

AGM Teaching Report 2026

After many years running, and expanding, the club's very successful teaching programme, Nicola Renshaw stepped down in March 2025. Thankfully, she has remained a member of our teaching team, acting as a Bank Y1 teacher, team teaching on the Y1 weekend courses, and, along with Martin Renshaw, teaching on the first Y2 weekend courses, which were hugely popular.

Kate Maxwell and Ruth Thomas have continued teaching our Y1 students this year, and for anyone who has never taught beginners in any subject, it is not the easiest of roles. This is especially true of the Y1 weekend courses, which are intensive and require both skill and lots of patience.

We have had 19 Y1 students attending our weekly sessions (25 last year) and 12 students attending the weekend courses (16 last year). In the Y2 weekly sessions we have had 41 students (34 last year) and 12 attending the new Y2 weekend courses.

The team has been enhanced, with new teachers joining us.

Mark Giard has stepped into Lesley Harrison's shoes, and he, along with Martin, teaches our 24-week Y2 programme. Many thanks, Lesley, for many years of teaching and sharing your expertise with our students. Lesley's other role as a team teacher on the Tweak2Transform weekend day courses has been filled by Jonathan Bailey. Jonathan, along with Paul Denning and Alastair Catchpole, has joined Martin and Patrick Shields to expand our Play and Discuss Sessions. After requests from members, Jonathan and Martin also introduced Y3 weekend day sessions into our Programme.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who support our teachers: Jane Allison; Wendy Leich; Andy Pegler; Steve Tedd; Rowan Lytheer; Carol Cowlshaw; Mark Sefton; Richard Bestall; Judy Richards; Alwyn Burton; Liz Giles; Christine Robinson; Christine Traversa; John Botting; John Davies; Pat Emery; Nicola Torrance; Cathy Presland; Sue Mostyn and Martha Alleguen.

Thank you to Alison Nicolson, who has continued to run her very popular Monday and Friday mentoring sessions, allowing Y1 and Y2 students to practise topics learned in the previous week's lessons. Ro Kaye, Lesley Harrison and Judy Sanis kindly kept the sessions running during Alison's absence - thank you all. And thank you also to Alison's volunteer helpers: Alwyn Burton; Judy Heath; Sandra Riggall; Hilary Thurling; Helen Bryant; Ruth Gibbins and Marilyn Gough.

Before Christmas we resurrected Learners' Duplicate, which was last run before lockdown. We regularly get 5 tables of Y2 learners, who can ask for help if they are really stuck. We encourage them to look at options and make their own decisions, rather than say "bid this" or "play that card". It's good preparation for moving on to the Club's Gentle Sessions. Many thanks to Jackie Saitch who directs these sessions, and her helpers: Teresa Thomas; Richard Bestall; Wendy Leich; Jane Allison and Andrew Courtman.

Jan Bailey
March 2026