



CHAIRMAN'S INTERIM AGM REPORT

April 2020

Firstly, a note of explanation. Because of the national lock-down due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we are unable to hold our usual Annual General Meeting in May 2020. Instead, we are proposing a deferred date of **Monday 21 September 2020**, and hope that we will be able to hold the AGM then.

In the meantime, it did not seem right that our membership should not be aware of the current state of affairs in the Club, and so I am writing this interim report, and have also asked Will Pavry, our Treasurer, to publish the annual accounts to date to the website with his report. Please note that these accounts are subject to the approval of David Price as the examiner.

2019/2020 has been an interesting year hasn't it? Who knew back in May last year that our landscape would be so very changed within 12 months, and looks as if it may stay that way for some time to come?

In the early part of the year we held all of our usual competitions and events. Clare was represented very well at events across the County in competitions and matches. We were able to hold our annual Andrew Robson day, which was another great success and made our Treasurer very happy as the funds from these events support the other events we run.

Shortly thereafter, Coronavirus hit us and we had to make difficult decisions for the Club. One of the hardest decisions I have made as Chair was, with the support of the Committee, to suspend the Club - although that decision would have eventually been taken out of my hands, with the benefit of 2020 vision I am glad that we made that decision when we did.

So, there are, as always, some particular thank you-s for me to make here:

Firstly, I want to thank all the members of the Committee. They do an immense amount of quiet and unseen work on behalf of the Club, not least supporting and steering the Chair, and I would like to put on record how grateful I have been and am for their care.

Secondly, I would particularly like to thank Jenny Price and Cleopatra Hensby who have and are doing everything they can to enable and encourage us all to play bridge on-line. I am sure that there are many of us in the Club who never thought to explore on-line bridge, it certainly hasn't been something for me, and so I am grateful that there are individuals working hard to support play in this way. Currently we are also working on establishing our own club events on-line, as I emailed everyone a few weeks ago, and this week we hope we have taken a step further towards that.

Thirdly, I would also like to thank the Suffolk Committee for the way they have made every effort to support ongoing bridge in the County and to support and advise the Clubs. I believe that their leadership has been exemplary during this very strange time.

Finally, a plea to all our members – Stay safe, keep in touch, let us know if there is **anything** that we can do to help during this time, and I am looking forward to seeing everybody at Clare on a Monday night, just as soon as the situation allows.

Sarah Farr
Chair, Clare Bridge Club