

# GWENT SWORD CLUB

## news

August, 2007

### **We never close**

Although there are no club sessions in Newport or Chepstow during the school holidays, Wednesday sessions in Caerleon continue throughout August, 8pm-10pm and all club members are welcome to join in. Sessions at the other venues will recommence in the first week in September: Newport, Mondays 7.30pm-8.30pm; Chepstow, Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm.

### **Beginners' classes**

There are still places available on beginners' courses starting in September, if you know of anyone who might like to start fencing.

Peter Russell will be in charge of a course starting in Caerleon on Wednesday, September 13, for ages 11+; Catherine Fisher will be in charge of a course starting in Chepstow on Friday, September 15, for ages 16+. Anyone interested can contact me to provisionally book a place. Details will be posted on the website.

### **Coaching successes**

Congratulations are due to Lynne Melia, who completed her Level 4 foil coaching qualification and to Peter Russell, who completed his BAF advanced foil coaching qualification.

### **National Championships**

Five Gwent Sword Club members took part in the UK National Championships in Sheffield, with considerable success.

Rhys Melia finished in an outstanding fifth place in the men's foil, knocked out in the final eight only by eventual winner Richard Kruse.

Olivia Orchart finished in 23rd place in the women's foil and picked up sufficient ranking points to break into the UK top 50 - the first locally-based GSC fencer to do so.

In addition, Abi Difford was 36th in the women's foil, Jamie Melia 41st in the men's epee and George Orchart 85th in the men's foil.

### **Forthcoming competitions**

September 1: Essex Open

September 8: Leon Paul Junior Series Leicester foil

September 15: Bristol Open

September 22: Shropshire Open

September 29: British Youth Championships foil qualifier, Cardiff

September 30: British Youth Championships epee and sabre qualifiers, Cardiff

*For all club members under 18 on 1.1.08, the LPJS and BYC competitions are recommended; for senior members new to competition, the Shropshire Open is recommended. See any club official or regular competition fencer for more details.*

### **School Games**

Rhys Melia (men's foil) and Abi Difford (women's foil) will be representing Wales in the School

Games in Coventry at the end of this month. We wish them well and hope younger fencers in the club can follow their lead in next year's School Games in Bristol, and in 2009 when the School Games will be in South Wales.

**First-aid course**

Welsh Fencing is running a first-aid course specific to fencing at Llanidloes on September 23 costing just £5. Full details are on the Welsh Fencing website [www.welshfencing.org](http://www.welshfencing.org)

**Coaching conference**

This year's Welsh coaches' conference - which also includes a lot of practical work - is being held in Gresford, near Wrexham, on September 1-2. Details of this are also on [www.welshfencing.org](http://www.welshfencing.org)

**BF AGM**

This year's British Fencing AGM is being held in the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, on September 8, at noon. All senior full members are entitled to attend and vote.

**Membership database**

As those of you who fence in Caerleon on Wednesdays may have noticed, I am trying to update the club's membership database. I am asking all fencers to complete a form with their contact details including, where possible, e-mail addresses, and will continue this process at Newport and Chepstow when these sessions reopen. Printed versions of the newsletter will still be available for those without e-mail, but I hope most members will access newsletters electronically.

The mailing list for this newsletter has been compiled from previous membership lists, so if you have received a copy and are no longer a member, please contact me and I will amend it accordingly.

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