



# Nets & Edges

## News from Table Tennis Wales

(printer-friendly version)

[www.ttaw.co.uk](http://www.ttaw.co.uk)

November 2013

## A View from the Chair

Welcome to the November newsletter. The season is now in full swing and I hope you are all enjoying your TT. We have been busy over the last few months putting together a new website. We hope that you will visit the site regularly and that you will find it a useful source of information. There are many new pages which we hope will be of interest. If you have suggestions for additional features please let our General Manager know. In addition, our online database for registrations is up and running. Guidance as to its use can be found on the website.

We are looking for some regional directors in particularly the Cardiff, Valleys and South West Wales areas - and also a volunteer child protection officer. If you have any interest again please contact the General Manager for a chat.

On the weekend of 16 17 November we are hosting the Home Nations Seniors Championships at the Sport Wales National Centre Sophia Gardens Cardiff. I offer a warm Welsh welcome to the visiting teams, coaches, officials and supporters. Please come along to support us - and to see top class table tennis!

Finally I would like to add my congratulations to Rob Davis on becoming the world number 1 para player in men`s class 1. What a fantastic Welsh achievement! Well done Rob!

**Bernard Carter - Chair**

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## Coaching Corner- Ryan Jenkins

### Staff News

Unfortunately we are losing the services of Judith Whitton in the Swansea area. Judith has decided to move on and will still be involved in the area and its events but has other commitments which she will give her time to. We thank her greatly for her help and work over the past 12 months

### International

Charlotte couldn't quite qualify for the Junior World Champs in Morocco in December, but is 2<sup>nd</sup> reserve so we may still have a chance if players aren't able to attend. The teams are ready for the German, Swedish and Finland Opens in November/December time. Cardiff hosts the Senior 6 Nations on 15-17<sup>th</sup> November at Sport Wales National Centre. It's free to watch and support

### Coaching Courses

Check out [www.ttaw.co.uk/coaching](http://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. Several TTW Leaders award have taken place in mid and west Wales to allow coaching support to those places to build a new future in our sport

## **Gemau Cymru 2014**

Gemau Cymru, which is a multi-sport event in Cardiff, saw table tennis showcase itself in July 2013 for the first time ever. It went very well and the Urdd have asked table tennis to be included in 2014's event also

## **Up Coming Events:**

Swedish Open – Nov 2013

Bristol GP – Nov 2013

German Open – Nov 2013

Senior Home Nations – Nov 2013

Finland Senior Open – Dec 2013

## **Ryan Jenkins- National Coach**

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## **Six Nations Vets Report**

Once again the Welsh Veterans went into competition against England, Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man and Guernsey this year in Dublin Ireland.

This year's elite of Welsh Veterans were represented by Steve Buck, Mark Farrow, Tomasz Rzeszotko, Regina Grech, Marilyn Morgan, Christine Watkins, Tony Collins, Steve Eades, Ray Goulding, Kath Mitchell Dawson, Paul Collins, Tony Needham, Roger Grech, Roger Thomas and Dennis Bromage.

The team did not disappoint - bringing home a hatful of medals once again.

Tomasz Rzeszotko retained his 40s men title with an outstanding result against Irelands Kevin Mackay winning 3-2 in sets. Mark Farrow made a successful weekend by earning gold in the 40s consolation.

Steve Eades won the consolation 50s Men Gold. Regina Grech pulled off a fantastic win beating Elaine Sayer of England 3-1 and continues to fly the flag of Welsh table tennis ladies around the world and retained her 50s ladies singles title.

Paul Collins pulled off a tremendous win in the quarter finals over John Magnal and just lost out in the men's 60s semi-finals. Christine Watkins won the over 50s ladies consolation gold. The effort of the week must go down to Roger Thomas who continued to play in this event with severe bruising and muscular problems to win gold in the over 70s men singles beating the England no: 1 Keith Powell an absolute fantastic effort which cements Roger's position at the top in his age group throughout the UK.

In the doubles event Regina Grech and Marilyn Morgan just lost out in the 40s ladies semi-finals. Steve Eades and Tomasz Rzeszotko lost in the 40s semi-finals. Roger Grech and Tony Needham just lost out in the semi-finals in the 60s doubles with Paul Collins and his partner from England Phil Biggs obtaining silver.

Both Dennis Bromage and Roger Thomas obtained silver in the over 70s men doubles.

In the team's event it was the ladies over 40s team that really pulled out all the stops with Marilyn Morgan having a fantastic result against England's Rosemary Reighton and winning silver in the team event.

A special mention for Tony Collins who had some tremendous battles with both the English no1 and 2 losing out in the fifth set in the singles and team events.

