

Dear Member

Membership Matters

Where have all our members gone? Before lockdown we had 118 members. We were looking forward to seeing 114 members renew in March 2020 but, of course, membership renewal went by the wayside during lockdown. To date we only have 66 members that have renewed but we are confident that there are many who are intending to renew but have not got round to it yet. So our calculations tell us that approximately 38 former members have not been in touch to renew their membership or made their intentions known to us. I fully understand there are a variety of reasons for such a significant reduction in our bridge club numbers. I presume these could be that -

- Some of you may feel you cannot and will not be renewing your H.C.A and bridge subscriptions;
- Some of you may feel at risk and will, therefore, wait until the COVID virus is fully under control;
- Some of you may have not been able to download the H.C.A renewal form from their website or been unable to pop into Greystones to pay your subscriptions
- Some may have renewed your H.C.A membership but have not been able to attend bridge to renew your subscriptions with us

Obviously we want our records to be up-to-date and would welcome your reply to this e:mail as to whether you intend renewing your membership or not. When we have received your responses we will then be printing a new telephone directory based on our updated records.

- ***And if you don't want to come out and drive in the winter evenings I am sure we could organise a lift for you so please do tell us what you think. We will also be following up this plea by phoning those that have not responded.***

Christmas Events – dates for your diary

We have made a decision to keep our Christmas gathering as simple and COVID safe as possible so we will just be providing mulled wine/red and white wine/juice and mince pies this year. We will also organise some fun bridge with prizes. The dates are as follows

Wednesday 8th December

Monday 13th December

Please make sure you have these in your diary and don't forget to look out your Christmas finery to make the occasion special.

On-Line Bridge

We are currently exploring joining up our 'On-Line' club with the Burley Bridge 'On-Line' club as we are both struggling to have sufficient members to play on line. I will let you have more news about our progress after we meet up with the Burley Chairman and Secretary on 3rd November.

The New Host System

This will be published in December on the website and on the notice board in the bridge room. As the first Monday in January (3rd) is a bank holiday the new host system will commence on Wednesday 5th January. From February we will also be starting up the monthly Teams sessions so there will be no host on all the first Mondays of the month and the Monday bank holidays.

Ladder Pairs

Ladder Pairs will commence in the new year with some changes that will be notified to you in my next newsletter. You may recall (and this was some time ago) we organised a survey asking about your views on ladder pairs. Your responses have been reflected in the changes that we will be proposing.

Bridge Lunch at South Lawn

And a great time was had by all. Super food in a very engaging and friendly atmosphere. It was such fun just being together in a different environment enjoying the company of our bridge colleagues. The teams bridge was ably organised by Cliff Starkey and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Perhaps I should '**come clean**' and say that my team (with Alan and Anne Ponting and Margaret Vatcher) came first so I returned home with a bottle of wine which was such a nice surprise.

I have re-booked the South Lawn for our Spring gathering and that will be on Friday 25th March 2022. If you have a new diary/calendar do please make a note as this event is one not to miss.

That's all for now folks – speak soon

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)

30th October 2021

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