

Dear Member,

The glorious month of May

*They say “**Ne'er cast a clout until May is out**”
Is it the blossom, the month or nought?
Whatever, can we get ready for warmer climes
And dress up to go out in the lovely summer time*

*We have just lost an icon at the age ninety nine
Such fitting tributes paid to a man so fine
An expression of his was '**Just get on with it**'
And that is exactly what we are doing to stay fit*

*The next date in the roadmap is the 17th May
And on that day we can dine inside so they say
Provided we adhere to hands, face and space
To keep us ahead of the coronavirus race*

*We have come this far and must not give in
To the need to embrace our friends and kin
So stay strong and do keep following the rules
As we will be rewarded with a chest of jewels*

*The jewels will be our freedom to get out and about
With the past being memories but without a doubt
The stories of lockdown will remain with us all
So I will tell them “**we were just having a ball**”!!!*

Update from your Committee

We meet every month reviewing the roadmap, canvassing opinions and looking for ideas about the future of the club. Many of you will have no qualms about returning to f2f bridge when we are allowed to do so but there are some members who will be nervous, will want to wait a little longer and those that won't entertain a return at all. That is why we have sent you a **survey** asking for your thoughts so that we can consider the best option overall for all of our members. My grateful thanks go to all members who completed the survey as your responses will help our decision making process when the committee next meet on 13th May.

Highcliffe Community Association Subscriptions

The H.C.A are very keen to collect all your subscriptions. Please can I urge those of you that have not, as yet, paid them to log onto the H.C.A website and go to the membership page. Paying your £10 membership is very straightforward but if you would prefer to pay with cash or cheque the doors at Greystones will be open in the afternoon from 21st June to 2nd July during the hours of 2 – 4 p.m.

Money matters

A very big thank you to all the members who have responded to our 'voluntary

donation' appeal. David Charlton is doing a sterling job looking after our accounts and the donations received so far have lifted his spirits and some of the stress from trying to make ends meet. We will be considering the bridge club subscription when we next meet and your responses to the survey will help us set an appropriate level to stabilise our finances until 30th April 2022. Many of you may not know that every time we meet to play at Greystones we have to hand over our table money to H.C.A as they do, of course, rely on our contributions along with those from other sections to cover their fixed and maintenance costs. So more news on this subject to follow soon.

Zooming fun

Such a cheerful gathering was had by all on Wednesday 21st April and my thanks to all of you who logged on and contributed to the event. We heard about 'Eating Out' experiences, holidays that may or may not happen and staycations where many were not confident about straying too far. It was just so refreshing to share ideas and **see one another!!!**

On Line Bridge

Our Monday league still rumbles on keeping all of us guessing where we may finish on the leader board. Mike Thacker's weekly commentary brings a smile to our face and Arthur's management along with his TD's makes our Wednesday on-line club run so smoothly it is a pleasure to be a part of it unless, of course, you find yourself at the bottom of the results. Then we walk away saying 'what terrible cards we had all night'. BUT it is only a game!!!

However, there was much joy for Colin & Ann (1st) and Jo and Hugh (2nd) in the game played on Wednesday 21st April. It was the usual fun bridge competition that Thelma Price created although some might say if you don't have the points to calculate they don't call it fun. I got quite excited as Pat Butler and I did have points but unfortunately we only made it to joint third position with Liz and Richard Puxley. So no prizes for us.

My Personal Thanks

I really must put on record my special thanks to the Committee. They are a joy to work with all taking on a share of the responsibility of keeping our club alive, not a word of complaint and as I said in my ditty at the start of my newsletter **“We just get on with it”** and hope at the end of this roadmap we will all be together again and enjoying your company.

So that's all for now folks - keep well and stay safe