



Nets & Edges

News from Table Tennis Wales

March 2015

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A View from the Chair



A big thank-you

I would like to thank two Directors who have stood down from their Board positions in the last two months.

Julie Furber, has worked for quite some time as a Director for female table tennis, partnered with Claire Flanagan.

Between them they have made an encouraging start in promoting table tennis to several new female groups with regular evening sessions at Sophia Gardens

Julie will continue to support Claire.

She is just about to get married and I send our congratulations to her and her new husband.

Paul Collins has worked as a Director for N W Wales for quite some time promoting table tennis on Anglesey and the N W coast.

He is now the Chairman of the Llandudno League. He has also built strong links locally with the Urdd and is passionate in developing North Wales table tennis.

It follows, that we are now seeking replacement Directors to replace Julie and Paul - any volunteers?

The late Graham Brettell

It is with a great sadness that I have to announce the passing away after illness of the former Newport League chair Chairman Graham Brettell. Graham

was also chair of the Gwent TTA

He sadly passed away on 16th February.

Graham was a member of the league for over 50 years as a player and administrator. Everyone who was fortunate enough to know him found him to be an absolute gentleman and he will be very badly missed.

Bernard Carter Chair

Coaching Corner

Staff News

Judith Whitton has seen progress in the Swansea region with the likes of Grace Clement, Lara Whitton and Bradley Abraham recently. Steve Jenkins led his team to another Junior TCW title

Domestic News

Callum Evans is pushing on with his stay in Grantham as he has been selected for Luxembourg and the World Champs in China in the coming months. This is the same for Ryan Oyler who will join Callum in their 1st World Championships in China

International

Charlotte Carey competes in Paraguay at the World Junior Circuit finals. This is the same event she has qualified for the 2 previous years (2013 and 2014). Charlotte also won the Munster Open with wins over Katie McGlone and Hannah Lynch-Dawson. Dan O'Connell travels to Hungary for the ITTF Open in Budapest

Coaching Courses

Day 1 of the UKCC Level 1 went very well with 13 new candidates taking part

Ryan Jenkins National Coach



South & Central

Cardiff Boys Champions of their Division in Junior British League

Cardiff City TTC Boys have been confirmed as Champions of Division 4A, earning a promotion in their first season in the Junior British League. A season-long title race with Ormesby II concluded in a dramatic final showdown between division's two top teams in the last match of the competition. Cardiff triumphed 4-2 in the decider, with 13 year old club member Cade Short being declared player of the match.

New Timetable Means More Opportunities to Play at Cardiff City

Cardiff City Table Tennis Club is now open six days a week for coached sessions and casual play. The new timetable includes two weekly sessions for the Over 50s and drop-in 'Pay as you Play' openings every weekday afternoon. The club is hopeful that the new timetable will appeal to students and older players, meaning

that the full-time table tennis centre can enjoy more use during the day.

Sunday Super League Begins in Cardiff

A new league competition is being held every Sunday evening at Cardiff City Table Tennis Club. The league shall run in cycles with cash prizes awarded to the top players every six weeks before the points are wiped away and the league reset. The competition is open to anyone who is not a complete beginner. Those keen to compete should contact the club to find out the date of the next available intake.

Rhondda TTC - Most successful club results ever?

The results over the last 5 years would suggest they are contenders for the most successful club in the history of Welsh Table Tennis. In 2013 they won 21 medals at the national championships with 6 national champions. In 2014 a similar thing happened. In the last 8 years they have won a team championship title every year and also won every division at least once. Players have been selected for most junior and senior events in the UK and Europe. There have also been European and World ranked players in both Junior and Senior categories. Three out of four men in the Commonwealth team were comprised of members from Rhondda TTC.

Team Championships 2014\2015 - Rhondda TTC did the double in the junior Team Championships of Wales. In the premier division, the A team which consisted of Callum Evans, Jac Jenkins, Kate Roberts and Chris Griffiths only dropped a couple of matches throughout the season which were to the second placed team, St Melons TTC. The B team which consisted of Beth Richards, Steffan Jeczalik and Louie Evans won the 1st division beating Swansea and Rhyl into 2nd and 3rd positions. Rhondda did the treble last year as they won the senior title as well as both Junior titles, which could be repeated in the next couple of weeks if they go on to take the senior title. This certainly hasn't been achieved in the last 20 years. Rhondda have now won every domestic event on offer which include: Junior Team Championships, Senior Team Championships, Dragon competitions, National Championships, Gemau Cymru, Welsh Primary Championships, and numerous Welsh ranking events.

