

## Warm greetings to all members of Bristol Bridge Club.

I have three items to communicate: A summary of the AGM, news of our planned re-opening on 6th September, and an invitation to play in a test event on 16th August. I hope you will find the following to be interesting and stimulating reading.

**1. The Annual General Meeting** was held via Zoom on 1st July, and was well attended.

The main items covered were:

Chair's report, where I particularly wanted to pay tribute to the three trustees who were stepping down (Sue O'Hara, Alison Simmonds, and Judy Archer) and to also thank those who remain.

Treasurer's report, which highlighted the 'strong and stable' state of the club's finances.

Membership Secretary's report, which showed a stable level of membership despite the difficult conditions of the past year.

Later, our new Club Secretary, Stuart King, was welcomed to the role.

There were two motions proposed and carried, The first was non-controversial, simply correcting an omission in the club constitution by inserting a clause that states that Trustees are elected for a period of three years. The second motion was a proposal that the trustees had the agreement of the members, in principle, to actively pursue relocation of the club. This was, obviously, much more contentious, and provoked a lively discussion, with a range of options being proposed. The motion was then carried by a large majority, and I sought to reassure those members who abstained or voted against that this was simply a first step, and that members would be kept fully informed of any developments. It was stated then, and I repeat here, that we would welcome the input of any members who have expertise in this area.

The minutes of this meeting and relevant reports will shortly be available on the club website.

## 2. Re-opening the club:

Subject to external forces (eg new government announcements) we are reopening the club on **Monday 6th September**. We are proposing to offer a very similar timetable of sessions to that which was running before March 2020, with one or two small differences:

Monday afternoon:	No-fear pairs
Monday evening:	Supervised pairs
Tuesday evening	Club duplicate
Wednesday afternoon	Club pairs ONLINE
Thursday evening	Club pairs ONLINE
Friday morning	No-fear pairs
Friday evening	Arrow-switched pairs and gentle duplicate

You will notice that two sessions, Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evenings, will remain as online sessions for the time being. This is mostly in response to the questionnaire that was issued to members a few weeks ago investigating attitudes to returning to the club. Our plan is to monitor attendance at these sessions and make any adjustments accordingly.

**Precautions:**

It should go without saying that the health and safety of members is our first concern and accordingly, please note the following:

- Vaccination: We request that only members who have received double vaccination attend the club, unless they have a medical exemption. This is in accordance with guidance from the EBU and follows the practice being followed in the vast majority of other clubs.
- Masks: Optional. Members are welcome to wear masks if they prefer to, but there is no expectation or obligation here.
- Air quality: We have installed air purifiers at the club which pass ultra-violet light through the air as it circulates through the machines, eliminating any airborne viruses.
- Hand sanitisers: Will be provided on each table and at other strategic points around the club.

Please note that the normal full range of catering facilities will be available at the club from the start.

**3. Test session: Monday 16th August at 1.15**

This is to make sure that the club is ready to re-open and to iron out any problems. We propose playing about 24 boards, in a fairly informal session. Ideally, we would like to have about eight tables. If you have a partner and would like to play please email me at [chair@bristolbridgeclub.co.uk](mailto:chair@bristolbridgeclub.co.uk)

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you all soon

Ralph