The event which was run by the Irish Veterans Table Tennis Association was a tremendous success - the food and entertainment was fantastic and the company and stories shared with fellow competitors went on till the early hours of the morning.

I would like to thank Dennis Bromage who co-ordinated the finances and assisted myself once again in arranging kit and answering players questions - what a fantastic supporter of Welsh Table Tennis Dennis has become.

Steve Eades  
Welsh Delegate

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## Around the Regions

### South Central

At the UK School Games there was some success for the south central players. Conor Edwards got an individual silver medal, losing to Helshan Weerasinghe in the u18 singles. Along with team mates Jac Jenkins, Ryan Oylar and Chris Griffiths, he also got a bronze medal in the team event.

Rhondda finished first in the premier division TCW juniors after winning 7-0, 7-0, 7-0 and 6-1 on the first weekend held at Sport Wales. Rhondda is going for its 8<sup>th</sup> title in 8 years. The team will be strengthened next time with the availability of Kate Roberts.

Rhondda secondary schools competition will take place on November 23<sup>rd</sup> with 15 different schools entering in two different categories.

The following players have been selected for the following events:

Stockton 4\* Open (25-27th October) - Charlotte Slye, Soffi Jenkins, Chris Griffiths  
ITTF Training Camp

Werner Schlager Academy (25 Oct-2 Nov) - Jac Jenkins (Coach - Stephen Jenkins)

Hungarian Youth Open (6-10 November) - Callum Evans, Conor Edwards (Coaches - Ryan Jenkins & Gergly Urban)

Senior Home Nations, Cardiff (15-17th November) - Ryan Jenkins, Conor Edwards,

### South East

A meeting has taken place with Blaenau Gwent council which has resulted in 6 primary school taster sessions being set up and a new club starting in Bryn Mawr. Greg Price will be helping at the sessions and will also be the head coach at Bryn Mawr. In addition, a Table Tennis festival will be held at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre in conjunction with Street Games. This will result in more players filtering into Bryn Mawr, Abertillery and Ebbw Vale.

Primary schools sessions have been going well in Bryn Awel and a visit to Ael y Bryn has shown that the club is going from strength to strength. There are so many u10 players who are also entering most of the Dragon tournament. At the last Dragon tournament the club had an amazing start in the under 9s event, securing the top 3 finishing positions. Iestyn came first after beating Jack, whilst Anthony was 3rd. Elis reached the under 11 semi-final. All other club players had good matches, played well and are now looking forward to the next Eupal Dragon.

Following discussions with members, players, and parents (many of whom reside in the Ty Coch area of Rhymney), Aelybryn TTC has decided to support the Pen Bryn Oer Wind Farm Project. The £30,000 per year Community Benefit Fund would help increase local activities and support community groups.

## **South West**

### **LAWRENCE WINS GOLD IN SHEFFIELD**

September Started with the Sainsburys School Games in Sheffield -Lawrence John winning Gold in the Standing Disability Event for Wales.

Ashley Wray also winning a singles Bronze medal in Learning Disability.

The lads also came together in the team event winning a Silver medal which was an amazing achievement. Well done to the whole team who provided us with exiting and amazing table tennis throughout the weekend.

Paul Karabardak took the class 7 team bronze medal with Partner Will Bayley in the Para European Championships.

Congratulations to TTW newcomer Rana Ihabrassem from Haverfordwest who reached the Semi Final of the Under 13's Cardiff Dragon event, her first competition since moving to Wales proved a success and I'm sure we will see her improve throughout the season.

### **JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS OF WALES**

Swansea A were determined to gain promotion to the Premier for the second half of the season in the first weekend of the Team Championships. The team of Lawrence John Marc Castro Lydia John were all on top form finishing top of Division 1 let`s hope they can maintain this enthusiasm and top performances for the next weekend in January. Lawrence John winning 8/8 games - Marc Castro and Lydia John winning 7/8 games.

Swansea B Steffan Griffiths Harry Langley Shankley Ismail Bradley Abraham finished a very respective 3<sup>rd</sup> in the same division with an uplifting team spirit. Congratulations to both teams who were a pleasure to coach and a big thanks to Peter Langley for assisting over weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Dennis Bromage who won a silver medal with team mate Roger Thomas in the 6 Nations Veterans in Dublin in September.

Lydia John was the star of the show for the Wales B team in Lillishall last weekend winning 7 out of her 10 games. The girls consisting of a very young team Charlotte Sly Anna Hursey and Lara Whitton the girls are currently in 5<sup>th</sup> place after a tough weekend of competition.

TTW welcome Llangatwg Community School Neath. Sessions are run by Claire Woolfe 5x60 Officer and they have over 70 pupils registered who play regularly in daily sessions organized by Claire on 8 tables.

