



A View from the Chair

The new season is upon us! I hope you have all had a great summer and you are looking forward to dusting off your bats and getting back into playing.

Table Tennis Wales has not been putting its feet up over the summer and lots of work has been going on by many volunteers and staff alike - all dedicated to increasing participation, training our players and in regard to a range of back-office improvements - including work on a new database - and also a new website which we hope will go live shortly.

I wish you all a very happy and successful season ahead.

Bernard Carter - Chair

Coaching Corner- Ryan Jenkins

Staff News

Stephen Gertsen has shown interest in getting involved again with Welsh table tennis after his experience with the ETTA. I am hoping for him to become a selector with the Welsh players in the board and chair agree

Steve, Judith and Simon have all been appraised and know their plans for 2013-2014 as we have new ideas in getting more members, more clubs and new initiatives.

A new position has been advertised in conjunction with the Welsh disability squad - 20 hours a week - which will bring extra help to our programme

International

The biggest news in years was Charlotte Carey winning bronze in the European Youth Championships last month in Ostrava. Angharad Phillips reached the QF of the USA U21 open in Las Vegas. Many medals were achieved at the Senior International schools in Isle of Man with Gold's, Silver's and bronze brought on the way home to Wales

Charlotte is now in California and will soon go to Canada for their Youth Open. Dan O'Connell is currently battling in Czech Open. Angharad and Megan will depart soon to Belarus for the senior Open in September. Things are in place for UK School Games and the Brazil Youth Open in September and all players are working towards the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Charlotte is hoping to qualify for the Youth Olympics in China next Summer and thats why she is playing Hungary, Brazil and Canada Open's (as they are qualifying events)

Coaching Courses

Check out www.ttaw.co.uk/coaching to see we have several courses ready for 2013-2014 with UKCC L1 and Leaders dates already in place for our coaches. We have had meetings and we are working very close with the ETTA in regards to our SLA agreement and coach licence

TTW Awards

The TTW awards were held in Bridgend in July 2013 with a great turn out. All the awards and their recipients have been posted on www.ttaw.co.uk and there are photos to view on www.nationalcoachwales.blogspot.com

George Evans was given the TTW Lifetime Award for his services to table tennis as a player, coach, NPC, team manager and board member

Coaches EYE

Name: Simon Oyler

Club: St Mellons and the regional coach

Coaching Philosophy: Always look to improve yourself and your knowledge

Best coaching result: Coaching players to Welsh and British titles

Number of Years involved: 12 years

Coaching Goal: To coach at a Commonwealth Games and World Championships and get players to that level

Ryan Jenkins

Disability Table Tennis

insport – Progress Report (August 2013)

The insport programme aims to support Governing Bodies in their quest to be more inclusive with regard to Disability and since taking on the challenge TTW have been making some great progress.

Pathway – A review of the current structure / disability pathway, what's on offer and how the system operates in being undertaken. The aim is to clearly show people that the sport provides inclusive opportunities across the board, from grass roots club and events, right through to National, GB and Paralympic level. It is clear that TTW has a lot to offer with regard to providing opportunities for disabled players to get involved across Wales.

Audit - of South & South East – In an attempt to gain a better understanding of where there are currently disabled players in action, a simple audit is being undertaken across the South and South East.

Already it is clear that there are disabled players out there and that the clubs are more than happy to accommodate them. This inclusive nature of clubs is a big selling point when trying to engage with disabled people and something that the TTW will be looking to exploit in a much more positive fashion.

Website & Communication - The fact that there is so much positive stuff happening in Wales and that already the opportunity for disabled athletes to take part is available, shows that with better communication and a more defined pathway, TTW will be well on the way to receiving the 'ribbon'

insport award, and very quickly be aiming for the 'Bronze' level. Small changes in attitude and approach can transform an NGB's philosophy towards being inclusive and the TTW Equity Group, lead by the CEO Phil Avery are targeting the key areas required to do this.

Greater communication and publicity is vitally important and work has begun on developing a new Website, the first point of call for many people. Through this, the profile of Disability Table Tennis and its players can be raised and ultimately used as role models for others looking for an inclusive sport to take part in. Table Tennis players in Wales have been incredibly successful and we need to make sure everyone knows and that there will be a structure in place that will mean others will follow.

The long arm of the law?

