

# GWENT SWORD CLUB

## news

January 2008

### **Community Chest funding**

We have been successful in obtaining a £1,000 grant from the Newport Community Chest panel towards buying additional equipment aimed at better supporting young fencers and women. The money will be used to buy a selection of smaller-sized jackets, plastrons, masks and gloves, plus additional chest protectors.

In April we become eligible to apply for more Community Chest funding, so please let me have your ideas of schemes we can put together to bid for up to £1,000, which must be for development or to attract new participants, not running costs or kit replacement.

### **Membership and insurance**

I have been asked by Welsh Fencing to remind everyone that you MUST have current membership of Welsh Fencing / BFA to fence at club sessions or you - and the club - are uninsured. If you do not compete in opens, coach or fence at other clubs, social membership is sufficient. The club's own insurance provides extra cover for coaches (provided they are full members) and for volunteers working within the club. Please do not put yourselves or others at the club - and possibly the club itself - at risk by fencing without membership. If your membership needs updating, a form is available from me or at [www.welshfencing.org](http://www.welshfencing.org)

### **Fencing centre**

You may have seen in the South Wales Argus a report on outline plans to turn Underwood Leisure Centre into an elite regional fencing centre. The plan is being put forward by GSC coach Lynne Melia, among others, and has the backing of local councillors. If it goes ahead, it would be a big boost to fencing in the area, including this club, providing dedicated facilities for fencing.

### **Welsh Intermediate Foil competitions**

It was a little disappointing to see so few Gwent Sword Club entrants in the Emrys Lloyd and Charles Adams competitions - which this club and its predecessors have often dominated.

However, well done to Mike Edwards and Adam Deacon, who took part in the Emrys Lloyd and finished 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, respectively

### **Hereford and Worcester**

The main reason for so few Gwent entrants in the Welsh Intermediate competitions was a clash with the Hereford and Worcester Open, where the club was well (and successfully) represented:

Men's foil: 7, Rhys Melia; 38, Ceri Richards; 40; James Wood-Fisher; 47, Andrew McLeod; 60, George Orchart; 67, Peter Russell; 73, Adam Hall.

Women's foil: 9, Olivia Orchart.

Men's epee: 14: Jamie Melia.

### **European competition**

Rhys Melia and Abi Difford have both been fencing in European events over the past few months.

Rhys has been doing exceptionally well in his campaign building up to the Junior World Championships, while Abi has been invited to the final British cadet women's foil event of the season, in Germany next month.

### **Cadet Winton**

Abi Difford and George Orchart both represented Wales in the Cadet Winton regional competition in

December. Both fenced well and Wales finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall, a result Welsh Fencing were pleased with as Wales were introducing a lot of younger fencers to the squad this year and there were also a couple of injuries and illnesses within the squad.

### **Forthcoming competitions**

January 19-20: **British Youth Championship finals**, Stoke (for qualifiers only)

January 26: **Plymouth Open** (lower-quality open, worth a trip for keen beginner/intermediate competitive fencers).

February 2/3: **Slough Open** (high-quality open carrying premium ranking points for serious competitive fencers)

February 3: **Welsh Youth Foil**, Cardiff (U12, U14, U16 & U18 boys' and girls' competitions - suitable for all young fencers with competitive experience or ambition. Please note: the age grouping refers to your age on January 1, 2008)

February 9: **Merseyside Open** (lower-quality open, worth a trip for keen beginner/intermediate competitive fencers).

February 10: **Welsh Team Foil**, Cardiff. We will enter as many teams as we can in this competition. If you are interested in taking part, please contact a club official.

February 16: **Hampshire Open** (lower-quality open, worth a trip for keen beginner/intermediate competitive fencers).

February 23: **Junior Quad** (U16 and U18 home internationals - hosted by England this year)

### **Beginners**

A new beginners' class has started in Caerleon - welcome to all our new members.

We were unable to accommodate all the applicants on this course and now have a waiting list for the next course, which will start as soon as is practicable.

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