

## CHELMSFORD BRIDGE CLUB

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019-2020

It hardly seems a year ago since I took over as Chairman of Chelmsford Bridge Club. With so many long serving members and extremely competent bridge players I faced the task with some trepidation. Thankfully with the support of the committee and the wider membership I must say it has been my pleasure to serve the Club.

Firstly, I wish to give my sincere thanks to our committee and, in particular, Anne Segal as Secretary and Julie Payne as Treasurer and ,more lately, Daphne Hunt who has done great work with the IT.I am also very grateful to Audrey Hartley and Richard Eason for their advice and assistance throughout the year.

We started the Year with the normal competitions and completed four of those as noted in the Appendix. On the social side we had enjoyable evenings raising money for Children in Need and a fun night at our Christmas Party. In addition to our normal club night at the Falcon Bowling Club, we spent several weeks teaching bridge to schoolchildren in Halstead and Billericay and my thanks go to all of the bridge buddies who helped make it possible. Ted Cockle set up a Monday morning bridge session teaching and helping beginners to develop their skill; hopefully this will be a seed bed for future members of the Club.

Regrettably Covid 19 came along and put paid to our normal way of playing bridge. We started to use BBO which has proved to be a very effective substitute enabling members to play from home using the internet. This has proved to be very popular and we now run sessions on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday . We have temporarily suspended the Friday session due to lack of support. We have been fortunate to have a number of new players join us and they have been made temporary members of the Club. The new Club year starts in September and the new annual subscription will be fixed at £2 for all and it is hoped that the new temporary members will join the Club. Julie has done tiring work collecting the "table" money from all the participants.

We think that the use of BBO will be with us for the foreseeable future or, at least, until there is a vaccine available. In addition, I believe that even when life gets back to normal there will be a place for playing bridge using the internet.

I wish to conclude by saying that I hope you have all enjoyed your bridge in the last year and that we can continue to develop the Club in the year to come.

Valdie Poter

Chairman