- Disliked not seeing other players & verbally chatting. Problems with computers crashing. Liked not having to go out in bad weather & playing in the comfort of your home If playing Casual on BBO you can choose how many boards to play.
- Enjoyed playing from home, shorter 1 1/2 - 2 hr sessions.
- I only play online to keep practising bridge - I do not enjoy online bridge.
- It was great company during the lockdowns.
- Easy to play lots of hands at different times of the day Playing with friends from across country.
- Playing at home and therefore no driving.
- Easily accessible - good, lack of social contact - bad.
- Nothing really.
- No social interaction.
- Ability to review and compare bidding and play of hands.
- Liked: convenience, lower cost. Disliked: lack of interpersonal contact.
- BEING ABLE TO PLAY IN THE AFTERNOONS OR EVENINGS WITH A GLASS OF WINE.
- Disliked: not face to face in reality, very static, sitting still for so long, being in a room on my own. Liked: able to play bridge during 'lockdown', enjoyed Real Bridge and talking to people who I wouldn't have known previously.
- Happy not to have to rush out after a meal. More time to analyse the cards and on Tuesday evenings Sally gives us a great 'lesson' on at least one board from the evening. Real bridge gives us the opportunity to converse and meet new players but there is no feeling of belonging to a Club.
- Needed alternative when not able to play at Clubs - enjoy bridge very much.
- Sometimes slow getting started - usually due to technical issues.
- No face-to-face contact.
- Before I added Zoom to playing BBO online I found it to be lacking in warmth and social interaction. I enjoy RealBridge because of the ability to speak and see whom you are playing with. A real benefit of online bridge is the ability to look at the bidding and card play afterwards and learn from your mistakes and how other people played the hands.
- I like the regular practice and being able to play on the EBU 9 high tournaments any day. I prefer BBO to RealBridge as it's distracting to see the videos.
- Liked - Not wasting time travelling and the dogs could join in Liked - being able to play whenever I have space in my day so I can rearrange life around bridge rather than the other way around Disliked - computer glitches Disliked - I find the table on RealBridge small compared to the videos. I'd like smaller video screens and a larger table. I find the BBO table much nicer Disliked - on RealBridge sometimes people talk during a game.
- You don't have to travel and it's a much shorter evening.
- The weather, civilised finish time, no travel.
- Prefer RealBridge as it is more social.
- Prefer RealBridge, seeing real people.

- Thoroughly enjoyed it.
- Distraction.
- Lack of human contact made playing dull and boring.
- Love not having to leave home!
- Like seeing real people.
- Like BBO but really like RealBridge and being able to see and chat with people.
- Not having to travel and just being able to play bridge.
- Whilst felt safe against Covid, the opponents suddenly disappear from the screen before having the chance to thank them! Also, prefer direct social contact.
- Lacked social contact, but RealBridge better. Safer at home. No travelling.
- Bad Internet connection has been a problem for me. Have enjoyed RealBridge.
- During lockdown it's been great to keep Bridge going, able to have lessons.
- Keeping bridge going during lockdown.
- I have loved being able to play from home.
- Real bridge excellent adds a good social interaction. BBO impersonal.
- It helps to keep in contact with the other players.
- Helped me to get through lockdown.
- Enjoyed online bridge, comfort of being home.
- Convenience.
- It kept you in practice.
- Helped me to practise and keep from getting stale.
- I like bridge online especially RealBridge because I'm at home, it's quick, I can see and compare the hands afterwards, and I can speak to the other players.
- Keeping our members in touch with each other through tournaments and casual bridge.
- Real Bridge gives a visual and chat experience with club members I know.
- GOOD TO BE PLAYING AGAIN.
- Nothing it has all been good.
- Easy access. RealBridge excellent alternative, to going to club.
- I have enjoyed playing in my own home yet being able to be part of my Bridge clubs, whether I can see/hear my partner/opponents or not.
- Being safe at home. Disliked, poor communication on line, frozen pictures.
- Missed social contact.
- Being able to play from home.
- Helped to maintain my interest in Bridge.
- Easy to access. No travel.
- Social reasons.
- Missed social contact.
- Being able to replay hands on BBO.

Please add any further comments you would like to make on the future of Bridge in North Devon below. For example, is there anything that you would change?

