

# Busbridge Duplicate Bridge Club

## COVID Review – October 2021

The club has now held three face-to-face bridge sessions which seem to have been well-received by members who participated. Based on the experience gained and feedback from some members the committee considers relaxing some of the procedures we put in place as safety measures.

It has been apparent that members who have attended face-to-face bridge sessions have been mindful of general public guidelines and respectful of other members so the need for some controls has diminished. The following changes will apply from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October:

1. The kitchen will be re-opened. The relatively small number of players we are currently attracting makes this possible and we will introduce a “one way” system with entry by one door and exit by the other. Members would be asked not to loiter in the kitchen but return to their tables in the main hall for social purposes. Members who preferred not to use the kitchen can continue to bring their own refreshments.
2. The use of personal bidding boxes will become optional. Those members who want to continue to bring their own boxes, or to carry one of the club’s boxes around for the evening, would be very welcome to do so. The reasoning is that we are touching the cards and bridgemates so just treating the bidding boxes differently is illogical. The COVID virus can be transmitted by touching surfaces, but regular use of hand sanitiser is an effective protection. We provide sanitiser at each table which is adequate for handling the boards and cards, so should be enough to deal with bidding boxes as well.
3. The system of pre-registration is discontinued. This was included to avoid disappointment because we are currently restricting the maximum table number to eight in the hall. On the two evenings we have opened we have attracted four and a half tables. Hopefully this will increase in coming weeks but more than eight seems unlikely in the near future. We may need to revisit this point as numbers grow but it seems unnecessary at the moment. It will probably be necessary to use pre-registration if we decided to take part in a simultaneous event.
4. We are the first users on Mondays after the external cleaners have done their work so there was no need to wipe down common areas such as light switches and the kitchen surfaces before play. It is still necessary to wipe the tables and chairs as these are not done by the hall cleaners and those opening the hall will continue to do so.

Mark Gibson

18/10/21