

Dear Member

It's that time again when I have to focus on the business of our club and bring a sense of unity to us all to reflect on the past and think about the future.

The A.G.M

We would like to have your company on Wednesday 4th May @ 6 p.m. to elect your committee and for you to have your say about the running of the club.

The Notice convening the meeting will be sent to you on 6th April along with a nomination form for you to use in the event that either you or one of your member colleagues would like to stand for a vacant position. Nominations close on Wednesday 20th April after which you will receive the Agenda, Minutes of the previous A.G.M, a Financial Statement of the Club's accounts and a list of those formally nominated to stand for committee.

As I am sure you know our constitution stipulates that all Officers and Committee Members must retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election but no member shall serve as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer for more than **three consecutive years**. In terms of the Officers, the Treasurer, David Charlton, must stand down as well as myself and we are not eligible for re-election. In actual fact I have only been your Chairman for 2 years but was your Acting Chairman for a number of months during 2019 before I was formally elected at the A.G.M that year. It might be strange for me to say this but, after my initial induction and realising I was in it for the long haul, I have enjoyed being your Chairman. I feel I have made many friends through the club and hope that you have gained some pleasure from the way we have kept the club going through some very difficult situations.

If the club fails to attract a nomination for Chairman then I will be happy to stand for **one** further year provided you, the members, agree to support a special resolution which will be dealt with at the A.G.M.

Platinum Jubilee Event

We want to organise something as a tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life for our country. So we have decided to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee event on the evening of Wednesday 1st June. More details about this will soon be available but in the meantime please put the date in your diary. We have chosen the date as we know many of you will be celebrating over the Jubilee bank holiday so hopefully you will be free to come along to Greystones and enjoy our fun together.

Renewal of subscriptions for H.C.A

This will happen towards the end of April and further details will be made available in the H.C.A newsletter to be published at the beginning of next month. We will not be collecting bridge subscriptions until after the A.G.M. Please bear in mind that we cannot collect your subscriptions unless you have first renewed your membership with H.C.A

Hosting and the distribution of score cards

You will be aware that we have been trialling a system of letting members select their seating position whether it be North/South or East/West. This is a topic where *'we can't do right for doing wrong'!!!* But I promise you it causes more angst than COVID. A few of our members have real problems with mobility and cannot move between the tables so quite naturally they need to sit North/South. The system of asking members to select a card

was always the responsibility of the host and they all tell me it really doesn't work – selecting a random card invariably causes problems for those who need to sit North/South. So we will continue to let members choose their own sitting position and keep reviewing the system. As the Director agrees the movement it sometimes means, especially with half a table, that members will be asked to leave their chosen table and sit elsewhere. I am, therefore, hoping that members will happily support the Director when this happens.

While on the subject of running the club I would like to thank those members who regularly arrive early to help set up and stay behind to put everything away. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. And as we think of the forthcoming A.G.M if you feel you have the skill to assist the smooth running of the club please do approach me. In my view I think we are the envy of many bridge clubs and to retain our reputation we need to keep you thinking about how you might contribute to the ongoing management of the club. Perhaps some of our newer and younger members might like to help us out. And on that note I swing into ditty mode -

*Is anyone going to volunteer
To assist their club that is so dear
We really want you to believe
You have skills that we need*

*We try to keep the tasks smart
Needing not all but just a part
Of your time to help the team
That is trying to deliver the dream*

*My plea does not apply to some
But others may think it fun
And with the Kitchener finger on cue
“Your Bridge Club needs you”*

While I was trying to find a topic for the ditty I was watching the Six Nations Rugby, thinking about the Cricket Test series in the West Indies, wondering how my favourite football team was progressing up the league table and even switching on to the golf in Florida. But my mind kept coming back to our club realising that it is not always about winning but the way we enjoy being together irrespective of where we finish in the results table.

That's all for now folks – stay safe, stay happy and let us together continue to make our club the best place to play and enjoy our game.

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)

01425 616312

21st March 2022