



A View from the Chair

Looking forward to a new season

I hope all are enjoying the summer- albeit rather wet!

We are all looking forward to the new season.

This is a good time of year to be thinking ahead and a gentle reminder to clubs and leagues in regard to their legal and moral duties around safeguarding children – and indeed protecting themselves at the same time. Clubs and Leagues have all been contacted with guidance and details of the free training we are making available in the Autumn

For more information please contact the General Manager

I would also ask secretaries to provide as much information as possible as to members- again the GM has already sent out requests. We are often asked why we need to provide information on matters such as ethnic background and other personal information. This is because we are trying as an organisation to promote more opportunities for all under-represented groups. We are measured as to progress and it is clearly impossible to measure without robust data. Your cooperation is very sincerely appreciated

The AGM this year will be at the Sport Wales Centre Sophia Gardens on the evening of Thursday 15 September

Best wishes to all

Bernard Carter Chair

Coaching Corner

All the salaried and volunteer coaches who appear on the TTW approved coaches list were invited to attend the Great Britain camp which took place in Cardiff in June half term with Norway, Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales. It was a great chance for those coaches to get new ideas and share stories with the coaches from the other Nations. Alan Cooke (who recently led England men to a Bronze medal in Malaysia at the World Championships) was a great addition to the coaching staff on show.

Ryan Jenkins has been successful in obtaining an ITTF mentorship grant to help him fund a World Class coach working closely to improve the Welsh system. The world class coach will give advice and help from their experiences. This is a 2 year programme.

International and UK Events:

Ryan Jenkins has won the Grand Prix circuit for a record 8th time after accumulating enough points over the season to finish top. Charlotte Carey finished second in the women's list behind England number 1 Kelly Sibley. Callum

Evans was another big hitter at the Grand Prix circuit in 2015-2016 with top wins in the U21 and bands 1 and 2 events

Selections have now been made for the Senior Schools in Limerick, Gemau Cymru in Cardiff, AndroKids in Dusseldorf, European Youths in Zagreb, EuroMinis in Schilgheim and the School Games in Loughborough. All those selected are announced on our website and FaceBook page

Domestic Events:

Ryan Jenkins (12th time) and Charlotte Carey (2nd time) won the men and women singles respectively at the Welsh National Championships which were held on the weekend 4/5th June in Cardiff. Callum Evans was another major winner as he won the U18 and U21 singles whilst losing to Ryan in the Men's final. Charlotte beat Beth Roberts in the women's final. Ryan Oyler beat the 215 champion Dan O'Connell in the QF stage with Chris Griffiths also a semi-finalist

Lee Thomas retained his Vets title and Mark Simon won the Over 50's. Beth Richards won the cadet girls, with Lara Whitton the U13 girls. Cade Short won the cade boys with Evan O'Connor winning the U11 singles. A full report is on www.ttaw.co.uk which includes doubles and mixed doubles results plus photos.

The Gwent Senior Open takes place in July – Visit the tournament Entry section of our website. Also on that section is the Glamorgan Closed entry form plus Dragon entries for Cardiff, Gwent and Rhyl

Upcoming Events:

July 2016

Gwent Dragon

North Wales Dragon

European Youth Champs – Zagreb

August 2016

AndroKids – Germany

Liverpool Grand Prix

EuroMinis - France

You can get the latest news on events, selections and training squads on twitter (@walesTT) or FaceBook (Table Tennis Wales) . We are on email always coaching@ttaw.co.uk

Senior Schools Limerick

Callum Evans won Gold at the Limerick Senior Schools in June beating England's Joshua Bennett 3/1 in a great final. Callum teamed up with Josh Stacey to claim a team Bronze in the U18 boys, whilst Kate Roberts won a Bronze in the U18 girls singles losing to eventual winner Zahna Hall (England). The U16 were 4th as were the U18 girls. There were various QF placings from Beth Richards and Jamie Lee Harley. Lauren Stacey won a consolation Gold in the U14 girls.

