



CLIFTON BRIDGE CLUB
Lytham St Annes

Ansdell Institute, Woodlands Road, Lytham St Annes, FY8 4BX

NEWSLETTER NO. 5

SPECIAL EDITION - CORONAVIRUS

Good evening to you all. Given the speed of the developing concerns regarding Coronavirus, I wanted to update you on the actions being taken on everyone's behalf. Firstly, we all have a responsibility to protect ourselves, and each other, by following the Government's guidelines, particularly in regard to self-isolation, and in the event of sickness or return from certain listed foreign destinations.

The Committee has taken a number of actions, that you may or may not be aware of, in an effort to minimise the risks for those attending the Club. These are:

- bidding boxes have all been sanitised;
- bidding cards have all been replaced;
- all playing cards have been replaced;
- bridgemates have been sanitised;
- hand sanitiser is provided at each table;
- tissues have been provided at all tables, in the event that you need to cough/sneeze. Please dispose of any used tissues in the waste bin;
- all hard surfaces have been wiped down with a diluted bleach solution; this includes the stair handrail, coat hangers, door handles, toilet fittings, hand drier, tables, radiators and just about everything else that does not move.

A regular regime of wiping hard surfaces will be implemented. The Committee will review and add to these measures, as required.

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We do, of course, need to maintain a sensible perspective; the number of cases currently in the UK is low, in proportion to the population. For the majority, the virus will be unpleasant, rather than life-threatening. For a relatively smaller proportion, the potential effects could be more serious, so we all need to assess whether or not we have underlying health issues and therefore make appropriate individual decisions.

The bridge room will remain open but we must all work together to minimise any risks over the coming weeks; regular hand washing please; making sure coughs and sneezes are trapped and not released into the general atmosphere; hand sanitise at the start of play and finally, if possible, avoid touching mouth and lips during play.

It is very probable that during the coming weeks, some of our members will choose to self-isolate or worse case scenario, contract the virus, in which case shopping for essential items would be impossible. With this in mind, we have set up a system whereby any member can contact Rob Burnside (07719 100807 or rob.h.burnside@gmail.com), who will in turn arrange for volunteer members to carry out the necessary errands, which include posting of letters, collecting parcels from the Post Office and importantly, collecting prescriptions from the chemist etc. As a Club, we will do our utmost to support you. The supply chain for foodstuffs will function and toilet paper will be available, I'm sure.

The media is currently sensationalising headlines and in my view, the situation is being stoked and all of a sudden, we have hundreds of experts on viruses and what is the correct action but what is clear in my mind is that we cannot suspend normal life for an unknown period - we have to live life.

Finally, please remember what makes our Club strong and this is fellowship and friendship. These qualities are going to be called upon, as we work together to support one another, in the forthcoming weeks.

I look forward to seeing you at the bridge table. Keep healthy.

PETER MAYES
14 March 2020

