

Dear Member

I am pleased to say that after my break in Italy I am very much looking forward to joining you all on Monday. So now I am in 'update' mode with this newsletter.

**The A.G.M** – thanks to the forty two members who turned up on 4<sup>th</sup> May and gave me their vote to continue as the Chairman for another year. I promise my priority will be to ensure you are in a position to elect a new Chairman next year.

I would like to welcome Alan Ponting to the Committee as our new Treasurer and thank David Charlton our outgoing Treasurer for all his hard work during the last three years. Another new face to our committee is Michael Caruana and we look forward to working with him especially with the crash courses for possible new bridge players. Attracting new members is a priority given our reduced membership and one of our initiatives that Liz Puxley is pursuing involves the placing of small adverts with local clubs to promote our crash bridge courses.

You may not be aware that our website has been managed by Hugh Gallacher over very many years and he is now handing over the task to Michael Price. So thank you Hugh and we look forward to working with Michael to ensure the website is up-to-date and projects the club as a friendly place to enjoy bridge.

**ELECTRONIC SCORING** – And if the website is not enough Michael Price has volunteered to take the lead on Electronic Scoring with David Charlton, Hugh Gallacher, Su Kensley and John Lee as they explore the options to introduce a suitable system for the club. Regular updates will be available in my monthly newsletters and we look forward to embracing technology to reduce the burden of manual scoring. Our thanks go out to Michael and the team for taking on this task.

**HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS** – The task of putting the host list together is extremely time consuming especially given the reduced numbers we have currently playing. Jo Phillips undertakes this task and has done so over the last couple of years but since the system was reintroduced in January she has been contacted a number of times to sort out replacements as people are unable to undertake their host duty. I must now remind you all that your membership of the club is dependant on you undertaking hosting duties as per the list produced. If other commitments mean you are unable to fulfil your obligation on the date allocated **YOU MUST ARRANGE TO CHANGE IT WITH ANOTHER MEMBER**, advise Jo and make the change on the list that is displayed in the bridge room. It is not Jo's responsibility to find someone to fill in. So in terms of future planning please e:mail Jo if you are going to be away any time between July to December as she will putting together a new host list at the end of next month. Jo's e:mail is [phillips\\_joanna@hotmail.com](mailto:phillips_joanna@hotmail.com)



**JUBILEE EVENT – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – We would like you to join us to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee Event. We ask you to arrive at 6 p.m. for jubilee drinks and nibbles and then we will have some fun bridge following our refreshments. We plan to decorate the room appropriately and hope you will find some blue/red/white to wear to demonstrate you are in tune with the celebrations. The fun bridge will be based on similar lines to the games we played at Christmas so some appropriate small prizes for the winners. Our thanks must go to Thelma Price for organising this.

This is an event not to be missed so we hope to see as many of you as possible but please note there will not be a host available on this night.

**And finally** – I cannot leave you without the usual ditty and at this point I return to the thoughts of my trip to Italy -

*We flew from Gatwick to Pisa in Italy  
And travelled south through Tuscany  
Our train took us as far as Follonica  
A sea-side venue opposite Elba.*

*From there we were driven to a place  
named Gavorrano our home and base  
We had exceptional weather for May  
And really enjoyed the peace of our stay.*

*Defining the landscape were tall Cypress Pines  
With the olive trees spread in simple lines  
This time of year it was so pleasing to the eye  
Seeing the red poppies with their faces to the sky.*

*The thirty olive trees within our surrounds  
Need harvesting to bring the olives to the ground  
Sufficient water and sun in addition to the toil  
Is required to turn the crop into top grade oil.*

*With 30 hens we woke up each morning with ease  
So eggs for breakfast were always 'yes please'  
Four dogs and two cats kept strangers at bay  
And the two small horses were happy with hay*

So now back to reality and looking forward to seeing you next week.