

**From the President**

## **Convention 2020 cancelled – deferred to 2021!**

**Convention 2020 falls victim to Corona Virus / Covid-19** – regrettably, we join the ever-growing list of philatelic events that have been cancelled during 2020 and, no doubt, many more will succumb to a similar fate. As presaged in my column in the April 2020 issue of “*Maple Leaves*” the ongoing uncertainties relating to Covid-19 have resulted in your Executive Committee deciding to cancel this year’s Convention. Our over-riding concern is the on-going and future health and welfare of our members and with almost all of our regular attendees being in the 70+ age group, several also falling into the ‘vulnerable’ category, social distancing is likely to be a feature of our lives for many more months to come. Added to that is uncertainty of international travel and the timing of when hotels will be allowed to re-open – it may take many months for some to return to their normal standards of service.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> I sent an e-mail notification of cancellation to everyone who had undertaken to give an invited display and also to all those who had contacted me with an ‘expressions of interest’ of attending Convention 2020. Without exception, the response to that e-mail was one of support and sometimes relief that an early decision had been made.

The good news is that the general manager of the Cumberland Hotel in Eastbourne has been very understanding of our situation and she has transferred our booking to **20-24 September 2021** (Monday to Friday as planned for 2020) and, subject to no significant changes in VAT, at the same convention package rate. Hopefully we will meet again in Eastbourne in 2021 for our 74<sup>th</sup> Convention and in Dundee, Scotland, in 2022 for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention.

Brian Stalker