



Nets & Edges

News from Table Tennis Wales

September 2014

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A View from the Chair



Once again we are looking forward with eager anticipation to the start of a new season but it is also worth reflecting briefly on some aspects of last season. I will be giving a review at the TTW Annual General Meeting at Cardiff on 11 September. The main two items of the review relate to player performance and Director/Manager performance.

Player performance in the recent Commonwealth Games, although not resulting in any medals won, showed the world our endeavour, attitude and sportsmanship.

The entire team, led from the front by Ryan, were a credit to TT and indeed TV commentator statements recognised these things. Thanks must also go to Neil O'Connell for all his work as Team Manager.

Director / Manager performance throughout the year has played an important part in securing a further two years funding for the position of General Manager. Earlier in the year we were having to assume that this funding was to cease after May 2015 as part of the Welsh Government and Sport Wales cuts to all sport Governing Bodies. However, after representations to Sport Wales and based upon their confidence in our progress we now have funding for the post for another two years until May 2017.

We now have a firm base to meet the challenges of our strategic targets.

Naomi Owen has announced her intention to retire from international table tennis. She has had a fantastic career representing Wales around the world at 6 European Youth Championships, 7 European Senior Championships, 7 World Senior Championships, 4 Commonwealth Games and many other events. She played at the Youth Olympic Games and was a reserve at the London Olympics.

She has been 9 times National Senior Champion, Welsh no.1 lady and achieved a world ranking of 184. She has always represented Wales with dignity and pride. She has done us proud and we express our sincere thanks for her efforts over many years. Naomi will continue to play professionally for her club Eslöv in Sweden for the foreseeable future.

Finally may I express my best wishes to all members for an enjoyable and successful season ahead

Bernard Carter - Chair

Coaching Corner - by Ryan Jenkins

Staff News

Stephen Jenkins won the Rhondda Sports Personality Award in May at Ystrad Sports Centre. Simon was voted coach of the year at our annual awards in late June. Greg's work contract has been extended to show the progress that he has brought to the region

Domestic News

Rhondda were winners of both Senior and Junior TCW premiership divisions this season. There will be many teams hoping to change that in the coming season. Jac Jenkins & Joshua Stacey won 2 bronze medals at the ITTF Malta Open. Beth Roberts, Ryan Oyler, Conor Edwards, Soffi Jenkins, Callum Evans, Jac Jenkins and Kate Roberts were all medal winners at the International Senior Schools in June in Cardiff. Gemau Cymru was a huge success with Steffan Griffiths and Anna Hursey winning individual Gold's

International

Wales's men and women both finished 5th place at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Naomi Owen almost made an individual medal losing close in the QF of the singles to Lay of Australia and the teams and players need to be very proud of their results at such a quality event

The European Youth Championships were played just before Glasgow and Charlotte Carey's hopes of another EYC medal were dashed when she lost in the last 32. Jac Jenkins, Joshua Stacey, Callum Evans, Ryan Oyler and Conor Edwards also competed well

The first Grand Prix of the season (Liverpool) will see 8 young females play for Wales over the 2 day event. Beth Roberts, Nicole Hall, Soffi Jenkins, Jamie-Lee Harley, Kate Roberts, Bethany Brewer, Lauren Stacey and Beth Richards will dash up the M5 and M6 hoping to improve their UK rankings



Coaching Courses

Check out www.ttaw.co.uk/coaching to see we have several courses ready for 2014-2015 with several leaders' awards. Another has been set in Talgarth, Powys on the 13th October

Other News

Several Welsh players compete for clubs on the European continent and it is no different for the coming season. Naomi Owen, Chloe Thomas, Charlotte Carey, Megan Phillips, Angharad Phillips, Ryan Jenkins, Stephen Jenkins, Jac Jenkins and Dan O'Connell all have signed to play at clubs in Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium or Germany. Conor Edwards, along with Michael Marsden, will play senior British League for Ormesby

Other Major Events

Selections have be made for the European Championships in Portugal this September

Men – Michael Marsden, Stephen Jenkins, Daniel O'Connell

Women – Charlotte Carey, Megan Phillips, Chloe Thomas

Coach – Ryan Jenkins

Delegate – Neil O'Connell

Up Coming Events:

Liverpool GP

Butterfly Senior Top 10

UK School Games

European Championships

Medway GP

Ryan Jenkins National Coach

Women & girls

Females Only Table Tennis Session - £1 to play!

