



Chairman's Report 2020

It is a strange way for us to be holding our AGM by Zoom, especially for me as my computer does not allow me to join the call by video, so although I can see and hear you, and hope you can hear me too, I know you cannot see me, for which apologies.

It is also a strange time to be holding our AGM. It should have been in April, but we decided to defer it until we could all meet again in person, but the sad and unexpected death of Barbara has made a meeting now essential. The Club must have a Secretary and with Liz Cable and me having already announced that we are standing down from the Committee there simply are not enough remaining members of the Committee to reallocate Barbara's roles.

Of course Barbara was so much more than our Secretary. She provided a vital energy to the Club which will be difficult to replace and her untimely death has denied us the opportunity to thank her properly for all that she has done for us over so many years. She will be sorely missed on many levels.

Important although Barbara's contribution has been nothing is ever achieved in isolation, and it is a vital part of my role as Chairman to acknowledge the contribution of everyone who has allowed the Club to operate throughout what has undoubtedly proved to have been a difficult year.

I could start to try and name them all but I'm sure to miss someone and cause offence. The role of some is obvious when they are on the Committee, so I will thank all who have served with me over the past year; Colin, Davina, Joan and Liz.

The role of others is obvious when they step into the limelight as directors and scorers, and I thank them also. We can certainly always use more of those. But there are also less visible but equally vital roles such as ensuring that there is someone to open and close the hall, ensuring we have dealt boards to play and records to peruse and ensuring that all of our IT issues are resolved. In total we have had a team of over 20 members who have taken on one or more of these responsibilities. You know who you are, and I thank you all. But in today's world it is IT that is so vital and where as a Club we are critically dependent on John Spiers. He more than anyone else would be delighted to see others step forward to learn more about what needs to be done and take their share.

Our 2019/20 year seems but a distant memory, but we actually only lost 5 planned sessions to coronavirus.

My focus as Chairman was to try and increase our membership and we decided to supplement our Autumn taster sessions with printed flyers that committee members and others distributed widely through letter boxes and in community buildings. Again we are indebted to Barbara, this time for the imaginative artwork, and we were able to welcome 5 new members during the year.



It is also customary at the AGM to present our trophies, and whilst I cannot do so this year in person I can announce the results of our two competitions.

The Wilson Trophy – awarded to the individual member with the highest average across their 20 best scores during the year, subject to playing a minimum of 30 sessions:

3rd – Elizabeth Copeman with an average of 61.96%, narrowly beating Mary Forristal who averaged 61.65%

2nd – Ashok Parikh with an average of 62.31%

1st – John Spiers with an average of 63.81%

Overall it is the same three members who occupied the three top spots in 2019. It is only the order that is reversed.

The Redmen Trophy – awarded to the top scoring team in our winter teams competition. Again there were only 4 teams taking part and the winners were Viv, Elizabeth Yuki and Jacqui, with a 46 – 40 margin over last year's winning team of Wendy, Iris, Hilary and Joan.

It will be for a new committee to take the Club forward in these uncertain times but I know that they will want to see everyone playing face to face again in Busbridge as soon as it is considered safe to do so. I look forward to seeing you then.

David Pearmain
Chairman