

GWENT SWORD CLUB

news

September 2007

Good to be back

Welcome back to all who took a summer break from fencing - and a big welcome to the new members on our beginners' courses.

For those of you who can't remember, club days and times are as follows:

Mondays, Beaufort Centre, Newport, 7.30pm-9.30pm;

Wednesdays, UCW Newport Sports Centre, Caerleon, 6.45pm-8.15pm;

Fridays, Chepstow Leisure Centre, 6.30pm-8.30pm.

If that's still not enough for you, both Peter Russell and Lynne Melia run sessions with other clubs and can give personal lessons - I'm sure they'd be happy to accommodate you.



Competition results

School Games: Rhys Melia won an individual foil bronze medal and helped Wales to team gold; Abi Difford was 10th in the individual foil competition and helped Wales to team bronze. TV coverage of the School Games is on C4 at 8am on Sundays, September 16 and 23.

Essex Open: Men's foil - Rhys Melia 7th, George Orchart 95th; women's foil: Olivia Orchart 27th, Abi Difford 34th, Lynne Melia 46th.

Gwent Sword Club v Star Sword Club

Gwent were beaten in the men's match by the narrowest of margins - 45-44 (Will Pannell -3, Ceri Richards -10, Andrew McLeod +12). The women's team lost 45-37 (Sian Pryce -6, Helen Morgan -5, Catherine Fisher +3). Until next time...

Forthcoming competitions

September 22: Shropshire Open

September 29: British Youth Championships foil qualifier, Cardiff

September 30: British Youth Championships epee and sabre qualifiers, Cardiff

October 6: British Cadet Championship, RAF Cosford

October 7: British Junior Championships, RAF Cosford

October 13: Leicester Open

October 13/14: Welsh Veterans' Championships, Swansea

Climbing the rankings

Olivia Orchart's fine result in the Essex Open has lifted her into the top 50 senior women foilists to become a "notional international fencer" - competitions will now carry more ranking points if she enters them than if she doesn't. We wish her well on her university course in Bangor and she will henceforth be known as Olivia "NIF=1".





Fencing in Europe

Abi Difford has been selected to be in the UK cadet squad to compete in the Coup de Samaria competition in Slovakia on October 21.

Freshers' Fair

Help is needed to showcase fencing at the UCW Newport freshers' fair in Caerleon on Wednesday, September 26. Please contact Gareth Price or Sophia Jones if you are available.

New Directions

I will shortly be putting together an application for a Community Chest grant for the club.

Up to £1,000 is available from the Newport panel for qualifying projects, which must be aimed at developing or expanding the club (applications for subsidising existing expenditure or replacing old equipment are not eligible).

If you have a suggestion about what we might apply for, please contact me or another club officer.

Suggestions so far include:

- * Training for coaches (funding available for Level 1 and Level 2 only);
 - * Buying epee or sabre equipment for general use in the club.
 - * Starting a keep-fit session - to be run in parallel with fencing - for parents', etc, killing time at sports centres while waiting for the fencers to finish - effectively making them non-fencing club members.
- Grants are not available specifically for the Chepstow club as we still have an uncompleted grant award from the Monmouthshire Community Chest panel which needs to be signed off before we can apply again.

Carl Difford, secretary

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