

## **MONKSTONE PETANQUE CLUB: REVIEW OF 2023**

The year 2023 was notable in many ways for our club. Our members participated in a range of competitions at both national and local level. We were able to make improvements to our members' facilities. We also strengthened our links with the local Penylan community, which helped to swell our numbers.

### **WPA LEAGUE AND OTHER COMPETITIONS**

Our club fielded a new team in the WPA League, bringing our number to four teams. Monkstone Minotaurs, captained by Bernard Adshead, came top of Division 2 and returned to Division 1. The Minotaurs also made it to the League Cup Finals.

In July our club reached the final of the Welsh Cup for Clubs, a competition to find the best Welsh club to represent Wales in the European Cup for Clubs. In a very tight two-leg encounter, Monkstone lost by just two points (30-32) to Sully.

We organised our own club events, such as our Doubles, Triples and Christmas Melee, which are popular with members, and continued with our club Super League, starting in October with six teams fighting it out. The Super League allows members to continue to play with a competitive edge during the autumn and winter.

We also held open events, which were well supported by the petanque community, especially our Open Triples. After some fallow years, players in the region are returning in numbers to the various open competitions on offer.

### **NATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

In May 2023 six Monkstone members represented Wales in the Celtic Challenge competition against Scotland and Ireland in Bangor, Northern Ireland.

In August 2023 the Home Nations competition between England, Jersey, Scotland and Wales took place at Leamington Spa with nine Monkstone players in the Welsh squad.

### **IMPROVED FACILITIES**

We make good use of our clubhouse and in March we were delighted to finish its roof extension, which offers shelter from both rain and sun. We are indebted to a number of local organisations who provided our club with funding for the project.

### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Our club continued its link with Marlborough Primary School by hosting a number of sessions with groups of primary pupils.

In August we held an Open Day to attract local residents to come and have a go at petanque. We leafleted the community of Penylan and also publicised the event by posters and social media. We were delighted with a turn-out of over 60 people, most of whom were new to boules. It was a very busy, but enjoyable, day and resulted in a number of new recruits.

One of our members, Alex Hicks, organised a pancreatic cancer charity petanque day at our club, which was very generously supported and raised £1,790 for the charity.

### **TO CONCLUDE...**

We look back on 2023 as a very successful year in terms of keen competition, social interaction and wellbeing for all our members. We also appreciate the continued support we receive from Penylan Bowls and Bridge Club.