



# Nets & Edges

## News from Table Tennis Wales

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

Jan 2014

## A View from the Chair

Happy New Year to everyone.

Looking back over 2013, Table Tennis Wales had a good year.

One area which improved considerably was that of communication.

Firstly, Nets & Edges was launched a year ago and with this edition, has been published 7 times. It has been well received by each region.

Secondly, a new web site has been launched, which again has been well received by everyone.

My thanks go to Phil for both these communication tools. Without good communications, so many things can be misunderstood, opportunities missed and successes not appreciated.

Please continue to support these avenues of communications by providing Phil with material for Nets & Edges and read the website for opportunities, events and successes.

I would also mention that we are seeking a suitably experienced & knowledgeable individual to lead on child protection. An honorarium of £1500 is available. If you are interested please contact Phil Avery at [philpaveryco@hotmail.com](mailto:philpaveryco@hotmail.com)

**Bernard Carter - Chair**

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## Coaching Corner- Ryan Jenkins

### Staff News

Greg Price has joined the team until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and has already made a great splash to the Blaenau Gwent region. Greg is in various schools and clubs weekly to enhance the region and has encouraged more members to the TTW

### International

Mike Marsden and Dean Cundy are new entries on the January World rankings after wins at the recent Finland Open. Charlotte Carey made the QF of the women's singles and the other players all had a decent tournament. Charlotte has qualified for the ITTF Junior circuit finals in Portugal along with the Youth Olympic Games qualification event the same week. Marc Castro, Benedict Watson, Joseph Roberts, Cade Short, Anna Hursey, Victoria Brookes and Lydia John will all go to Barcelona in early February to play in the Cataluña Open. Joshua Stacey and Lydia John are currently at a Eurokids camp in Luxembourg which is taken by a Chinese coaching team.

## 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. A TTW Leaders course will take place in Talgarth in February along with more dates in other regions

## World Championships of Ping Pong 2014

Dean Cundy passed the qualification stage and progressed to the last 32 where he lost to England's Chris Doran 2-0 at the Sky Sports Alexandra Palace extravaganza in early January. Wales will focus further on a bigger qualification event in late 2014 ready for the 2015 Championships

## Other Major Events

Selections will be made shortly for the World Championships in Japan in April 2014

## Up-Coming Events:

Welsh Championships  
Junior/Cadet 6 Nations  
Women's British League  
West of Scotland Open  
Rhyl Dragon  
World Junior Circuit Finals/Youth Olympic Games Qualification  
Welsh Primary Schools Team Championships

## *Ryan Jenkins National Coach*

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## News for women & girls

### Females Only Table Tennis Session

We are running a table tennis evening for women and girls of all ages. It doesn't matter how good you are, whether you've been playing for years or have never picked up a bat before. We have people of all abilities coming along and the aim is to give everybody a game. We can offer the coaching to improve your game or get you started. It's a chance for us all to get together and enjoy the sport so come and join us and spread the word with your family and friends.

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014

Time: 6pm - 7pm

Venue: Upper Hall, Welsh Institute of Sport, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.

Price: £1

For more information, get in touch with Julie and Claire at; [ttwladies@outlook.com](mailto:ttwladies@outlook.com)

### Searching for Brownies and Guides

Do you know somebody who goes to Brownies or Guides? Would they be interested in a table tennis taster session? Get in touch with Julie or Claire at [ttwladies@outlook.com](mailto:ttwladies@outlook.com)

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## A call for young volunteers

We are looking into the possibility of running a volunteering programme for young people. Before we seek out funding to run the scheme, we need to know if you are interested or not, so whatever the answer, please can you take a minute to fill out this survey and give us your thoughts. The link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D9MYQNT>

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## Disability Table Tennis

### **“Insport” - TTW moving forward with disability inclusion**

On Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> TTW moves one step closer to receiving the first level insport award after it presents to the Disability Sport Wales ‘insport’ panel at Sport Wales. The CEO Phil Avery leads the presentation, outlining the sport’s progress to date.

The ‘Ribbon’ award looks at the organisation and structure of the governing body, disability inclusion training for its board and key personnel and also how it communicates to its members.