The next ladies session is on Wednesday 10 September in the Upper Hall at Sport Wales National Centre Sophia Gardens Cardiff between 6-7pm. All are welcome including beginners. Experienced players will be on hand to provide guidance.

For more information, get in touch with Julie or Claire at;
ttwladies@outlook.com

They would be particularly interested in hearing from any ladies/girls clubs or organisations which may be interested in holding taster coaching sessions.

Dates announced for Glamorgan Closed Tournaments

Saturday 27 September - Under 13 & Under 15 at Cardiff City Table Tennis Club

Sunday 26 October - Seniors & Veterans – same venue

Entry forms are available from organiser Dave Treharne – tel 01656 842122 – email daitree@uwclub.nett

News from Cardiff League

One of the initiatives of the Cardiff League is to encourage the general public to play table tennis at the Cardiff League's Community Club which meets every Friday evening in the Upper Hall of Sport Wales Centre in Sophia Gardens from 7pm until 9pm. We encourage everyone, irrespective of ability, age or nationality to come along and have a game of table tennis. It uses 16 table tennis tables and provides the free use of bats and balls. Juniors are coached free of charge. There is no joining fee just £3 per evening and £2 for juniors.

Adults, juniors who do not wish to have additional coaching, experienced players and newcomers fully integrate and play for ten minutes. At all change, winners move one way and the losers the other to ensure that adults, juniors, and meet a variety of individuals eventually playing with those of approximately the same ability.

Cardiff is a cosmopolitan city and many of the newcomers are from other countries. They appreciate integrating in a non-religious and inclusive activity. Last season, 106 persons came to the club. 84 were not members of our league.

Newcomers are encouraged to play in table tennis league teams and many have been recruited by table tennis clubs to play in their league teams.

Please telephone Roy Gibson on 01446 412352 if you require more information.

“Wiff Waff” opens in Aberystwyth

Wiff Waff Bar is a business venture currently being brought together in Aberystwyth, where it will be a concept based around an active venue with the game of Table Tennis at its heart; hopefully opening in mid September.

Wiff Waff Bar will bring this easy to play and participate game into a fun, lively, well designed venue, which not only focuses on the Table Tennis itself, but also excellent food, tasty cocktails & other drinks, and superb service.

The building interior will have an old school theme to it (e.g. chalkboards, desks,



old gym equipment etc.) and we will have 4 table tennis tables, and one table football table across our three rooms; the main room which we will be calling the Sports Hall (where our bar will be located, also tables and chairs/booths to eat/drink), another room which we will be calling The Library (again with tables, chairs and booths), and another V.I.P room called the Headmaster's Study (which will be available by booking only).

Wiff Waff Bar will be the only bar and restaurant in Wales with Table Tennis at its heart. Whether it's a team building event, children's parties, or pre drinking fun and games, we provide enjoyment for all.

As well as catering to students, young people and families, we will also be offering free sessions to teams on week mornings/afternoons, and would be very much interested in working with the older generation, schools, youth clubs and so on, so that everyone from all different communities and backgrounds can take up the sport. We also might set up some sort of league system if the interest is there.



Here are links to similar bar concepts in London:

<http://www.bouncepingpong.com>

<http://www.weloveping.com>

We of course will be the first of its kind in Wales!

Our web address where you can make a booking: www.wiffwaffbar.com (this is not yet launched- will be active start of September).

Facebook page: [wiffwaffbar](#) (again not yet published)

Twitter: [@barwiffwaff](#)

Phone number: 01970 623500

e-mail: hello@barwiffwaff.com

Address: 10 market Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 1DL

Matt Parry

Llynfi TTC



The club has continued to attract new members ranging from 5 years old to players in their 70's. It has been supported by "Sported" and also funded by a grant from the Comic Relief Programme administered by the Community Foundation In Wales.

