

# *Strictly Come Teaching*

## **2025 RESULTS**



Many thanks to all the Pros and their Celebrity Learner partners who participated in this inaugural event on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 on Real Bridge: there were 68 players in total! Thanks also to the friendly and efficient Sarah Amos for Directing and (nearly!) keeping me under control.....!

It was lovely to see pairs from Wales, Scotland, the Isle of Man, England & Northern Ireland and amongst them a large contingent of juniors from the various nations who took no prisoners in the play!!! Poor Philip Skinner made the mistake of telling me it was his birthday so the field had to endure my broadcast singing Happy Birthday to him.....! ☺

### **Main Event Prizes**

Sarah and I have reviewed the scores and “handicapped” a couple of obvious Pro-Pro pairings (!! ) to reach the final results below with the two winners each receiving one of our prestigious GLITTERBALL TROPHIES! I am particularly pleased to congratulate the winners who are two of our home grown Welsh Juniors who have been recruited and well trained by Sooz Nesom and Mark Roderick, Joseph a few years ago and James more recently.

### **First Place**

Joseph Bentley (PRO) & James Williams (Celebrity Learner) **65.63%**

## **Second Place**

Sophie Cunningham (PRO) & Richard Arnold (Celebrity Learner) 61.33%

## **Third Place**

Jo Copping (PRO) & Cath Arnold (Celebrity Learner) 60.94%

## **Chorus (the other players, in alphabetical order)**

Aase Brown, Adrian Thomas, Alistair Copeland, Amelia Cadden, Andy Elliot, Anna Russell, Anne Hughes, Annette Russell, Artem Belikov, Barbara, Beryl Campbell, Carole Hibbs, Caroline Birkby, Cath Arnold, Cathy Lynch, Ceri Bradley-Jones, Christine Smith, Christine Robinson, Danny Hamilton, David Kenworthy, Diane Greenwood, Dorothy Wilcock, Eleanor Price, George Prothero, Gill Copeland, Gilly Clench, Gordon Campbell, Helen Dougherty, Hugh Evans, Iolo Williams, Jack Baxter, Jill Francis, Jo Copping, Julie Milewski, Karen Holland, Kester Woolley, Maggie Pierce, Margaret Lane, Mark Roderick, Mike Best, Miriam Handren, Niamh Reid, Paul Cunningham, Peter Lane, Peter Milewski, Philip Skinner, Rachel Yu, Rachel Oliver, Richard Arnold, Robert Lloyd, Roger Boyle, Sarah King, Shiva V, Simon Lee, Siobhan Brown, Sophie Cunningham, Sophie Akers, Susan Lydon, Susan Watt, Tim Rees, Tom Copeland, Tom Thomson, Val Constable, Vanessa Westbury, Veronica Burrows & Will Maher.

Well done all!

Next we come to the other prizes.....!

## **Friendliest Pair**

This prize is based on emails sent to me by players following the event with their nominations.

I am delighted to announce that this prize goes to Mark Roderick and Emelia Cadden, closely followed by Mike Best, Carole Hibbs, Gill Copeland, Caroline Birkby, Iolo Williams and Julie Milewski! Prizes will be posted to the winners!

## **Side Prize – Domestic Bragging Rights for 12 months.....!**

No physical prize as such but a priceless win for Sophie Cunningham and Julie Milewski, both PROs, who each beat their respective PRO husbands and their respective Celebrity Learners in this event!

## Best Dressed Pair! (Black Tie was optional....)

There were a number of players whose chances of winning this prize were scuppered by their partners (mentioning no names!!), as this prize was judged as a pair.



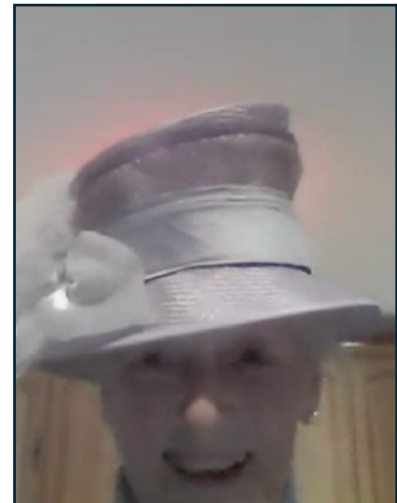
The winners were Iolo Williams (aged 16) who wore a striking Harry Potter-ish styled formal hat with a large feather and a 3-D sheep (!! yes, not a typo!) and his partner Julie Milewski who had “borrowed” her husband Peter’s black tie outfit, scuppering his chances to win this prize! Pics attached!



A special mention also to the lovely Cath Arnold in full traditional Welsh dress. Three prizes will be sent out to them for this category!

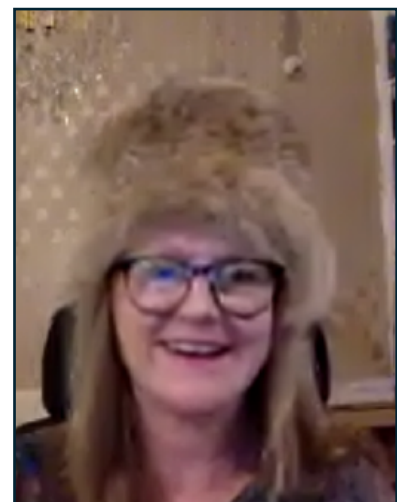
Anna and Annette Russell popped in to play on their way to Royal Ascot (...see attached hat pic!!!) so deserve a special mention!

Special mention also to the following for making such an effort as well (sincere apologies if I have missed anyone – I tried to get round all the tables!)



Alistair Copeland, Anna Russell, Annette Russell, Beryl Campbell, Carole Hibbs, Caroline Birkby, Cathy Lynch, David Kenworthy, Diane Greenwood, George Prothero, Gill Copeland, Gordon Campbell, Jill Francis, Maggie Pierce, Mike Best, Paul Cunningham, Rachel Oliver, Simon Lee, Siobhan Brown, Sophie Cunningham, Susan Watt, Tom Copeland, Tom Thomson, Val Constable, Vanessa Westbury, Veronica Burrows & Will Maher.

Thanks again for playing and I hope to see you all next year – please spread the word! Date not yet confirmed.



Please note I am delighted to announce that James Williams has now been DISQUALIFIED from playing as a Celebrity Learner next year and promoted to the rank of PRO!!! Congratulations James!!!!

Best wishes

**Andrea Knox**

**WBU President**