“TTW has fully committed to the insport programme, and I have been impressed with the passion and desire to ensure that the sport is fully inclusive” stated Lyndon Williams, FDSW insport Case Officer. “The sport has already achieved major success with Paralympic medals and certainly has the drive to further develop disability table tennis through its club structure”

Further work will be carried out on the club audit with a view to establishing some projects around areas where there is a desire to further integrate disability players. We really do need the clubs to get behind the initiative and where possible feedback the information required.

There is still an ongoing need for more coaches and volunteers to get involved with this area of development and I urge everyone to see if they can spare time and effort for this exciting project and build on the sports current success.

Table Tennis is a sport that lends itself perfectly to many disabilities and has so much potential for further development. Much will depend on the work force that becomes available through its clubs and members, however the intention is to start sensibly within the confines of the resources available and then develop further initiatives as time goes by.

The new website has created a Disability ‘tab’ and as the project progresses we will see more and more information and articles appear. Information is only of use if people can see it and the web site and newsletter are key to increasing the profile of disability table tennis. We have to ensure that we keep the website up to date and full of the great stories that are happening in the sport.

The current structure has allowed players to develop into Paralympic athletes through the work of the academy and it’s coaches and further work on the pathway will increase the opportunities within Wales, thus allowing more players to come through the system.

This really is an exciting time for disability table tennis in Wales and those involved should be proud of what has been achieved to date - it really is something to shout about.

### **Davies nominated for ITTF Star Award**



GB's Rob Davies, who this year became men's class 1 European Champion and World number one, has received further recognition for his outstanding achievements with a nomination for the inaugural 2013 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Star Awards.

The 29 year old former rugby player from Brecon has been nominated for the Para Male Table Tennis Star presented by Tinsue, as selected by the ITTF Para Table Tennis Division.

### **Golden end to 2013 for GB in San Diego**



The GB Para Table Tennis ended the 2013 season on a high note for the Welsh contingent in the Mike Dempsey Memorial Championships in San Diego (December 5-7).

Paul Karabardak produced his best table tennis of the year to take the gold medal in the men's class 7 singles, beating former Paralympic champion Mitchell Seidenfeld of the USA in the final, and then combined with Beijing

and London Paralympic champion Jochen Wollmert from Germany to win the men's class 6-7 team event, beating USA 3-0 in the final.

GB Pathway Squad member Thomas Matthews, 20, achieved his first international medal with silver in the men's class 1 singles. Matthews then added a bronze in the men's class 1-2 team event with Oye Jamiyo,

There was also success for further success for Josh Morgan (Swansea) as he combined with 15 year old Pathway Squad member Billy Shilton (Gloucestershire) to win bronze in the men's class 10 team event.

Karabardak, 28, from Swansea, is currently world ranked 16 in men's class 7 and had earlier beaten world number nine Kevin Dourbecker from France 3-1 in the quarter-finals. He then defeated American Daryl Sterling 3-0 to set up a final against the very experienced world number five Seidenfeld, who defeated Wollmert 3-0 in his semi-final. In a very close final the Welshman twice took the lead and then held his nerve superbly to win 11-9 in the fifth.

"I'm really happy," said Karabardak. "I've been training hard all year and getting some good results but I managed to put it all together here.

After the disappointment of the European Championships I just wanted to play well and win a few matches and I just got on a roll. Seidenfeld is a good player so it is good to know that I can beat him and this will give me confidence for next year now."

Matthews, a former mountain bike rider from Aberdare, reached the final of the men's class 1 event with a 3-1 win over Hun Tae Seo of Korea in the semi-finals and lost nothing in defeat to the world number 7 from Korea, Hae Kon Lee, who took the gold 3-1.

"I'm very pleased," said Matthews. "I played Lee in my first group match and only lost 3-2 but he showed his experience in the final and played much better. Hopefully I can learn from this experience and start to beat the top players next year."

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## Around the regions

### **South Central- Steve Jenkins**

#### **Cardiff Grand Prix**

The end of 2013 saw some really good results for the players in the South central region. Rhondda TTC almost took a clean sweep of the men's events at the Cardiff Grand-Prix. Ryan Jenkins won the men's singles, Conor was runner-up in the men's band 1, Callum won band 3 and was runner up in the u21s.

Jac won band 4 and Chris Griffiths won both band 5 and 6, with Ethan Davies finishing as runner-up.