We recently held a speculative meeting with the Deputy Police Commissioner for South Wales to see whether Police Support Officers could be seconded to work as volunteer table tennis coaches in disadvantaged or minority ethnic areas. The proposal has been greeted with enthusiasm and the Police Commissioners Office is to circulate our proposal to officers in an effort to recruit new volunteers.

This is a completely new initiative It is impossible at this stage to say whether or not significant interest will flow - we will have to wait and see what interest is generated.

Outdoor tables pilot scheme

It has been confirmed we will receive a grant for a pilot scheme to install outdoor tables at various public locations across Wales. Various sites have been inspected and decisions on allocation are in the process of being made.

Forthcoming events

12-15 Sept UK School Games- Sheffield

21 Sept Glamorgan Senior & Vets at Cardiff City TTC, 135 Maindy Rd Cardiff- email cardiffcityttc@gmail.com for entry form

28-29 Sept Team Championships of Wales Juniors

5 Oct Glamorgan Juniors & Cadets at Cardiff City TTC, 135 Maindy Rd Cardiff- email cardiffcityttc@gmail.com for entry form

6 Oct Dragon – Under 9s Under 11s Under 13s Under 15s – Cardiff City TTC, 135 Maindy Rd Cardiff- email cardiffcityttc@gmail.com for entry form

19-20 Oct Team Championships of Wales Vets

19-20 Oct Newcastle Grand Prix

26-27 Oct Team Championships of Wales Seniors

26-27 Oct Stockton 4*

New ways of obtaining affiliation & licences

Affiliation

Affiliation to TTW can now be arranged in the following ways;

1. As previously through your league or club organiser. (We have a new online system and have sent out instructions to club/league organisers to explain how they can use it for their own club/league). *Any organisers who have not received their instructions please email the General Manager at philipaveryco@hotmail.com*

2. For individuals who prefer to apply direct to TTW by going to:

<https://memberdesq.imgstg.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&OrgID=10341>

Before using the new system existing members applying direct and not through their club/league first need their individual user name and password – to obtain this simply email; ttwmembership@outlook.com. (Brand new members who have not previously affiliated will set up a new registration and will have a user name and password automatically allocated)

3. By posting a cheque for the £12 fee to The General Manager, High Winds, St Marys Hill, Vale of Glamorgan, CF35 5ED. Please provide full name, address, email address, if any and date of birth. Please also supply a stamped self-addressed envelope if no email address is supplied. Cheques payable to TTAW.

Licences

Similarly licences can be obtained as follows;

1. If your club/league organiser is in the habit of routinely acquiring your licence then this can continue- you would need to liaise with him/her

2. For individuals who wish to apply direct to TTW by using our new online system following the same link above. Again before using the system existing members first need their individual user name and password – to obtain this simply email; ttwmembership@outlook.com as above. (Again brand new members who have not previously affiliated will set up a new registration and will have a user name and password automatically allocated)

3 By posting a cheque for the £12.50 fee to The General Manager, Table Tennis Wales, High Winds, St Marys Hill, Vale of Glamorgan, CF35 5ED – cheques payable to TTAW please. Please provide full name address any email address and date of birth. Please also supply a stamped self-addressed envelope if no email address is supplied.

Success for Regina

Regina Grech reached the last 8 in the over 50s section of the European Veterans in Bremen this summer. This represents her best achievement to date having previously reached the last 32 and last 54 in the Europeans and Worlds over 40s respectively. Her results are below;

Finished 2nd place in her group losing to Denmark's No.2.

1st round Main Draw: beat Ilona Hartleb (Germ.) 3:0

2nd round: beat Gabi Kochanski (Germ). 3:2

3rd round: beat No 3 seed Ivetta Kutsikova (Slovakia) 3:1

4th round: beat No 8 seed Karin Rhytter (Denmark): 3:2

1/4 Final: lost to Jing Tian-Zoerner (Germany) 3:0, (Chinese with German passport) -no 1 seed and European Champion.

Regina moved to Wales some 25 years ago. She had previously learned her table tennis in the 1970s in Germany, at TSF Ditzingen near Stuttgart where she played at 2nd Bundesliga level.

Around the regions

South Report

There have been some great improvements towards the back end of the season in the South Region.

