

## **Civil Engineers' Club: Annual report for 2024**

### **Chairs' Report 2024**

Last year my report focused on broadening the activities of the club so that we could better cater for those who live beyond London, the South of England and Northern Ireland. We set out to be better connected with the ICE regions and I am pleased to say that we have made good progress towards this during the year. I am grateful for the support of Wendy Blundell, ICE's Director of Regions, in helping to achieve this and I am pleased to report that we now have new committee members from Wales, Scotland and the Midlands. This gives us a sound foothold in the Regions from which we can build new activities.

We also set out a new and more modern Constitution to support a gentle change of direction in the Club. This focusses more on our role in supporting the broader body of civil engineers in the UK, and in improving their well-being. It is also clearer about the roles and responsibilities of members and the Committee. It helped to uncover an anomaly in the operation of the CEC. It had been assumed that the Club was always part of the ICE, but a meeting with the ICE Directors revealed that, like the other Associated Societies, the CEC is only affiliated to the ICE. It is a separate legal entity. Whereas it benefits from support from the ICE through its Level of Service Agreement, it does not benefit, for example, from the protection of ICE's insurance policy. It has taken a considerable amount of work and some cost to set in place an appropriate policy to cover the potential third party liability of Club and Committee members arising from our activities. This covers loss arising from negligence of the club in delivering our activities. It is important to note that it does not extend to covering any personal liability from anyone taking part in those activities. The range of activities and geographical extent are also limited, so for example, we can no longer arrange any off shore sailing or activities outside of the UK.

Traditionally we have always arranged a lecture in association with the AGM, but last year we departed from this and held a Question Time Debate. This proved to be a great success and is being organised this year as a joint event between the CEC and the ICE. I am grateful to ICE Directors Sean Harris and Chris Richards, and to the ICE events team for their support of the CEC throughout the year.

I would, as always, also like to thank the unstinted support from the Committee and other members in helping to organise our events and ensure the smooth running of the club. Much of the day to day work falls, of course, on the shoulders of our Secretary and Treasurer, and I am pleased to report that all the formal running of the club has proceeded this year largely without a hitch, including the reshaping of our financial reporting to improve the clarity of the financing of individual events.

I am leaving the detailed reporting of our activities to our Secretary and other members of the Committee. And whilst I would like to finish on a positive note, I must share something that is a concern to me. None of us on the Committee are getting any younger, and whilst there is no shortage of enthusiasm or energy in delivering and developing our programme of activities, we have to face the reality that we need to be serious about succession planning. Even my own role, which is due to finish this year, is proving difficult to fill. We all lead busy lives but may I ask if there is anyone who thinks they might be able to give support to the work of the Committee to please come forward, and help to sustain the club into the future.

Professor David Balmforth

## **Secretary's report**

Thanks are due to all the Committee members for their continuing loyal service to the Club during the past year. The Committee meetings are now hybrid which makes it easier to conduct our business.

Our Chair Professor David Balmforth is now coming to the end of his three year term and I wish to thank him for everything which he has done for the Club- his tireless enthusiasm has helped us no end.

As you can read in David's report, we have started to gain better coverage throughout the UK, with three Club members joining the Committee from different ICE regions. This should enable us to spread our activities more evenly throughout the country.

The various sections have continued with their usual activities, and their reports are included in this document. However the Sailing group is still looking for a Secretary. Volunteers please step forward!

We continue to update our Register web page, with help from ICE. It contains the names of all ICE Members who have died from January 2016 to January 2024. This is the only place where you can find this information.

Our latest membership numbers show an increase from 362 in January 2023 to 368 in February 2024.

All our activities and section reports are given on our website at:  
<https://ceclub.net/>

Peter Richardson

### **Bouldering March -2023**

We had a successful Bouldering Event on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March with 9 participants at the Vauxhall East Climbing Centre.

Tony Barber

### **Bouldering June -2023**

We had a successful Bouldering Event on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June with 13 participants at the Euston Wall Climbing Centre, and the evening was finished with a convivial drink afterwards.

Tony Barber

### **Bouldering November -2023**

We had a successful Bouldering Event on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November with 19 participants at the Euston Wall Climbing Centre, and the evening was finished with a convivial drink afterwards.

A further event is planned for March next year, details will be announced in due course.

Tony Barber

## Contract Bridge: Report of the Brunel Trophy competition 2023

The Brunel Trophy competition as organised by the Civil Engineers' Club was held again on 6 October 2023, fittingly in the Brunel Room at the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The trophy has been contested every year since 1990. Seven teams entered this year and the Bridge was, as always, both friendly and competitive.



