

**District 21 Director's Report**

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July 2021



Face-to-Face (FtF) bridge is returning across North America. As of June 21, there were 804 clubs opened for live games. That is about 37% of clubs that were running games in Feb 2020, just before COVID-19 reared its ugly round bumpy head. These open clubs have been averaging 51% of the tables per month that they averaged in Feb 2020. Some clubs are running at half the usual number of tables, but others have not opened for all the days per week that they ran previously. Either way, we are quite a way from returning to pre-COVID-19 levels. The positive side is that clubs were averaging only 45% of the baseline monthly

tables in May. This trend is a reasonable improvement.

In the meantime, online Virtual Club games have dropped to 82% of tables per month from May to June 2021, and to 63% from March to June 2021. This is possibly due to the increase in FtF games and perhaps also due to people getting outside more and travelling.

Horn Lake (ACBL management) has increased opportunities for more masterpoints in FtF club game by providing enhanced club championship games. They are also lowering the masterpoints for Virtual Club games to 1.25 times the normal, down from 1.50 times. Both measures went into effect on July 1.

There was a Board of Directors (BoD) special meeting in late June where a detailed plan was provided by management for further changes, but a few important points of disagreement remain. Management plans to revise their proposal and present it during the regular Board meeting in mid-July.

A previous vote of the BoD was to accept the Strategy Committee's recommendation of 'robust support' for returning FtF games. Being on the Strategy committee, I have fully emphasized that we should make a strong, effective effort to allow FtF games to prosper.

By the time this reaches you, it will be close to the date for the regular summer BoD meeting, and we should be able to resolve any differences that remain. Rather than going into details of the particulars of the proposal here, it makes sense to wait until the consensus is reached. Look for my report next month.

In the meantime, watch for your favorite club to open, and get out there and have some real fun getting back to Face-to-Face bridge once more.