Welsh Primary Schools - Cwmlai Primary took the Welsh Primary Schools title beating 35 other primary schools to the top position. Louie Evans and Isabelle Bunion beat Lonlas in the final 44-42. This was a fantastic contest which would have gone either way. B

Glamorgan Open - The winner of the Junior boys was Callum Evans who beat Ryan Oyler 3-0 in the final. Louie Evans also did well losing in the u13 boys final to Joseph Roberts.

Burton Uxbridge - Good results for Louie Evans winning both the u 11 and u13 tournament. Beth Richards was also on fire winning the u13 singles and runner up in the u15s.

Cirencester - Louie Evans was runner up in the u11 boys competition.

Welsh Euro Challenge - Louie Evans finished 2nd in the u13 boys and Beth Richards 3rd in the u 13 girls.

Cardiff & District League Community Club

The Cardiff & District league continues to run a very successful 'Community Club' aimed at attracting new players of all ages, as well as providing a good opportunity for regular league players to get some practice. The Community Club is run by Roy Gibson on Friday evenings between 7pm and 9pm at the Sport Wales Centre, Cardiff and since it was started a few seasons ago has managed to attract several new players into the current league clubs and also enable the league to form a junior team in the Welsh League.

Coaching is available from the league's registered coaches and players are also able to play in a 'top table' format, giving everyone a chance to play throughout the evening against others of a similar standard.

The Club had over 100 people registered in 2014, including 40 junior players, but new players are always made welcome and the Club has started successfully in 2015.



Scoring in matches

There seems to be a problem in some competitions with scorers not verbally calling scores

Under ITTF regulations (Match Conduct Rule 3.4) the scorer **must** call the score verbally –loudly and clearly enough for players and coaches to hear. It is not necessary to shout – scoring machines aid those further away from the action. It is **not** permissible to be using mobile phones or tablets (nor listening to music) while scoring. This shows disrespect to the players and can obviously result in errors

Eastern Valleys

Blaenau Gwent Junior/Cadet Open 2014

The 22nd Annual Blaenau Gwent Junior and Cadet Open was held at Abertillery Sports Centre on 30th November 2014. The tournament saw 44 players compete to win the titles in their respective events.

In the Junior boys, top seed Ryan Oyler fought off all the competition to claim the title. In the semi finals Ryan beat Joshua Stacey 3-1, whilst Chris Griffiths came through a close match against Jac Jenkins in 4 sets. Ryan produced a strong performance against Chris in final and won 3-0.

The Junior Girls was also won by the number 1 seed, Beth Roberts. Beth overcame Lydia John 3-0 in her semi final whilst Soffi Jenkins beat English ranked Beth Atkinson in the other semi final, also 3-0. In the final, Beth showed why she is top of the junior rankings winning in 3 sets to successfully defend the title she won last year.

The Cadet Boys was won by Cade Short who produced some great table tennis to

upset top seed Joshua Stacey in a close final 3-1. On his way to the title, Cade also defeated Joseph Roberts 3-0 in the semi final. Joshua beat Benedict Watson in the other semi final, also 3-0.

The Cadet Girls title went to top seed Lydia John for a second successive year. The Cadet girls was fiercely contested from the start, with one group decided by count back. In the semi finals, Lydia beat Beth Richards 3-0, whilst Anna Hursey beat Lauren Stacey. In the final, Lydia battled to a 3-1 victory against Anna to defend the title.

Also well done to Lara Whitton, who was the recipient of the Blaenau Gwent Fairplay Award.

