

July 2020 Newsletter

I am pleased to hear that from limited information members, family and friends continue to be in good health. I know a good number are playing bridge on line.

Your committee continues to monitor the government and EBU advice as to when we may be able to play bridge face to face again.

Of course I cannot give you an exact date when the club will reopen but the best estimate is October, but of course this is dependent on guidelines that are issued by government.

In the meantime we are close to opening a WBC on line under the umbrella of BBO. A proposed starting time for this is August and likely to be a Tuesday and Friday. More details will be issued when available.

The full committee met recently to discuss and prepare for reopening the club which involved drafting a Risk Assessment and a protocol for cleaning the club between daily sessions. These documents relate to a full program of active sessions, teaching and mentoring.

I will repeat what I said in the last newsletter that we need to keep in contact with members as best we can and understand what they will feel comfortable with in returning to play bridge at the club. The committee is determined to make the playing areas as safe as possible but members will have to consider their own circumstances. It is impossible to be 100% certain that all risk is removed.

The club has been visited on a regular weekly basis to ensure no issues and has included running water through the pipes and some initial cleaning. A full deep clean will take place prior to the opening session.

Financially we continue to be secure, thanks to the grant I mentioned in the previous newsletter. The water rates have been put on hold and electricity DD minimised in line with the lower use.

We have also had a structural assessment of the building carried out to reassure us that no further subsidence is occurring. The report is awaited.

We hope to purchase a new desk before reopening to minimise contact between the director and members arriving. New electrical sockets are being put in at the desk to remove extension cables currently on the floor.

The Risk Assessment is a document that needs changing as more information becomes available to us. This document contains instructions necessary to operate a safe playing environment to the benefit of all members. I repeat it is impossible to create a 100% risk free situation.

The main points in the Risk Assessment are:

- A defined cleaning protocol of surfaces
- Kitchen and bar not open initially
- Encourage members to minimise using of cash as we are purchasing a card reader for table money, voucher purchase and annual subscriptions when not using bank transfer. Cash will still be accepted
- Marshalling of members arriving and leaving to ensure social distancing
- Temperature monitor has been purchased to test everyone when they are arriving. A record will be kept
- One person at a time using the toilets with emphasis on cleaning afterwards
- Players to hand sanitise after each round before E/W move
- Only north to handle and use the Bridgemates
- Members bring their own refreshments especially water
- No tea breaks in the afternoons until further notice
- Members bring minimum clothing etc
- Masks will not be compulsory

If anyone has questions regarding the details in the Risk Assessment or regarding the reopening then please contact me.

Thank you

Ernie