Above was the layout we used during the holiday period, another 2 tables were added at the top of the picture due to the number of new members that attended in this time, we are able to fit 8 tables into the hall during very busy times.

We open from 6pm till 9pm on Friday's and charge £3 for adults and £1 for children with the first session free to new members. We now have 2 level 1 coaches and 2 leaders in the club and this comes in very handy due to the amount of younger members we have that want to learn the basics.

Our aim is to hopefully stage a Dragon's tournament in the future; there is also a stage area which will be ideal for viewing.

We use the tournament table for players who show promise as well as for fun games to keep the children happy during busy times.

If there are any clubs that would like to have a friendly fixture as we have not yet joined a league and we would like to gauge ourselves before we decide to do so please contact either of the following...

Andrew Jones 07816394189 or email ajone326@ford.com

Huw Jenkins 07846440264 or email huw.jenkins@live.co.uk

Thanks for reading....

Disability Table Tennis

Busy Summer for Welsh Paralympic Table tennis

SLOVENIA OPEN 6th-10th May - GOLD FOR ROB DAVIES AND BRONZE FOR PAUL DAVIES IN SLOVENIA

SINGLES EVENT

The GB Para Table Tennis Team struck gold in Slovenia Rob Davies (class 1) took gold in the singles.

After a comfortable 3-0 win in the quarter final over Bruno De Paulo from Brazil, Rob Davies faced his old rival Jean-Francois Ducay from France in the semi-final. At 0-2 and match point down Rob looked down and out but he fought back magnificently to take the third game 15-13 and went on to take the match 11-7 in the fifth.

"I just focused on getting that game," said Davies afterwards. "I knew if I could get that first game on the board he would hopefully get a bit nervous. I just started playing after that and I was just so glad to come through. He beat me in London when I was 0-2 down and came back to 2-2 so I was paying him back for London again."

Davies had no time to rest before the final against Andrea Borgato of Italy and once again showed why he is the European champion and world number one with a battling 3-1 victory to take the gold.

Fellow Welshman Paul Davies, in his first competition since breaking his leg in the winter, needed all his fighting qualities to battle back from 1-2 down against the Argentinian Fernando Eberhardt to win his quarter final 11-6 in the fifth.

His semi-final against Andrea Borgato was a repeat of the European Championships semi-final which Davies won but this time it was the Italian who came out on top with a 3-1 win.

"I could have played better," said the North Cornelly player, "but that's no excuse. He played better on the day and deserved to win. To get a bronze after coming back from injury can't be bad so I'm not disappointed.

SLOVENIA OPEN TEAM EVENT 6th-10th May

GOLD FOR DAVIES AND DAVIES

In the men's class 1 team the Welsh combination of Rob Davies and Paul Davies had to come through a tough semi-final against Italy to reach the final and Paul Davies gave them the perfect start against Germany, beating Paralympic champion Holger Nikelis 3-1. Rob Davies made it 2-0 after beating Marcus Sieger 3-0 but Germany came back to win the doubles 3-1. In the fourth match Rob Davies got off to a slow start against Nikelis but fought back magnificently to take the match 15-13 in the fourth and give GB the gold 3-1. Paul Davies was delighted with gold and another win against world number two Nikelis.

"The way my performance was yesterday I didn't think I had it in the tank," said the North Cornelly player, "but obviously there is still fight in the tiger and I just gave it all I had. The doubles was nip and tuck - it didn't click the way we wanted but they played the better doubles on the day and luckily Rob did the business in the end. The team was important to us to keep our European number one status.

Website Links

For Wales website

[Click here](#)

For ETTA

[Click here](#)

For the ETTU

[Click here](#)

For the ITTF

[Click here](#)

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

European champion Rob Davies showed once again why he has reached world number one with a typically battling performance.

