

Bridge News January 2025

1 message

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New Year New Players



JANUARY 2025



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Thanks to everyone who gives feedback about the newsletter!

The audience for this newsletter is growing. If you would like to receive it, you can subscribe at:

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What we do

NEWS

This newsletter launched in August 2020 during the pandemic to provide information and support for duplicate bridge clubs. Back editions on the web site.

DISCUSSION

For almost four years we held monthly Zoom meetings to discuss anything of interest to clubs. Recordings available on the web site.

CLUB DATA

Bridge club data is collated to provide a picture of life, and trends, in club life. Analysis, updated fortnightly. Taster below. Full analysis on the web site.

TEACHING SCHEME

A teaching scheme is available, entirely free of charge.

WEB SITE (Hosted by BridgeWebs)

<http://www.bridgeforpleasure.co.uk>.

Please forward the letter to anyone in the bridge world who might be interested. Anyone can subscribe for free, no adverts.

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January New Beginnings, New Beginners

Hopefully there will be a large, keen new group of learners interested in learning bridge in January 2025.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

Please make sure your teaching is fully advertised as follows:

Put yourself into the EBU Teacher Directory. You can do this from your personal MyEBU. You do not have to be an EBEDTA member.

Sign up to No Fear Bridge as a teacher and put an entry in their directory.

Make the best of your own web site if you have one.

Try to get a reference on the websites of clubs near you and ask them to recommend your classes.

You can list classes on BridgeWebs.

Remind your previous learners and your club members to pass your contact details to friends and family.

CLUBS

My research shows that over 60% of club websites make NO reference to lessons or teaching on their home page.

Your club may not teach, or have any intention to teach, but you could put a referral to a local teacher on your home page. If there is no local option you could put a link to your county page, the EBU teacher directory, or to the information on teaching on the Bridge For Pleasure website.

There are about 1,000 duplicate club websites, please make sure yours has information on how to learn bridge. If we all did that there would be 600 new sites on the net with information for potential learners. At no cost!

Try to get a couple of clubs to add this information to their home page, and even let me know. I would love to be able to celebrate and measure some success.

How did the five goals for 2024 for the EBU go?

These were set after the November 2023 EBU AGM to address the low public profile of bridge and the aging and declining numbers of players.

1 EBU Member Numbers - Reverse the Decline

Let's see this deficit get smaller in 2024

The total membership of the EBU on 31st March 2023 was 50990. On 31st March 2024 is was 50275. Figures from the 2024 AGM EBU Treasurers Report.

That's a drop of 715.

2 The Annual General Meeting - more open, more democratic

The November AGM was held in a London hotel, but attendees could participate and/or vote via Zoom.

This was a huge step forward.

There were problems with voting. There were problems with sound of speakers in the room being heard by Zoom participants. This probably means that no recording will be published. But these issues can be addressed next year.

3 Updates from Aylesbury - radically improve, energise and push

There was no progress here.

4 EBU Teachers Directory - Landing point for learners

There were about 200 entries in February. With wide publicity, let's double this number in 2024.

In January 2025 there are around 270 entries.

5 Freeze UM - Reduce Affiliated Costs to Clubs

Freeze UM in 2025/26 to reduce financial pressure on clubs.

Despite a windfall improvement on budget from -£15K to +£60K the board recommended a 1p increase in UM. The shareholders voted in favour, although there were at least 11 votes against.

EBU AGM November 2024

Thank you to everyone who supported David Parry and me in the elections for EBU Board Directors in November. We increased our vote on 2023, and a third new candidate also received support.

However, current members of the board were preferred by the shareholders nominated by the EBU constituent counties.

The board is certainly stronger and has more progressive members than at any time I remember.

New, modern, Articles and Bylaws were adopted. Paul Gibbons did an excellent job steering this process. There are now opportunities for the counties to raise binding resolutions from the floor at General Meetings in future.

The substantial minority vote against a 1p rise in UM was encouraging. We do need to support affiliated clubs by reducing the burden of UM. We also reduce the financial shock to unaffiliated clubs considering joining by managing this down.