Gamau Cymru

Cardiff were victorious at the 2016 Gemau Cymru Championships as Jack O'Duffy, Lauren Stacey and Joe Williams beat local rivals Vale of Glamorgan in a great final. Conwy earned Bronze after beating Blaenau Gwent. Joe Williams won enough points to be given the Gold medal for the most valuable player (MVP) by 5 points from David Avery.

Ryan Jenkins

South Region

Development

Table tennis is going from strength to strength each season with the growth of development in the Capital. Many more schools are taking up table tennis activities, running breakfast clubs, lunch clubs and after school clubs for the young children of Cardiff. This is having a great knock on effect in the clubs as more young people are attending club sessions than in previous years.

Over 30 schools are now having table tennis activities on weekly bases. September will see another 6 primary schools taking up table tennis activities as they start the new school year. The aim for these schools will be to run sessions weekly and push players attending onto local clubs to further the player's development.

St.Mellons Table Tennis Club

As the season now comes to an end, the success of the club has again been a benchmark set for next season. All credit goes to the players for all the hard work they put in on weekly bases.

St.Mellons TTC A completed a successful season by winning the Cardiff and District WIS Division, seeing off rivals Mackintosh TTC, Barry Athletic and Cardiff City TTC to win the League trophy. Joshua Stacey was at the front of the success, keeping a 100% record in the league to finish top of the individual averages. Club representatives, Marco Castro, Zana Rahim, Steve Eades and Ryan Oyler all picked up many wins as the league was won with a game to play. German player Nicholas also helped the club in the short time he was here picking up some fine wins on the way. The club reached the final of the Cup Competition, where they were unable to complete the double they achieved last season as they lost out a close 10-12 to Cardiff City TTC.

In the Team Championships of Wales it was St.Mellons Table Tennis Club who for the second season in a row they took the top prize. Local lads, Ryan Oyler and Joshua Stacey teamed up with long-term club member Huw Standen, to secure the title Premier Division title. They saw off tough challenges from the mighty Rhondda A, Swansea A and Cardiff City A to win and become the Team Champions of Wales.

In the Second Division it was St.Mellons TTC B who took the top spot, a young team of Joseph Roberts, Jack ODuffy and Lauren Stacey, captained by Joshua Morgan went on to win their respectable division to gain promotion to the first division come next season.

Following the success of the club at domestic level, it has had a great knock on effect with membership at the club with new players attending sessions on a weekly basis and the club looking to stretch to having another club night in the new season to accommodate the young players wanting to have a taste of success.

Next season the club will look to continue and grow on their successful season, by entering more teams into the Team Championships of Wales. As well as two teams in the Cardiff and District table tennis league.

Simon Oyler

Rhondda win all men's national titles

Rhondda TTC won all the national men's titles on offer and contested every final. Ryan Jenkins secured his 12th title beating Callum Evans in the final. Ryan teamed up with son Jac to win the men's doubles title beating Rhondda duo Callum Evans and Chris Griffiths. Callum won the junior and u21 men's titles. Louie Evans reached the final of the u13 singles and won the junior boys doubles with brother Callum Evans.

The women also did well with Beth Richards winning the u15 girls title and reaching the semi-final of the women's singles. Beth also won the junior girls doubles. Soffi Jenkins reached the semi-final of the junior singles and final of the junior doubles.

Louie Evans has had a successful couple of months winning the Plymouth 2 star team event with Joseph Roberts and reaching the final of the singles of that event. Louie has won a bronze medal in the British Championships and reaching the last 8 of the Italian u13 open.

Steve Jenkins

Live Long Ping Pong

A new adult table tennis session on a Friday morning was set up in Abertillery in March called Live Long Ping Pong. The aim of the new session was to provide fun and inclusive table tennis taster sessions as part of the Exercise Referral classes in Blaenau Gwent. The Exercise Referral classes are well attended and working with Blaenau Gwent's Exercise Referral team, we felt that table tennis would be a fantastic activity for sufficient physical exercise whilst having fun and enjoying the sport at the same time.

The table tennis taster sessions were a big success with over ten participants taking part in the first two taster sessions. The feedback from the participants was very positive. The general consensus was that they immensely enjoyed the taster sessions and would like to take part in regular weekly sessions in the same timeslot. One lady who attended the session expressed that she preferred to take part in table tennis as opposed to going to the gym sessions because it was fun, engaging and competitive. As well as providing more opportunities for adults to participate in table tennis, the session is providing physical exercise opportunities for people who have chronic illnesses and health problems.

