

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

RE-OPENING AFTER COVID

1. Introduction

After consideration your sub-committee has agreed to recommend the following way forward as we, hopefully move on from the Covid Pandemic. At present, Covid infections appear to be going down, although deaths and hospitalisations are still increasing. The situation is clearly fluid and it is not impossible that restrictions may need to be re-introduced. Plymouth is unfortunately a bit of a Covid Hotspot at present.

Speaking to members the appetite for returning to the clubhouse contains a spectrum from keen to get back to normal- to very reluctant.

At present we have a committee decision to aim to reopen in September. When the sub-committee met last week we thought that target date was still sensible, but subject to review as the data changes.

We concluded that we must do our best to be as inclusive as we can so that all our members have an opportunity to participate and also that we do not lose the benefits of on-line bridge that we have learnt to enjoy during the last 18 months.

We propose that we proceed as follows.

Bridge Sessions

Tuesday Afternoons

We propose the first session to reopen - 7th September at the earliest, be the Tuesday afternoon social bridge game. This will cater for those who wish to play with cards for a friendly social game.

Cards will be prepared by duplimator and we will need a rota of volunteers to run the session.

Obviously it remains to be seen how popular these sessions will be. In the past they have attracted beginners and those looking for a social game. We see it as a way of including some of our members who do not play on-line.

Monday and Thursday Afternoons

We propose these sessions remain online run on RealBridge. When the time is right we will open the club during these sessions so that people can meet and play with cards in the club depending on members' wishes. The club will purchase some laptops to enable a half table in the club to play

online if we consider hybrid sessions. We suggest 2 laptops and an appropriate internet hub has been purchased to facilitate this.

Tuesday and Friday Evenings

As above except remaining on Bridge Base Online. These could move to RealBridge at a later stage.

Tuesday evening will also depend on whether Plymstock Bridge Club re-opens. If it does we would look for an alternative evening.

The current thinking is, when the time is right, to try to play Friday evenings with cards in the club and Tuesday evenings (or an alternative evening) online. We will revert to online if Friday evenings in the club are not feasible / prove unsuccessful.

Wednesday Evening

We should continue to play team games against other clubs online.

Room Lettings

When organisations wish to start hiring rooms we need to set room charges that enable the room and the public areas to be thoroughly cleaned afterwards. There should also be an expectation that people using the rooms are double vaccinated.

Our current fees are as follows per session:

Downstairs playing room	£16
Upstairs playing room	£13
Meeting room	£11

(A session = a morning, an afternoon or an evening.)

We propose these fees should be raised to £26, £23 and £21 to pay for extra cleaning and to take into account the way our lettings fees have fallen behind other venues in recent years. Since the bridge club has gone cashless these fees to be paid in advance by bank transfer.

Practical Issues

The Club will have its own QR code so that members and visitors register their presence at the club. People without a phone would register their name, address and telephone number. A NHS Test & Trace QR Code poster for the club will be displayed, one inside the entrance, another in the main bridge room and another at the top of the stairs to ease any congestion.

Double vaccination - there should be a single record sheet including every member of the club. At each session in the club you record the players that have been double vaccinated (or have an exemption). This sheet should be kept in the club in a file in a locked cupboard. Once someone has been recorded they do not need to bring in proof on a subsequent session.

We will purchase a foot operated hand sanitiser pump to be placed in the entrance to the club. This should be used at the beginning and end of a session. We should also hand sanitise at the end of each round.

Masks should be worn when not seated at tables i.e. when moving around.

We will socially distance the tables so that there is room between them effectively using every other table. Movement from table to table should be through a one way system, e.g. moving from the back section of the bridge room exit the kitchen door go through passageway to get to the front section and those moving from the front section of the room go through the archway.

Bidding boxes to be collected from a table just inside the door to the main bridge room and E/W take them with them when moving. N/S also take bidding boxes with them in a Howell movement where N/S is not stationary.

Table coverings will be replaced with plastic or oilcloth to enable easy cleaning and disinfecting between sessions.

Bathrooms when used should be wiped down by all after use using Domestos type wipes. - door handles, sink, taps, flush button, toilet seat.

At present we propose the kitchen remain out of use. Members and other users will need to bring their own food and drink and take away any debris afterwards.

We have a restart grant from the Government to pay for these arrangements.

Clearly all these arrangements will need to be revisited over time, relaxed or tightened depending on circumstances.

Steve Lacey

Chair

8th August 2021