"I needed a lot of energy to pick myself up after the doubles," he admitted, "but I managed to start playing a bit better and he was getting a bit nervous. Once I was ahead I just tried to keep it going but there were some very close points and I managed to keep my cool. That's the biggest part of my game at the moment - keeping my nerve and fighting."

Rob Davies also paid tribute to coach Neil Robinson. "I've got to say thank you to Neil as he's had a massive influence on Paul's and my game and without him we would be nowhere near the standard. If we get better he pushes us a little more and that is what is doing it for us at the moment. It's amazing to start the year with two gold medals"

Will Bayley, **Paul Karabardak** and Billy Shilton won GB's first gold of the day in the men's class 7 team beating a combination of Belgium and the Netherlands in the final, but first had to come through a difficult semi-final against Germany. set 11-8 and the match 3-2.

In the final, Karabardak lost a tight first match against Jean-Paul Montanus of the Netherlands and Bayley then beat the tricky Ben Despigneux of Belgium 3-0 to level the tie. Bayley and Karabardak produced some of their best form to win the doubles before Bayley secured the gold with a mature performance against Montanus, beating the talented Dutchman 3-1.

"I think we're getting back now to playing our best," agreed Swansea's Karabardak, "because I don't think we've played our best doubles for maybe a year and a bit so to beat the Germans and then a good combination of Belgium and the Netherlands is really good and it was key to beating both teams today. The gold means quite a bit - I was disappointed not to win my singles when I had a great chance but it's a good gold medal to win here and I think we deserve it really because we have lost a lot of finals so to win one is really good."

Sara Head and Jane Campbell, bronze medalists in London 2012, came up against a tough combination of world number seven Nergiz Altintas from Turkey and the American Pamela Fontaine in their women's class 1-3 semi-final and in their first tournament since the European Championships last year lack of match practice told as they went down 3-0.

Sara has had to fight her way back to fitness after an operation in the winter and showed improved form throughout the tournament.

"I've come back and fought really hard," she said, "and had some really good matches so I am actually pleased that I have improved as the week has gone on. Hopefully I'll improve even more again between now and Slovakia next week. More match practice will improve my positivity and my mental focus. After seven months of not competing it is hard to bring it back so now I've got it I'm looking forward to Slovakia."

Tom Matthews can also be very proud of his bronze medal as he and his Swiss playing partner Sylvio Keller lost their semi-final in men's class 1 to a strong German team. Matthews is still very inexperienced at this level but is showing great potential for the future.

"I've learnt to focus on the game more," he said, "and not get distracted by things around me. I'm rushing the shots a bit too much but that will come in time. My first medal at a factor 40 tournament is huge so I'm well happy with that. I'll take everything I've learnt here on to Slovakia now and hopefully come away with another medal."

SLOVAKIA OPEN 13th-17th MAY

MEDAL WINNERS IN SINGLES EVENTS AT SLOVAKIAN OPEN

The GB Para Table Tennis Team picked up four medals in the singles events at the Slovakian Open with Welshmen Paul Davies (class 1) taking silver and Rob Davies (class 1) finishing with a bronze medal.

Paul Davies came up against a determined Jean-Francois Ducay in the final of the men's class 1 event and after losing the first two sets he came back to win the third 11-4. However, the London 2012 silver medalist has been in great form here and although Davies saved three match points the Frenchman clinched the gold 11-8 in the fourth.

"I only had five minutes to prepare for the final but that wasn't the reason I lost," said Davies, from North Cornelly. "He was definitely the better player on the day. My tactics were correct but I just wasn't giving the ball enough today. Fair play to him he deserved to win. I never thought I'd get to the final here to be honest - everyone is here except Holger (Nikelis) and I've got to say thank you to my coach Neil Robinson - he knows me inside out and knows when to push me. I've been beaten by a better player on the day but next time."

Earlier in the day Davies had a comfortable 3-0 win in his quarter final against the very experienced Matti Launonen from Finland and then faced the world number four from Korea, Chang Ho Lee, in a repeat of the bronze medal match from London 2012 that Davies won in five sets. Once again the match went the distance and Davies showed all his skill and fighting qualities to win the fifth set 11-8 and the match 3-2.