Results

Junior Boys

Final

Ryan Oyler bt Chris Griffiths 3-0 (8, 5, 7)

Semi Finals

Ryan Oyler bt Joshua Stacey 3-1 (4, 10, -9, 3)

Chris Griffiths bt Jac Jenkins 3-1 (6, -7, 9, 2)

Junior Girls

Final

Beth Roberts bt Soffi Jenkins 3-0 (6, 4, 6)

Semi Finals

Beth Roberts bt Lydia John 3-0 (10, 8, 8)

Soffi Jenkins bt Beth Atkinson 3-0 (8, 10, 12)

Cadet Boys

Final

Cade Short bt Joshua Stacey 3-1 (-11, 8, 12, 4)

Semi Finals

Cade Short bt Joseph Roberts 3-0 (2, 14, 5)

Joshua Stacey bt Benedict Watson 3-0 (10, 4, 6)

Cadet Girls

Final

Lydia John bt Anna Hursey 3-1 (9, -10, 13, 6)

Semi Finals

Lydia John bt Beth Richards 3-0 (6, 3, 8)

Anna Hursey bt Lauren Stacey 3-0 (7, 7, 8)

Tournament Success

Well done to Aelybryn TTC player Jamie-Lee Harley on finishing runner up in the Welsh Euro Challenge Cadet Girls singles in Cardiff last month.

Also well done to Garin Edwards of North Gwent TTC who won his first Dragon tournament in the Under 15s in December.

Development

A new pay and play junior session has recently started at Ebbw Vale Sports Centre with the number of participants taking part increasing each week. The session is held every Wednesday 5-6pm at a cost of £2. Taster sessions have been delivered in primary schools in the Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale cluster to promote the session. There are also weekly after school sessions taking place at Beaufort Hill and All Saints Primaries in Ebbw Vale, and an after school club at Ebbw Fawr Secondary School.



New Community Table Tennis League

A new beginner/intermediate community table tennis league is planned to be organised in the near future in Abertillery. The league will take place at Abertillery Sports Centre on Sunday afternoons, and will accommodate players of all ages. The league will consist of two players in a team with each participant playing two singles games and a double game per team match.

The main aim of the league is to provide a competitive opportunity for beginner and improver players of all ages who don't currently participate in any or few competitions. If you are a local player and would like to sign up please contact Greg Price on 07749338852 or email gregp_8@yahoo.co.uk

Gwent Dragon

The tournament will take place on Sunday 21 June at Abertillery Leisure Centre. There will be under 9s, under 11s, under 13s & under 15s. Entry forms will be available on the TTW website in due course

North West News

The Llandudno & District Closed Championship finals night was played in a new format this season, with the league honours being played out over both a Saturday tournament and on a showcase finals night held at Craig-y-don community centre. Sixteen winners' trophies were up for grabs and the club tally at the end of proceedings was Amlwch-Wylfa eight, Rhyl four, Craig-y-don one, Denbigh one, Glan Clwyd Hospital one and Y Morfa one.

The finals played on the Saturday included two fantastic five-game encounters. **Chris Watkins** (Glan Clwyd Hospital), prevailed 11-7 in the decider to deny **Kath Mitchell Dawson** (Denbigh), to secure the Ladies Singles title. While the Consolation final was finally decided 17-15 with victory for **Elliott Platt** (Rhyl), over **Mark Bryant** (Amlwch-Wylfa).

On the finals night, it was perhaps the two semi-finals of the blue ribbon Senior Singles that produced the best table tennis. In the first semi, **Paul Collins** played some high quality focused stuff with fantastic serves and third ball attacks that prevented **Ken Connor** getting his game going, save a few wonder down the line loops. Paul was on the front foot and secured his final birth 11-4, 11-6, 11-6. The other semi also seemed destined for Amlwch courtesy of **Keith Williams** when he won the first two games 11-4, 11-8. However **Jacob Blahut** on home soil dug-in and was beginning to follow up his excellent spin serves with increasing effective loops. Jacob prevailed 13-11 in the fifth in the tightest match of the night. **Paul Collins** went on to win Senior Singles, Super Veterans and with Keith Williams both the Senior and Veterans Doubles. Roger Lee played well to extract a game from Paul in the over sixties Super Veterans final.

Jacob Blahut who missed out in the big one, gained some compensation in the Restricted Final, confined to players aged between 18 and 39. He started strongly and destroyed **Connor Climo** in the second game and seemed on course for a comfortable win. However Connor played some fantastic stuff in the third, winning 14-12. This included perhaps the best off the table distance hitting and retrieving rally of the night. Jacob shook himself down and landed the title in the

Website Links

For Wales website

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fourth game.

