

Neville Richards

Nev, born in Gloucestershire of Welsh father and Scottish mother, excelled at Cheltenham Grammar School, but deciding that a career in accountancy would be too boring, he became a policeman. As a young constable he married a crook.....Carol Crook, with whom he sired three daughters.

Leaving the Police force he became a tree surgeon but when his marriage drifted to an end so did tree surgery. A former police colleague introduced him to a fellow officer, Margaret. They “hit it off” and in Nev’s own words, she was his saviour. They had a daughter and a son, Bryn, who in time would be “volunteered” by Nev to do much needed software improvements for the WBU masterpoint facility.

When the WBU advertised for a new CEO, Neville got the post and consequently moved to Wales, Llanddewi, just North of Llandrindod Wells. With tremendous help and support from Margaret, he embraced the role with enthusiasm, keen to use WBU resources for the benefit of its clubs and members.

Neville served a term as WBU President and representing Mid Wales had been part of a team winning our President’s Cup

His last and perhaps most tangible contribution to Welsh Bridge was to bring StepBridge from Holland to Wales and the UK. This On-Line platform, invaluable during Covid, is still offering duplicate bridge 3 nights a week, while 2 clubs have sessions on 2 other evenings. Stepping down as CEO he was made an Honorary Life Member.

I last spoke with Nev a few days before Christmas. Our chat was short, his voice faltering and failing, but he did extend his best wishes to our Welsh Bridge “family” and for our future good fortune. Having, some years previously, survived 8 heart attacks he finally succumbed on Christmas Night He was 83.

Nev’s time in Welsh Bridge was relatively short but it was intense.

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