

August 17, 2022

It has been over three months since WBL resumed face-to-face unit games every other week, and we are discovering that transitioning from online to face-to-face is challenging. Our face-to-face unit games have not been well attended and have lost money. Fortunately, our online game more or less makes up for the money WBL has been losing at the face-to-face game.

Many players have not been venturing out to club games. Possible reasons include the ongoing threat of covid, the safety and convenience of online bridge and the fact that some folks may have decided to stop playing bridge altogether. So it is unclear how club bridge can flourish in a scenario where some want to play online, others want to play face-to-face, and some want both. To better understand players' needs, WBL is considering running a survey to learn about members' views and preferences.

In the meantime, WBL will continue holding face-to-face games every other week, alternating with the Northern Virginia Bridge Association, until the end of this calendar year. Every Thursday evening, one unit will host an in-person game and the other unit will host an online game.

The Ohr Kodesh management still expects all those wishing to play the face-to-face unit game to be fully vaccinated, but it no longer requires that entrants show proof of vaccination, so there will be no need for players to produce their VaxPasses as a condition of access to the Ohr Kodesh building. Instead, an "honor system" is now in place whereby entrants are taken at their word. The larger the attendance at the in-person unit game, the more likely we can rebuild it.

Wishing everyone a pleasant end to the summer.

Hadi Abushakra
President, Washington Bridge League