Although there was a celebration of the amazing total raised for Cancer Research there were questions about the cost of the festival and its impact on the future of bridge.

Engaging with the EBU in 2025 - Goals

What should the EBU goals be in 2025?

2024 Goal number 1: The board has announced its own goal of increasing membership in 2025.

2024 Goal number 2 has been addressed. Hopefully the change will be built on in future.

2024 Goal number 3 "Updates from Aylesbury" etc still needs addressing. The "2024 strategy" tabled at the November AGM includes an aspiration to be more open, but no plan. No director appears to have responsibility for this area. Suggest this becomes 2025 Goal no 2.2024

2024 Goal number 4 was focused on the EBU teacher directory. This was a great step forward because it could put potential learners in

touch with teachers regardless of EBEDTA membership or materials purchased from EBED. We need a new Goal (No 3) about steering learners to teachers, identifying and supporting active learners, and supporting teachers and recognising professional development.

2024 Goal Number 5 on the level of UM. We also need to keep up the pressure on the EBU to manage its costs rather than let them grow and simply pass them on to the affiliated clubs. 2025 goal number 4.

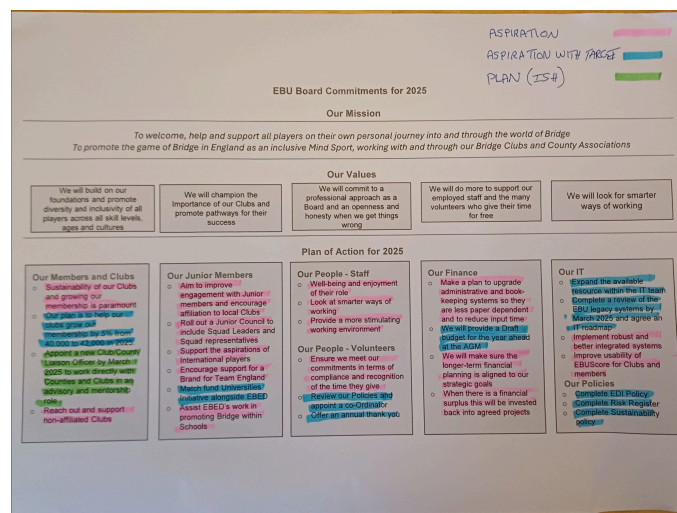
Engaging with the EBU in 2025 - Strategy/Plans

The EBU Board has issued a strategy document: "EBU Board Commitments for 2025".

I can't find a copy on the EBU website, but it may be there somewhere.

I will tabulate the items in the Plan of Action for 2025, most of which are rather vague and attempt to establish who at Aylesbury is responsible for each and how they are doing.

I will also compare it with the document "strategic-aims-2018-2023" so that we can see the progress.



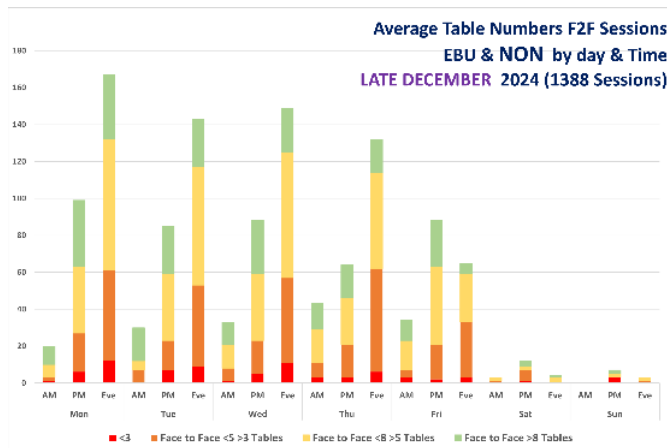
How are clubs doing?