Cardiff-

Firstly Joseph Roberts won his first national title taking the Under 11's crown, he was close to completing a double but lost out in a close fought final match against Cade Short of Bridgend. Joseph has also been a part of the EuroKids program over the past year and has got him noticed on a European front. Joseph was selected by the EuroKids program to attend a France Talent ID Camp in which he got the opportunity to practice with former Olympic and World Champion Zhang Yining.

Joshua Stacey got his first call up to represent his country at the Luxembourg Youth Open, He was joined by Ryan Oyler who comes from the same area of Cardiff as Josh. It is great to have two players from the same community representing their country.

Macaulay Morgan showed why he is a player to watch for the coming season by winning the singles event at Gemau Cymru, whilst his team finished with a silver medal losing out to a strong south team. Macaulay then got the chance to train in Germany for two weeks during the summer period with other Welsh players.

Regional coach Simon Oyler has been working closely with Sport.Cardiff who have been a great help in supporting table tennis activities in the Cardiff area. They will be running more primary school activities from September with the aim to get more children engaged in table tennis at a younger age. They will also be looking to encourage girls only sessions so we can introduce more girls into our sport. This will be an on going program to help support club members, creating healthy links from club to schools.

Newport –

Newport will be looking to put them selves back on the table tennis front this season with a new program looking to hit the city.

Regional coach Simon Oyler is helping former welsh international Owen Griffiths to set up a program that will give young people the opportunity to have quality table tennis coaching. The aim is to get 200 children playing table tennis in Newport on a regular basis for the coming season.

Chepstow –

Chepstow Table Tennis Club has been growing in strength over the past few months, with three coaches undergoing their UKCC Level 1 coaching course, over 20 young children attending the club sessions on a weekly basis. This coming season Chepstow will host a dragon type event at the club, which will look to help the players get a taste of competing against other players from different areas. There are also plans for primary school taster sessions, which will be looking to go ahead in October.

Keep up to date on the latest stories as we continue to make progress in our area at www.southwalestt.blogspot.com

Simon Oyler

South Central

Last season Rhondda TTC had its most successful year to date, securing a record 21 top 3 finishes at the Welsh Championships, which included 5 Welsh champions. Rhondda were also crowned Welsh League Premier champions and secured their 7th Welsh League title in 7 years. The club also added the Gemau Cymru Team event to its list by beating Cardiff and Swansea. This helped Rhondda to gain 'Club of the Year' at the 2013 Table Tennis Wales Awards.

Other successes included the running of a Dragon event with over 50 entries, players getting selected for European Championships, Commonwealth Championships, World Championships, British League, Luxembourg Open, Estonia Open, Belgium, German training and league matches, UK School Games trials and Swedish Open.

At the Table Tennis Wales awards Callum Evans won player of the year for the South Central area, which he deserved after winning the u15 National Championships and also playing well when representing Wales.

New Season, New Start.....

This year, the club and all its players are looking to push forward even further. Conor and Nicole are both aiming to be regular team members in the senior national team. They are also looking to do well at Grand-Prix Events and when they play matches for their foreign clubs. Callum, Jac, Liam, Soffi, Charlotte and Dylan are hoping to win Welsh events, Welsh League and also to enter English tournaments including Grand-Prix events. The club itself is looking towards the future and will try to find new talent to ensure future success.

South East

There have been a number of exhibitions in the area to attract more players to the Ael y Bryn club. Over 100 kids tried Table Tennis in two local schools. The kids really enjoyed the exhibition and taster sessions and have now started going to the club. There are more planned for September.

Merthyr Tydfil hasn't had any Table Tennis for the last 10 years; however, there are now 4 new Table Tennis sessions taking place in secondary schools, with a community club looking to start in September. The first leaders award took place in Merthyr with over 12 people attending and gaining valuable experience and knowledge.

The Dragon event held at Abertillery Sports Centre was a huge success with over 50 entries. This was the first Dragon event in Abertillery and its popularity showed that there is a demand for the sport in other parts of Wales. Greg Price has done well in the area and entered around 15 new players who have started in new school projects in Abertillery, Merthyr and Ebbw Vale.

Beth Roberts competed at the European Youth Championships. Playing most matches at number 2 was difficult, as Beth played mostly number ones in the opposing team. Beth managed to win 3 out of 8 matches and the girls' team was unlucky not to finish higher.

