

Bethesda school link programme



Pupils of Dyffryn Ogwen Secondary School have been participating in squash sessions held at the local leisure centre. Pupils were given 6 week blocks of coaching by local coaches Stephen and Glenda Roberts and assisted by the schools P.E. teachers. On the last day of term before the Christmas closure all pupils were entered into a graded event with matches up to 20 points American scoring and a main draw and plate competition at each grade. There were different levels competing from CORE level down to total beginners and a hard day of squash and fun was had by all. The event was jointly organised by Stephen Roberts, Community Coach Activator and Dewi Owen and Eleri Mitchelmore, Physical Education teachers, and 98 pupils entered the "tournament".

World Junior Mens Team Championships 2008 Zurich, Switzerland

Four junior members from Squash Wales returned from representing Wales in the World Junior Mens Team Championships in Zurich, Switzerland. Samuel Huxtable, David Haley, Hywel Robinson and Sam Fenwick have previously represented their country in Home International Championships and European Championships at Under 15 and Under 17 level but being selected on this occasion was an exceptional achievement. The four man team played against the best junior squash players in the World.

Wales was drawn in a very challenging group for the pool stages, which included Egypt, Finland and Ecuador. Wales beat Ecuador convincingly but struggled against Egypt suffering a 3-0 loss. The 'crunch' match was against Finland, which was finally edged by the Scandinavians 2-1. This meant that the boys had just missed qualifying for the last 16 but their disappointment did not affect their on-going performance with a further victory against the Netherlands and narrow losses against Spain and Sweden.

The experience certainly augurs well for the future with 3 out of 4 of the team being eligible for the next World Junior Championships in 2010.



Presentation ends season on a high

The 4th of July was a perfect illustration of how busy and successful 2007/08 has been for squash in Wales. The great and the good of the squash world came together at St Mellons Country Club to celebrate their achievements at the end of season Presentation BBQ.

Mike "The Mike" Workman, Squash Wales Director of Coaching & Development compeered the evening and his unending enthusiasm and wit ensured a fun time was had by all. Mike thanked the sponsors who have supported tournaments throughout 2007/08 and asked them to present the awards.

First to receive their awards were the team winners of the South Wales Senior Leagues led by St Mellons who won the Mens Premier Division. The Ladies Caerphilly B team, in their first season in the competition, won the Ladies Premier Division. The South Wales Mens and Ladies Cup Competition was another first. This time for Cardiff Squash Rackets Club whose teams won both titles – the first time a club has done the double.

The juniors celebrated a wonderful season. Both the Under 13 and Under 15 Mixed Teams won the Home Internationals held in Cardiff in March for the second year running! Lowri Roberts and Emyr Evans

aged 11 were awarded the "Most Improved Player" awards and both played a prominent role in the victorious Under 13 Team. The Under 15 Team came 4th and the Under 17 Team came 3rd at the European Team Championships in Lyon in May.

Paul Thomas (Vale) was awarded "Referee of the Year". It's a thankless task but someone has to referee and Paul brings serenity to the electric atmosphere of very closely fought matches.

"Male Junior Section Coach of the Year" was given to Bob Gould who runs a thriving series of classes in Aberdare. His female counterpart, Julie Clode, does an equally good job in Fairwater and Llantwit Fardre. Bob's wife Kath was awarded the "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" – another double!

To complete the "doubles theme" Paul Lee and Tracey Gibbs were "The Man & Wife Team of the Year". They have worked tirelessly for the promotion of the innovative Under 11 Talent ID Squad. This started as an experimental idea to involve children aged 6 to 10 in a squad environment to see whether they would blossom. What a great idea! The children have developed into the Stars of the Future.

UII Talent Fun Series - June 2008

Grassroots Squash never looked so good

Squash Wales held the second annual Fun Series for its young stars of the future aged 6 to 11 at the Welsh Institute of Sport. There were 9 teams of 5 players from Guernsey, North, Mid, South and West Wales competing for the coveted team trophy. The scoring system used was the same one that is used on the professional circuit – American point a rally to 11 points, sudden death at 10-all, best of 5 games. This provided lots of matches, 9 hours on 4 courts that's 2160 minutes of squash!!

The pool stages produced playoffs to rank the teams from 1 to 9. The pre-event strong favourites were Guernsey and North Wales A and B and they made it through to the final 1 to 3 playoff with North Wales B topping the pool with Guernsey a close second and North Wales A third.

The next day all children took part in the Individual event and were split by ability onto 4 courts. On court 1 top seed Niall Adams (Guernsey) lost to Lowri Roberts (North Wales) 2-3 in the semi-finals. Liam Stafford (South Wales) overcame long standing rival George Thomas (North Wales) 3-0 in the other semi-final and went on to win the final 3-1.

On court 2 Daniel Christopher (South Wales) fought his way through to the final before losing to Oliver Major (North Wales).

