

## Cardiff Bridge Club 2022 Review

2022 has been a successful year for the Bridge Section. When Government Rules were relaxed, we made a gradual return to playing face to face, initially on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons, whilst continuing to play online on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Two initiatives were started in February, which have proven most successful. The first are the Beginners and Continuing Courses started by Simon Gottschalk and run by him and Jon Jones with many helpers. We have just started a 3<sup>rd</sup> set of lessons and several attendees are now playing in Club sessions. The Second initiative was the start of sessions on Monday afternoons thanks to Ian Evans and Aileen Ashmore. These have gone from strength to strength.

The Winter League returned on Thursday evenings. Two of our Internationals Maggie Pierce and David McAndrew put on 3 Introduction to Teams lessons, which have spawned Pro-Am Team Events also on Thursday evenings

A Social Committee has been formed following a Brainstorming meeting by Veronica Burrows, Teresa Goss and Sooz Nesom. To start with they ran a most enjoyable and popular Geoff Evans Quiz with questions from Anna O'Brien and husband Kevin. They have already held a successful event this year.

Only a couple of Club competitions were held in 2022. The Pairs and Mixed Pairs. Winners Simon Gottschalk and Chris Rochelle and Mike Best and Mia Deschepper respectively. It's back to normal this year.

A number of Cardiff Members represented Wales in 2022. Ladies– Gilly Clench, Mia Deschepper, Ceri Pierce and Maggie Pierce and Nalini Dewan.

Seniors – David Birt and Gilly Clench (npc Simon Gottschalk)

Juniors – Sophie Akers, Joseph Bentley, Steph Dux and Alua Serikbajeva

Several Members also represented East Wales Bridge Association successfully in inter-area Teams; Tim Barsby, Sue Ingham, Steve Webb, Gilly Clench, Nalini Dewan, Angela Gilbert, Helen Houston and Mel Thomas.

Members were also successful in National and Area competitions. Diane Kirbalija was part of the teams that one both the Welsh and Cambria Cups. Sue Ingham and partner won the EWBA Mixed Pairs and Tim Barsby and Steve Webb the EW February Congress Swiss Pairs and Mia Deschepper and Richard Plackett the same event in the Autumn Congress. They also won the prestigious EBU Summer Festival Swiss Pairs.

Cardiff Bridge Club is well represented on the WBU Management Committee with Gilly Clench as President, Ceri Pierce the CEO, Simon Gottschalk the NTO and Steve Webb as Membership Secretary.

We are also fortunate to have so many helpers taking up the various roles necessary to run a successful club. We will not mention them but they know who they are. The future looks encouraging.

20<sup>th</sup> February 2023