

Dear Member

Living with COVID

Yes - this is our ongoing challenge as the pandemic is not over. But my task as your Chairman, along with your committee, will ensure we continue to exercise our duty of care to you, the members. Space and ventilation remain important and with the Omicron variant still around I must ask you to remain vigilant and stay@home if you are not feeling well.

Ladder Pairs

When we return to Greystones next Monday (28th Feb) Ladder Pairs will happen as scheduled on that night but the Wednesday Ladder Pairs for February is rescheduled to Wednesday 2nd March. In addition, we hope the March Ladder Pairs will be able to take place as normal on the 4th Monday and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Bridge Lunch Friday 25th March

We will be closing the list next week so for those on the list please note that your payment of £28 must be made by latest Wednesday 16th March. Details of how to pay are available in the Bridge room where it states you can pay by bank transfer, by cheque or in cash. If anyone at the last minute has to cancel I must be contacted immediately. Please bear in mind that dropping out after Monday 21st March will mean that the money cannot be refunded as final numbers will have been passed to the hotel.

On Line Bridge

Those of you playing on StepBridge on Thursday evenings will know that a charge was to be introduced as from 1st March but this has now slipped to Sunday 13th March. Your committee recently discussed this change and has decided to discontinue the club's involvement with New Forest Online club on the basis that we are now playing face-2-face and the management of yet another weekly bridge event would place undue pressure on our committee. The on line tournaments were an extremely important part of our lives during lockdown and much thanks must go to Arthur Whittaker, David Charlton, Su Kensley, John Lee, Thelma and Mike Price for their role as tournament directors. They have given a significant amount of their time to making this tournament a success. For those of you who might want to continue to pay to play I believe the Burley Bridge Club will offer the opportunity for you to do so.

Charity Bridge

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we have decided to organise a charity event in June combining the celebration with a bridge tournament where we have a trophy to award. We will let you have the date and details nearer the time.

Do you prefer Sitting North/South or East/West?

As we have had many requests to let members choose whether they sit North/South or East/West, we will tell our hosts that, *for a trial period*, as members arrive for bridge they will not be given a card. Anyone without a parter will wait in the lobby as usual to be partnered up. We will review the outcome of this arrangement after a suitable period of time.

Teams Monday 7th March

We need more names for the above Teams event. So if you have not put your name down with your partner please add it to the list on the clip board next week.

New Telephone List

The list will be printed very shortly when we will make copies available to all members.

Kitchen Closure

Please note that the kitchen will be closed for alterations between Monday 28th February and Thursday 3rd March. If you need a drink during the evening it is important that you bring your own.

And finallymy closing remark considers how our lives have been changed to adhere to the restrictions placed on us over the last two years. Now we may have the freedom to think about returning to those pre-lockdown days but do think about the risk of that virus that has not yet gone away.

I was very amused to see the caption under a cartoon in one of the daily papers -

"I'll miss the free COVID tests. We do one every day because we find Wordle too difficult"

I have to admit I started doing Wordle this week and have become hooked. It is the first thing I do when I get up in the morning. Yet another brain game which will probably attract a charge at some time in the future!

That's all for now folks – hope to see you Monday and Wednesday.

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)
Tele: 01425 616312

26th February 2022