

Dear Members

It does seem that the only question on our minds these days is “**when will I have my COVID-19 injection?**” The answer, of course, can depend on ‘*how old you are*’, ‘*if you have any special health conditions*’, ‘*whether you are a ‘front line worker*’ and so on.

Well I would like to tell you about my experience as, given my age – and this is one time you don’t want to keep it a secret - I was expecting to have my injection in the first tranche of the rollout. So as the days came and went -

*I was feeling down and somewhat vexed  
Until at last I received a timely text  
It told me to phone between certain times  
And gave me the number of the enquiry line*

*I set the alarm early to get out of bed  
As 8.30 a.m. was the first time it said  
But would you believe the message on line  
kept telling me to phone back later each time.*

*I dialled and re-dialled for half of the day  
When suddenly I got a human – hooray!  
A date, time and second jab was agreed  
And after that I was so much relieved.*

*The time elapsed and ‘V’ day arrived  
The location was only a very short drive  
I had to report for a 6.15 p.m. slot  
Naturally I was keen to be there on the dot*

*With two clinics marked ‘red’ and ‘green’  
I followed my route keen to be seen  
And joined the queue moving 2m apart  
Until I got to where my slot could start*

*The Pfizer phial was so very small  
The needle so tiny it did not hurt at all  
It amazed me how this very small prick  
Could keep me safe from being sick*

*My second appointment is 12 weeks away  
By then I might have some good news to say  
We must set our sights on what can be done  
Even if Easter will have come and gone.*

*We hope we can gradually get back to our game  
And maybe we will keep some on line the same  
For many it has kept us absolutely sane*

*So the occasional games we may well retain.*

**Monday Night Teams Tournament** - After 14 weeks and a short interval for Christmas and New Year a new name appeared on the trophy!

Congratulations to the **Beagles** (David Charlton, Arthur Whittaker, Shirley May and Sylvia Collyer) who were the winners of BBO Teams Season 3. They did, however, manage to draw out the final result to the very last board of the tournament! Full results of the tournament are on our website.

**Many thanks must go to David Charlton and Su Kensley** who have invested a considerable amount of time and effort making the tournament successful and, of course, to **Mike Thacker** who organised the event.

And, now we commence season 4 and a slightly different format. Eighteen pairs have volunteered for another session of Monday evening excitement. Every week commencing on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February pairs will be teamed up with a different pair to form a team and the VPs won by the teams will be carried forward for each pair until the tournament finishes.

**Wednesday Night is StepBridge Night** - Many thanks to **Arthur Whittaker** for keeping our Wednesday club going and his support team of David Charlton, Su Kensley, Mike and Thelma Price. We now regularly have 7 to 8 tables playing with the results appearing on our website and in the local press. As your Chairman it is very gratifying to see HDBC results appear in the local press alongside the Lymington Bridge Club and Turner Bridge Club results and, once again, we must thank Mike Thacker for regularly submitting these.

**Another Zoom Gathering** – Your Committee had its first zoom meeting of 2021 this week and it was agreed that we would invite you all to join us on zoom on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (St Patrick's Day) @ 6 p.m.** for a little fun. Dig out your green outfits and an appropriate tipple. It will be lovely to see as many of you as possible. So put the date in your diary. Following the Zoom gathering Thelma Price will be organising another of her bridge challenges for all those playing that night on StepBridge. Yet more excitement to look forward to!!!

**Bridge Lunch 19<sup>th</sup> March** – You won't be surprised to know that we have had to cancel this event but have made yet another provisional booking for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. So yet another entry in your 2021 diary as a date when we hope to play f2f bridge.

**Up-date from H.C.A regarding Greystones** - Due to the ongoing COVID 19 situation the Executive have been advised by the Charity Commission that they can delay the AGM that should have been held last year. They will, of course, have an A.G.M when it is permissible to re-gather. Notification of the date etc. will be given to Club representatives when appropriate.

**Another sad loss** – Phyl Hart’s husband, David, lost his battle with cancer when he slipped peacefully away on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Our thoughts are with Phyl who has been by David’s side throughout his long illness.

That’s all for now folks – stay safe and keep smiling.

**Pat Carruthers (Chairman)**

**February 2021**