

Dear Members

Nice to be back with you all again and hope you are coping with the updated regulations that we must adhere to as we move very slowly out of lock-down but nowhere near getting back to playing the game that we all love.

### **What has happened since Newsletter No.15?**

Your committee held a zoom meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July to consider how we should operate in these strange times but more importantly how we might keep you informed and together. My priority is to formalise the committee appointments as the nominations process closed on the day we cancelled bridge and that was how it all came to a halt. As you know, I am just your 'Acting Chairman' having been appointed by your committee to step in to cover in the absence of your elected chairman. In addition our long serving secretary, Phyl, is stepping down after four years of absolute dedication to the job. So given these circumstances and the need to close the accounts we have decided to hold an Electronic A.G.M on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. If there are any other pressing items I am happy to consider them but would prefer to leave the normal A.G.M debate and the original outstanding topics as listed on the 25<sup>th</sup> March agenda until we are able to re-start the club when we will organise a Special General Meeting. I hope you will agree that this is a sensible way forward.

### **How will the Electronic A.G.M work?**

It is important that we conduct the A.G.M as closely as possible to the terms of club's constitution which can be found on our website. We will, therefore, be sending you the formal notice four weeks before the date (there are just a few members who do not have e:mail so they will get this by post or by hand). The agenda incorporating the standard reports will be e:mailed to you two weeks before the A.G.M. At the bottom of the agenda will be the voting arrangements. On the day of the A.G.M I will ask John Lee to circulate my '**welcoming comments**' along with my report, the Treasurer's explanation of the accounts together with anything else urgent to consider. I will then close the A.G.M with a request that you indicate your agreement to the business of the meeting by returning your agenda to the HDBC inbox by the end of that day.

### **On Line Bridge**

The league teams match arranged by Mike Thacker, David Charlton and Su Kensley has just finished and I have to say how much I enjoyed it. Although I suppose, being on the winning team, I would have to say that!!! So with that success behind us we have just commenced another competition and I am pleased to say that although we have lost one or two members from the last league we now have six teams all competing and enjoying the excitement of the challenge on a Monday evening which will run for eight weeks.

Some members have enquired if we are able to organise duplicate pairs on line. There is, in fact, a website where we are able to set up an 'on line' club without cost to the club or to you the members. I would, therefore, very much appreciate hearing if any of you would like to play pairs on line initially once a week. It would work very much like a club night with the results being made available on our website. I can assure you that this method of playing is nowhere near as scary as you may think. So please, if you have a computer or a laptop, why not give it a try. We will be happy to mentor you, talk you through the process and answer your questions.

### **A date for your diary**

We decided to cancel the bridge lunch that was provisionally booked at South Lawns hotel for 2<sup>nd</sup> October as we believed it was too soon to consider such a gathering. However, we have made another provisional booking for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in the hope that things will have returned to some kind normality by then.

We are also racking our brains to try to think of a suitable gathering to meet up with as many members as possible in a social distancing formation. Perhaps a picnic in the Forest, somewhere like Wilverly Plain, where there is suitable parking etc. or would any of you have ideas for an ideal gathering spot. Obviously I recognise any such event would have to be stamped '***weather permitting***'.

### **Membership Renewal**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, no renewals of membership have been possible and remain so until Greystones opens for normal activities. The H.C.A Executive has, therefore, decided to extend the current membership until the end of March 2021.

And finally, we really do want to hear from you whatever your thoughts. It is important that we stay in touch through whatever means we can. So I look forward to being bombarded with your responses and your ideas!!!

Stay safe and keep smiling 😊