

These are difficult times for our game which will be seriously affected for the foreseeable future. The SCBA committee is not in a position to offer medical advice, unlike Piers Morgan and others, and the best we can do is to echo that given by the EBU and to take heed of the advice that we receive from government.

The EBU has strongly recommended the cancellation of all county events and so the Pairs' League will not take place this year. The AGM must be in some doubt and I have my fingers and toes firmly crossed for the congress in October.

Sadly, the Bruton weekend planned for March 20th has been postponed and is now planned for July 10th-12th.

Clubs will need to make their own decisions based on the advice available and on the feedback from players. I think clubs must think very seriously of the dangers that they face. Bridge is played in close contact playing all or most of the other players in the room and the majority of those players have reached the age most vulnerable to the virus. However we are all adults and until government dictates otherwise clubs are free to make their own decisions having considered all the available advice. Some clubs have already made the decision to close and others are consulting members.

There is lots of advice available concerning returning travellers, hand washing and other precautions which I shall not labour here but a good summary can be found on the home page of the Bristol Bridge Club at www.bristolbridgeclub.co.uk

One way in which folk can continue to get their fix is by playing on line. The EBU is planning to run two twelve board events each evening at 7.30 and 9pm and Lou Hobhouse, on our behalf, is looking to set up a Somerset event alongside these. More of this later.

In the meantime I wish Somerset bridge players all the best and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as this episode is over.