

Bristol Bridge Club Newsletter

keeping you up to date with all the latest news and developments at the Club



ON LINE

1. Chair's Message

Starting, again, with more sad news I'm afraid. This time it is the passing of Peter Randell. Peter played, with his wife Margaret, at the club for many years, and was also a regular player at the West of England Bridge Club. Our condolences and best wishes to Margaret and the family.

You will notice when you read the section in this newsletter about club re-opening that there is a lack of good news to report on that front. However, you will also see that your trustees continue to be busy trying to make sure that we are in the best possible position when the situation with regard to the virus improves. I'm sorry not to bring more hopeful words on this subject.

When I started to learn to play bridge I remember being keen to try to memorise as many basics as possible, for example the point ranges and how they guide bidding. The other memory task I set myself was to learn the various 'rules of...', for example Rule of 11, Rule of 20. Not sure how well these rules have served me and I have mostly forgotten them now, but I noticed that our government found a gap in the market two weeks ago when they introduced the 'Rule of 6'.

Now as far as I know (and I'm certainly ready to be corrected) there isn't currently a Rule of 6 in bridge. Before the lockdown, I used to partner our Club Secretary on Thursday evenings at the club, and I think we evolved an informal rule, that if we had six really bad scores in the first half of the evening we might as well give up on drinking tea, and switch to red wine. This strategy invariably brought an upturn in our fortunes, or at least that's how I remember it now. If members know of a better rule of 6 please let me know.

Ralph

2. Club reopening

There is a Club Re-opening Sub-committee, currently staffed by some of your trustees, on which Ralph is leading. We had a productive Zoom meeting early in September, and felt that we could begin the process of a limited opening of the club. We had planned that we would have pre-booked sessions, with a maximum of eight tables. A range of hygiene and safety measures were programmed in to our proposal, and following the results of the membership questionnaire conducted a couple of months ago we felt that there would be a good number of members willing to take part.

We even had a target date for our first session: 1st December. But... about two days after our meeting the government issued new rules, including the 'six people maximum' stipulation. This has clearly made our plans redundant, so that we no longer have any thoughts about opening the club before the end of the year.

Clearly, we now await further communication from the Government, and like everyone else, we watch the progress of the virus with interest. Meanwhile, this sub-committee continues to make

provision for reopening, behind the scenes. This includes being up to date with guidance from the government, the EBU, and other clubs. We will attempt to update members as much as possible, as often as practical.

3. Virtual Bridge

Given the disappointing news about the reopening of the club, we would like to encourage all members to try online bridge. We host three sessions a week, [Tuesday at 19:15](#), [Wednesday at 14:00](#) and [Friday at 10:00](#). We are also trialling a new shorter format session on Thursday evenings [at 19:15](#) starting [from October 8th](#).

Thank you to all the members who have been supporting the Bristol Bridge Club virtual sessions. Unfortunately these sessions are currently losing money, but we are hopeful that we will see an increased attendance now that summer is coming to an end and staying inside and playing bridge will be more tempting.

Please do get in touch with your partners and arrange a game to support the club!

If you have any questions about getting online, or would prefer to play more casually, you can **contact Hilda on [07837 084772](tel:07837084772), Stuart on [07478 693193](tel:07478693193) or Jude on [07890 769188](tel:07890769188) and they will help arrange partnerships and casual sessions.**

We have also set up a virtual club where members can keep in contact with each other and post messages to the rest of the club, including if you are looking for a partner or a casual game. We are using an app called Discord to do this, and you can join us by following this link: <https://discord.gg/SfCafCC>. (For more details on this link, don't hesitate to contact Stuart).

We hope we can continue to support all our members during this difficult time and if you haven't yet tried playing online and would like to, **please do not hesitate to pick up the phone and give Hilda, Jude or Stuart a call!**

4. New virtual session [starting](#) on 8 October.

In response to our survey we are starting a new session with 18 boards. price 4BB\$ on Thursdays [at 7.15pm](#). You can use Pianola to find a partner, Jude Archer or join Discord App (see point 3 above).

5. Virtual session price increase:

There have been queries about the increase in price of our virtual sessions. 3BB\$ was just an introductory price. We have to give 50% of the revenue to BBO for hosting the sessions. The normal UMS goes to the EBU (they are struggling to keep going in the current situation) and we pay our directors. Lots of other clubs use volunteer directors so they keep their prices down. We also have several ongoing expenses even though the club is closed and most of our staff are on furlough."

6. Membership and Playing Online

If you have friends who are not members of the Club they can still play in the Club online sessions without joining the Club until the Club reopens. We want to encourage as many people as possible to play to keep the Club alive in these difficult times.

So get your friends to register their EBU number and BBO username on friendlybridgesw@gmail.com

Partner finding: You can email Jude Archer on judyarcher50@gmail.com or use the new Discord app.(point 3 above).

7. Bristol Bridge Club with the new English Bridge School is pleased to offer a new **On Line Course for beginners**,

[on Saturday 3rd October, 2020 \(10am to 12 noon\)](#).

Lessons will include live tutorial and practice on line. The first session will be free to help you access the online material. Course cost is £100 plus a subscription of £5 per month for the online material. (first month free).

Concessions for students and those in receipt of benefits

Contact: teaching@bristolbridgeclub.co.uk

Please advise your friends, it's not too late to register

8. Bristol Bridge Club Relocation

We are planning to have a relocation subcommittee meeting via zoom in the near future. It would be very useful if we could recruit some members to this subcommittee to help us. We would particularly welcome anyone with building, survey and/or property experience to join us.

Please contact Caroline if you are interested: cdrugan.bbc@gmail.com

There is a lot of information on the website on most of the above points: bristolbridgeclub.co.uk

A bit of humour



Did You Know?

43.6 percent of all slam contracts fail.

62.7 percent of all bridge players are women.

97.8 percent of all bridge statistics, including these, are made up.



Marital Bliss

On their wedding night a couple arrive at their hotel room and the phone rings. The husband answers and talks with his friend about a *bridge* hand. The conversation continues for hours as the friend tells how he went down in six spades.

When it finally ends, the distraught wife is in tears and says, "How can he be so inconsiderate? That was *terrible!*"

"You're right, honey. All he had to do was take a finesse."

Snippets

iPAD USERS OF BBO PLEASE NOTE



BBO are [advising Apple users](#) to hold off updating their operating systems until a bug is fixed

Symptoms are: **User cannot scroll.** Example of lists they cannot navigate:

- list of results in History
- list of virtual clubs
- all lists of tournaments

We welcome your comments!

This Bulletin was compiled by Hilda Ball, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

22 September, 2020