

## Chairmans report

As last year the Chairman's report has been published in advance of the AGM and pre-circulated to everyone who has registered in advance to attend the AGM. There is a lot of information in the report, including the list of the winners of SCBA competitions, today I would like to highlight six themes which run through the report.

**The bridge landscape:** After two years of mostly on-line bridge for many of our players, without much face to face bridge, it is clear that the bridge landscape has now changed; many of our customers, who before Covid played mostly face to face bridge, are now looking to play a mix of on-line and face to face bridge. This creates many challenges, and of course opportunities both for the county and for its clubs, and also for national bodies.

**Communications:** to understand and meet those challenges dialogue is essential: the county committee is always keen to stay in close contact with members, clubs and national bodies. During the year we surveyed all our members to get their views on a range of subjects, including competitions, we held a meeting with all affiliated clubs, we have stayed in contact with a number of unaffiliated clubs and we have played an active role in inter county and national fora. The website remains a key tool for sharing news on a wide range of SCBA events and issues. The feedback is vital as the county reviews the services it offers and how to deliver them.

## Honours

During the year Malcolm Carey, one of the founding members of the SCBA, became the first member of the SCBA Committee ever to receive the EBU's Dimmie Fleming award for services to bridge over many decades. David Price, a former Suffolk County Captain, received a Diamond award from the EBU for sustained success at National and International level

## Good byes

David Price passed away during the year and will be much missed. Three of our clubs ceased activity during the year, and we bid them a fond farewell, Ipswich Hospitals, Sudbury and Deben. Five of our SCBA Committee members, myself, Peter Bushby, Roger Tattersfield, Jill Tattersfield and Malcolm Carey are stepping down from the Committee, although several will continue to support the county in various ways

## Gratitude

We thank those who are stepping down from the Committee for their years of service; we thank those who are continuing to serve on the Committee; we thank those who are about to join the Committee; we thank the many members of the county who work so hard both for the county and for all its clubs and teachers. We thank the Sudbury club for its generosity in donating all its bridge equipment to the county and to other clubs. We thank the Deben club for donating the proceeds of winding up their club, a sum of nearly three thousand pounds, to the county; these funds will be used to encourage more people in Suffolk to play bridge, in a series of initiatives which we have named the Deben project.

## Innovation

Using feedback from members, looking at attendance figures and factoring in the new bridge landscape the competition mix has been and will continue to be reviewed and developed. Fairly recent additions to the mix include the Online Teams League and the Bah Humbug, a new innovation in the next season will be an SCBA golf day. I will conclude by handing over to Jacks Morcombe, who will say a few words about an innovative initiative linked to the Deben Project, involving Suffolk libraries. After we have heard from Jacks we will then move on to next item on the agenda, the SCBA accounts.