



Dear Members

With Christmas on our doorstep and the rules now confirmed no doubt you are all busy working out how you can spend those precious five days. You will recall that I mentioned in last month's newsletter that the Committee were organising some fun for Christmas so I hope you will join us if you possibly can. The details are set out below.

The Zoom Gathering on 16th December -. John Lee will send you all an invitation from our HDBC mail box week commencing Monday 14th December. The email will include a link for zoom and will outline the way we will structure the gathering. A reminder invitation will be sent on the morning of the 16th December so please log onto the zoom invitation at around 5.50 p.m. And don't forget to put on your Christmas finery for this very unusual get-together. I want to make the event as special as possible. We also want you to contribute to the gathering so be prepared and pour yourself a glass of cheer and if you are planning something special over Christmas or just looking forward to the festive season then don't be shy tell us all about it.

Bridge fun night on StepBridge Wednesday 16th December at 7.0 p.m. – following our zoom gathering, as set out above, those of us playing on StepBridge will be invited to participate in a bridge challenge similar to that organised every Christmas when we play at Greystones. The details of how this will be organised will be circulated by Arthur Whittaker the day before on 15th December. After the event when Thelma Price, the Tournament Director, has identified all the winners, Father Christmas will deliver the prizes in person ensuring a COVID safe approach i.e hand, face and space!!!

On-line Bridge The eight teams playing in the Monday league on BBO that is midway through the tournament is proving to be an absolute nail-biter for those involved. Similarly the regular StepBridge players who compete every Wednesday night with great concentration are always hoping to find themselves high up the leader board as the game finishes. It is amazing how quickly the results are emailed to each player and then subsequently posted to the website.

User names on line - Many playing on-line have commented that they do not know who they are playing against as they do not recognise the user names. I have, therefore, produced a list of user names on BBO and on StepBridge. You will

find it on our website on the left hand side of the home page under the heading 'News Pages'.

Moving out of Lockdown from 2nd December – I am hoping that I will be able to be with our family for the five day Christmas period but for those who are not so fortunate or are struggling with health and other issues my thoughts are with you and if we can do anything to help do please contact me.

Sad News - Unfortunately I have to include in this newsletter the sad death of Glen Schofield. Some of you know that Glen lived opposite me and had to shield during lockdown because of her health issues. I made contact every week to bring her some shopping and, when restrictions were lifted, went in doors to have a chat with her. Her close HDBC friends also kept in touch with her regularly and I think we all agreed how cheerful she kept during the last eight months. Fortunately her two cats have been re-homed. Her funeral is taking place on 8th December at 1 p.m. at Bournemouth Crematorium. Glen's niece, Janice, asked me to include the detail but also asked you to bear in mind there is a limit of 30 to be accommodated in the chapel. We will all miss Glen at table No 4.

So in closing and reviewing what we have all been through during this very strange year I hope my ramblings and rhymes have enabled me to reach out to you and helped us 'stay together' as a club. The purpose of my newsletters has been to try to keep our club alive as much as possible always with the expectation of better things to come in 2021. Let us hope the roll out of the vaccine jabs will be swift and uncomplicated. For those of you not joining us on zoom I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and I do so hope to see you all in 2021 when Greystones will eventually re-open and we can safely return to the game that we love.

I now leave you with my final ditty of the year:-

My 12 days of Christmas

On the 1st day of Christmas I thought about a tree
And listed all the sites where a **pear tree** I might see
I worried about transportation knowing it to be high
And how was I to get a **partridge** for a tasty pie

On the 2nd day of Christmas I struggled to retrieve
Those precious **turtle doves** under stairs can you believe!
They were wrapped and stored with so much care
As I put them away In January at the start of the year

On the 3rd day of Christmas I had the pastry out to roll
When I discovered the **French Hens** sitting on a pole
With only five days to make merry can we make it fun
I needed to step up the pace and be ready to run

On the 4th day of Christmas the tree was looking fine
I just needed to lay out the lights in a very long line
So, holding my breath I switched them on to view
And found the **colling birds** forming a queue

On the 5th day of Christmas I hoped for better things
As my true love had sent me **five golden rings**
I placed them on the tree with many other glittery toys
That shimmered and shone under the lights with such joy

On the 6th day of Christmas I found the **geese a-laying**
I needed to book a delivery slot to get the eggs a-baking
The presents list was such that I needed to shop on line
But the E.T.A might not give me much wrapping time

On the 7th day of Christmas I found the **swans a-swimming**
They glided around the pond much helped by festive singing
Could I join the carols and enjoy a mulled wine and pie?
But what about the rules and the gifts I still had to buy

On the 8th, 9th and 10th days of Christmas we were almost done
Much progress had been made and the battle all but won
When the **milking maids, ladies dancing and lords leaping**
Put on a show so I told
them the mulled wine was heating

On the 11th and 12th days of Christmas we were ready to coast
But the **pipers piping and the drummers drumming** wanted to host
A special gathering with a finale from us all now we can have fun
Wishing you a very **Happy Christmas** and a COVID free 2021

