

Chairs' Remarks AGM 2020

It is hard to remember we had 4 months of normal club bridge since the last AGM. It has been a very difficult year. There has been no live bridge since March, with no prospect of live bridge yet. Everything has gone on line, including this AGM.

However, we do have on line events now up and running. We have Club nights on Wednesday, regular rounds of teams matches, just entering the next round, and Club competitions are just restarting, with the Claret Cup last week attracting 7 tables, and the Open Cross Imp pairs scheduled for 7th December. Dave Smith has worked extremely hard to get the on line events going, we owe him a huge vote of thanks. His efforts, skill and determination have got the virtual Club into existence. So heartfelt thanks to Dave for all he has achieved.

I am acutely aware that only just over half our membership play online. I would like to encourage anyone who is not playing on line to try it. We miss you and want to assist in any way we can to get you playing again, as there is no realistic prospect of live bridge for a good while yet.

John Whiteside is retiring as Treasurer. I would like to propose a vote of thanks for all his work. He has been a stalwart Treasurer and committee member, reliable, utterly dependable and quietly capable. Thank you so much John. Christine Brierly is also leaving the committee, thanks to her too. Graham Eele has stepped forward and will be our Treasurer now, and we are most grateful to him for taking it on.

6 months after live bridge had to stop I rang round the membership and managed to contact 90% of people. I was really encouraged by the conversations I had, lots said how much they missed live bridge and they would be very keen to return once it is safe to do so. I

intend to repeat the exercise in March next year to try and stay connected and keep members informed.

I am convinced we will reopen for live bridge at some point again. In the meantime we will continue to do what we can to keep the Club alive and kicking!