

GWENT SWORD CLUB

news

November 2007

Top result

Rhys Melia qualified for April's World Junior Championships with an outstanding 13th place in the recent Eden Cup junior foil A-grade international competition.

17-year-old Rhys was the top-placed UK competitor in the under-20 competition and was the only Brit in the last 16.

For club newcomers who don't know Rhys, he is the son of coach Lynne Melia and grandson of club chairman/coach Colin Hyndman. He currently competes under the 'Team Melia' banner, but is nevertheless a Gwent Sword Club member.

More international competition

Abi Difford competed with the British cadet (under-17) team in Slovakia and Germany in recent weeks and has been selected to once again for the GB cadets, this time in France in December.

BYC bye

George Orchart has belatedly been granted a bye to the finals of this season's under-16 British Youth Championships foil finals in Stoke.

George, who was competing in the Manchester Cadet competition when the qualifiers took place, joins Shane Powell and Henry Orchart, who qualified for the finals in Cardiff, plus Abi Difford, who has already been granted a bye to the finals.

Welsh Open

It was good to see several Gwent Sword Club members competing in the Welsh Open in Cardiff. For those who found the competition tough going, please remember that the Welsh Open is one of the top-ranking domestic competitions and thus attracts the top fencers in the country - and you would have had at least one, and possibly two or three of the top 'Notional International Fencers' in your pool.

Welsh Intermediate Foil

This takes place in Cardiff on Sunday, December 2 and GSC has enjoyed considerable success in this competition in recent years (although this year it does clash with the Hereford & Worcester competition). Welsh champions and recent international fencers are banned from taking part.

Recent results in detail (foil unless stated)

Abi Difford: 19th in Leicester Open, 110th in Coup De Samaria (Slovakia) cadet tournament, 191st in Tauberbischofsheim (Germany) cadet tournament;

Adam Hall: 117th in Welsh Open;

Jamie Melia: 41st in Welsh Open epee;

Rhys Melia: 34th in Leon Paul Cup FIE satellite, 13th in Eden Cup junior tournament, 7th in Welsh Open;

George Orchart: 119th in Welsh Open, 174th in Welsh Open epee;

Olivia Orchart: 50th in Welsh Open, 51st in Welsh Open epee;

Ceri Richards: 140th in Welsh Open;

Peter Russell: 101st in Welsh Open;

Roseanne Thomas: 60th in Welsh Open;

James Wood-Fisher: 54th in Leicester Open, 126th in Welsh Open (runner up in the plate).

Forthcoming competitions

December 1-2: **Hereford & Worcester Open** (mid-quality open - good for intermediate fencers).
December 2: **Welsh Intermediate Foil**, Cardiff - Emrys Lloyd & Charles Adams competitions - (good, local competitions for both newcomers to competitions and more experienced intermediate fencers).

January 1: **Cambridge Winter Tournament** (lower-quality open, but a bit of a trek).

January 12: **Aldershot Open** (epee and men's foil only - mid-quality).

January 19-20: **BYC finals**, Stoke (for qualifiers only - see above).

January 26: **Plymouth Open** (lower-quality open, worth a trip for keen beginner/intermediate competitive fencers).

Beginners' courses

Congratulations to all fencers who have recently 'graduated' from our beginners' courses. We aim to start more courses early in the new year - please encourage your friends to join us. Any fencers who do not yet feel confident enough to join the main club sessions can repeat the beginners' course, if they wish, at a £10 discount off the normal rate (please bring your licence at the first session).

e-mail

If you have not received this newsletter by e-mail, it means either you have not yet ventured on to the information super-highway or I do not have your correct e-mail address. If the latter is the case, please ask me for a form to update your details.

Funding application

We have applied for Community Chest funding to provide more kit suitable for smaller fencers and women in 2008. We should know the outcome of the application soon.

Sponsorship

Western Power Distribution have declined the option to renew their sponsorship arrangement with the club, so we are looking for a new main sponsor. If you know of any suitable company who may be willing to help (perhaps your employer, or maybe you or a relative have a company willing to join us), please let me know. Benefits to the company include significant newspaper publicity, discounts off club activities and merchandise for staff, plus VIP treatment at club events.

Performance course

Lynne Melia is running a full-time fencing performance course in Llandogo from December 27-30. The course is residential (although non-residential attendance may be negotiated) and limited to the first 50 applicants and has the support of several experienced coaches, fitness and motivational specialists. Speak to Lynne or contact her at coach@teammelia.org.uk 07802 400116 for more details.

Christmas social

This has now been confirmed for Saturday, December 15 at the Ban Mai restaurant (A48 near Caerwent) at 7.30pm for 8pm. No advance booking is necessary - just turn up and join in on a PAYE (pay as you eat!) basis.

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