### The Brunel Trophy

The winning team with 90 VPs consisted of John Bernard (captain) and Bill Linton, Liz Clery and Ken Barnett. The runners up were the team captained by John Beamish with Chris Gray, Mike Skelly and Hilary Stewart on 77 VPs.

Close behind with 74 VP's was the team of Tim Pelling and Miranda Fellows, Naomi Cohen and Andrew Clery.

At the finish the Civil Engineers' Club Contract Bridge Secretary Peter Richardson presented the Brunel Trophy cut glass rose bowl to the winning team captain John Bernard and glass tumbler to each member of the winning team.

For a photo of the winners with the Brunel Trophy and a summary of the results see below. For the full results visit the Bridgewebs website at:

[https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?pid=display\\_rank&event=20221007\\_4&club=mitch](https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwoq/bw.cgi?pid=display_rank&event=20221007_4&club=mitch)

Thanks are due yet again to Nicole Barclay the Tournament Director who oversaw proceedings throughout. She performed her task with her customary efficiency and good humour and kept the event going smoothly and to time.

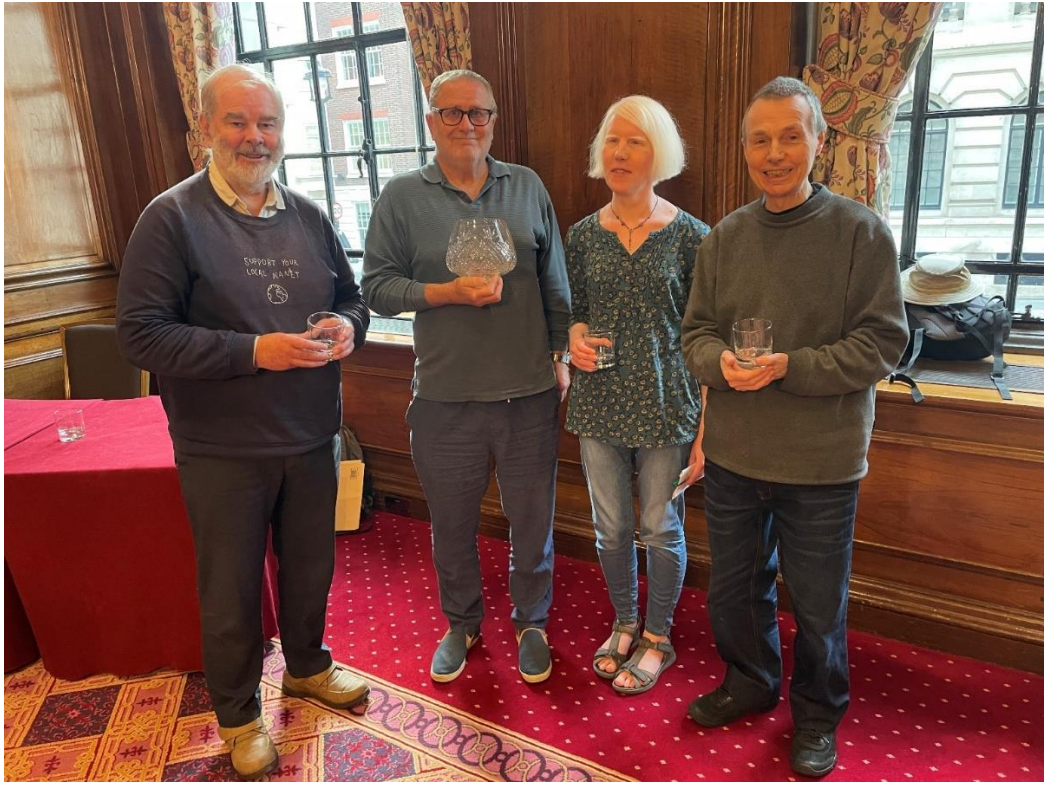
Thanks are due also to all the players- everyone contributed to the day, playing as always in a friendly fashion throughout.

In the evening an enjoyable dinner was taken again in the nearby Bistol restaurant in Soho. The restaurant has a wide selection and always makes us welcome.

Next year's event will be held on Friday 18 October 2024 again at the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George St, SW1P 3AA. If you are interested in playing, please contact me nearer the day even if you don't have a team or a partner- if you let me know soon enough I can often find others to make up a team.

