

Dear Members.

A.G.M

May I first thank all of you who responded for your lovely comments in your e:mails. It was very heartening to know you have received and read the papers that were circulated and now we have a democratically elected committee to work on your behalf. There was, as you know, a particularly important action to be undertaken and that was to recognise all the work that our retiring secretary had undertaken over four very long years. The photos below represent the flowers and gifts that we gave her to show the club's appreciation. And there was a little surprise for me too.



Your committee met at lunchtime on the day of the A.G.M. We social distanced in the garden and were lucky to have a warm sunny day. But the main purpose for the gathering was to present Phyl Hart with some flowers and a gift for the four years she has undertaken as Secretary.

And then your committee surprised me with a bottle of Prosecco and chocolates from Hotel Chocolat with their thanks for keeping them together - such a well behaved bunch!!!

You may wonder why I chose a summer type hand bag and scarf and it was because I bought the gift in February before lock down expecting to present it to Phyl at the 26th March A.G.M as a lovely summer present. I had to explain this to Phyl but hopefully she will make good use of it next summer.



Wiverley Plain

It was a pity we had to cancel our picnic to Wilverley Plain. The rule of six will undoubtedly force so many planned events to be cancelled and who knows what we

will be facing as we head into the depths of winter. But for the time being we must stay safe, be positive and look on the bright side. For anyone who cannot do this just pick up the phone and call me. A little chat can sometimes work miracles.

Teams League

Mike Thacker has done an amazing job setting up the leagues. The most current one finished on Monday 14th September with a win for the Cheetah's team. I had the pleasure of playing in this team with Mike Thacker, Mike Caruana and my partner Gerald Moore. Gerald left us all last November to move from Milford-on-Sea to the Malvern Hills and as I waved him good bye I really did not think we would ever play bridge as a partnership again. On-line bridge can be described as soulless and without character but I have found it quite the reverse when playing with people you know. And when you add a little competition into the mix it really does become exciting.

Highcliffe On-line Duplicate

Arthur Whittaker has invested much time and effort into setting up our own club and training the directors (David Charlton, Su Kensley, Mike and Thelma Price) on StepBridge. It hasn't been an easy exercise getting sufficient members involved but gradually more are coming on board to make the weekly Wednesday experience challenging. If you have not signed onto StepBridge and would like to have a go do please contact me or Arthur at art334496@gmail.com. I can assure you it is great fun playing in your own club with people you know and the next best experience when face to face bridge is not a club option.

Greystones House

I set out the contents of a recent e:mail from the trustees of the H.C.A

“Here at Greystones, trustees have taken the opportunity to decorate the building, put up new curtains, and employ carpenters to rebuild the reception desk and cupboards in room 1. The building is looking very fresh and bright but exterior building work is needed too so you will see scaffolding and window repairs in the future..

At our meeting last Tuesday, the trustees agreed to send out the attached documents to provide us with information about your groups in order to plan a timetable which will allow for social distancing and alleviate congestion in the public areas. This includes maximum numbers in rooms and staggered start and end times for sections which are incorporated into the risk assessment (sorry, lengthy and involved) required for community associations in line with government advice and legislation. Each section will also need to complete a risk assessment specific to their group.

.....Then on Wednesday came the “rule of 6” for social gatherings whether at home or outside... this will affect us, our opening and what we can deliver in

the immediate future but we have decided to go ahead to produce a revised, temporary timetable for those wishing to return.

Guidance for exercise, including dance, states that social distancing should be observed wherever possible, face to face exercise should be discouraged, fixed teams or fixed partnering should be encouraged and activities should be kept as short as possible.

If your section decides that reopening is not for them, please do not think that you will lose your slot on the timetable in the future – guidance will be changing regularly for a good while yet and we will all have to be flexible whilst individually taking some responsibility for the safety of the members of our very special organisation.”

I have obviously responded to the above that HDBC cannot see anyway that we can return to bridge at the moment but it is reassuring that our slot will still be available when we eventually get back to playing in the building.

And finally – The very last word in my ‘Ode to the unsung heroes’ let me down in terms of language and Colin Christmas called me out with his rhyme as below.

***“Oh Pat you’re so good at making a rhyme
You keep churning them out for time after time.
I can only assume you got so fed up with ‘em
You clanged a great bell to keep up the rhythm”.***

I suppose all I can say in response is that at least Colin read my A.G.M report to the very last word!!!

Not much more to tell you at the moment but if you have some news or possible items that you would like me to include in my next newsletter please do contact me. I would welcome your input.