Due to popular demand, we agreed with the Exercise Referral team to provide regular weekly table tennis sessions on Friday mornings between 11-12pm.

North Gwent Table Tennis Club has benefitted from the new adult sessions, with over 5 new adults joining the club since the launch of the session.

Gemau Cymru

Blaenau Gwent were represented by Ben Pearce, Matthew Pearce and Iestyn Howells at this year's Gemau Cymru on 2nd July in Cardiff.

North Gwent Senior Open and Dragon Event

North Gwent Table Tennis Club are holding a Senior Open and Dragon event at Abertillery Sports Centre on Sunday 10th July.

The Gwent Senior Open is a mixed event, which is open to players all ages. The Open is limited to 20 players, so entries will only be accepted on a first come first serve basis. There will be prize money awarded to the winner and runner up of the competition. If you are interested in competing, you can find further details on the entry form which is attached below.

We are also running a Gwent Dragon event on the same day, which is aimed at beginner players. The events include Under 9's, Under 11's, Under 13's and Under 15's. Trophies will be presented to the winners and runner up's of each event. The entry form for the dragon is also attached below.

Both entry forms are also available to download on TTW website.

Greg Price

Disability TT

11-14 May – Slovakia Open

Singles

On the first day of the PTT Slovakia Open in Bratislava Rob Davies made it through to the quarter finals

Rob Davies looking to follow up his men's class 1 gold medal winning performance in Slovenia and had a tricky first match against his old rival Endre Major from Hungary, the former European team bronze medalist. The pair have had some very close matches in the past but Davies was always in control today in a 3-0 win. He followed that with a 3-0 win against Fernando Eberhardt from Argentina, the PanAmerican champion in 2013, and was also happy to make smooth progress into tomorrow's quarter-finals.

"The first two games against Major were quite close," he admitted. "I think it was my nerves more than anything but I loosened off for the last one and it was a good score line so I'm really happy with the way I came through that. It eased the pressure off me for the next match and I felt a bit more comfortable and played like I can. It is difficult trying to get yourself back up so soon after a tournament but I've had a good rest and good preparation so looking forward to tomorrow now and the quarter finals - I'm excited."

Paul Davies had a walkover in his first match against the former European team gold medallist Martin Polkorab from Slovakia and then lost 3-1 to KiWon Nam from Korea, the World number four and World team gold medalist. A 3-0 win in his final match against Alan Papirer from France - including a run of 14 points in a row - took him through from his group and he received a bye into the quarter-finals.

Sara Head had never beaten Alena Kanova from Slovakia in 14 meetings and when the former Paralympic, World and European champion came back from 0-2 to level at 2-2 it looked as if she had the upper hand. However, in the fifth and deciding game it was Head who established an early lead and she went on to win the game 11-6 and the match 3-2. She followed that with a 3-1 win against Thais Fraga Severo from Brazil, the PanAmerican silver medalist but a 0-3 loss to Jiyu Koon from Korea in her final match meant that she missed out on a quarter-final place on countback.

"I'm really pleased to beat Kanova," said Head. "I played really well - I played clever and it worked for me today so hopefully I can keep those tactics going. Every point and every win here helps for our seeding for Rio so I'm happy."

Rob Davies has also looked in great form here and was a comfortable 3-0 winner against Andrea Borgato from Italy in his quarter-final. However, against World champion Chang Ho Lee he struggled to impose his game and lost in three close sets to finish with a bronze medal.

"I just wasn't able to perform against him (Lee) today," admitted the 31 year old Welshman. "It is a mental thing at the moment more than anything so that is what I need to work on. We don't play the Koreans often enough and they play slightly different to other countries. That is why I came here - I wanted to play them as much as I can. No matter what you try and emulate in the training hall it is never the same as competition and mentally I didn't perform like I can. I've lost this one so I have to move on and hopefully play them in the team and try and do the job there."

