

MONKSTONE PETANQUE CLUB: REVIEW OF 2022

After the disruptions of the pandemic, the year 2022 seemed like the first teetering steps back to normality, even though the WPA playing calendar was not a full one.

WPA LEAGUE AND CUP

No great honours for our club last season, but our three league teams finished in the top half of their respective divisions and we won the WPA Cup Plate Final.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

In May 2022 two Monkstone members represented Wales in the Celtic Challenge competition against Scotland and Ireland in Glasgow. In the September qualifier for this year's Celtic Challenge to be played in Bangor, Northern Ireland, our club has five players in the Welsh team.

In August, 10 club members played in the 30-strong Welsh team against England, Scotland and Jersey in the Home Nations in Troon, Scotland.

SUPER LEAGUE

For a number of years, we have organised our own league, named the Super League, to keep our members competitively engaged in those rather drab weeks in the run-up to Christmas. Last season's Super League was the best ever in terms of the numbers participating and it gave newer players a taste of what league play, rather than social play, is all about.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We have a strong link with Marlborough Primary School and over the years we have introduced hundreds of children to the sport of pétanque. 2022 was no exception and we hosted a number of sessions with groups of 9-10 year olds who were very keen, even though they left us exhausted!

On another level, we had a session with a group of older students, with learning and physical disabilities, from Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw. The students got a lot out of the session and it was a unique learning experience for us.

OTHER CLUBS

Apart from playing local clubs in the WPA League, we hosted our own open competitions and played in a number of reciprocal events in other clubs. The biggest of these was our annual Winter Friendly with Caerleon, which is a home and away event. It is always a very competitive affair and in 2022 we won both legs to earn a very comprehensive victory.

Further afield we played another two-leg competition against Royal Wootton Bassett from Wiltshire. We lost the away leg 9 games to 11, but rallied in our home fixture to win the overall match 24-16.