

Dear Members

And so I continue and hope I am not boring you! I like to keep the content happy and light as the news from the media is so depressing. Many people I have spoken to, family and friends, have actually enjoyed the experience of lockdown and have taken on the challenge of jobs in and around the home that they have never done before. They have also used the technology in some very interesting ways. But I do know that there are others, especially those living alone, who just wish it was all over despite the recent relaxation. Please do let me know if you are feeling low.

And now, as we move to a new phase with fewer restrictions, we wonder how that will change our mind set and behaviour? My thoughts are set out below

***The stores are now to open – Ho! Ho! Ho!  
We can rush to stand in line to spend our dough  
Do we take the bus, the train or may be the car  
Or carry on walking – it's not too far***

***The jobs are now done and we can relax  
And admire the efforts but look at those sacks  
Disposal to the tip means yet another queue  
Shall I recycle it instead and make something new***

***The garage is empty and the car can fit in  
It all looks tidy, clear and clean as a new pin  
How long will it take to return to a mess  
For my part, I know, I don't even have to guess!***

I have another film titles quiz for you, again with thanks to Liz Puxley. So if you want to test out your knowledge do let me have your response. I still have prizes to give away for the correct answers received.

Film Title	No. of words/letters	Answers
Found in Morocco	10	
Attic	4,2,3,3	
Blown Away	4.4,3,4	
Up above at twelve	4,4	
Rebellion on chocolate bar	6,2,3,6	
All of the British General	3,4,5	
Description of Vivaldi	1,3,3,3,7	
Posh People	4,7	
Ideal film for Houdini	3,5,6	
Short Meeting	5,9	

Our **Online** league is now in its third week of the competition and is running very smoothly thanks to those who give up their time to set up the tables and change them around after the first 12 boards. Don't forget you can log onto our Highcliffe Duplicate Bridge website to follow the progress of the five teams. If you click on the

boards you see the bidding and the play of the cards and, if you feel so inclined, you can even play the boards yourself. I found the hands particularly challenging on Monday evening as I was constantly defending with four, or five points and flat hands. Our team, the Cheetahs, were playing against the Dingos and during play Alan Ponting reminded about the Johnny Cash parody he sent me a few weeks ago. It certainly described, as you will see below, just how I felt. Thank you Alan for making me remember the 'ups and downs' of our special game.

### Johnny Cash (The Man in Spades)

I played online today  
To see if I still feel.  
A "virtual" game, but hey,  
The pain was bloody real.  
My best suits all had holes.  
Opponents made a sting.  
I hoped they couldn't count,  
But they remembered everything.  
What has bridge become,  
My online friend?  
Every game I play  
Goes three off in the end.  
My partner bids to slam,  
Although his hand is dirt.  
They will take me down.  
They will make me hurt

And finally, just in case you did not get to see Bernard Magee's sessions last week, he dealt with '**Overcalling**' and set out the reasons for doing this (apologies to those who don't need reminding):

- Competition
- Lead directing
- Disruption
- Sacrificing
- Spades (we must all love spades)
- Vulnerability
- And over 1 NT opening by the opposition (in first seat with 8/10 points and a good six card suit)

Bernard is setting up a new website as a platform for future Mr Bridge business and encourages bridge players to log onto [bernardmageebridge.com](http://bernardmageebridge.com) to see just what he will be offering in the future to lift the spirits of the bridge community.

That's all for now folks – keep smiling, stay safe and remember **YOUR BRIDGE CLUB NEEDS YOU** (*I am pointing at you!*) when we are able to return to Greystones.

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