

Dear Member

As we have moved into 2022 we are all wondering what this year has in store for us after the demands of the last two years. Undoubtedly we will still have to manage our lives around COVID.

We welcomed in the New Year by re-starting bridge at Greystones and the host list has helped members without partners to come back to face-2-face bridge. I, for one, felt that I could not sit for three hours to play with a mask on but the love of the game overcame those doubts. So now, from Monday 31st January, with the Government restrictions removed, we look forward to returning to a more normal environment. However, we appreciate that some members may wish to continue to wear masks and that is their personal choice but we hope that all members will now feel confident to come back to Greystones.

Teams on the first Monday of the month – yes we are all set up for Monday 7th February as this will be our first Teams night for two years. The list is now closed so please don't turn up 'on spec' as you will not get to play. The next Teams event will be Monday 7th March. Please remember there is no host on these events.

Ladder Pairs – these ongoing competitions for the fourth Monday and Wednesday of each month is now underway but there is still time for members to sign up provided they have a partner and can pay the £2 each before the fourth week in February. Results will be compiled on both a normal basis and handicapped basis and handicaps have been based on the 2019 full year duplicate results for each individual. The prize pool will be shared equally between handicapped and non handicapped winners but the same pair cannot win both. To qualify for the overall results a pair must have played a minimum of five times by the end of the competition, which will be November, and the results of both the Monday and Wednesday Ladder Pairs will be announced at the December Christmas events.

A date for your diary – Our bridge lunch has again been booked at South Lawn Hotel for Friday 25th March – 12 for 12.30 p.m. The cost will be £28 for a two course meal plus coffee and mints and the menu choice is -

Main Course	Trio of Pork, glazed belly, Sweet Chilli Sausage & Black Pudding Champ Roast Breast of Chicken, Crushed Herb Potatoes, Mushrooms and Tarragon sauce Smoked Haddock, Cod & Leek Pie, Herb & Cheddar Crust Quorn Sausage Toad in the Hole, Mustard Jus
Dessert	Spiced Apple & Almond Crumble, Vanilla Ice Cream Chocolate Baileys Profiteroles Glazed Lemon & Passion Fruit Tart & Raspberry Sorbet

Next month we will ask you to put your names and menu choices on a list in the bridge room and we will let you know how we want you to pay. As usual we will arrange teams bridge after lunch and the cost outlined above will cover prizes and a gratuity to the staff.

My ditty mode – During lockdown I regularly put my thoughts into rhyme so here I go again for the New Year -

The Year 2022

***New Year resolutions – what do you think?
Or do you discard them at a blink
But are they a way of making your time
Happier, less stressed and generally fine.***

***Do you have plans to get away very soon
To make up for the time of stop@home gloom
The joy of meeting up and planning once more
May pitch us into a frenzy of bookings galore.***

***And if instead 'home is where the heart is'
There is so much around us one hears
Delights are many - all of a kind
With bridge the activity of the mind***

***Scheduling an event we may want to celebrate
As 3rd June is the Queen's platinum jubilee date
So are you thinking you want to plant a tree
Keeping her memory alive and as a lasting legacy.***

***My New Year's resolution I will say
Is to concentrate more as I play
To stay alert and remember what's gone
Making sure the tricks I bid are won***

I will now leave it to you all to challenge me when I break my New Year's resolution so I do hope to see many of you returning to Greystones if only to catch me out!!!

That's all for now folks – see you soon

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)
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January 2022