

# AGM Teaching Report 2024

The team of teachers continue to offer a varied programme of training in 2023-24.

We have 26 students in two classes of Year 1 learners. They are taught by Ruth Thomas and Kate Maxwell. In November we held an intensive Bridge in a Weekend course, attended by 11 new players – a number of whom have continued on our Year 1 course.

There are 14 students in our Year 2 course taught by Martin Renshaw with cover provided by Lesley Harrison and Kate Maxwell.

In lessons, we have a team of volunteers who provide invaluable help every lesson.

All our students are supported in their learning with weekly practice sessions where they revise by playing hands. These sessions were run by Alison Nicolson from October to December in 2023. I am grateful to the team of volunteers who have stepped in to run the practice sessions in Alison's absence.

I am pleased to report that many of our Year 2 learners are honing their skills by attending either Next Steps, run by Teresa Thomas, or Gentle Bridge sessions. This is the best way for them to really feel part of the club and develop their skills further.

Our Year 1 and 2 courses are critical to the future success of the club. They bring in 'new blood' and potentially new members who will enjoy playing bridge and play a part in club life for years to come.

The teaching team provided a range of training activities for club members, many of whom are playing regularly at the club. This year, we extended our programme, offering not only Tweak to Transform seminars and Play and Discuss but seminars for Aspirational Tournament Players and whole days or weekend events for those who have more recently started to learn to play.

The Tweak to Transform sessions were very well attended. Martin, Lesley and Patrick ran these sessions on topics such as Counting the Hand and Elimination Play.

Patrick has run 4 seminars for Aspirational Tournament Players and topics have included Checkback and Lebensohl.

In November and January, we ran two whole day courses for our Year 3 learners. This group of people wanted to practise declarer play techniques as well as learn about teams bridge and topics like fourth suit forcing. Each day, taught by Lesley and Martin, was attended by 32 people with plenty of breaks for drinks and food, making it not only a day for learning but one for socialising too.

New for this year, we offered a weekend refreshers course. This course, run by Martin and Nicola was for those who wanted to revise some topics from the Year 1 and Year 2 learning programme. This intensive weekend was attended by 15 people and good fun was had by all.

Excluding our Year 1 and Year 2 students, over 150 regular club members have been involved in some sort of training event during 2023.

Thank you to our members who supported the programme and also to our team of teachers and volunteers - who helped in the sessions, acted as standby and ran all of our practice sessions for making the programme of training events such a success in 2023.