Bethany Brewer and Jamie Lee Harley are both looking to move on from the Dragon events this year and try to win some Welsh u15 ranking events. Both girls are starting to represent Wales on a regular basis and are looking forward to a new season. Last season Bethany finished 2nd in the u13 Dragon Event and Jamie Lee finished 4th.

Well done to all the players for their hard work and commitment to the sport and good luck to everyone in upcoming matches and tournaments.

Steve Jenkins

South West

Lydia John was awarded the TTW Young Player of the Year at the TTW Annual Awards 2013. Marc Castro was the winner of the TTW West Regional Player of the Year. Congratulations to both players who have worked very hard this season.

Gemau Cymru Report. Due to holidays I was absent for the tournament Larry Hursey and Dennis Bromage took the lead with the team, I would like to thank them for they're support on what was a successful event for the young players. Overall in the team event we finished third so it was a Bronze Medal for us. Lots of feedback from Dennis and Larry on what we need to work on to improve. Lydia John won all her matches and was successful in winning gold in the singles event, Marc Castro winning joint Bronze in the boy's singles.

Congratulations to Lydia who has had a busy summer with Training and Competition Camps throughout. Her hard work and determination is proving successful and we are hoping for more successes from in the new season.

West Regional Squad is due to start on the 9th September with the groups being split over a 3 hour time slot. Letters to invited players are being sent this week.

Lawrence John has also had a busy summer training in Hamburg with 2 other welsh players, Lawrence enjoyed the experience and is currently away in Slovenia at the moment, so no break this summer.

The region has maintained its focus with training on a weekly basis in Swansea, we have also had a camp in Mumbles where Aled Howell brought players from over the bridge to train with us. This was an enjoyable experience with our warm ups along the promenade.

Matthew Francis was also training hard, along with Lydia John they represented Wales in the European Mini Championship, which was held in France this is the first time Wales has entered teams and I think it was a valuable experience for us to see the bigger picture.

Penlan & Penyrheol clubs have proved successful through the summer months with lots of players attending to keep the focus, Mumbles has also continued to run its Summer Girls Club with the addition of Brothers of the girls who also fancied they're chances against their sisters.

The regions School programme is also set to re start with the assistance of a LAPA Grant being approved by Swansea City Council, meetings to discuss this are being held over the next few weeks.

The Premier League Football and Swansea City Football Club have also chosen Table Tennis to run a programme for Secondary School Children in Swansea to feed our local clubs with new talent, details of this are currently in the processing stages.

The Swansea Top 12 Summer Event organized by Dennis Bromage has been successful with our top youngsters competing again our top Premier League Players current standings are 1st Josh Jenkins,

2nd Dave Lloyd, 3rd Dennis Bromage, 4th Marc Castro, 5th Paul Karabadak, 6th Scott Cundy, 7th Jason Peckham 8th Lawrence John 9th James Lobb, 10th Steffan Griffiths. Great to see our young talent competing and gaining experience from these games.

On the 21st July Lara Whitton and Grace Clement competed in the Eupal Dragon Tournament in Ael y Bryn Club, Lara won the under 9's event and came in a close 2nd place in the under 11's. Grace not far behind with her 5th place in both events. Well done to both players.

Judith Whitton

North West

The end of season 31up handicap tournament resulted in Victoria Brookes winning three trophies; the singles, under 40 singles and the doubles with Rob Walker. Steve Nicholls won the Veterans title and Jules Mitchell-Dawson the consolation event.

Most of the more senior players have been resting their weary limbs through July and August. However the juniors have been hard at work, our top two Kate Roberts and Victoria Brookes have been enthusiastically training with their coaches Keith Williams and Peter Beatham. Kate recently finished third in the Junior Masters and is up to fourth in the national Junior Girls ranking list. Victoria is to second in the Cadets and seventeenth in the junior standings.

Three of our Veteran players, Kath Mitchell-Dawson, Paul Collins and Chris Watkins are gearing up to representing Wales in the six nations tournament staged in Dublin during September. Jules Mitchell-Dawson is umpiring at the competition.

The other players can't wait for the Llandudno & District Table Tennis League to start on 30th September. The league has an extra team in the shape of Rhyl Community Club that is a new junior team in the region. Additionally a whole batch of University players and another five new players to the league bodes well for an exciting 2013/14 season.