Peter Richardson  
Honorary Contract Bridge Secretary  
Civil Engineers' Club  
email [secretarycivilengineersclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycivilengineersclub@gmail.com)

<b>BRUNEL RESULTS 2023</b>		
Position	Team	VP's
1	John Bernard	90
	Bill Linton	
	Ken Barnett	
	Liz Clery	
2	John Beamish	77
	Chris Gray	
	Mike Skelly	
	Hilary Stewart	
3	Miranda Fellows	74
	Andrew Clery	
	Tim Pelling	
	Naomi Cohen	
4	Gitte Hecht-Johansen	66
	Szczepan Smoczynski	
	Mary Gordon-Smith	
	TBA	
5	Marina Chaning Pearce	53
	Terry Smith	
	Andrew Kiesel	
	David Glass	
6	Peter Richardson	36
	Cathy Macnaughton	
	Trevor Wilkinson	
	John Walker	
7	Amarjeet Singh	24
	Gurdeep Singh	
	Raz Hales	
	Ann Convery	



The winning team (left to right): Bill Linton, John Bernard, Liz Clery and Ken Barnett

## **Golf: Thomas Telford Trophy 2023**

### **The Wales National, Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Thomas Telford Trophy national team golf competition was hosted by the ICE Wales Cymru (South) Branch at the stunning Wales National Course in the Vale of Glamorgan Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Civil Engineers' Club is grateful to the organising team for making the arrangements.

The TTT team competition was first played for in 1986 and is contested by teams of four players invited from the 16 Local Associations of the ICE. The team competition consists of St. Andrews Foursomes play in the morning and singles play in the afternoon with all 6 Stableford scores aggregated to decide the winning team. At this year's event, 12 of the 16 Regions and Branches Associations were represented, coming together to enjoy a weekend of companionship, sporting endeavour, good food and no doubt a drink or two!



The Wales National is a quality, testing course, that is teeming with wildlife across its mature woodland and vast water features. It has hosted an impressive range of professional events for the DP World Tour Challenger and Seniors tours as well as the EuroPro Tour. Designed by renowned golf architect Peter Johnson, it is long - coming in at 7,433 yards off the Championship tees - and in golfing terms is something of a rarity at par 73.

The 2023 event was held in beautiful weather with wall-to-wall sunshine not overly typical of South Wales' weather at that time of year. The scorching temperatures topped out at 30 degrees and combined with a long, demanding, golf course to make it a challenging day for all!

Despite the perfect golfing weather and outstanding condition of the course, the challenges faced by the players were reflected in the scoring which was considerably lower than recent years.

The morning St Andrews Foursomes was keenly fought with two pairs tied on 38 points before the North West pairing of Richard Mannock & Peter Blair pipped Rob Hayman & Richard Hemming of Southern region on count back. The clear winner of the afternoon singles was Claire Jones from the South West region with a fabulous score of 38 points. Honourable mentions due for the runner up Jake Bartlett (34 points) from the

Wales region and Edward Bill from Northern Ireland who came third on 32 points. Defending champion Stuart Haddow (Glasgow & West of Scotland) repeated his 2022 triumph retaining the Scott Quaich for the best Stableford score playing off a scratch handicap with a score of 30 points.



Singles Winner - Claire Jones (South West)  
Peter Blair (left) & Richard Mannock



Foursomes Winner - North West

The Thomas Telford Trophy itself has been a two-horse race between Northern Ireland and the North East every year since 2014 and despite the tough scoring this year proved no different. With a score of 174 points, North East clinched the title for the 9<sup>th</sup> time with Northern Ireland a close second on 173 points falling just short of a hat trick of wins. Special mentions go to Team South West (172 points) and Team Wales (171 points) who ran them very close on a challenging day.

This year saw a strong turnout for the Veterans competition for those who have played in previous Thomas Telford Trophy teams. The 18- hole competition was contested by 8 players from 3 Local Associations with the Chilterns Salver going to Rob Harray from Wales with a score of 30 points.

The Tournament Dinner was attended by ICE Wales Cymru (South) Chair, Peter Burns. In his speech Peter spoke of how important the crossregion relationships were within the ICE and how positive it to see such strong bonds created within the institution. He was particularly pleased to be able to show case the South Wales region in such a fine setting and congratulated all players for their skill, endurance, and commitment to representing their regions.

The Wales Cymru (South) Branch would like to express their sincere gratitude for the generous sponsorship received from a number of local businesses to make the event such a success - Knights Brown, COWI, BAM Nuttall and Jubb. Given the commercial challenges evident in the industry and the wider economy, the financial support provided was hugely appreciated and made the event possible.