- No thanks
- Would like to see a joined up approach to restarting Face-to-Face Bridge in North Devon as a result of collaboration between the clubs leading to a wider range of playing options being available in the future.
- The need to recruit and encourage younger players. Without them the future will become bleaker and bleaker!
- Several people cannot play online and it would be good to catch up with them in a club.
- My experience is that all the clubs with which I am familiar are well organised.
- It is difficult to see how Bridge continues with the four affiliated clubs in N Devon sharing membership but requiring 5 different committees to run them.
- Like everything else in life there is always a place for change and improvement that is the fascination of the game of Bridge it doesn't stand still!
- To offer a menu of activities across the 4 clubs so that all bridge players can be accommodated in order to enjoy and improve their play. To use the current Thurs session as an opportunity to improve play through a series of teaching classes using Sally's model. To consider how to encourage current Barnstaple/Taw Vale members to join Exeter and Devon on-line bridge sessions and league.
- Perhaps fewer teams
- Well done, Jacqui!
- Scope for merger of Taw Vale and Barnstaple with different programmes of play on different nights, afternoon sessions? + Online sessions?
- No changes just looking forward to getting back
- One advantage of Online Bridge is not having a round trip of 30 miles on winter evenings
- There is scope for a stronger session, aimed at more advanced players, in parallel
- Too many team events or add handicap ... these tend to be dominated by the clique's
- Many thanks to all who organise/run/support bridge in ND
- I am very grateful to Jacqui and Sally who have been so supportive and encouraging
- A big thankyou to Sally and the whole Anoyrkatis family for keeping bridge alive for us during lockdown. I think online bridge should continue as well as face-to-face bridge.
- I would change nothing but happy to continue to compete online as well as f-t-f
- Merge Barnstaple and Taw Vale clubs to reduce costs and committee time. Create more inclusive events for lower graded and "social" players.
- Before Covid, people came to f2f clubs with a cold or other transmissible ailments. Post-covid, I would hope they stay away if at all unhealthy. It is purely antisocial to come to f2f club with a cold or transmissible illness. And, I would like to see a large sign in the Gents toilet saying, "NOW WASH YOUR HANDS" - for obvious reasons.
- I have missed bridge very much and look forward to seeing everyone soon!
- I think clubs will have to amalgamate say one in Braunton and one in Barnstaple. Hopefully face to face will survive but I think active f2f is likely to decline. The North Devon Congress will hopefully continue
- No thanks
- For me bidding boxes and cards are real hygiene issues, as are some of the toilets, and this is a great attraction of online. Real bridge where you can see and chat resolves all that
- Increase car parking
- I am concerned that we may lose high standard club players to online only. Is there scope in trying to play simultaneously online & F2F. I think I read something in EBU mag that it was being developed. Also, for all ND online competitions can we allow/encourage kibbutzing with a commentary perhaps - or best play advice available?
- I think Jacqui and Sally have worked so hard keeping bridge playing alive in N Devon, well done and I'm so grateful.
- I don't want to let either of the clubs down but feel I have too many transport problems

- I would be more likely to return to face-to-face bridge if there was an electronic system for recording the hands played and the outcomes.
- This questionnaire is a good and timely initiative. I feel that clubs have a great opportunity to develop a virtuous combination of online and in-person Bridge events post-lockdown, even if I cannot suggest the precise means of bringing this about. Hopefully other respondents will have more concrete proposals to put forward. All the best
- 24 BOARDS RATHER THAN 26 OR EVEN 22
- Happy with the way North Devon Bridge is organised and run and send thanks to the Committee.
- I find at times some members (at all clubs where I have played) are quite aggressive in their attitude and exhibit some arrogant traits. I much prefer playing with those that are competitive, but are willing after hands to discuss openly the possibilities of how the bidding could have gone, but with a spirit of fun and enjoyment, and learning. Everyone makes errors at times - even top players - we should all show humility and a willingness to admit that others may consider alternative views or bids. Bridge is an in exact science (!!) and should ensure friendships and relationships develop - not alienation. There is a time for serious bridge (dare I say, 'win at all costs') but that is in higher-level competition and representative matches.
- As a relative beginner/ intermediate I appreciate the opportunity to be asked to contribute to this survey. I would like to join a club, but need a partner, or other unattached like-minded people to play with. Hopefully clubs will be keen to attract new members and will give help and encouragement to do so.
- Especially if they are run by Sally who is such a good teacher. We started learning from scratch 3 years ago in High Bickington and we love it.
- Now is the time for change! Would be good to have a variety, say 2 evenings, one afternoon and one bridge session on line. Maybe amalgamate the clubs, reduce the amount of committee members
- Go with majority view.
- Maybe an afternoon session.
- Although the various Directors do a great job, for which I am grateful, I should like them to be stricter with regard to etiquette. In particular, slow play, bad temper, and discussions with partners on previous hand instead of greeting new opponents.
- I am no longer able to drive and I don't want to rely on others for lifts.
- The major deterrent for me to restart Club Bridge is the distance I have to travel. Unfortunately, the standard at the local club in Ilfracombe is just too low.
- It is important to encourage newcomers - remember we were all beginners once.
- Maybe stopping by 9pm on eve sessions.
- Sociable element very important.
- Westward Ho! Bridge club was not invited to any meeting. We never are even though we have had a reasonable number of members since 1983. The club is not EBU listed so maybe its views are not to be considered relevant.
- Have followed Bernard Magee's teaching on line during lockdown.
- Very happy with things as they are. Clubs are well managed and Bridge evenings well organised.
- I enjoy the way both the clubs I attend are run and would not change anything.
- To return to playing bridge as it was before Covid.
- Personally I would prefer evening events at all clubs to be of 24 boards and for there to be a higher proportion of open pairs, than there has been in the past.
- Enjoy the challenge of playing players than myself.
- Vary the type/style of competitions perhaps. "Guest" speaker/teacher events with light lunch?
- 12 boards is not enough, 22 boards is better.
- Would attend evenings but an additional sessions would be good.
- Doing F2F and online, more online in winter?