Davies's men's class 1 team partner and fellow Welshman Paul Davies had earlier played Lee in his quarter-final and the Korean World number six was just too strong in a 3-1 win.

"I did better than I thought I would," said the 49 year old, who is playing in only his second tournament after two years out through injury, "but maybe a lack of match play has caught up with me a bit. I've got the skills - I know I can do it and I'm going to do it. He deserved to win today but that game was so nip and tuck it could have gone either way - he was the better player on the day but next time I know I can beat him. I beat him here two years ago and in London but it was his day today."

Team event

Rob Davies and Paul Davies went through to the semi-finals of men's class 1 event and Sara Head and Jane Campbell (women's class 2-3) are still in contention for a medal in their round robin events with final matches to play tomorrow.

Rob Davies and Paul Davies started their first team competition together for two years with a hard-fought win yesterday against Brazil/Hungary. After losing the doubles 1-3 Rob Davies looked to be in trouble against the Brazilian Aloisio Lima Junior at 0-1, 5-9 but came back to win 3-1 and Paul Davies used all his battling qualities to defeat Endre Major 11-5 in the fifth.

They took on France today and after winning a tight first game 14-12 they won the doubles 3-0 in a much improved performance. Paul Davies lost in four close sets to Paralympic silver medalist Jean-Francois Ducay but Rob Davies secured the tie and a place in the semi-finals by beating Alan Rene Jean Papirer 3-1.

"Our doubles today was a massive difference from yesterday," said Paul Davies, "we played as a team like we can do. We got through yesterday - I had a big five setter against Major which I knew would be tough but I got the result. Lost to Ducay this time but I beat him in Slovenia so it's one all. His coach just said to me 'maybe we meet in the final in Rio' so you never know."

"I'm really chuffed that I managed to lift myself back up yesterday and get Paul and me into a winning position," said Rob Davies, "as it is hard after losing in the singles. We played really well in the doubles today. We wanted to be clinical - it was an important doubles for us and it showed in the end so I'm happy we won and we're back on form together. Now on to tomorrow."

In the women's class 2-3 team event Head and Campbell won their first match against Russia/Italy with a 3-1 win in the doubles followed by a 3-0 win for Head against and the Italian Giada Rossi, the class 2 European bronze medalist.

Head was happy with her performance: "I'm pleased with how I'm playing. I haven't been feeling too good so to play as well as that - I'm really happy. We play Korea tomorrow - it's going to be good practice for us for Rio and a fantastic learning experience - bring it on!"

In their men's class 1 semi-final Rob Davies and Paul Davies had to come from 2-0 down in the doubles to beat the German/Swiss combination of Holger Nikelis, the reigning Paralympic champion and former World number one, and the very experienced Sylvio Keller 3-2. However, the effort of doing that appeared to take effect in the singles and after Paul Davies lost 0-3 to an in-form Nikelis, Rob Davies fought hard against Keller but lost in five sets and the Welsh duo had to be content with the bronze.

Although disappointed Davies and Davies insisted that they will come back stronger.

"I was really happy with the way we played in the doubles," said Rob Davies. "To come back and fight like we did and take it 3-2 showed what we're made of a bit. Unfortunately I couldn't repeat it in my singles - Sylvio is playing well and I've got to give him credit. That's the way it goes - that is sport and I've got to use that as a fighting tool now. The next four months I know I'm going to work my socks off before Rio and I'm looking forward to that fight now to be honest."

"It was a good result in the doubles from 2-0 down," agreed Paul Davies, "and we did well to get back and win that. Holger played well but I don't feel I played my best against him as I made a lot of errors. There were some simple shots I missed - I was too eager and jumped in too quick. But that is down to lack of match practice after two years out. The next four months are going to be work, work, work and these results won't reflect on our chances in Rio as far as I'm concerned. The boys are working us hard back home so the next four months is what it is all about."

In their final match of the round-robin women's class 2-3 team event Sara Head and Jane Campbell lost 0-2 to the World team bronze medalists from Korea. Although they lost the doubles 3-0 they were competitive in all three games and the experience of playing the strong Koreans will be valuable before Rio.