In addition to their financial support, lead sponsors Knights Brown took full part in the day both playing in a friendly team event in the afternoon and supporting the Tournament Dinner. Special thanks to their Managing Director Kevin Valentine for his after-dinner speech and their additional support in sponsoring the Nearest the Pin prizes won by James Bright and David Street.

The Thomas Telford Trophy 2024 is being hosted by ICE Southern and will be held at Hayling Golf Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. Hayling is one of the premier links golf courses on the south coast and the only true links



course between Rye and Cornwall. We look forward to another great event and wish the organising committee well in their efforts.



Veterans Winner - Rob Harry (Wales)

Martyn Taylor

## **Northern Ireland**

Sam Phillips is the new Civil Engineers' Club representative in Northern Ireland. His predecessor Jim Workman retired from the Club's Committee at the AGM in July after doing sterling service over many years. We thank Jim for all that he did for the Club and wish him well in his new ventures.

The last visit was on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to houses built by SETANTA at their modern headquarters in Magherafelt. Gribbin Construction was established 60 years ago by Liam, Eamon and Joe Gribbin. Their main ambition was building highly insulated timber frame homes. The Directors of Setanta Timber Frame & Off-Site Modular Construction – Mark and Niall Gribbin had very kindly arranged for the Club to visit. These were passive buildings using low energy. It was a most interesting visit to two houses where two families were living for a year.

The previous event was a trip to the Public Records Office who had kindly agreed for our group to visit their facility at Titanic Quarter on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## **Singing**

The choir last sang at the annual ICE Carol Service at St Margaret's Westminster Abbey on Monday 4 December 2023. The service was well attended and the singing was excellent, as always. This year's services at St Margaret's and the Livery Company Service will be held on dates to be announced.

Tony Barber

## Walking

### Notes on Walk 28th January 2023

The Astronomical walk started from Paternoster Square at 10.15am. outside the London Stock Exchange building, where we met our guide, Lester Hillman. We saw the 5m long Noon Marker, which casts a shadow the tip of which touches a date marking on the wall at noon when the sun shines. After going towards St Paul's Cathedral, we learned about named craters in space such as the 107km diameter one on Mercury named after the poet John Keats, deep bores in the Antarctic for detecting neutrinos and the association with the Eagle by reference to Neil Armstrong's "the eagle has landed" when setting foot on the moon. We walked to Queen Victoria Street and stopped by the College of Arms where Coats of Arms are registered; and passed the site of Bridewell Palace, the location of Holbein's painting "The Skull." The morning tour finished at St Bride's church in the Strand with Shoe Lane on the opposite side of the road, where the Eagle comic had been published.

We had lunch at Ye Olde London inn on Ludgate Hill.

After lunch we went to Holborn Viaduct (recent 150th anniversary 6th November 2019) and passed Holy Sepulchre church before going by St Bartholomew's with its links to Dick Whittington who died in 1423 and the 900th anniversary event at the church of St Bartholomew the Great is being celebrated this year. We then visited the disused Smithfield Market building which is to be the new site for the London Museum before seeing the gateway at the entrance to the Museum the Order of St John. We then went to Farringdon Station the birthplace of the 160 years old Metropolitan Line (9/10th January 2023) and the new spectacular station on the Elizabeth Line.

The total length of the walk was approximately 3 miles and 22 walkers took part.

Thanks to Lester Hillman for leading the walk, and providing a brilliant and most informative commentary. Thanks also to everybody who joined us.

Tony Barber





## Notes on Walk 15th April 2023

The walk started from Reigate BR Station and followed a route on road and paths which were fairly steep in places. We crossed over the A217 by a reinforced concrete bridge, which was the first in the country, and followed the North Downs Way past a Victorian fort, the flying fortress tribute and a WW2 gun emplacement to arrive at Reigate Hill monument where there were some fine views. We descended down a fairly slippery chalk path to the edge of a residential area, leading along roads, tracks and paths to A25 which we crossed in order to make our way along wooded paths to Skimmington castle for lunch.

