**2019/2020 Presidents Report**

It was an unusual start to the year as we had an unexpected change in Presidency from June. The elected President chose to stand down due to unforeseen circumstances.

I was very honoured to be approached to step in, having done the Presidency role before, but with no time to prepare, my aim was to continue the good work that had been done in prior years and have a period of stability.

It is with thanks to a great team of council members to support, that I feel in the circumstances we have had another good year and have served our members well. We have provided a varied CPD programme, our flag ship event was held at The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Centre in Bury in February where we were given a tour of the facility and an informative session on cause and spread of fire. This was to be followed in March by a session on Fire Risks Post Grenfell, which has been postponed due to the threat of Coronavirus.

We have continued to support the CII’s objective of promoting careers in Insurance and have built strong links with our colleagues at BIBA to help us achieve this. We are now working with more local schools and colleges and have represented our industry at more careers events, with more planned for the forthcoming year.

We are proud that we have been able to continue to facilitate an exam centre in Bolton ensuring our members do not need to travel far to sit their exams.

Our Annual Dinner was held at the University of Bolton Stadium on Friday 7th February. There was some apprehension earlier in the year if the venue would be open which delayed the advertising of the dinner and other than a small mix up with the starter, was enjoyed by circa 250 guests. We maintained the ticket price at £40 a head and did make a loss on the dinner. Our guest speaker was Justin Moorhouse who held the room and was well received by guests. We have received a lot of positive feedback about our dinner and praise for sticking with tradition and maintaining professionalism. On the night we raised over £3,000 (including gift aid) for the Insurance Charities through donations in return for being entered into a prize draw. Thank you for the prizes kindly donated by some guests. Unfortunately, our new raffle drum purchased for the event did not arrive in time but we are looking forward to showcasing this at our next event.

As part of the role of President I have attended the Regional Meetings and have enjoyed getting to know the people running the other local institutes and sharing ideas.

When I took on the role, I had no plan as I was not expecting to be in this position. That said I feel that I have achieved more than I thought possible. The highlight for me has been working with the Careers subcommittee and attending some of our careers events to experience first hand what challenges we face and how can we invest in our stand and material to make this more attractive. I see this as a piece of work that will evolve over the next few years and are excited about being involved in this area after I step down as President.

We are at the start of creating a meaningful Young Professionals Committee, with the help of our colleagues at BIBA and using the model they have in place. We hope that this committee will work with us to define what they want from the local institute and to help us make this happen.

We appreciate that it can be hard to volunteer to be part of something when work and life can seem busy. We have lost some council members this year due to outside pressures but we have also gained more volunteers and from different companies. We have just finalised our 5-year succession plan for the President role which is a really good position to be in.

Finally, I would like to thank Andrew Dakin for his support as Deputy President and I hope that I have helped him on his journey in to the Presidents Chair. I wish Andy the very best of success in his forthcoming 2 year term as President.

Joanne Kirkby ACII

President of the Insurance Institute of Bolton