The Urdd are getting involved with TT at YGG Y Wern and YGG Lon Las. They are going to set up two clubs from the schools starting after half term. Ysgol Lonlas are having a table tennis day next week to promote the sport. A taster session at Ysgol Pontybrenin has also taken place with myself and Owen from the Urdd.

### **Regional Squad**

We welcome newcomers Group 1 6-7.30pm - Ryan George Ryan Gibbons and Jamie Quinn with Zoe Chase Lucy Quinn and Kate Founds. Great enthusiasm at the squad by these players who all show great potential. Also a huge welcome to Josh Morgan to our 2nd Squad.

### Swansea Top 12 Summer Championship.

The final round of the Top 12 was held at Penlan on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October and generally all comments indicate it has been a success in its aim to provide continued development for Swansea's top youngsters during the summer months. The competition will now become a part of an ongoing

development plan and it is hoped a Development Committee can be formed to ensure the successful running of the plan.

#### Results.

The first 3 rounds saw 2 groups of 6(3 top seniors and 3 top juniors) playing on a round robin basis. The groups were changed for each round to ensure the stiffest opposition for the youngsters.

At the end of Round 3, Dave Lloyd and Josh Jenkins tied for the seniors title and Marc Castro won the Junior title. Each player received £10.

In the final round, the 6 seniors played off in one group with the 6 juniors in the other, again on a round robin basis.

Scott Cundy won the seniors with Josh Jenkins runner up.  
Lawrence John won the juniors with Marc Castro runner up.  
Winners received £25 and RU's £15.

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A further project of the Swansea Development Plan is the Swansea Cadet/Junior Open. This proved a great success last year with players from England and Ireland taking on the top welsh youngsters. This year's event is planned for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December again at Penlan. The entry form will be available on the TTW website shortly

#### North West

The Llandudno & District season is off and running, we have twelve players who have not played in the league before and 72 registered players in total. After nearly four weeks we have only seven unbeaten players. Rhyl Community Club has made good start in the second division and remains unbeaten. The new Bangor University students are mid table in the first division.

Paul Collins doubles performances ensured he came back with a silver medal from the six nations Veterans tournament in Ireland. The over 60's team, that included Paul and Kath Mitchell-Dawson secured a third place finish, but sadly no bronze medals were awarded this year.

Back home; yet further away, the top juniors were involved in the Cardiff Open. Victoria Brookes won the Cadet Girls title. In the Junior Girls Kate Roberts finished runner in her strong group behind eventual winner Charlotte Carey. She lost out in the semi-finals for a rematch against Charlotte. Kate is now ranked 4th and Victoria 12th in the current wales junior rankings. Victoria is 2nd in the Cadet rankings but more importantly she beat her older brother 3-1 in a recent league match to own bragging rights in the Brookes household!

DIVISION ONE	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Y Morfa B	4	3	0	1	25	15	25
Denbigh A	3	2	0	1	21	9	21
Amlwch A	2	2	0	0	19	1	19
North Wales Police A	2	2	0	0	16	4	16
Bangor University	3	1	0	2	15	15	15
Y Morfa A	3	2	0	1	14	16	14
Landudno Junction	2	1	0	1	10	10	10

Amlwch B	3	1	0	2	8	22	8
Denbigh B	3	0	0	3	8	22	8
North Wales Police B	3	0	0	3	4	26	4

DIVISION TWO	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Craig-y-don D	4	3	0	1	25	15	25
Craig-y-don A	2	2	0	0	19	1	19
Rhyl Community	2	2	0	0	14	6	14
Glan Clwyd Hospital	2	1	0	1	13	7	13
Craig-y-don B	2	0	0	2	11	9	11
Denbigh C	2	1	0	1	9	11	9
Craig-y-don C	3	1	0	2	9	21	9
Denbigh D	3	0	0	3	6	24	6

Sean Lucas

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## Disability Table Tennis

### “Insport” progress gathers pace..

Table Tennis Wales` road towards acquiring Disability Sport Wales Ribbon award is gathering pace.

The new website changes are an important step in making it more readable and appealing for all its members. This will form a very important initial contact point for people wishing to find out about Disability Table Tennis and we will be populating the site with relevant information in due course. The focus for insport is on how the sport provides information to the public and how easy it is for information to be accessed. With this step now looking much stronger, the clarity of information will be paramount.

A Disability Pathway structure is being developed to clearly show how players with a disability can enter and move through the current system. The structure, still really in its early stages for players with a disability, already shows that players can and have been successful in reaching the highest levels of Paralympic success, not a bad start? The goal is to make this system more visible as well as developing and improving the pathway and the opportunities within.

