



# Nets & Edges

News from Table Tennis Wales

April 2014

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## A View from the Chair



We are coming to the end of another good season which I hope you have all enjoyed.

We have continued to move forward as an association and the board is determined to continue our momentum into next season. The close season will be just as busy as we drive forward the development of our sport.

We are looking for local organisers to set up new community leagues for all ages and abilities. Honorariums are available together with our support and guidance. If you are interested and feel there is gap in your area which would benefit from a league please contact General Manager Phil Avery at [philpaveryco@hotmail.com](mailto:philpaveryco@hotmail.com).

We are also seeking an energetic individual to lead on developing new participation amongst black or other minority ethnic communities in Cardiff and Newport. A project fee of £5250 is on offer. For full details again please contact the General Manager. The closing date is the end of April.

Outdoor tables have been installed in Swansea, Cardiff, Merthyr, Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent, Chepstow, Gwynydd and Conwy. This is a pilot scheme and if successful it is hoped we can obtain funding for more.

On 27/28/29 June we host the British Schools Championships at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff. The best young players from the UK will be on show. Come along and see some outstanding table tennis and to support the Welsh players. We are looking for scorers for the event and if you have any time you can spare please contact organiser Lesley O`Connell at [Lesley.oconnell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lesley.oconnell@yahoo.co.uk)

The next issue of the newsletter will be at the beginning of next season. In the meantime do have a great summer!

**Bernard Carter - Chair**

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## Coaching Corner -by Ryan Jenkins

### Staff News

Simon, Steve and Greg are all pushing ahead with more school visits in their regions. Significant numbers have had the chance of taster days and exhibitions from the coaching team in the last 3 months

### Domestic News

Well done to Stephen Jenkins, Charlotte Carey, Conor Edwards, Lydia John, Jac Jenkins, Cade Short, Anna Hursey, Joseph Roberts, Lee Thomas, Dan O'Connell and the doubles pairs who came away as winners at the Butterfly Welsh Championships which was held in Carmarthen the first weekend of March

### International

Players have been selected for the World Championships in Japan 28<sup>th</sup> April-6 May in Tokyo. Stephen Jenkins, Daniel O'Connell, Conor Edwards, Charlotte Carey, Naomi Owen and Megan Phillips, along with coaches Ryan Jenkins & Mike Marsden will represent Wales

Charlotte Carey will represent Great Britain in Argentina this April for a place at the Youth Olympics in China next August

Ryan Oyler won Gold at the Junior/Cadet 6 Nations in Guernsey. The team won a gold, silver and 2 bronze medals overall

### 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 a leaders award in Tonyrefail and Cardiff coming soon. Another has been set for Brynmawr on the 7<sup>th</sup> May

### Other News

Ryan Jenkins won the player of the season award at the British League season awards in Ormesby in March. Stephen Jenkins helped his club Wadenswil TTC to win the Division championships in Switzerland.

Charlotte Carey, Dan O'Connell, Chloe Thomas, Megan Phillips and Angharad Phillips are all enjoying great seasons in their various clubs. Adam Robertson and Naomi Owen are also highly influential in their respective clubs. Nicole Hall has had a trial for German club for the forthcoming season so we wish her well there



### **Other Major Events**

Selections will be made shortly for the Commonwealth Games in July and the European Youth Champs in Italy (also July)

### **Up- Coming Events:**

Blackpool GP  
Argentina YOG  
Luxembourg Open  
London GP

### ***Ryan Jenkins National Coach***

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## News for women & girls

### **Females Only Table Tennis Session**

There is another female only session in the Upper Hall at the Sport Wales National Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff on Wednesday 23 April at 6pm. Beginners are welcome. It is only £1 to play. Come along and have some fun

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



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## British Primary Schools

### **Roberts takes Silver**

A young team from Wales travelled to Jersey in early April to compete in the International Primary School Championships.

At the end of the team event, both boys and girls teams found themselves finishing just outside the medals in 4th place after losing to England, Ireland and Scotland.

