

Dear Member

I thought it was about time for me to get into briefing mode again as the great summer we have had has dried up my brain. But I am oiling the works and hope I can get you interested in the events we have planned starting with our Charity Teams tournament.

**Charity Teams Result** – we had seven teams competing for the shield on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. For the first time we undertook a seeding exercise on the pairs that had signed up as a way of levelling up the skills in the club. As there was a shield to be presented to the winning team this was considered a fairer way of getting a result. And never did I think I could be in the winning team as my bridge skills have been somewhat missing during my time as your Chairman. In fact, for the first nine boards my partner and I were so depressed because we had so few points every hand. But Pauline McKay and I suddenly found our form and got going. The result for our team (Mike Thacker, Hugh Gallacher, Pauline McKay and myself) scored +47 to finish top with the nearest team in second place scoring +20. My thanks go to Michael Broadey for organising the movement and directing and to David Charlton for the seeding exercise and I can promise you I had no input into this at all.

But the big success of all was the donations we received during the Teams evening and those given by some of our members before the event for our nominated charity – Cancer Research MacMillan Caring locally. We raised just under £200.00. My grateful thanks go to you all for your generosity.

**Bridge Lunch at South Lawn, Milford On Sea – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

We will shortly be asking you to sign up with your partner for the above event. The cost has been kept the same as last year (£28) and the menu choices are: *Main Course*

- Marinated Slow Cooked Beef Steak, Braised with Tomato, Rosemary & Cumin with garlic mash potato
- Roast Breast of Chicken wrapped with pancetta, fondant potato, Mushroom and Tarragon Sauce
- Fillet of Bass, Crushed Herb Potato, Choron Sauce
- Brie, Roasted Cauliflower & Leek Tart, Spinach, Cheddar Sauce & new potatoes

*All served with a selection of seasonal vegetables*

*Dessert*

- Sticky Toffee Pudding, Vanilla Ice Cream
- Red Berry Mille-Feuille, Clotted Cream Ice Cream
- Chocolate & Baileys Torte, White Chocolate Ganache

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*Freshly brewed Coffee and Chocolate Mints*

**Electronic Scoring** – I am pleased to tell you that we are about to acquire the equipment to install the new scoring system and to thoroughly test it before we train you to use it. One of the key aspects of the system is to give every member a unique number that will be used to log onto the system. When logged in the screen will identify the member by name. A feature of the system, once we are up and running, will allow members to check the boards played showing all the four hands on each board, the bidding and how the result was achieved. This is so useful when you want to check out your play.

So there will be much to say as we move on to installing the system – nothing to be feared and so much to gain. Can I ask all members when coming to play to bring their membership card with them so that we can check that our records are correct and up-to-date before issuing their unique number.

**Christmas Events** – as last year we will be organising our usual Monday and Wednesday Christmas fun. The dates are Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please put these dates in your diary and organise a partner as there will be no host for those dates.

Having just heard the sad news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen I will stop here for a time of reflection and dedication to a great woman and icon.

Pat Carruthers (Chairman)

8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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