Full Results Men Singles – Winner Ryan Jenkins, R/up David McBeath Men Band 1 – Winner Gavin Maguire, R/up Conor Edwards

Men Band 3 – Winner Callum Evans, R/up Joe Pilkington

Men Band 4 – Winner Jac Jenkins, R/up Thomas Jeffcot

Men Band 5 – Winner Chris Griffiths, R/up Ethan Davies

Men Band 6 – Winner Chris Griffiths, R/up Michael Julien

U21 Men – Winner Danny Lawrence, R/up Callum Evans

## **Other results include:**

**Cirencester Open** Cade Short had great wins in both the Cadet and the U13 singles at the event on the weekend.

**Nottingham Grand Prix** Jac Jenkins won the band 4 singles at the Nottingham Grand Prix, beating several higher ranked players on his way to the title. He then shone further the following day with wins against Lawrence Sweeney and Mike Fraser in the U21 event (both are ranked far higher than Jac's 70<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament).

## **B.Gwent Open – Conor and Jac take titles**

**RESULTS:** *Cadet Boys Singles* Semi Finals – Jac Jenkins bt Joshua Stacey 6, 9, 9, Marc Castro bt Cade Short 5, 5, -11, 5 Final – Jac Jenkins bt Marc Castro 8, 11, 9 *Junior Boys Singles* Semi Finals – Ryan Oyler bt Callum Evans -5, 8, 4, 7 Conor Edwards bt Chris Griffiths 8, -11, -9, 8, 6 Final – Conor Edwards bt Ryan Oyler 8, 3, -8, 6

**Vale of Glamorgan** Successful secondary school competition with 14 *teams taking part*. The Vale also hosted a joint event with Stephen Jenkins, with 250 primary school children being introduced to the sport.

*Congratulations to David Avery (U11 winner), Louie Evans (U13 winner) and Mithun Padmanabhan (U15 winner) at the Barry Dragon event held in December*

## **South West – Steve Jenkins**

Positive meetings have resulted in Swansea City FC/Swansea Council and Table Tennis Wales creating a part-time development job in the area. The new employee will be working in 3 different sports, which includes Table Tennis.

This person will work closely with me to start new projects and to support existing projects in the area. Neath will be a big focus this year with more school projects being established and a 4k grant being secured. I am looking forward to working with the council and pushing things on in the area.

Lydia John had a great tournament at the Blackpool 4 star winning the u13 singles. Lydia's attention now turns to Barcelona in February.

Paul Karabardak had a great result at the U.S Open winning the Class 7 singles in which he beat the world number 6 and 9. This means Paul has moved up to number 14 in the world and qualifies for the World Championships later this year.

## **Cardiff & District Table Tennis League – by Chris Richards**

The second half of the season is now underway following the Christmas and New Year break.

In the Central Division held at the Sport Wales Centre in Sophia Gardens, it looks like there will be all to play for. Only 11 points separate the top 4 teams at the halfway mark, with Cardiff City heading the table on 249 points. Ryan Oyler is well clear at the top of the individual averages with an excellent 90%.

In Division One, Trehafod A lead the table on 269 points, but a number of teams have games in hand and there is every possibility that there will be a tight finish as the season progresses.

Steve Eades heads up the individual averages on 92.86%, closely followed by Bethan Daunton and Gareth Williams.

Rhiwbina C lead the Second Division on 291 points and together with Barry Athletic C look to be firm favourites for promotions, although there are still opportunities for a few other sides to close the gap. Roy Gibson leads the individual averages with an impressive 94.29%

In Division Three, WF Penmark C head the table on 228 points, but the top five teams are only separated by 36 points in total, so everything is still up for grabs. Colin Martin leads the individual averages on 95.74%, but with 4 players all above 90%, the fight for the top spot is extremely tight.

In addition to the league, the cup competitions are underway with the second round matches for each Division being played in the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> February.

The Community Club continues each Friday evening from 7pm to 9pm at the Sport Wales Centre in Sophia Gardens. We have 16 tables available for practice for players of all standards and free coaching is available for Juniors.

Further details about the Community Club and the Cardiff League are available on our website at [www.tabletennis365.com/cardiff](http://www.tabletennis365.com/cardiff)

### **LLynfi TTC news - by Andrew Jones**



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Llynfi Valley Table Tennis club has proved to be a resounding success with in excess of 20 participants of all ages and levels of ability attending every week.