On court 3 Joe Cornwall (South Wales) beat Liam Richards (South Wales) in the final.

On court 4 Chloe Thomas (North Wales) beat Ciara Richards (South Wales) in the final.

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SQUASH WALES SPORTS A NEW LOOK WEBSITE FOR 2008

Squash Wales website boasted a staggering 96,000 hits for the 2007/08 season. To see more go to www.squashwales.co.uk

If you have any ideas about subjects or articles you would like to see in future editions of the newsletter, please contact the Squash Wales Office on 01633 681646 or by e-mail at squashwales@squashwales.co.uk

NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH • NEWS FLASH

Change of Tournament Categories

In order to create more competition and standardise evaluations of performances at junior level, Squash Wales has altered the age categories for all compulsory and optional junior tournaments except the Welsh Junior Closed and Welsh Junior Open..

The new categories will be Boys Under 11, 13 and 15 and Young Men (Under 17/19) and Girls Under 11, 13, 15 and Young Ladies (Under 17/19). The new categories will commence at the first tournament of the 2008/09 season, the CardiffCars.com Junior Open in September 2008.

PSA Welsh Open 2008 David Evans Triumphant Homecoming



David Evans, British Open Champion 2000 and member of the Welsh team that achieved the silver medal in the World Championships in 1999, has come home to Wales. David has returned to his roots from a successful period working for Jersey Squash Rackets Association. He retired from the PSA circuit some time ago but decided to enter the Welsh Open. For those who haven't seen David play this was a great opportunity to witness "a class act". David made his way through the qualifying rounds and main event to the finals without dropping a game!

David played a young man in the final who is considered to be the future of English squash – Joel Hinds. Joel, who has just started playing PSA events, fought his way through from the qualifying rounds but he found the final a step too far. David took him apart to win in 3 straight sets. David really is something special and was an inspiration to all the young, and not so young players, watching.

The other Welsh players had mixed results. Peter Creed lost to Thibault Gouti (FRA) in the first round. Lewys Hurst beat Alistair Mutch in the first round but then lost to Jason Barry (RSA) in the quarter finals. The ladies WISPA event was won by Louise Crome the no. 1 seed from New Zealand who beat the no. 2 seed Vicky Hynes (ENG). Beth Winstanley beat fellow Welsh International Gemma Davies in the first round of the qualifying event and went on to beat Cecile Mayer (DEN) in the second round to reach the main draw. Beth went out 3-0 to the no. 3 seed Fiona Moverley (ENG).

Natalie Pritchard lost to Kylie Lindsay (NZL) in the first round with Deon Saffery beating the Lucky Loser Cecile Mayer (DEN) in the first round then losing to the no. 4 seed Emma Chorley (ENG) in the quarter finals.

The Mens B event was won by Matthew Crowley (Caerphilly) who beat Barney Elsworth after 87 minutes on court. David Haley (Newport) beat Sam Fenwick (Caerphilly) in the Mens B plate after 85 minutes on court! Tom Hulse (Saints) beat Jon Sharpe (Rhiwbina) 3-2 in the Mens C final with Phil Regan (Swansea) beating Tom Clark (Saints) 3-1 in the plate final.

The squash started on Thursday at 10 am and finished on Sunday at 6pm. A long weekend of tremendously exciting squash. WISPA joined PSA in Cardiff for the first time and it proved to be a great success.

Thank you to the Squash Wales staff who worked so hard to make the Welsh Open such a great event. Also a big thank you to Sheila Cooksley, Tour Executive with the PSA, who gave up her valuable time on Sunday to watch the finals and present the trophies to all the winners and runners up.

Olympic Strategy planned in Kuala Lumpur

"We are determined to present an irresistible case for Squash being added to the 2016 Olympic Games programme," said WSF President Jahangir Khan.

"This is the sport's number one focus over the coming year."

Following the IOC announcement that Squash has been included on the shortlist of sports under consideration for the 2016 Olympic Games, the WSF organised an Olympic Strategic Planning Session during last month's ManCom meeting schedule in Kuala Lumpur.

Members of ManCom were also joined by WSF Patron and IOC Member Tunku Imran and Emeritus President Susie Simcock. Among the issues discussed were:

- The benefits of Squash's inclusion in the Games, both from the WSF and the Olympic movement's points of view

- The Review Process timeline from now until the Copenhagen meeting decision date in October 2009
- Lobbying • The role of Media & PR • Market Intelligence
- Communication of the sport's Development & Growth
- Major event presentation • Operational plan

"After the huge disappointment of so narrowly missing out on inclusion in the 2012 Games in London, we are determined to present an irresistible case for Squash being added to the 2016 Olympic Games programme," said WSF President Jahangir Khan. "This is the sport's number one focus over the coming year."