"I'm chuffed to bits," said Davies. "I was a bit nervous about it and was behind at one stage but the tiger got me out in the end. It was a really tough game - he is above me in the rankings so to take his scalp has done my ranking good."

Playing in his first final in a factor 40 tournament teenager Jack Hunter-Spivey was up against the world number two Ningning Cao, having played him in the group stages yesterday. Once again the Chinese player had too much experience and skill for the 19 year old from Liverpool, winning 3-0, but Hunter-Spivey competed well and can be very proud of his performance here.

In his quarter final European champion Rob Davies came back from 1-2 down to beat Andrea Borgato from Italy who was defending his title here. The Welshman looked in trouble at 0-4 down in the fifth but held his nerve to take the set 11-8 and the match 3-2. In the semi-final he faced old rival Jean-Francois Ducay and could never really get into the match, losing 0-3 to the Frenchman who was on top form.

"I've got to use this as a positive and move on," said a disappointed Davies. "We've got the team event coming up and I'll try to pick my game up a bit - That's what happens in sport so I've got to move on, put it behind me and work on getting gold in the team event."

Swansea's Paul Karabardak won a great first set 16-14 against Maksym Nikolenko in his men's class 7 quarter final and had chances to win the second and third but the world number one from the Ukraine was just too strong and took the match 3-1.

SLOVAKIA OPEN TEAM EVENT 13th-17th MAY

DAVIES AND DAVIES TAKE GOLD FOR GB IN SLOVAKIA

European champions Paul Davies and Rob Davies produced a great performance at the Slovakian Open to take gold in the men's class 1 team event and there was also a bronze for Jane Campbell and **Sara Head** (women's class 1-3).

Davies and Davies were involved in a titanic battle in the final with a combined team of Jean-Francois Ducay from France and the Italian Andrea Borgato, who took an early lead when Ducay, winner of the singles here, beat Paul Davies 3-0. Rob Davies levelled for GB by beating Borgato 3-1 and the Welsh duo fought back from 0-2 down in the doubles only to lose 5-11 in the fifth.

Rob Davies took a 2-0 lead against the Paralympic silver medalist Ducay, who had beaten him in the semi-finals of the singles, but the Frenchman is a determined competitor and fought back to level at 2-2. In a tense final set Davies always just had the edge and finally clinched victory on his third match point. It then came down to the final singles between Paul Davies and Borgato and after twice coming back to level the match the Welshman played a superb final game to clinch the gold medal 11-6 in the fifth.



"I don't know where I got it from," said North Cornelly's Paul Davies, "it was definitely from the bottom of the barrel. I knew I could do it but five sets was hard. But a great result - especially to win another gold and to beat Borgato. I wasn't good against Ducay but thank God Rob beat him and it came down to the veteran to do it in the final end. This is massive for our confidence - Ducay and Borgato were the strongest team here and for us to beat them - I'm over the moon."

"It was a very tough match," agreed Rob Davies, "four of the best players at the moment in class 1. It was a brilliant game and so close - just happy to come away with it and Paul played brilliantly. Against Ducay I've been there before so I have that in the bank and it was just about keeping positive. I knew what I was doing wrong so it was just a matter of changing that during the game and trying not to get nervous and playing like I can, which I think I have for the last two days."

In their semi-final against a combined Switzerland/Korea/Kuwait team Rob Davies faced the world number four Chang Ho Lee for the first time since losing to the Korean in the final of the German Open last year and put that defeat behind him with a 3-0 win. With Paul Davies having beaten Sylvio Keller 3-0 in the first singles Davies and Davies secured their place in the final with a 3-0 win in the doubles.

Rob Davies was delighted with his win against Lee. "Not sure if it's the first or the second time I've beaten him but it was a big result for me going into the Worlds as he knows I beat him 3-0 and I know how I can play against him. So a big positive and I'm well happy."