Sean Lucas

Welsh women in table tennis

Over the past couple of months we have been looking into the amount of females who play table tennis across Wales. We have found out that there are currently 304 females registered for a table tennis community club in Wales which makes up just 16.4% of all players. Unsurprisingly the majority of registered female players are in the South which have 91% of all female players, with mid Wales having only 3% and North Wales the remaining 6%.

From our own research and that of ETTA and ITTF, we believe that some of the reasons why females don't are:

- Many facilities are not 'women friendly' with a lack of changing rooms and toilet facilities!
- Lack of opportunities to play, especially valid in the more rural areas.
- Once you get to senior level there is a shortage of females to play against regularly.
- Family commitments, i.e young families.
- Dislike of team sports.
- Not enough female coaches (girls may feel self conscious with male coaches).
- Girls feel intimidated by boys when they first start to play table tennis.
- Long matches and late finishes which can also lead to late night journeys home in bad weather.
- Lack of specialist table tennis clothing designed for women and girls available for sale in England.
- Cold playing halls with matches played in silence
- Lack of media coverage
- A lack of confidence in their own abilities can stop people playing
- Boys often dominate clubs and equipment

However, we know that those who do play, enjoy a sport that does not require participants getting wet and muddy, causes few injuries, increases fitness, has many opportunities for competition and can be played by all ages and abilities. It is our vision to not only to see more girls and ladies playing Table Tennis and remaining in the sport but also in more positions of management, more female coaches and more female umpires. We now have an action plan which includes a number of events and activities, please support us by coming along and offering your ideas and suggestions.

Julie Furber & Clair Flanagan

Community Games

We ran the table tennis section of the Street Games Community Sports day on 21 August. Street Games is a national charity dedicated to providing doorstep sporting opportunities for young people in disadvantaged areas.

It was a hugely successful day with over 700 young people involved.

The day basically comprised of enabling as many as possible to enjoy the pleasures of our sport including playing against a robot as well as staff coaches Stephen Jenkins & Ryan Oyler.

Many thanks to volunteers Glyn Kellow, Howard Jones and Dave Treharne for helping out all day.

Hardbat event 3 November in Cardiff

The Welsh Closed World Ping Pong Qualifier will take place on Sunday 3 November at the SportWales National Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff on Sunday 3 November.

There will be 64 players in 8 groups of 8 and players finishing in the top 4 in each group will qualify for the KO stage.

Prize money for the winner is £300, the runner-up £100 and losing semi-finalists £50 (subject to a full entry).

The top 2 players will qualify to represent Wales at an event in London in early 2014 - which is likely to be live on TV.

Players must use the bats supplied by the organizers which are Chinese Dunlop blades with ITTF approved Fair Play hardbat rubber.

For an entry form email Ryan Jenkins – ryanjenkins25@hotmail.com. The entry fee is £20.

Welsh & Belgian clubs link up

St Martins TTC from Caerphilly have linked up with Ieper TTC in Belgium (otherwise spelt Ypres) to hold an annual friendly exchange match.

This Belgian town, only an hour or so from Calais, was made famous during World War 1 as a place where thousands of courageous British soldiers fought and died – and who are still remembered every day at 8pm during a moving “Last Post” ceremony by the town locals.

Last year the St Martins team of Glyn Kellow, Kevin Gertsen, Ben & Phil Avery travelled for a weekend to Ypres for a match which ended in a keenly contested draw - followed by some excellent socializing!

Over the weekend 30 Sept the Belgians came to Wales for the return. The St Martins team in which Steve Eades and Peyman also played managed to pinch the result on sets countback. The Caerphilly club now looks forward to next years match which will be back in Belgium

Gerald retires

At the Eastern Valley AGM, Gerald Watkins announced he would no longer be involved in table tennis as widely as he has been including giving up his main role in the running of North Gwent Table Tennis club.

It is a testimony of how long Gerald has been involved in table tennis by the fact that the majority of players and coaches in the region have known him to be around their entire lifetimes.

He has run the Abertillery/North Gwent set up for a number of years and has had at least one side in the Eastern Valley league as long as most can remember.

Gerald regularly gave lifts to many players of all ages all around the country for tournaments eager for his club players to improve and experience a variety of styles in matches. His step back will definitely be a loss to the region but we would like to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the players and sport.

Gerald has been a fantastic asset to Welsh table tennis and we hope he will be able to stay involved at some level



Official clothing suppliers to the Welsh teams

Table Tennis Wales is also supported by:



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