



Dear Members

***Ho! Ho! Ho!
I was packed up ready to go
When the PM squashed our fun
And we realised nothing could be done***

This is newsletter No.21 and it was ready to be emailed to John Lee when I had to sit down and rethink my opening verse. ***But, it is what it is.*** So I have packed all the presents, frozen the food that we won't eat and looked lovingly at the bottles that we will, of course, keep!!! Looking back over the last week we must keep telling ourselves how much we enjoyed our HDBC Christmas events.

Our Zoom Gathering - it was so exciting seeing 25 members on Zoom and, from the feedback, I think you all enjoyed seeing one another too. During the time on zoom Colin Christmas treated us to his poetic talent and recited a poem about the user names that we are known by on line. I am setting it out below for all to see –

HBC 2020

***If you go down to Highcliffe today
You are in for a lovely surprise:
Greystones is still shut but the Bridge Club is not,
For Mike our James Bond has a prize.***

***The members join in for a Swiss pair's event,
If the numbers add up we shall smile.
When Hugh gives a Shugg, Joe stops for a Nap,
Then Keith takes a Hike for a while***

***Now Beryl's Bedazzled and Moya's just Friends.
Kate says she's podgy and Brenda's a Benny.
Jasmine goes Backwards and Arthur's not Weekly but Daley,
While Pat sells Rag Dolls for a penny,***

*Then nonsense breaks forth, Lin is Smiling a lot,
Windywoo is a double for Wendy.
Beryl's disguised as Muriel and Sue does a dance called Bobo,
While Gerald thinks Slamming is trendy.*

*Now Christmas is near so the Puxley's bring Trees,
Jolly John gives a wave, Shirley plays in the States,
Two Anns are at hand one playing herself the other is plucking a Cello
Polly Pauline, Stunning Myra are both tempting fates.*

*One day we'll return to the tables of old,
Bidding boxes and shiny white cards
But for now we'll rely on the luck of those cards
To keep us all far from the wards.*

*So Christmas is here in more ways than one,
Bringing hope for a cure in new year -
Raise a glass to ourselves not forgetting our health
To bring happiness, wealth and good cheer!*

Thank you Colin for your fine efforts. And also a big 'thank you' to Keith Kensley for singing us out. He dressed up just like we all did and looked spectacular with the silver glittery hair. Perhaps we can encourage Keith to entertain us again sometime in the future. Given the success of the event the committee have agreed to organise another gathering in the New Year. So watch out for that date.

The Christmas Challenge on StepBridge – Another successful event was organised by Thelma and Mike Price on StepBridge and the task of delivering the prizes was delegated to committee members. Thank you all for taking part. I believe some definitely played to try to gain points even if it meant they failed to achieve an acceptable ranking on the boards! But so what – we all thoroughly enjoyed it and I must relay our thanks to Thelma and Mike for working the oracle back stage.

The On Line Teams League – This tournament, organised by Mike Thacker with help from Su Kensley and Dave Charlton, has been running since 28th September and is due to conclude on 11th January. The eight teams competing are having a very challenging time as it is impossible to predict who will ultimately be the winner. It is just too close to call. My thanks, however, go to Mike for keeping this competition so well organised and reminding us just when we are playing and even what time we have to log on.

A Picture Quiz with Bridge in mind – Attached to this newsletter is a quiz with a difference and one that may well keep you thinking over the Christmas period. I will provide the answers in the January newsletter but if you would rather have reassurance about your answers before Newsletter No.22 is due then do contact our quiz master, Liz Puxley, by email (liz.puxley@gmail.com) .

A final sad note – some of you may remember Wendy Griffiths. She and I joined HDBC together as we had both moved from our respective homes in 2013 to a new life in the south – she lived in Bournemouth so we often met up and continued

our 40 year friendship. Unfortunately, due to health problems, she was not able to drive from Bournemouth to play bridge over the last couple of years and I had a phone call last week to say that she had died. Over those 40 years we played golf together and it was through Wendy that I decided to take up bridge. I will miss her friendship and expect to attend her funeral on 7th January.

And bringing you back to the festive season I now leave you with the last few verses of my ditty. I do hope I can find 'ditty' inspiration in 2021!!!

*Not sure I'm getting ready for Santa
And all the usual Xmas banter
Will it cast away the thoughts of gloom
In the hope I will see you all soon*

*And just to keep us active have no doubt
We are sending you a quiz to work out
Designed especially for us – you'll know
As 'bridge' is the theme so give it a go.*

Happy Christmas from the HDBC Committee

Pat Carruthers

22nd December 202