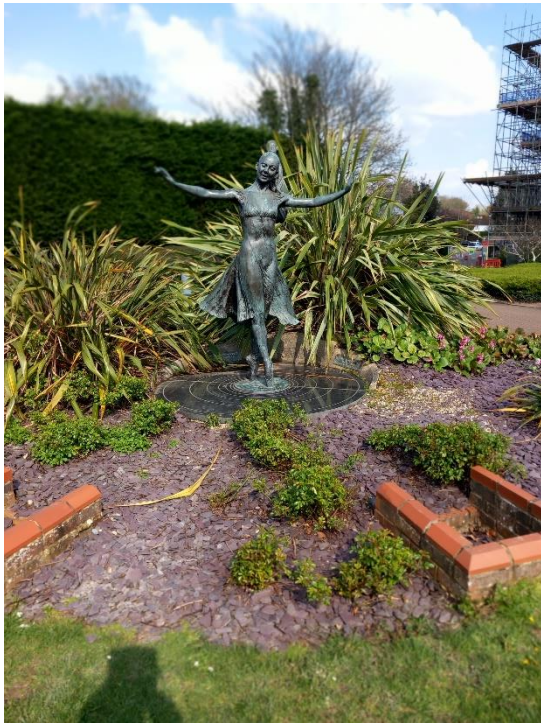
After lunch we follow tracks and paths to edge of Priory Park. We passed through park to Reigate High Street before returning to Reigate Station via Reigate Castle Tunnel and Castle Mound.

The length of the walk was approximately 8 miles and 12 walkers took part.

Thanks to John Baron for leading the walk and booking the Skimmington Castle for lunch. Thanks also to John and Ray Sterry for providing interesting commentaries. Thanks also to everybody who joined us.

Tony Barber





## CEC Walking Weekend 17-18 June 2023

The annual Walking Weekend was held in Wells-next-the-sea, Norfolk this year and many of the walkers took advantage of the block booking for accommodation and stayed at The Arch House Rooms.

On Friday afternoon we had a visit to the new RNLI station for a guided tour at 1.30pm. The station had been opened earlier this year and Martin Emerson, one of the RNLI team looking after the station and boats, met the group and told us about the station and the equipment. The station has a small inflatable rescue boat which is used for shorter distances and in shallow water, and a new Shannon class rescue boat that replaced the former smaller Mersey class lifeboat. The Shannon class is deployed using a tracked tractor and a tracked cradle, which has a launch and recovery system for the lifeboat. We were able to see the lifeboats from a viewing platform inside the station as well as floor level. We also visited the launch and recovery ramps. Due to the location of the station, and depending on the tide, the deployment can be close to the station or a two mile drive from the station. We had a collection for RLNI station and sent a cheque for £60. The round trip from the quay in Wells was about 2¼ miles.

On Friday evening 26 of us enjoyed an excellent meal at Ollie's Restaurant in the town. On Saturday we met at 9.45am outside the Harbour Master's office for a circular walk that set off along the coast, followed a track alongside woodland and a path through the woods leading to the beach. There were many points of interest and fantastic views along the coastline, including novel flood defences, Holkham Beach, and a nature reserve as well as Holkham Park. We had a break for refreshments in The Outlook just inland from Holkham Beach, and a late lunch in The Courtyard Café at Holkham Hall.

After lunch we took a walk through the grounds of Holkham Hall passing the house, lakes, obelisk and near the Great Barn on our return to Wells. Distance approx. 8 miles. In the evening we met at the Golden Fleece at the quayside for a convivial dinner.

On Sunday there was a choice of taking a bus to Stiffkey for a 5 mile coastal walk back to Wells or going to Walsingham, a beautiful peaceful village with an Abbey and a Shrine both of which are open to the public.

A group of 10 took a ride by the light railway steam train along the narrow-gauge railway from Wells to Walsingham which is bordered by fields with red poppies. Several of us visited the Shrine before returning to Wells along country lanes and paths through fields with a visit to the Carpenters Arms for some well-deserved refreshments. We walked approx. seven miles. A total of 16 people took part in the walks on Sunday.

Thanks to Jean and Roger Venables for making the arrangements for such an excellent weekend. Thanks to everybody who joined us.

Tony Barber



## Notes on Walk 30th September 2023

The walk started from West Malling BR Station and followed the road to the High Street of West Malling, a moderate size market town. On the way we passed St Mary's Abbey and saw several Blue Plaques which had been displayed by the Malling District Council to attract attention to people with past connections to the area such as JMW Turner who had painted a watercolour of the Cascade at St Mary's Abbey, portrait painter John Downman and Captain William Locker who had been Sir Horatio Nelson's mentor. Upon leaving the High Street we took a path which took us across an interesting arch bridge over the M20 and passed through three developing villages: Leybourne, Birling and Ryarsh. The route took us through open fields and woodland and we were able to see the remains of Leybourne Castle across the fields and the southern slope of the North Downs in the distance.

We had excellent service for lunch at The Duke of Wellington in Ryarsh.

The length of the walk was approximately 7 miles and 25 walkers took part.

Thanks to Stewart and Sally Biggs for leading the walk and booking The Duke of Wellington in Ryarsh for lunch. Thanks also to everybody who joined us.

Tony Barber