It was the singles event up next, Wales had four players to qualify through their group and in to the main draw, the young 7 year old Anna Hursey and 10 year old Lauren Stacey made it to the quarter final where they both lost out to strong opponents from Scotland and Ireland.

In the boys singles event it was Joseph Roberts who found himself the only player left in the main draw after fellow Welshman Louie Evans lost out in the last 16 to Thomas Joyce of Ireland. Joseph went on to beat Kai Ghazi-Timms of England in the Quarter Finals and then went onto beat Jamie Liu of England in the Semi Finals 3-0.

Joseph's fine run came to an end in the final of the boys singles where he lost to



Irishman Owen Cathcart who beat Joseph 12-10, 11-8, 11-6. Joseph Roberts finished the competition with a silver medal and will now look forward to next years primary school champs.

In the consolation Cardiff based Jack ODuffy got to the final of the boys singles and lost out to Irelands David Taylor, whilst Mithun lost out to the same player in the quarters of the consolation.

In the girls it was Lara Whitton of Swansea who went onto win the Gold after beating fellow Welsh team mate Beth Richards in a close semi finals, Lara then went onto beat Guernsey player Marli Barker in the final 3-1.

Win of the weekend - Lauren beating England's No 1 under 11 Katie Holt 3-0.



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## News from South Central Region

### News from South Central- Steve Jenkins

#### Cadet & Junior 6 Nations – Rhondda TTC win 4 medals

Team Event Final Positions:

Junior Boys – Callum Evans takes Silver with Ryan Oyler

Junior Girls – Soffi Jenkins takes bronze with Laura Edwards

Cadet Boys – Jac Jenkins takes bronze with Josh Stacey

Cadet Girls – Charl Slye takes a bronze with Lydia John

#### Cardiff Dragon

13 March 2014

Tyler Jones finishes 7<sup>th</sup> in his first ever Dragon event. Tyler almost made the top group which would have meant a top 4 finish but he still performed extremely well and looks forward to finishing higher at the next tournament.

#### Commonwealth Games

12 March 2014

Stephen Jenkins has been asked by Rhondda Cynon Taff to be the torch bearer at the Aberdare Commonwealth Sports festival.

## Website Links

For Wales website

[Click here](#)

For ETTA

[Click here](#)

For the ETTU

[Click here](#)

For the ITTF

[Click here](#)

### **Selection News**

#### **Luxembourg Open**

Nicole Hall – Been selected for the women singles

### **World Championships - Japan**

Men - Stephen Jenkins and Conor Edwards

### **Welsh Championships 2014**

**Rhondda TTC take 6 Gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals.**

### **RESULTS**

#### **Junior Boys**

Conor – Gold

Callum and Jac - Bronze

#### **Junior Girls**

Soffi - Bronze

#### **Junior Girls Doubles**

Soffi/Charlotte - Gold

#### **Junior Boys Doubles**

Callum and Jac Gold

#### **Cadet Boys Singles**

Jac Jenkins – Gold

#### **Men Singles**

Stephen Jenkins - Gold

#### **Men's Doubles**

Conor Edwards/Callum Evans - Silver

### **U21 Men singles**

Conor Edwards – Silver

### **New club opens in Aberdare**

Aberdare Table Tennis club, organised by Stephen Jenkins and the RCT Sports Development team, opened on 4th February at the Michael Sobell Sports Centre, The Ynys, Aberdare. It runs on Tuesdays between 5-7pm.

Formed with the benefit of a community chest grant award - and with 6 brand new tables - it will provide a great opportunity for the area.

### **Swiss League**

Stephen Jenkins and his team in Switzerland won the Swiss league division 1. Stephen also finished second in the averages winning 33 out of 36 matches.

All league & club organisers  
(and individual members)  
are very welcome to let us  
have news stories or  
features - we will do our  
best to publish. Email your  
copy to  
philipaveryco@hotmail.com

## News from the North West Region

Another season draws to the end in North West of Wales. **Amlwch A** have once again dominated proceedings with their fifth consecutive title in the Llandudno & District Table Tennis League with three fixtures still to play.

