

First Class Bridge Academy

WELCOME TO MID-ESSEX BRIDGE CLUB

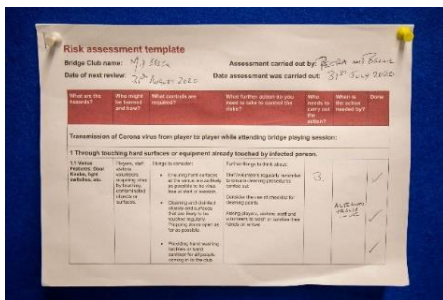
TRYING TO BE THE SAFEST BRIDGE CLUB IN THE WORLD

When lockdown had eased several players were very keen to go back to play at the club, as long as it was safe. We sourced screens, hand sanitisers, gloves and a thermometer. We sought advice regarding contamination of different surfaces, and we now think we have provided a very safe environment where players feel comfortable to start playing in the club again.

Let us take you through our safety measurements step by step:

Booking is mandatory. There is an online booking service on the club's website firstclassbridge.com with currently a limit of six tables. The club at full capacity in its 1,000 sq.ft would have 16 tables. Players are reminded to read the Covid Information on the website before making their way to the club.

The doors are opened only 5 minutes before the event. As players have pre-booked the event is set up the day before, so the director only needs to press one button to activate the bridge mates.



The club has completed a risk assessment form downloaded from the EBU website. The document is displayed on the club's notice board next to the entrance.

On arrival at the bridge club players are advised not to enter if they display any Covid symptoms. After the session a sign asks the players to contact us immediately if they should show any signs of Covid. We keep a list of all players and will contact them immediately should such a situation arise.



On entry you will be met by a club official with a thermometer which will test your forehead temperature. Then you will approach a freestanding foot operated hand sanitiser.

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Your next stop is at the bidding box table, where you collect your sanitised bidding box which you will keep with you during the whole session.

This is how we sanitise the bidding boxes (please remember to take the bidding cards out!). Experience will teach you to open them fully and put them face up, to stop water collecting.



You will be ushered to your table by a club official. You will be asked to stay in your seat and not circulate around the room.



North will have the Bridgmate and will retain control of it for the duration. After entering the score he/she will show the result to East but will press the accept button after receiving approval. At each table there will be a set of boards beside North's seat for all non-arrow-switch rounds.



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As an added feature, because there is a set of boards at each table, we are able to do barometer scoring which players seem to enjoy. As an extra safety measure we have designed a triangle to place on the table and to be retained by the moving pairs.



The boards for the arrow-switch rounds will be collected at the appropriate time by East and taken to the table, and they will retain control of the boards as they are playing the North-South hands. However, the original North will still retain control over the Bridgmate to avoid any possible contamination.

The score is displayed on a 83 inch screen to avoid players gathering around a small screen to view the results.



After the session players are asked to deposit all used equipment on a designated table. Bridgemates and bidding boxes are then sanitised and not used until the following week. We have sufficient resources to be able to provide this level of safety.

Board dealing is done at least three days before the event by a club official wearing gloves while using the dealing machine.



Mid-Essex club is renowned for its catering: the wide variety of teas, coffees and biscuits that is provided is second to none. Due to current circumstances we will now be serving refreshments during a break instead of the usual self-service.

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Another piece of advice would be: leave bin lids open to avoid touching, wash the filters on the air conditioning frequently, doors and windows should be left open.



Our club does not have its own toilet facilities; these are available nearby in the craft village so we cannot advise on this subject. We ask players to sanitise on re-entering the room.

SUPPLIERS:

Screens: large (1360mm*600mm) £276, normal (1060mm*600mm) £221, all 5mm thick, from Design4Print, Viking Way, Canvey Island, SS8 0PB, 01268-510555

Foot operated Hand Sanitiser: £354 from Hygenico (UK supplier), Unit 9-11, Swinborne Court, Burnt Mills Industrial Estate, Basildon, SS13 1QA, 01268-726675

We have custom built tables. Small screens fit a standard bridge table that is approx. 81cm*81cm.

Our table maker has managed to stretch a 36” piece of baize* to its limit, to make a table that measures 91cm*91cm. (*baize is sold by the meter but it still comes in 6ft widths.)

For further information please feel free to contact us:

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