The club now has 9 tables thanks largely to a substantial grant from Sported, all equipment is provided and the small but hard working committee are ensuring that the local community has plenty of "game time".

The club will be looking to enter a league within the next year or so and we may also stage a Dragon tournament in the future.

The sessions are held every Friday evening from 6pm until 9pm and anyone is welcome to attend. The first session is free and then £1 for under 16's and £3 for adults thereafter.

The club's Chairman David Richards brought his daughter Beth along to see if she would enjoy it and she has now gone on to compete in a few Dragon tournaments and is really looking the part, this is exactly what the club is looking to achieve. We want to hopefully unearth the next Welsh "star" whilst also giving casual players the chance to enjoy themselves and keep fit in the process while meeting new friends.

## Eastern Valley Table Tennis League Website – by Wayne Ford

For the first time in its history the Eastern Valley Table Tennis League has a website:

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

The website has been developed by TableTennis365.com and the league is grateful to Chris Dangerfield for his considerable help.

Players are now able to keep up to date with match reports, results and individual averages and performances. Eastern Valley League is played on a central venue basis at Cwmbran Stadium on Tuesday nights and new teams and players are always welcome.

## Llandudno – by Paul Collins



*Presentation by Pru Oakes (League President) & Paul Collins (League Chair) to Alf Roberts for outstanding service*

From time to time you come across someone who gives more than expected - and an incredible amount of time and effort to the sport with which they are involved

Sometimes that may be in a coaching capacity or assisting a coach in the development of new & young players, practicing with them, encouraging them and even transporting them to matches and competitions. It may be committee work, attending meetings, working behind the scenes, helping to keep the league running smoothly for everyone to enjoy. It may be organizing & running a team-making sure players get to the right match at the right time & date.

Or it might mean having played in the league for many years. Not necessarily winning league championships tournaments cups and medals but simply turning up every week, playing their best for the team and whose company is to be enjoyed.

Alf Roberts is one such person who has been involved in all these things & the Llandudno & District TTL were delighted to recognise this in December – honouring Alf with Life Membership.

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## Final weekend of Butterfly Juniors



The new format delivered an exciting final weekend as all 4 divisions were decided on the very last match of the tournament.

Congratulations to the winning teams who were;

Premier Division – Rhondda A

Division 1 – Cardiff City TTC A

Division 2 – Rhyl Community TTC

Division 3- Rhondda C

*Cellan Hall serving for Wildmill*

The full report and photographs of the winning teams can be found on the Team Championships of Wales page on the TTW website.

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## Glasgow Commonwealth Games Update

As I write this article there are only 196 days until the start of the 2014 Commonwealth Games and I am pleased to report that arrangements are well in hand. The venue and accommodation is built, and virtually all tickets have been sold, which takes a lot of pressure off the organisers.

Such is the interest in the games that a request for 15,000 volunteers to help run the games resulted in over 50,000 volunteers applying! We have our "long list" of players training hard, and from the recent performances at the Senior 6 Nations tournament, I am sure that they will make Wales proud.

The Queens Baton Relay left Buckingham Palace on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 and will visit the countries of the 2 billion members of the Commonwealth on its way to Glasgow. It will be in Wales 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of May and the TTW Board has nominated bearers from our sport to be present at the events the baton will visit.

Good luck to all those nominated! - Neil OConnell Team Manager.

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## Table Tennis Wales volunteers receive awards

Neil OConnell and Dave Treharne both received awards in recognition of their work promoting table tennis from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales (BGC). Dave has for several years coached young players at several BGCs in Wales, and Neil organised the Welsh BGC Table Tennis Finals and took the successful Welsh finalists to the UK Finals where 5 trophies were brought home to Wales. The awards were made at the recent Boys and Girls Club Wales Gala Dinner and were presented by TTW General Manager Phil Avery.

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## An offer from TTedge

The above company is offering instructional videos by Commonwealth Games silver medallist William Henzell.

To receive your freebies please go on to [www.ttEdge.com](http://www.ttEdge.com).

When signing up for your free one month trial type in *WALES2* as the promotional code.

You will receive:

One FREE introduction to table tennis video valued at \$40

Two FREE advanced videos of your own selection (Please email your selections with your username to the email on the website)

Your videos will be displayed under 'My Purchased Videos'.

Happy New Year from TTEdge

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