Will Bayley and Paul Karabardak took silver losing 3-1 to a strong Ukraine team

"I think we played quite well," said Karabardak, from Swansea, "we both had chances to win our singles and didn't and then 0-2 down going into the doubles is hard. I played well against Nikolenko and it was a shame I couldn't have taken some of those tight points. I think I've played quite well here and shown that I can compete with the top players again."

Paralympic bronze medalists Jane Campbell and **Sara Head** evoked memories of London 2012 in beating a Turkey/USA combination that they had lost to in Slovenia last week. Campbell came from 2-1 down to beat Pamela Fontaine but a 0-3 loss for Head against the world number seven Nergiz Altintas from Turkey and a 1-3 doubles defeat left them needing to win both of the final singles.

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

Another great fight back from Campbell, this time from 0-2 against Altintas, levelled the scores and Head clinched the match with a 3-0 win against Fontaine.

That match won them the bronze medal and despite losing their final match against China the two GB players are taking all the positives from the experience.

"I've lost to Pamela Fontaine the last three times I've played her," said Head, "so I was quite fired up for that one. It was the best I've returned her serves and I was really chuffed - I wasn't going to let that one go. We've got to make the most of the time now before the World Championships in September and preparation is going to be really important so bring on the Worlds."

ROMANIA OPEN 13th-15th June

YOUNG GB SQUAD TAKES MEDALS IN ROMANIA

A squad of young players from the GB Para Table Tennis Team has won four medals in the in the Romania International Open in Cluj with 21 year old Welshman Thomas Matthews combining with Martin Barbierik from Slovakia to take bronze in the men's class 1-2 team event.

Matthews, from Aberdare, also showed improved form in the team event in which he continued his partnership with Barbierik.

"I didn't start the tournament well," he said, "but I was happy that I came back stronger in the team. It was good to play with Martin (Barbierik) again and he is helping me to calm down. I'm starting to be more relaxed and thinking about the next point."

SPANISH OPEN 20th-23rd June

There was a first international medal for 15 year old GB Pathway Squad member Lawrence John, who took silver in the men's class 10 team event with fellow Welshman Nathan Thomas

Nathan Thomas and Lawrence John had comfortable wins against two Spanish combinations but after winning their semi-final against fellow Brits Allen and Davis they lost out to the very experienced number one Spanish team of world number four Jose Manuel Ruiz Reyes and world number eight Jorge Cardona.

Paul Davies ruled out of World Championships

London 2012 Paralympic bronze medalist Paul Davies will miss next month's World Para Table Tennis Championships after undergoing surgery. The 47 year old from North Cornelly, who took silver in last year's European men's class 1 singles and gold in the team event with fellow Welshman Rob Davies, required surgery and the recovery time needed will rule him out of competing in the World Championships.

"It is a great disappointment for Paul and for the team," said GB Para Table Tennis Team Performance Director Gorazd Vecko. "Paul has been in great form this season and was a definite medal prospect in the singles for us; he and Rob would also have been favourites to take the gold medal in the team event so he will be greatly missed. However, it is most important to make sure that he recovers fully from the operation and he will be back stronger than ever next year."

WELSH CONTINGENT HEAD FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

World number one Rob Davies head a squad of nine players who will represent GB in the World Para Table Tennis Championships in China next month (September 6-15).

Davies from Brecon who was crowned European champion last year, will be one of the favourites for gold in the men's class one singles.

Jane Campbell and Sara Head, Paralympic bronze medalists in the women's class 1-3 team event in London, took team bronze in the World Championships four years ago and have medal prospects again in both team and women's class 3 singles. Head took singles bronze in the European Championships last year and the pair were European champions in 2011.

The full Welsh contingent for the World Championships is:

Rob Davies, (Brecon)
Sara Head, (Beddau)
Paul Karabardak, (Swansea)
Neil Robinson (Bridgend) forms part of the GB coaching team

Good luck to all
Neil Robinson
Para TT Rep - TTW Board member

Bits & Pieces

Amazing rally at Commonwealth Games

[Click here](#)



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