

GWENT SWORD CLUB

news

November, 2008

Congratulations 1

Rhys Melia finished in an impressive 15th place in foil - the top Briton - in the European Junior Championships in Amsterdam, losing in the last 16 to the eventual winner, quickly followed by 5th place in a Junior World Cup competition in Luxembourg. Rhys has now qualified to be considered for selection for the Junior World Championships in Belfast in April.

Congratulations 2

Olivia Orchart made the last 8 in the recent Welsh Open - a great result which will be reflected in the December women's foil rankings. (*other GSC Welsh Open results below*)

Congratulations 3

George Orchart was 108th of 237 entrants in the Handel Cup in Germany on his GB cadet international debut, surviving two cuts and making it to the third round of pools.

Congratulations 4

Abi Difford and George Orchart each took bronze medals at foil at the Leicester Open. Although no longer one of the 'big' opens, the Leicester still attracts a fairly good standard of fencer, so no mean achievement.

Star Sword v GSC

Fencers are needed to represent Gwent Sword Club in a friendly match with Star Sword Club, at the Star Leisure Centre, Splott, 7.30pm-9.30pm on Thursday, December 11. We hope to compete with two foil teams - a first team and a team of less experienced fencers, plus a mixed-ability epee team. Should we have enough interested, they can also accommodate sabre. Would those interested, please give their names to Colin Hyndman ASAP and by December 4.

Christmas social

This takes the form of a meal at The Ship, Caerleon, on Saturday, December 6, at 7.30pm. There is a set Christmas meal at £14.95 for two courses, or you can order a la carte. Partners, drinking buddies, etc, are welcome, but no unaccompanied under-18s. Please give names to Catherine Fisher by November 23, along with a £5 deposit if you are having the Christmas meal.

Beginners' courses

Should you know anyone keen to start fencing, the next beginners' course in Newport/Caerleon will start in early January, venue to be confirmed; the next course at Chepstow may begin earlier - please ask anyone interested to contact the secretary by e-mail

Fencing at GSC over Christmas

There is no fencing at Caerleon on December 24 or December 31, or at Chepstow on December 26. A decision has not yet been taken over other sessions around Christmas / New Year, but it is likely to depend on the number of people keen to fence - please ask at a club session nearer the time.

Recent results

Shropshire Open: Ceri Richards, 7th MF; Olivia Orchart, 5th WF; Abi Difford, 8th WF.

British Cadet Championships: George Orchart, 10th MF.

British Junior Championships: Rhys Melia 1st MF; George Orchart, 27th MF; James Wood-Fisher, 79th MF; Olivia Orchart, 17th WF; Abi Difford, 31st WF.

Leicester Open: George Orchart, 3rd MF; James Wood-Fisher, 24th MF; Abi Difford, 3rd WF; Olivia Orchart, 7th WF.

Welsh Open: Jamie Melia, 8th ME; George Orchart, 61st MF; Ceri Richards, 86th MF; Olivia Orchart, 8th WF; Abi Difford, 33rd, WF; Sian Pryse, 55th WS.

Coming up

December 6/7: Hereford and Worcester Open: good-standard 6-weapon competition (foil on the Sunday).

December 7: BYC epee and sabre qualifiers, Cardiff: for young fencers keen to compete in these weapons (U12, U14, U16 & U18).

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).

Residential fencing courses

Team Melia is organising four-day courses for young fencers of all abilities during the Christmas school holidays and in the spring half-term break. Contact Lynne Melia or see www.teammelia.org for details.

Thanks

...to Health Challenge Monmouthshire for their support in funding the fitness part of Friday club sessions at Chepstow. Yes, it's hard work, but it's fun and it's doing you good...

Carl Difford, secretary

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