Paul Collins played in six of the nine games held on the Monday, and the intensity he had shown in his first game against **Ken Connor** was a slightly lower level in the Veterans final. For spectators however the individual shots played in this five game thriller were perhaps the most entertaining of the evening. Ken got his revenge and prevented Paul from winning all five finals he contested on the evening.

League news in North West Wales is that **Amlwch A** are running away with the first division and are currently thirty four points clear at the top. They have dominated affairs in the first half of the season with their four-man squad of **Paul Collins, Ian Ault, Reg John** and **Keith Williams**.

In contrast the second division title race is a close affair with very little between **Denbigh B,**

North Wales Police B and **Craig-y-don B**. Craig-y-don recently took the Police unbeaten record and it seems that this battle will go down to wire

Results: Closed Tournament

<u>Event</u>	<u>Winner(s)</u>	<u>Runner(s) Up</u>
<u>Senior Singles</u>	Paul Collins	Jacob Blahut
<u>Consolation Singles</u>	Elliot Platt	Mark Bryant
<u>Veteran Singles</u>	Ken Connor	Paul Collins
<u>Super Veteran Singles</u>	Paul Collins	Roger Lee
<u>Restricted Singles</u>	Jacob Blahut	Connor Climo
<u>Junior Singles</u>	Eliot Platt	Simon Platt
<u>Division 2 Singles</u>	Gareth Jones	Andy Lunt
<u>Senior Doubles</u>	Paul Collins Keith Williams	Connor Climo Ken Connor
<u>Veterans Doubles</u>	Paul Collins Keith Williams	Ken Connor Roger Lee

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

Junior Doubles

Eliot Platt

Abhishek Bathula

Simon Platt

Ben Moore

Ladies Singles

Chris Watkins

Kath Mitchell-Dawson

Mixed Doubles

Paul Collins

Chris Watkins

Kath Mitchell-Dawson

Keith Williams

Swansea & District

Swansea table tennis player Lawrence John has won an OCS Young Sports Person Regional Award, worth £1,500.

Lawrence, 16, from Llamsamlet, fought off stiff competition from young sports people from all over Wales and the South West of England to secure the prize, which is awarded by OCS in conjunction with SportsAid.

The OCS Young Sports Person Awards is now in its sixteenth year. During this time over £500,000 has been awarded to over 200 talented youngsters. The scheme currently makes 11 individual Awards to youngsters across the UK each year.

Athletes who benefited from an award at an early stage of their careers include Olympic gymnasts Beth Tweddle and Luis Smith, and table tennis star Paul Drinkhall.

Lawrence received his award at a celebratory luncheon held in the Shard and hosted by Gabby Logan.

Lawrence, who is currently combining his A level studies with a rigorous training regime at the table tennis academy in Grantham was joined at the ceremony by proud parents Dai and Kath.



Disability Table Tennis

Welsh Paralympic Table tennis players focus on Rio 2016 qualification

The start of the new year has seen a big focus on training and preparation for the season and challenges that lie ahead. The focus in 2015 will be qualification for the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

GB Performance squad members Rob Davies, Paul Karabardak and Sara Head, along with GB Pathway player Thomas Matthews, are in full training in preparation for upcoming tournaments. GB Performance player Paul Davies is still recovering from injury and we are hopeful that his preparation will start soon.

Tournament schedule

March 2015

Hungary (factor 20)

Italy (factor 40)

May 2015

Slovenia (factor 40)

Slovakia (factor 40)

Germany (factor 40)

October 2015

European Championships in Denmark

From April the players will attend two, week long, GB camps in Sheffield per month and possibly an International training camp in Slovenia during September.

Their progress will be reported periodically in this newsletter

Good luck to all!

Neil Robinson

Para TT Rep

TTW Board member

To contact TTW or just to
be added to our
distribution list contact:

philipaveryco@hotmail.com

Tel 07711 35016

Bits & Pieces

How to get up the rankings?

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range of products go to
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Official clothing suppliers to the Welsh teams

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