

# GWENT SWORD CLUB

## news

October, 2007

### **Youth fencers' development**

Welsh Fencing are trying to encourage young fencers to enter competitions and perhaps put themselves in line for selection for Welsh age-group teams in international tournaments. Having tried 'electric' fencing in club, please contact a club official if you would like further details of which competitions are most suitable and how to go about entering.

For ambitious young (under-18) fencers who would like some training with Welsh squad members and other fencers aspiring to that level, Welsh Fencing have organised a number of free training days. If you would like to attend, please let me know so I can help Welsh Fencing cater for the numbers turning up (unfortunately, due to differing half-term dates, some of the training sessions may clash with school).

The dates are:

Monday, October 22 (foil only), Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff, 10am-4pm;

Tuesday, October 23 (sabre only), WIS, 10-4;

Wednesday, October 24 (epee only), WIS, 10-4.

There is an additional free training day open to ALL young fencers keen on competition, on Saturday, November 3, at Llandrindod Wells (all weapons) - see [www.welshfencing.org](http://www.welshfencing.org) for details.

### **Beginners**

A few beginners have dropped out of the current courses for various reasons, but please note that your membership card is valid for a year, so within that time you are insured to return to any of the club venues to join in at the normal club-members' rate - see [www.gwentswordclub.co.uk](http://www.gwentswordclub.co.uk) - and if you wish to join a new beginners' course within the year, you can claim a £10 discount off the cost.

### **BYC qualifiers**

Both Shane Powell and Henry Orchard have qualified for the British Youth Championships foil finals, to be held in Stoke in January, joining Abi Difford, who pre-qualified.

### **Other competitions**

Several GSC fencers have been in competitive action recently:

Abi Difford: 10<sup>th</sup> in Shropshire Open, 15<sup>th</sup> in British Cadet Championships, 37<sup>th</sup> in British Junior Championships

Andrew McLeod: 16<sup>th</sup> in Shropshire Open

Rhys Melia: 27<sup>th</sup> in British Junior Championships

George Orchard: 22<sup>nd</sup> in Manchester Cadet International, 27<sup>th</sup> in British Cadet Championships, 35<sup>th</sup> in British Junior Championships

Olivia Orchard: 31<sup>st</sup> in British Junior Championships

Peter Russell: 30<sup>th</sup> in Shropshire Open, 26<sup>th</sup> in Sussex Open

James Wood-Fisher: 40<sup>th</sup> in Shropshire Open, 43<sup>rd</sup> in Manchester Cadet International, 45<sup>th</sup> in British Cadet Championships, 65<sup>th</sup> in British Junior Championships

### **Rankings**

As a consequence of recent results, several Gwent fencers have climbed the senior national rankings. In the women's rankings, three top-32 finishes in major competitions in the past couple of months have enabled Olivia Orchard to continue her climb to 28<sup>th</sup>, while Abi Difford, joins her as the second club member among the elite top-50 UK women foilists.

Foil rankings, as of October 1:

Men: Rhys Melia 13<sup>th</sup>, James Wood-Fisher 146<sup>th</sup>, Andrew McLeod 167<sup>th</sup>, George Orchard 188<sup>th</sup>, Peter Russell 239<sup>th</sup>, Adam Hall 404<sup>th</sup>, Ceri Richards 417<sup>th</sup>.

Women: Olivia Orchard 28<sup>th</sup>, Abi Difford 49<sup>th</sup>.

### **Forthcoming competitions**

November 10-11: Welsh Open, Cardiff (local, high-class open - novices might like to turn up to watch; experienced fencers can face some of the best in the UK)

November 11: Cambridge Leon Paul Junior Series foil (good competition for younger, less-experienced fencers, but a long way away)

November 18: Western Region Welsh closed foil, Lampeter (senior and under-13 events - good for those new to competition)

December 1-2: Hereford & Worcester Open (mid-quality open - good for intermediate fencers)

December 1: Welsh Intermediate closed foil (local, and good for those new to competition - recent internationals can't take part)

### **European fencing**

Following her selection for the Coup de Samaria in Slovakia this month, Abi Difford has been picked for the UK cadet squad travelling to Tauberbischofsheim, Germany, from November 9-11.

### **Christmas Social**

This year's bash is provisionally scheduled for Saturday, December 15, 7pm for 7.30pm, at the Ban Mai Thai restaurant (A48 near Caerwent - formerly the Wentwood Inn. All club members, including those on beginners' courses, are welcome. Please give your names to Sophia Jones, Colin Hyndman or Gareth Price SOON!

Carl Difford, secretary

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