

Dear Members

Even if sport is not your thing you cannot ignore those that have given us so much entertainment over the last two weeks. Whether it be our football team or Wimbledon there has certainly been some distraction to our daily lives. And with the Open Golf Championship starting this week in Kent and the Olympics starting on 23rd July in Japan the excitement factor for some of us may continue. I apologise to those of you that are not interested in sport and are thoroughly fed up with the coverage.

But aside from all of the above what about our own '**sport**', our '**thinking game**', and where are we now. Although most of the restrictions will be lifted on 19th July the challenge of managing face to face leaves your committee feeling that it is worth waiting until the Autumn. By exercising common sense and proceeding with caution we will feel much more confident about our return to Greystones in September. So – the following are our plans -

***No more masks or space in our lives
Will you be giving each other 'high fives'?
But some will say their mask is key
To keeping them safe and virus free***

***On 13th Sept. we will open up and greet
Even if there are only a few to meet
But we think that getting going that night
Will allow us to judge what we feel to be right***

***The table clothes will be fragrant and clean
The playing cards will be new as a bean
Each table will have a bottle, as you say
To sanitize your hands and keep COVID away***

***There will be change - you would expect
No host system for now we much regret
A partner to play must be down to you
So you have time to contact all you know***

***Our subscription we have set at £6 this year
As we do have commitments we must bear
Two pounds of it must go to the H.C.A
And the rest to others we need to pay***

***We hope to bring Wednesday back in the frame
But it will impact on our on-line club game
A change of night may be something to note
Especially as we will ask you to vote***

Subject to there being no changes to the Government's plans we will initially start the club on Mondays to see how things go.

And on the subject of voting, assuming we return to Greystones in September, we have provisionally set the date of our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 22nd September at 6 p.m.** Please make a note in your diary of this date as there are a number of important decisions that we need your help with. If you want to come along but would prefer to wear your mask that is entirely your choice. You will receive notification of the A.G.M by email on 18th August together with copies of the draft reports that will be placed on the agenda.

Another date for your diary, and one quite soon, is another promised social gathering. I have booked the Terrace in Greystones for us to have afternoon tea on **Wednesday 28th July at 3 p.m.** Do come and join us for a mug of tea and we will provide the cake. It would be lovely to see you and knowing it is just a short walk for many of you I hope this gathering will be the best ever. Even if it is raining we can still sit under our umbrellas and chat.

Assuming it will be safe to do so – we have re-arranged a lunch and bridge at South Lawns Hotel on **Friday 29th October at 12.30 p.m.** This date was rescheduled twice, once before the first lockdown and then again before the second lockdown, so I do hope we can encourage sufficient members to join us to make the event worthwhile. Obviously there will be more information about this in terms of menu choice, cost etc. nearer the time.

Unfortunately I have to tell you of the death of Betty Darby. As I had never met Betty, Hugh Gallacher emailed me to say that Betty and her husband Geoff played on Wednesdays at the club some years ago. I understand they were both very good players usually in the top 3 in the results. Geoff died a couple of years ago and Betty then occasionally played with Julia (her daughter) but in more recent times played local to her home. She was 93 and went into hospital after a bad fall.. Our sympathies are with Julia and the family at this sad time.

Returning to the arrangements that we propose for the return to Greystones should anything change over the next month or two I will, of course, be in touch but in any event I will continue to send out the monthly newsletter.

In the meantime – see you for a 'Tea Time' gathering on Wednesday 28th July.

Bye for now

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)

15th July 2021

Telephone 01425 616312

P.S Please note that the H.C.A newsletter for July/August states that we opened f2f on Monday 5th July. You know that we had to change our plans when the roadmap dates were extended.