Division 1	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Amlwch A	15	15	0	0	143	7	143
N W Police A	15	12	1	2	105	45	105
Y Morfa B	16	9	2	5	95	67	95
Y Morfa A	16	9	2	5	87	73	87
Denbigh A	15	6	3	6	84	66	84

Both **Paul Collins** and **Keith Williams** remain unbeaten in their league matches for Amlwch and have been ably supported by teammates **Ian Ault** and **Reg John**. North Wales Police's **Mark Pugh** is also undefeated in a more restricted campaign in which he was unable to play against the champions. A new player **Elton NG** a student representing Bangor University, has played some exciting table tennis and is currently joint third in the individual standings on 84.4%.

The second division has also produced a runaway winner in new club **Rhyl Community Club**. They also had the league wrapped up with three fixtures to play. The team consists of **Conner Climo (95.2%)**, **Eliot Platt (90.5%)** and **Simon Platt (76.2%)**. The division was also strengthened by the return of player we have not seen for a good while, **Andy Lunt** who represents **Craig-y-don D**. He is currently third in the individual standings 83.3% and his team are strong contenders for the runners up birth.

Division 2	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rhyl Community Club	14	14	0	0	121	19	121
Craig-y-don A	13	8	1	3	84	46	84
Craig-y-don B	13	5	3	5	77	53	77
Craig-y-don D	12	8	2	2	75	45	75
Glan Clwyd Hospital	12	6	2	4	67	53	67

The season still has the delights of the league cup, handicap cup and the closed and handicap tournaments to determine who will collecting the trophies when we sit down to our presentation dinner on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**Sean Lucas**

## BBC TV at Bridgend

On the 11th March BBC Wales` Gareth Lewis came along to Bridgend TT club to film and speak to members about the popularity of the sport and the Olympic legacy, where some sports have seen rises in membership, of which Table Tennis is one.

It was shown on Wales Today on the 13th March. This was a great advert for our sport & for all the hard work of coaching staff, administrative helpers & volunteers. I was very proud of members of Bridgend TT Club & Coaches for the way they portrayed our sport on the night.

**Dave Treharne Bridgend TT Club**

## Coaching qualifications

### **UKCC (U K Coaching Certificate)**

Table Tennis is one of at least 30 sports whose governing body's coaching programme is UKCC endorsed.

The UKCC is a nationally recognised qualification which is managed by Sports Coach UK and is a framework for developing, endorsing and continuously improving sports coach education programmes. The coaching qualifications begin at Level 1 and go up to Level 4.

The Table Tennis programme is managed on behalf of the home countries by English Table Tennis (ETTA).

In Wales, the first UKCC Table Tennis course was tutored by Barry Robertson in March 2008 with 8 candidates ultimately qualifying at Level 1.

Table Tennis Wales then embraced the concept of UKCC and moved to introduce this qualification pathway into their coaching structure. This took some years whilst coaches had the opportunity to "bridge" into UKCC from their TTAW-specific qualification. To the extent that, UKCC qualification is now the only recognised Table Tennis coaching qualification in Wales.

There are currently in excess of 60 Wales based / Welsh table tennis coaches qualified at UKCC Level 1 or above. (This includes one at Level 4 – Ryan Jenkins - and four at Level 3 – Stephen Gertsen, Aled Rhys Howell, Stephen Jenkins and Simon Oyler).

In addition, a total of 20 candidates have just completed the latest round of Level 1 courses. The first in North Wales in Clywedog Sports Centre Wrexham – Eddie Roofe tutored - and the second in South Wales at Cardiff City TTC – Mostyn Lewis as tutor.

Future plans in Wales include :-

- to encourage more ladies to qualify (currently only ~15% of qualified coaches in Wales are female)



- to increase the number of coaches qualified at Level 2 (currently only 12)
- to introduce a Coach Licence scheme which will embrace CPD (continuous professional development).

### **TTW Leaders Award**

This award is aimed at absolute beginners usually volunteers and helpers who want to get more involved and support established coaches.

Considerable recent interest has been shown in this award with a number of initiatives ongoing working with the Urdd and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wales. To date, a total of 167 have been through this course (87 this season to date).

