Most competitive clubs in Aberystwyth have a Hall of Fame of national and international stars. But perhaps the one with one of the highest proportions of front-rank players will come as a surprise. Aberystwyth Bridge Club has members ranging from novice to expert, with over 10% able to boast international credentials. Among these are Mike Tedd, who has served as Welsh international captain over many years, and Stephen Loat who is part of the Welsh XXX squad.

Bridge (strictly, *Contract* Bridge) has its roots in whist, an old and popular game with many variants. The version we see today appeared in the 1930s and is played globally. While Internationals will have carefully nurtured partnerships and sophisticated “systems”, the satisfaction of playing a partner-based game of skill is available to all levels.

Aberystwyth Bridge club was formed in the late sixties with about 4 tables meeting in the basement of the Marine Hotel. A great achievement was that, in those early days and with such a small membership, they won both the Welsh Cup and the Webber Cup (a national teams event). The team comprised founder members: Morton Davies , Mike Tedd , John Marek (who later became an MP and played for the Commons vs. The Lords) and Eric Williams. Mike Tedd *here a short bio and list of honours ...*

Whether bridge is a “sport” or not we can let others argue about, but it is certainly a game of skill, hugely enjoyed at all levels, bringing sociability, mental exercise, and – for some – fame. The Internet has brought new opportunities, but also problems – the accessibility of online poker has seen younger cardsharps opting for the gambling game, rather than developing practiced, communicative partnership skills. There are active bridge clubs into nearly all UK towns and cities: while most are in health there is a general overall drop in numbers and we have seen this locally too, although newer novice players are still finding it a very worthwhile activity.

*Aberystwyth Bridge Club meets twice per week at the Waunfawr Community Hall, and welcomes players from beginner to international level: lessons and refresher sessions are freely available. Learn more at http://www.bridgewebs.com/aberystwyth.*

*Photo 1:*

* *Pictured are Mike Tedd and Yuan Shen of the Aberystwyth Club, at a table with XXX and XXX, recent recruits to the Club.*

*Photo 2:*

* *TBA*