F2F Average Tables

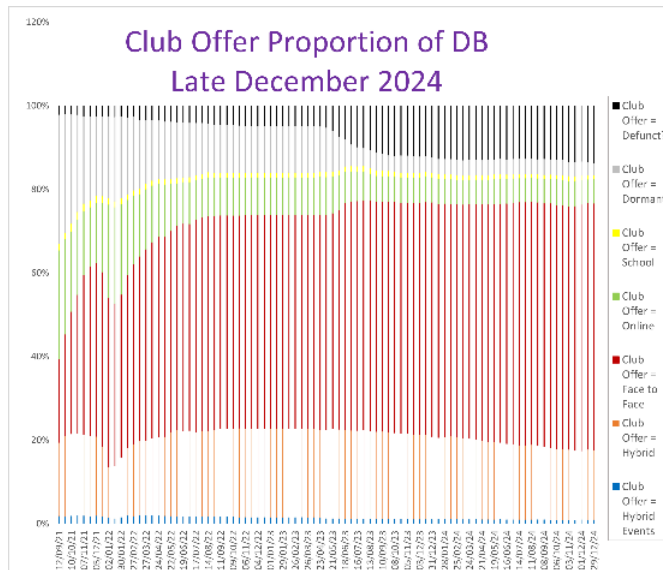
END DEC 24

All Clubs F2F	6.67
EBU Clubs F2F	6.82
Non Affiliated Clubs F2F	6.43
Dedicated Premises	7.24
Shared Community	6.53
Multi Sport Club Section	5.97

Table numbers are down over the last eighteen months.



Here's how face to face and online sessions are distributed across the week.

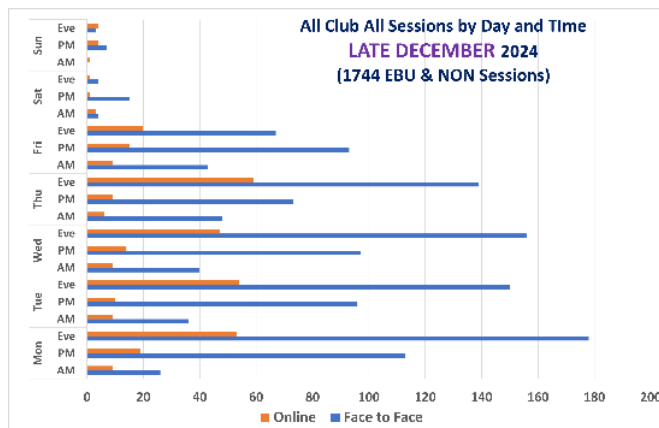


The thin blue band at the bottom represents clubs that offer both face to face and online and combine at least one session into a hybrid result.

Above it, the orange section represents clubs that offer both face to face and online sessions.

Of over 780 (roughly half EBU Affiliated) active clubs the majority are offering only face to face. That's the steadily growing red section.

The green belt above that shows clubs that are only offering online sessions. Most of these are quite small and are unable to persuade their members back into the bridge room.



There's more information here, typically updated once a fortnight.

For Clubs

Items for Your Newsletter

Bridge Club Newsletters can help to keep members informed, interested and helping to run the club.

There are some brilliant examples about.

It can be tricky to find interesting content on a regular basis.

Here's some ideas you are welcome to copy into your club newsletter.

No charge, no obligation, a credit for "Bridge for Pleasure" would be nice, but not mandatory.

If you edit an item, then no credit please, it's your work now ♥

BFP Club Newsletter Item Library

For Teachers

A movement for ten students (or players)

Here's a movement for them.

There's two tables sharing boards so..

the pair sitting out can watch the play as they won't be playing the boards.

Movement for ten students practising

Bridge for Pleasure Teaching Scheme

There is a completely free teaching scheme, hundreds of Plans, Notes, Quizzes, Deals, Commentaries etc at this address:

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridgeforpleasure>

Let's provide chances all over the country to observe teachers in action; practice teaching and discuss teaching with experienced, qualified teachers. Please contact me if you can provide the same opportunity.

Heart of England Bridge Club (Rugby):

heartofenglandbridge@gmail.com

New contributors

If you would like to contribute an item, please send it. Please make it no more than 200 words. Please make it positive, and

supporting the goal of keeping grass roots bridge alive. That will keep elite bridge going.

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To quote the wonderful "Sorry Partner", BE NICE, or we'll call the director.

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