



NEWSLETTER: March 2006

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Forthcoming Events

18th March - Invicta Open
19th March - O'Sullivan Cup (1 hit Epée)
21-23rd March - Public Schools Champs
1st April - Glasgow Open
15th April - Birmingham International
23rd April - Northern Regional Foil
30th April - GSC Foil Championships

Recent Results

Henry Orchard -
1st Ashton Leon Paul Foil (U11 Boy's)
Peter Russell -
37th Hampshire Open (Men's Foil)
10th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Abi Difford -
20th Hampshire Open (Women's Foil)
7th Welsh Closed Foil (Women's)
Catherine Fisher -
2nd Welsh Intermediate Epée Champs
9th Welsh Closed Foil (Women's)
Olivia Orchard
5th Welsh Closed Foil (Women's)
George Orchard
15th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Lynne Melia
3rd Welsh Closed Foil (Women's)
Rhys Melia
5th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Jamie Melia
7th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Andrew McLeod
11th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Adam Hall
12th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Ceri Richards
13th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Matt Ashton
16th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Seb Ashton
35th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
William Pannel
27th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Matthew Rushforth
30th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Dolph McCalla
29th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Jon Canty
32nd Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Richard Thomas
34th Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)
Theodore English
33rd Welsh Closed Foil (Men's)

GSC Lottery Grant

Gwent Sword Club have been awarded £750 of Lottery money from the Community Chest fund, which is administered by the Sports Council for Wales. The money will be used to buy six sets of basic electric foil kit (except for breeches), which will enable developing fencers to begin taking part in competitive fights both within the club and in outside competitions.

The equipment should be particularly useful for those who have recently progressed from the beginners' courses, who do not yet have their own full kit. They will be able to train within club using the electrics and to borrow items for competitions until they acquire their own.

GSC Members at Junior Home Internationals

GWENT Sword Club members Olivia Orchard, Abi Difford and Rhys Melia recently represented Wales in the Junior Home Internationals competition in Edinburgh.

Olivia competed at under-18 foil, Abi at under-16 foil and Rhys at both under-16 and under-18 foil.

The Welsh under-16 team finished second behind England, while the under-18s were third behind England and Scotland but ahead of Northern Ireland.

Olivia's team suffered defeats against England and Northern Ireland but came back with a vengeance against Northern Ireland to win 45-18, Olivia leading the way with 10 unanswered points in her first fight to swing the balance Wales' way after their opponents had started well.



Rhys demonstrates his agility on the piste

Abi's team restricted the English team's scoring but were nevertheless defeated, but then edged an extra-time victory over Scotland. Scotland beating England gave Wales a sniff of the weapon title if they won their last fight well and they rose to the challenge, defeating Northern Ireland 45-6, although the English tally proved out of reach.

Rhys and his under-16 foil team had their hopes of retaining their weapon title dashed by an early defeat by England, but



Olivia hands over after a victory

they dug in and posted good wins over both Scotland and Northern Ireland. The under-18 team included a couple of less experienced fencers but they battled well and were unlucky not to snatch a win over Northern Ireland.

While the youngsters were away, Catherine Fisher kept the home flag flying with a silver medal in the Kingston Cup Welsh intermediate epee competition in Cardiff.

Congratulations to our competitors!



Abi plugs in ready for her next opponent



Success at Ashton Leon Paul Foil

Gwent Sword Club fencer Henry Orchard recently attended the Ashton Leon Paul competition. Henry performed incredibly, winning the final fight 10-3, having remained undefeated all day.

Henry's achievement is particularly impressive as he often has to compete against fencers significantly older than himself. With results like this already we can expect to see a lot of great things in the future.

Any young fencers who wish to start competing need to consult a member of the coaching team for further information.

Henry with his medal and trophy



Gwent Sword Foil Championships

30th April - Chepstow Leisure Centre

On the 30th of April Gwent Sword Club will be running its annual Foil Championships. This is open to all club members and has both Junior (U14's) and Senior categories. Medals and trophies will be awarded and after the competition there will be a meal to which all members (and guests) are invited.

The club competition offers less experienced fencers a taste of competitive fencing and is an excellent warm up for those looking to break into the competitive circuit. For the more social fencers, the event is a great opportunity to fence and socialise with people from all our divisions in a friendly environment.

All members are advised to take part. To enter return the form below or apply online through our website. Entry fees are just £6 for Adults and £4 for Concessions (e.g. junior/students).

Some of last years winners with their trophies



Welsh Closed Foil 2006

GWENT Sword Club sent a record 19 fencers to last weekend's Welsh Individual Foil Championships in Cardiff and made up around 40 percent of the entries, with organisers having to run a last-64 round in the men's competition for the first time in memory.

Lynne Melia won bronze in the women's competition, but there were some solid performances throughout against a number of highly-ranked fencers. For a number of GSC fencers this was their first competition, despite this they performed admirably and even won some bouts against significantly more experienced competitors!

Gwent Sword Club member Carl Difford helped run the competition and was thanked personally by Bob Turner.

Gwent results:

Men's: 5, Rhys Melia; 7, Jamie Melia; 10, Peter Russell; 11, Andy McLeod; 12, Adam Hall; 13, Ceri Richards; 15, George Orchard; 16, Matt Ashton; 27, Will Pannell; 29, Dolph McCalla; 30, Matthew Rushworth; 32, John Canty; 33, Dory English; 34, Richard Thomas; 35, Seb Ashton.

Women's: 3, Lynne Melia; 5, Olivia Orchard; 7, Abi Difford; 9, Catherine Fisher.



(above) Some of GSC's competitors (from left to right): Richard Thomas, Dory English, George Orchard, Adam Hall, John Canty, Seb Ashton, Peter Russell, Matt Ashton, Dolph McCalla, Ceri Richards, Andrew McLeod, Matthew Rushforth

(left) Women's Medallists, including GSC member Lynne Melia (far right)

GWENT SWORD FOIL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

Sunday 30th of April in Chepstow Leisure Centre, Chepstow

Doors open 10:45am Sign in **closes**: 11:00am

Entries to: Peter Russell, 19B Miskin Street, Cardiff CF24 4AQ Closing date: 27th of April

Fees: Adults - £6 Concessions - £4 Late Entries - additional £3 (cheques payable to Gwent Sword Club)

(Please **PRINT** clearly)

NAME: _____ CATEGORY (circle appropriate): JUNIOR (U14's) SENIOR

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE: _____

TEL: _____ E-MAIL: _____

I agree to abide by the regulations laid down by the BFA/FIE. Specifically, I agree to abide by the regulations concerning CEN level clothing. I understand that the organisers can not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury sustained during this competition.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

(Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age)

PLEASE NOTE: Online entry is available at www.gwentswordclub.co.uk