

Dear Sugarloaf Members,

I hope all of you are keeping well and safe in these awful times for our country. It is a very strange and sad time too for our bridge centre and I am sure all of you are missing it dreadfully. However we were informed this week that no other bridge club has opened yet in the entire country, so we are not alone with this dilemma. No doubt you are aware that the Board of Directors in the centre has worked very hard and gone to a lot of expense to put protocols in place for a safe reopening. In fact it was hoped that the centre would reopen from September 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Sugarloaf committee has considered the reopening of our club at this time but it is with regret I must let you know that we have decided against it for the moment. Case numbers nationally are still very high and rising. Government advice is urging all of us to limit our contacts. It is my hope that the present restrictions will result in reducing case numbers in the near future to a very low level and of course we will keep the situation under review. There will be no such thing as zero risk for the foreseeable future but if the situation improves nationally and we work together to observe the mitigating protocols the board has put in place, hopefully we will be able to enjoy our bridge again.

As I write, I am unsure as to what decision the other clubs in our centre have made. It may be that they have decided to open. If this is so, and if you feel confident enough, I hope some of you will enjoy face to face bridge this month. Many of you I know are members of several clubs so this may be possible for you. I am aware that some of you have been playing on line with the virtual club started by Joe Dempsey at the beginning of our lockdown. I don't think it is envisaged to continue with this arrangement when the centre is open. However, if it the case that most clubs do not reopen this month, then we will make a request to Joe to consider extending virtual play for the time being. This of course would be entirely at his discretion. Otherwise I hope you are all maintaining your valued Bridge friendships in a variety of other ways.

I sincerely hope I will be writing to you with better news reasonably soon, but in the meantime, I wish you all good health and everything good and positive to help us get through this time.

All my very best wishes

Anne Condren