

GWENT SWORD CLUB

news

March 2008

World Championship selection

Congratulations to Rhys Melia for being selected to represent Great Britain at foil in next month's World Junior Championships in Italy. This follows his 91st place in his first senior A-grade competition - in Bonn - where he was the second-highest-placed Briton.

Welsh champion

The latest champion in the club is Olivia Orchart, who won the Welsh Women's Foil Championship in Cardiff, with Abi Difford the runner-up.

Another champ

Andrew McLeod added to the titles held by Gwent Sword Club members by taking the Welsh Universities men's foil title, representing Cardiff University.

Welsh fencers

Rhys Melia, Abi Difford and George Orchart represented Wales in the Junior Quad competition in Stoke. Unfortunately, Roseanne Thomas was forced to pull out because of illness. Olivia Orchart was due to compete for Wales in the Winton Cup in Wolverhampton, but this year's competition was cancelled.

Competitions

Gwent Sword Club fencers' results from recent competitions:

Bonn senior A-grade men's foil: 91, Rhys Melia.

Hampshire Open: Women's foil: 18, Abi Difford.

Merseyside Open: Women's foil: 3, Olivia Orchart. Men's foil: 28, Andrew McLeod.

Welsh Closed Sabre: Women: 3, Sian Pryse. Men: 11, Mike Edwards.

Turner Cup Welsh intermediate epee: 19, Mike Edwards.

Welsh Universities Championship: Men's foil: 1, Andrew McLeod.

Nottingham Open: Women's foil: 6, Olivia Orchart.

Welsh Closed Foil: Women: 1, Olivia Orchart; 2, Abi Difford. Men: 6, George Orchart; 7, James Wood-Fisher; 8, Andrew McLeod; 12, Huw Richards.

Senior rankings

Gwent fencers' senior British rankings at the start of the month are as follows:

Men's foil: 7, Rhys Melia; 129, Andrew McLeod; 140, James Wood-Fisher; 182, Ceri Richards; 190, George Orchart; 193, Peter Russell; 354, Adam Hall.

Women's foil: 30, Olivia Orchart; 52, Abi Difford; 133, Lynne Melia; 210, Roseanne Thomas.

Men's epee: 89, Jamie Melia; 101, Rhys Melia; 168, George Orchart.

Women's epee: 71, Olivia Orchart.

School Games

Younger fencers in contention for this summer's School Games in Bath and Bristol should know if

they have been selected by April. This is a big multi-sports event held over five days, involving more than 1,000 youngsters from all over the UK and next year it will be held in South Wales. For those born 1992 or later, gaining cadet ranking points over the next year should be the priority if you aim to be in contention for the 2009 School Games (ask Olivia Orchart, Rhys Melia or Abi Difford whether or not they enjoyed the experience). The key competitions are the British Cadet and Junior Championships in October, but see club officials or the more experienced competitive fencers at the club if you need advice about which other competitions might earn you ranking points.

Beginners

The latest beginners' course is now well under way on Mondays in Newport. We aim to start another beginners' course later in the spring, probably on Fridays at Chepstow, so if you know anyone who might like to start fencing, get them to contact the secretary to register.

Saving trees

If you have received a hard copy of this newsletter and would prefer to get an e-mailed version, please ask the secretary for a data registration form, to be included on the database.

Oxfam Open

Peter Russell and Star Sword Club are behind this new open competition in Cardiff in June, filling a gap in the schedule in early summer, providing the chance of extra ranking points AND supporting a good cause. Get enough sponsorship and you can even enter for free. For full details, see www.starswordclub.co.uk/oxfam_open.html

Bank Holidays

Some club sessions are likely to be affected by the bank holidays and school closures around Easter, which is also the case with the May bank holidays. We will remain open wherever we can - please check at the respective venues ahead of the holiday period.

Carl Difford, secretary
01633 855751
Secretary@gwentwordclub.co.uk
www.gwentwordclub.co.uk