

GWENT SWORD CLUB

news

March 2009

Grand result

Gwent Sword Club has been awarded £1,000 for its entry in the recent Cash 4 Clubs promotion, sponsored by Betfair, in the South Wales Argus. The money will be used to replace older and broken equipment, as necessary, plus to help keep subscription fees down.

Easter holiday

All Gwent Sword Club sessions will be suspended for a fortnight over Easter - from Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 17, inclusive. If any fencers can't cope with that long away from the piste, our absence does mean that the venues are likely to be available for private hire - although the club kit wheelie bins will not be available as usual, items can be borrowed over the Easter break.

World Championship bid

Congratulations to Rhys Melia for his selection to the Great Britain men's foil team for the Junior World Championships in Belfast from April 5 to 13.

Welsh Winton Cup team

Olivia Orchart is due to represent Wales in the Winton Cup, which this year is due to be held in Sheffield on April 18 and 19.

Junior Commonwealth Championships

All three of our representatives in the Junior Commonwealth Championships in Malaysia last month returned home with medals. Olivia Orchart won silver with the women's foil team and bronze as part of the women's epee team; Abi Difford also won silver with the women's foil outfit, while George Orchart collected bronze with the men's foil team.

Welsh champion

Gwent Sword Club retained its grip on the Welsh Closed women's foil title, with this year Abi Difford taking the prize. It was nearly a Gwent double, but George Orchart had to settle for the silver medal in the men's event, in which Ceri Richards was fifth and James Wood-Fisher tenth.

Nottingham Open

Gwent fencers were in action at the recent Nottingham Open. In the men's foil competition, George Orchart was tenth and Ceri Richards 52nd, while in the women's event Olivia Orchart was third and Abi Difford seventh.

GSC -v- Star - the rematch

Gwent Sword Club will host Star Sword Club in a friendly match at Chepstow on Friday, April 3. We hope to put together a women's foil team, at least one men's foil team and possibly an epee team. Would all fencers interested in taking part, please let Colin Hyndman know and make sure you are there on the night.

Beginners

Well done to the latest 'graduates' from our beginners' course at Caerleon, who have now joined regular club sessions. Remember: as full club members you are now welcome to join in at all club venues. The next beginners' course is scheduled to start on Monday, April 20, at Newport. Please get anyone you know who is interested in starting fencing to e-mail the secretary - not all spaces have been taken up but the course is filling up fast.

Caerleon review

The future of our Wednesday sessions at Caerleon remains in the balance, with their viability remaining under review. We intend to keep fencing at Caerleon at least until the end of June - please help ensure we can continue to offer fencing three times a week by supporting these sessions if you can.

Coming up...

Competitions in the near future include:

April 11-12: Birmingham International Open (higher-grade six-weapon open competition, suitable for experienced competition fencers).

April 18-19: Winton Cup, Sheffield (regional representative competition, by invitation only).

May 9: Leon Paul Junior Foil, Wrexham (U9, U11, U13 and U15 - ideal for younger fencers interested in progressing to competitions)

May 10: Welsh team epee (get using the new club epee kit and join the team!)

May 17: Welsh team foil (how many teams can we enter this year?)

May 30-31: Oxfam Open, Cardiff (lower-grade six-weapon open competition, which is free to enter if you get sponsored - all proceeds going to charity).

Details of these and other competitions can be found via www.welshfencing.org or www.britishfencing.com

Carl Difford, secretary

01633 855751

Secretary@gwentswordclub.co.uk

www.gwentswordclub.co.uk