Head lost the singles to Jiyu Yoon but was also able to reflect positively on her performance. "This is the first time we've played that combination," she said, "so it was very good for us to play against them and they put their A team out against us today. Doubles will be very important in Rio so we will work on that but we are going to work on everything over the next four months. We can see the positives from what we have been working on - it is just about being more consistent now."

15-19 June Spanish open El Prat de Liobregat Barcelona

Singles

Swansea teenager Lawrence John topped his group in men's class 10 with wins over Angel Garrido from Spain and Fatih Erdem from Turkey and reached the semi-finals after a 3-0 quarter-final win against teammate Josh Morgan.

The 18 year old was not disgraced in losing in three close sets to the World number nine Jorge Cardona from Spain and was delighted to win his first international singles medal.

"I'm extremely happy with my performance and results," said John. "I felt as though I played well, especially during the early matches, and was clinical in finishing them. I felt as if I stood a good chance also in the semi-final against Cardona where all three sets were close and I just missed out."

Rio Paralympics

Robert Davies, Paul Davies, Paul Karabardak and Sara head are now entering the final preparation period before flying out to Rio on the 1st September, along with National coach Neil Robinson.

Neil Robinson

Insport

Table Tennis Wales and the insport journey

It's been a little while since Table Tennis started their journey with Disability Sport Wales and the insport programme.

Achieving Ribbon early on has laid the foundations for the sport to start working through the Bronze award level. Ribbon, very much concentrates on the governance and the buy in from the sport, with Bronze moving this on and looking at programme and initiatives where the sport can really influence how it creates opportunities for disabled people.

We are very keen to find more disabled players, volunteers and coaches across the country and the more we find, the more we can develop programmes and raise the profile.

One of the insport programmes that Table Tennis clubs have started to embrace is the insport CLUB programme. Very similar to it's NGB partner, insport CLUB assists individual clubs to become more inclusive , helps them raise awareness and ultimately assists in opening up the club to new members. Currently 6 clubs are working through this, but we want many many more. If you are interested in finding out more, please feel free to contact me on the email below.

The sport already enjoys great success at Para-Table Tennis level with Paralympic medals and GB representation.

We want everyone in the sport to embrace these athletes successes and join us on our journey and create more and more opportunities for disabled people. If you know of anyone who has a disability or, just wants to come and help with the programme please forward their names or get in touch with me. Our goal is to reach Bronze award level in 2017 and increase the number of clubs and individuals working within the insport programme.

Lyndon Williams - FDSW insport Case Officer Email hbandnw@yahoo.co.uk

Coach Education

Ten candidates (pictured below with course tutors Simon Oyler and Mostyn Lewis) successfully completed the latest UKCC Level 1 coaches course held over 3 days at Cardiff City TTC



Dates for a Wales-wide Coach Education Programme for next season which will include UKCC courses at Level 1 and 2 will be confirmed over the coming weeks. Details of course content and requirements can be found in the coaching section of the TTW website. Will anyone interested please contact Mostyn Lewis or Ryan Jenkins

Mostyn Lewis

Change to Bye Laws- discipline in matches

A revised Bye Law has been issued by the board of TTW as set out below

“Matches controlled by qualified officials shall be subject to the following point penalty system for dealing with misbehaviour. A player who is formally warned or penalised by a qualified umpire or referee by yellow card for misbehaviour will incur 1 penalty point on each occasion (a disqualification will incur 2 penalty points). Such point(s) shall be recorded by the TTW Head of Umpires. If the player receives 4 penalty points in any 12 month period then he/she will normally be warned that on receiving a further penalty point he/she will be suspended automatically from any form of competitive table tennis for 30 days from the date of incurring the 5th point and will be duly suspended from that date. An inadvertent failure to provide the advance warning however will not prevent suspension. If the player incurs 3 further penalty points in any 12 month period directly following any suspension then a further 30 day suspension will immediately apply. Should a player receive 2 suspensions in two consecutive 12 month periods or in the case of playing whilst under suspension then he/she will be regarded as bringing the sport into disrepute and the matter will be referred to a TTW disciplinary committee which shall have power to deal with the matter as it sees fit”

Please note all Bye Laws and other governance documents are available from the relevant page in the website



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