

Dear Members

I am not sure how many of you receive the monthly newsletter from the H.C.A. Executive Committee but as a 'belt and braces' approach I have decided to cut and paste their message in this month's edition, as set out below, so that you have the full picture of what is happening to Greystones.

"Quite a lot has been going on since we closed and hence this message to keep you up to date.

Following the EGM at the end of January we applied to the Charity Commission for our new CIO status, we had confirmation at the beginning of May that it had been approved and a new Charity number was issued. The old Charity is still running until we are able to hold an AGM to dissolve it. Having the CIO status has meant that we needed to apply for new bank accounts and to assign the lease to HCA, both of which are now in hand. A new accounts package has also been installed along with the new computers and laptop which had been authorised prior to closure.

We had notification from the council that we had received a further 20% reduction in our council tax which means along with our normal 80% reduction we have no council tax to pay until April 2021. Along with this I had notification of an available grant of £10,000 from Stour Valley Poole Partnership and BCP council, I applied for this and within four days I received a reply saying that the grant had been paid into our bank account.

We had a good look around the building and decided that it needed to be redecorated and as we are closed it would be the ideal time to do it. We also agreed that we do need new curtains (this was looked at last year and put on hold), so having received quotes for this work which have been sent out to your council reps for their agreement, we have now offered the decorating work to Lee Cantrill who has been doing some of our painting for the last 3 or 4 years. The work will be started in July and will take approximately seven weeks which brings us to mid September. We will then have to thoroughly clean the building so therefore that brings us to the end of September. We would like to say thank you to the team from men's shed who have been in this week clearing and preparing the rooms ready for decorating. We have also had the five year electrical inspection, the annual fire inspections and the cooker cleaned so as you can see we are trying to make sure that everything is in place ready for reopening later in the year. Nearer the time we will be looking at what else needs to be implemented to make your return as safe as possible.

You may have heard about the proposed development of the surrounding flats by Christchurch Housing Society, I have been in contact with them and they have said that it will have no effect on us, it is a long term plan and will take about 10 years to complete.

We wish you all a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing you back at Greystones sometime in the future in line with government recommendations.”

So, there is not much more I can say. But in terms of bridge we know and also hear from all those involved with the game that the return to playing club duplicate is more likely to be sometime after Greystones is deemed to be ‘spick and spam’. We will just have to monitor the situation and hope the ‘spikes’ don’t come our way.

But, of course, there is always the thrill of playing on line, as Lesley Lewis describes below.

Bridge During Lockdown

When I teach Beginners, Bridge to play,
One of the things I always have to say,
Is, that even if you are physically disabled,
On line you can play at any table.

I never thought I would have such fun,
Especially when some hands I’ve won,
Playing Bridge with friends from far and near,
Having partners turn into Robots, or even disappear!
It’s such a laugh and makes me giggle.

Invitations to play are issued,
To refuse would be extremely rude.
It’s very exciting playing Bridge online,
Particularly when you find you have lots of time!

Thank you so much Lesley. If any members want help or a push in the direction of this form of duplicate, don’t be shy, let me know

Still on the subject of bridge, my thanks go to Michael Broadey for responding with the Double Dummy solution set out in last week’s newsletter.- ***“With the singleton heart lead, win in dummy with Queen of Hearts, ditch Jack of Hearts from hand, play Ace of Clubs from dummy, ditch King of Hearts from hand, play King of Clubs from dummy and ditch Ace of Hearts from hand, play club from dummy and ruff high in hand and lead a Diamond . You only lose a diamond and the Ace of Spades”***

The origin of the saying Mind your P’s and Q’s’ set out last week sparked an alternative derivation from David Bradshaw, our newest member of the club. He e:mailed me to say that he had heard the saying originates within the printing profession. In the days when typesetting was done by hand, it was apparently quite easy to mix up the similar looking and adjacent letters. Print bosses were regularly cajoling their apprentices to **‘mind their Ps and Qs’**. As David says “this also sounds a plausible explanation”. Thank you David.

As I finish off this 15th newsletter I feel the time has come to relax my lockdown to the keyboard and the 'ditty' compositions and give you all a rest. I will keep you updated once a month with news from the H.C.A. Executive and if ,during the course of each month, any of you have any news you want relayed to the members just e:mail me or give me a ring. Your committee are having a virtual meeting on Zoom sometime next week to discuss the way forward for the club.

In the meantime, stay safe, keep smiling and do stay in touch with one another. I love to hear the phone ring or see someone as they are taking their exercise so let's keep the communication channels open. Bye for now.

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