

Dear Members

One Year on – It was on 16th March last year that I made the decision, backed by the Committee, to suspend the activities of our bridge club as the fear of the Coronavirus took hold of the country, and indeed the world.

We have kept going through this unenviable year with three lockdowns, the misery of not seeing our loved ones and the denial of all the things that we have moulded our lives around. I believe, as a community, we have kept each other sane and now in the coming months need to look forward to planning how we can re-establish life as it was.

Can and when will we return to normal? Hot off the press we have today had a conversation with the Treasurer, Jan Hollowell, of the H.C.A. She told us that, subject to no change to the Boris roadmap, Greystones will open for a few hours each day from 21st June and plan to open full time from 5th July.

.From 21st June H.C.A are encouraging its members to go along and have a cup of coffee and while there will be asked to renew their membership. Once this is complete if members so wish they can have a parking permit as the problems with parking at Greystones have increased during lockdown and H.C.A want to make our return as easy as possible.

You will all receive an e:mail or letter from the H.C.A very shortly confirming the above information.

Renewal Bridge subscriptions –.We will be asking you to renew your bridge subscriptions as we re-start our club. More information will be made available when your committee has had a chance to discuss how we move forward and I will brief you more fully in the next newsletter.

St. Patrick's Zoom Gathering – 17th March @ 6 p.m – I mentioned this event last month and hope you will join us. The programme for the gathering is attached. All you have to do, having downloaded the Zoom App, is put on your 'green' item of clothing and think about a tippie of your choice be it whiskey, Irish coffee, Guinness, Black Velvet, wine or just a cup of tea or coffee. Also have a pen and paper ready for the quiz and just relax and enjoy the gathering. Your invitation will be e:mailed by John Lee on Monday 15th March with a reminder on the day itself. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and if you need any help about downloading Zoom just contact Su Kensley on 01425 629493 or Liz Puxley on 01425 240176.

On-Line Fun Bridge – 17th March @ 7 p.m. – Arthur Whittaker will e:mail all StepBridge players the instructions and the challenges for you when playing the 21 boards on Wednesday night 17th March. All you have to do is download the spreadsheet and complete it (we suggest you do this after the tournament by

checking the StepBridge results) and then send it to thelmajprice@talktalk.net by the end of Thursday 18th March. There will be a couple of prizes - one for the winners and one for the runners up.

As I said at the start of this newsletter it has been an exceptional year and in looking back I owe enormous thanks to my committee who have worked so hard on your behalf. In addition to their committee roles, David Charlton, Su Kensley, and Thelma Price agreed to take on the task of tournament directors for our on line activities. I also appreciate how much Arthur Whittaker is involved in keeping our on-line club going and also to Mike Thacker for organising and orchestrating the commentary around the Monday Teams league keeping us hanging on the edge of our seats until the winners eventually emerge. Thank you all so much. And, finally, what would I do without you all – thank you too for being there for me.

That is about all for now folks but you would not expect me to sign off without my usual attempt at a 'ditty'. So here we go.

One Year On.....

***Can you believe one year has passed
With Greystones shut and restrictions still fast
But now with the vaccine can we set our sight
On planning our lives around the COVID blight***

***We now see the light – it certainly is not near
BUT we have a date you can attend without fear
Just be around for a gathering on Zoom
As Wednesday 17th March will come along soon***

***The idea is simple you have nothing to lose
Download the Zoom App and register to use
Your invitation will arrive by e:mail from John Lee
With full instructions – it is absolutely free***

***My Irish roots will surface that day
What can we do to ensure we make hay
Just log on – I promise you it will be fine
But I doubt my shamrock will arrive in time***

***And when you thought the day was done
Our on line club will have a comp – what fun
So try to celebrate with us if you can
St. Patrick won't mind if you are not a fan!***

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)

1st March 2021



Highcliffe Duplicate Bridge Club

St Patrick's Zoom Gathering

Wednesday 17th March 2021

At 6 p.m.

- ***Connection and Introduction by Su Kensley***
- ***Welcome by Pat Carruthers***
- ***Raising a glass of cheer***
- ***A quiz of 20 questions (have pen & paper ready)***
- ***Singing us out by Chuck Mead and "I ain't been nowhere man"***