### **Tutor Training**

A very important part of our future programme to ensure we become self sufficient with regards to course tutors within Wales. One candidate is looking to progress through the Sport Wales programme this year to join the current tutors.

### **Mostyn Lewis – Director of Coach Development**

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## **LLynfi TTC**

Having obtained a grant of over £7000 from Sported with the help of Phil John, Huw Jenkins invited Richard Thomas, Sported regional manager for Wales to come along to have a look at the club (based near Maesteg).

Connor Edwards also came along to do some coaching with the children, which was fabulous.



**Peter Williams- Llynfi TTC**





To contact TTW or just to  
be added to our  
distribution list contact:  
philipaveryco@hotmail.com  
Tel 07711 350162

## Disability Table Tennis

### "insport"

Following an excellent presentation to the panel back in January, TTW has been awarded the Ribbon level of "insport" (the accreditation programme for national governing bodies progressing with plans to broaden opportunities for players with disabilities). Big congratulations to Phil Avery and Julie Furber for the presentation and with Neil Robinson also for the work in meeting the insport standard.

The work uncovered a very strong talent pathway into the Paralympic TT programme in Wales and GB. The sport should be very proud of this work and these results. It was also very honest in highlighting a gap in the player base in recreational club and league levels for disability athletes and has its sights on putting in place programmes to correct this.

There are number of options now being considered for future development. One option is to find a couple of clubs already offering disability TT sessions with another being to work with clubs to create hotspots to promote using the Disability Sport Wales officers and local networks.

We need more coaches and volunteers interested in working with athletes with disabilities and we would encourage as many of them as possible to undertake a Disability Inclusion Training workshop delivered by Disability Sport Wales. Get in touch if you fancy getting onboard.

There is no question that the sport of Table Tennis is an excellent avenue for disabled people to go down and a concerted effort is now to be made to make those opportunities more widely publicised and also to ensure that those delivering disability table tennis are appropriately supported to deliver these sessions.

The Equality Group established by Table Tennis Wales has gone a long way to focus the sport on very important key issues. The secret with all development is to establish a strong plan and then a strong base, to support the volunteers and to keep things simple and move forward at a pace that the sport can deliver. Table Tennis Wales is working towards this.

The success at Ribbon level clearly shows that the will and commitment from the Board is there and that coaches support the development. The website is delivering a good service to members and is also a great asset when promoting good work around Disability

Over the next few months, along with Disability Sport Wales and the insport case officer a review of the Ribbon award and plans for the next stage (Bronze) will be put in place. There is no set timescale and, as already mentioned, developments will move at a pace that the sport can deliver.

Well done to all involved in the sport and with the insport process

**Lyndon Williams - insport case officer**



## **Disability players at the Welsh National championships 2014**

This year's championships saw the inaugural Disability event.

Under the banner of ITTF Para Table tennis International events are split into the following classifications;

5 Wheelchairs classes - Class 1-5 (Class 1 being the more severely disabled)

5 Standing classes - Class 6-10 (Class 6 being the more severely disabled)

1 Learning difficulty class - Class 11

Because of numbers the Welsh National championships were organised on a round robin basis with two events - Mixed Open wheelchair singles and Mixed open standing singles.

Ashley Davis won the wheelchair event winning all four games and dropping only one set on his way to become Welsh champion.

The final positions were;

1. Ashley Davis
2. Rebekah Evans
3. Robert Davies
4. Thomas Matthews
5. Cellan Hall

Nathan Thomas won the Standing event winning all four games and not dropping a single set on his way to victory. The final positions were;

1. Nathan Thomas
2. Paul Karabardak
3. Lawrence John
4. Josh Morgan
5. Ashley Wray

This excellent TTW initiative will hopefully grow in the future and receive the full support of all disabled table tennis players.

Thanks to Lesley O'Connell for her efforts in making this event possible

**Neil Robinson**

**Para TT Rep**

**TTW Board member**

## Bits & Pieces

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**Longest Rally?**

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**Ping pong politics?**

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