North East Wales Junior Open 2008

There was some great squash played at Deeside Leisure Centre. The Under 11 Girls final came down to the two top seeds with Tyra Beattie from Saints coming through to defeat Chloe Thomas from Tywyn. In the Under 11 Boys B event which was very closely fought Harry Wasdell from Saints defeated Sion Jones from Caernarfon in a thrilling five setter. In the Under 11 Boys A event George Thomas of Saints defeated club mate Sam Wallace 3-0. George Thomas then went onto clinch a double when he won the Under 13 Boys A event beating Perry Shoemark from Wrexham Brymbo. In the Under 13 Boys B event Connor Colquhoun from Midtown beat club mate Tomos Gwyn. In the Under 15 Boys event 11 year old Emyr Evans from Saints won by beating Sion Harlow from Le Sport 3-0.

The Under 15 Girls event ended up with a gripping final where Charlotte Edmondson from Tywyn beat Emily Jones from Wrexham Brymbo. Tesni Evans of Saints won the Under 17 Girls event without dropping a game and defeating Hannah Davies of Wrexham Brymbo in the final. There was an upset in the Under 19 Boys event when Max Brookes-Parry, the No. 2 seed from Saints found some great form to defeat top seed Jordan Davies from Saints 3-0 in the final.

Some great squash and a great weekend. Thanks to Bryn Gittins, one of the coaches at Midtown for help with sponsorship and setting up the weekend and to the other coaches who turned up to help and to referee over the weekend.

Cardiff Cup Double 2007/2008



Cardiff Squash Rackets Club Ladies emulated their Men's team by winning the South Wales Premier Cup. Cardiff beat League winners Caerphilly "B" in the semi-final. Barry won the other semi-final beating St Mellons 4-0. This set

up a final encounter between Cardiff and Barry – both teams blessed with Welsh International players.

Kath James beat Hilary Bugler 3-0. Kath Horler-Clee (Welsh International) beat Julie Gibbons 3-0. Lynne Davies overcame a valiant struggle by Carolyn Guard 3-1 – both players were members of the Welsh Womens Over 40 side who came 2nd at the Home Internationals at the end of April. Sian Johnson – also a Welsh Womens Over 40 International – lost to Stacey Preece 3-0. Stacey is a member of the Welsh senior team that came 7th in the recent European Team Championships.

The standard of squash was exceptional. All the matches were played at The Vale Hotel Golf & Spa Resort which boasts excellent facilities. A special thank you to Mike Howe, League Manager, for his tireless commitment to League and Cup squash. Congratulations Cardiff Ladies and Cardiff Men!



Pointfore Junior Team event

Thirty-two mixed teams of 3 players descended on Newport Squash Rackets Club for a weekend of nail biting squash.

On Saturday the Under 11 and Under 13 Teams played it out for the honour of taking the team title. The Under 11 final was a real cliffhanger with Rhondda boys Liam Eason, Luke Jenkins and Josh Williams just pipping the Aberdare 'A' team of Josh Lee, Hannah Swain and Robin Kingston-Evans to the title. Calvin Till of Caldicot took the 'Most Improved Player Award'. Aberdare legends Dan Cope, Adam Bull and Liam Richards overwhelmed the Newport team of Nia Kenward, Dylan Banks and Jake Reeves to take the Under 13 title. Adam Bull also took the 'Most Improved Player Award' in only his second event.

The Under 15 and Under 17/19 teams played on Sunday. The Under 15 title went to the homeside Newport team of Dan Bergin, Aled Jones and Jack Bannister who beat local rivals Stephen Wood, Lloyd Palmer and Huw Wear of Cardiff. Joe Pengelli of St Mellons was awarded the 'Most Improved Player' trophy.

The top seeds in the Under 17/19 event were Newport's Kane Newall, Dale Williams and Sam Moss who lost the final to youngsters James Thomson, Sasha Cocks and Daniel Cope after some skilful handicapping losing 11/10 in most games. The big guys took it like men! George Evans of Caldicot took the 'Most Improved Player Award'.

Thank you to Newport Squash Rackets Club and the Squash Wales staff Chris Rees and Shelly Robinson and Newport Club Coach Greg Tippings who presented the trophies. Lots of squash and lots of fun. A great way to end the season.

ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR PLAYERS AND PREMIER LEAGUE MENS TEAMS

At the ESF Annual General Meeting, Members voted in favour of introducing **point-a-rally (PAR) scoring to 11**, at 10-all each game is won by two clear points, for all ESF Championships and the ESF Junior Circuit. It was agreed that PAR 11 scoring will be carried out on an experimental basis for a period of 12 months which commenced at the Heriot Watt Junior Open in Edinburgh in July 2008.

Squash Wales has adopted the ESF recommendation and all junior tournaments and the Mens Premier League will be using point-a-rally scoring to 11 for the 2008/09 season starting with the first optional tournament which was the CardiffCars.com Junior Open in September 2008. This system of scoring will encourage faster more exciting squash with less errors.