Disability Inclusion Training (DIT) will be carried out for the Board and for the key coaches and individuals in the sport as the sport continues to develop its understanding of Disability Sport and inclusion. TTW is near completing its audit of clubs across the country and those clubs already with opportunities for players with a disability. The next step will be to develop a plan to promote those clubs wishing to be part of the disability programme and to actively seek out and find new members at the same time as looking for new coaches and volunteers to get involved with the sport. The insport Ribbon panel will take place in January and will continue to work on the presentation until this time. The key has been for TTW to work at its own pace within its means, and by continuing this process the sport will ensure that a strong structure is made available for players with a disability in future.

## **Para European Championships- Welsh players do us proud**

History was made at the European Championships with Rob Davies and Paul Davies taking gold and silver in the mens class 1 singles.

Rob Davies, the 29 year old from Brecon, was hugely impressive in winning his final 3-0

Paul from North Cornelly had been involved in a titanic battle in the semi where he came through in the fifth against the Italian Borgato

Wales` Sara Head from Beddau took a bronze in the womens class 3.

She came from 1-2 down in the quarter against Altinlas from Turkey to win 14-12 in the fifth. She had a match point in the semi but went down 2-3

## **UK School Games- more Welsh success**

Lawrence John, Cellan Hall and Ashley Wray all came back with medals.

Lawrence took gold in the ambulant event while Cellan and Ashley took bronze in their respective events. The trio also took silver in the team event.

## **LATEST - DAVIES IS TABLE TENNIS WORLD NUMBER ONE!**

Rob Davies has become the new world number one in the mens class 1 category- replacing Paralympic and world champion Holger Nikelis from Germany. Rob had previously been ranked 5<sup>th</sup> before his successful European Championships

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## **Club Focus - Llynfi TTC Maesteg**

Llynfi TC (Maesteg) started with Huw Jenkins and David Richards who love the game and regularly used to travel across the Rhondda to play for an hour or so every week. They were informed that grants were available and decided to apply to see if we could set up their own club.

When this became viable they advertised locally and through social media and the response was very good.

The first members of the club decided they wanted to be part of it and a small committee was formed and Andrew Jones came in as club secretary.

The club started out with 3 tables in a small community centre with around 10 playing members turning up every Friday for a friendly knock. The club has since had to move to bigger premises where it uses 5 tables - with an order being made soon for another 3.

The membership list has grown to around 30 with the venue regularly getting around 15-20 players every week (several members work shifts). They play for 3 hours and have children from the age of 10 up to their most senior player who is 70 – proving that table tennis can be enjoyed by all age groups regardless of ability. Huw & David have both completed their leader courses and are waiting to do their level 1 coaching badges.

The club is now based at Nantfyllon Miners Institute near Maesteg and anyone who wants to come along for a friendly knock would be made most welcome

Andrew Jones

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## Women & Girls

### **Ladies only sessions – next session 27 November – all ages – all levels**

The first ladies night was held at Cardiff City Table Tennis Club in September 2013. Ten of us turned up, a mixture of experienced and non-experienced players of all ages. It was a great night with the opportunity to learn new shots and develop old ones, playing as individuals and in teams.

The beginners who turned up were keen to play again and we are running a second session on Wednesday 27 November between 6-7pm. It is only £1 to play and experienced players will be on hand to give advice. All ladies and girls of all levels and ages – including absolute beginners- will be made very welcome. For more information email Claire Flannagan at cmf113@hotmail.com

Steve Jenkins is also running girls-only sessions in schools in Rhondda Cynon-Taff and is really seeing the results with lots of girls taking the opportunity to give the sport a chance. There are so many advantages to playing; social, fitness and being part of a team. This is the reason we are keen to get more females playing.

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## Coach Education

Check out the coaching section in our website for up to date details of all courses ([ttaw.co.uk/coaching-1/](http://ttaw.co.uk/coaching-1/))

### **Leaders Award**

A busy start to the season with 4 courses in October across Wales (Caernarfon, Cardiff, Neath and Nantymoel). A total in excess of 40 participants took their first steps on the TTW Coaching Pathway. The next course is scheduled for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> in Swansea – applications to Mostyn Lewis.

### **UKCC**

Are you living in North Wales ?

Are you interested in coaching table tennis and qualifying as a Level 1 coach ??

### **DON'T DELAY !!**

Apply for the course which starts on 1<sup>st</sup> December (day 1) in Clywedog Sports Centre Wrexham – details on how to apply are on the website (see link above).

The next course in South Wales is scheduled for February / March at Cardiff City TTC. Get your applications in now.

Mostyn Lewis

Director Coach Education

mostyn60@gmail.com

***Clubs Leagues and individuals are very welcome to submit news or features of interest which we shall be pleased to do our best to publish***

***Please email to [philipaveryco@hotmail.com](mailto:philipaveryco@hotmail.com)***



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