

# GWENT SWORD CLUB

## news

December 2008

### **Sports personality**

Congratulations to Rhys Melia, who won the BBC West Midlands Young Sportsman of the Year award after a series of highly-impressive results both in the UK and abroad.

### **Sibling success**

Well done to Olivia and George Orchard, who both recently represented Great Britain in European competition. Olivia made her junior GB debut in Poland, while George finished a handy 80<sup>th</sup> of 455 entrants representing the cadets in France. Both have been named - along with Rhys Melia - in the Welsh Junior Commonwealth team to fence in Malaysia in February.

### **Welsh Winton**

Abi Difford and James Wood-Fisher will join George Orchard in the Welsh team for the Cadet Winton competition at Millfield School.

### **Christmas break**

Please note that there is no club fencing over Christmas and New Year.

At Newport, the last club session of 2008 is on Monday, December 15, and the first of 2009 on Monday, January 5.

At Caerleon, the last club session of 2008 is on Wednesday, December 17 (although it is planned that fencing on this date will be freeplay only), with the first of 2009 on Wednesday, January 7.

At Chepstow, the last club session of 2008 is on Friday, December 12, and the first of 2009 on Friday, January 9.

### **New members**

Welcome to all those who have recently graduated from our beginners' course, or have joined us from our associated schools sessions. You are now welcome to join in any or all Gwent Sword Club sessions at our three weekly venues.

### **Christmas meal**

Many thousands of calories were consumed by the 16 Gwent Sword Club members who attended the annual bash, this year at The Ship Inn, Caerleon. A healthy mix of members - young and old; new and long-standing - and a lack of speeches ensured a good night was had by all.

### **Star Sword Club v Gwent Sword Club**

This fixture has been postponed until early in the new year. Please inform Colin Hyndman if you are willing and able to take part.

### **Results:**

Gwent Sword Club was well represented at the Hereford & Worcester Open. In the men's foil, George Orchard was 40<sup>th</sup>, Ceri Richards 47<sup>th</sup> and Adam Hall 48<sup>th</sup>; at men's epee, Jamie Melia 9<sup>th</sup>; at women's foil, Abi Difford 14<sup>th</sup> and Olivia Orchard 38<sup>th</sup>.

### **Coming up**

December 13/14: Cadet Winton, Millfield: Regional competition, by invitation only.

January 4: Welsh Youth epee and sabre, Cardiff: good competition for ALL our aspiring young epeeists and sabreurs (U12, U14, U16, U18).

January 24: Plymouth Open: smaller open competition.

January 31: British Youth Championships foil finals: by qualification only.

February 1: Welsh closed sabre, Cardiff.

February 15: Welsh Youth foil, Cardiff: good competition for ALL our aspiring young foilists (U12, U14, U16, U18).

**Epee grant**

Gwent Sword Club has been awarded a grant at Newport from the Sportslot Community Chest fund to buy some epee equipment. Should anyone wish to fence epee using club equipment, please ask at a club session (please note that breeches are a British Fencing safety requirement for epee).

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