



LATEST NEWS

@BGC WALES

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YOUTH EXCHANGE SUCCESS



Last year Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales hosted our German friends from TSV Eltingen at the eleventh annual Youth Exchange. The Youth Exchange took place at Brecon and Pendine over twelve days with sixty young people taking part in cultural activities and team building activities which included canoeing, climbing and surfing.

These activities provided young people with an opportunity to gain new skills and learn about each other's cultures. This was a new experience for the young people from the many Boys' and Girls' Clubs that took part. The exchange took on an extra significance as it took place exactly 100 years since World War 1 which provided an extra focus to the exchange as young people were able to reflect and learn about the sacrifices made by people from both countries. See page 6.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN LLOYD MBE

Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales is saddened to inform the membership that our popular Chairman, Alan Lloyd MBE, passed away suddenly on 24 January 2015 at the age of 76. Alan was the Chairman of the Organisation for the past four years.

Alan's involvement with the Organisation started in 1956 when he was capped for Boys' Clubs of Wales against Germany at the Vetch Field, Swansea. Alan strongly believed that it was his involvement in sport and his belonging to Mumbles Rangers Boys' Club that enabled him to stay on the right track in his formative years and helped shape his success in life.

Alan went on to play football for Gloucester City and Llanelli Town whilst carving a successful career in the Police Force which included being the Chairman of the South Wales Police Federation and Joint Chairman of the whole of Wales Police Federation. Alan formed Langland Bay Lifeguards Club in 1974 and continued to be instrumental in the Club's success over the next forty years which included the building of a clubhouse at Langland Bay. Alan played a prominent role in the local community of Mumbles as well as being a well-respected figure in the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS) within the UK.

In 1998 Alan took a greater interest in the Organisation when his club became members and played a role on the Swansea Group of

Boys' and Girls' Clubs Committee as Secretary. This led to him taking an even more active role within the national organisation with him becoming Vice Chairman in 2008 and then Chairman in 2011.

National Development Officer, Grant Poiner, said

"I first met Alan when I was 16 as a member of Langland Bay Lifeguards Club where Alan was the leader. Years later, when I successfully landed the Swansea Officer role for the Swansea Group of Boys' and Girls' Clubs, I spoke with Alan only to find that he had played for the Boys' Clubs of Wales in 1956. Alan was keen for his club to affiliate so that young people could have access to other opportunities to develop."

Alan was proud to be awarded an MBE for services to lifesaving and young people in Wales in 2003 and Chief Executive, Joff Carroll said

"Alan was a forward thinking Chairman who was more than just a colleague, he was also a good friend. Alan believed that the Organisation would always give you a chance. Alan had his chance and enjoyed every minute of it and wanted others to benefit from being a part of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales. He was inspirational and had a gift of supporting and encouraging those around him to realise their full potential. He will be sadly missed."



HRH Duke of Gloucester meeting Alan Lloyd MBE at Langland Bay Lifeguards Club, 2003.

Alan achieved a lot during his time as Chairman. He was keen to ensure that the Organisation was sustainable and was on a stable financial footing and this is something which was achieved under his tenure. He was very keen to acknowledge the commitment of the volunteers and was instrumental in organising two volunteer presentation dinners to thank those who have organised sporting activities for young people and those who have dedicated many years to running Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

Finally, Alan was committed to redeveloping the Swansea Boys' Club in Mayhill, and had recently been involved in discussions to undertake a feasibility study to assess the community needs and viability of this ambitious scheme.

Alan will be greatly missed by all BGC Wales. Below we have included the final Chairman's Welcome which was written shortly before Alan's untimely passing.



Welcome everyone to the third edition of our newsletter @ BGC Wales. When I took over as Chairman, some four years ago, I had concerns about the direction in which the UK national organisation, Ambition, was heading. I, like many others, felt there had been a complete move away from providing the membership with an attractive, exciting and structured

programme of sport and activities and too much focus on other areas. Their decision to drop the National Boxing and Table Tennis Championships convinced us that there was no real purpose in continuing our association so we decided not to affiliate to Ambition for 2014/15.

After serving as Chairman of the South Wales Police Federation, and later the whole of Wales, I became familiar with 'politics' being ever present but what we have in this Organisation is an overwhelming desire to support and provide opportunities for young people and I, personally, don't see any 'politics'. I am proud of what our panel

members, leaders and volunteers have achieved. I recently attended both the football and rugby dinners and what I felt was a distinct warmth coming from both events – a legacy of the great work put in by the people supporting these activities and the young people who participate.

We continue to develop and add quality to our service to young people. The launch of the Club Handbook at the Senedd was well received by Ministers, Assembly Members and youth work practitioners who attended.

We have started a new section in our newsletters – 'Where are they now?' - which features on those who have attained international success and those unsung heroes who have made such a valuable contribution to the Organisation.

I will conclude by thanking our brilliant staff at HQ for all their efforts – Joff and Grant for their sterling work in 2014 and Shirley who will, amazingly, have been with the Organisation for fifty years in September. BGC Wales continues to go places and I am proud to be going there with them.



Pictured above Joff Carroll, Janice Gregory AM and Tyrone O'Sullivan OBE

CLUB HANDBOOK LAUNCHED BY JANICE GREGORY AM

On 24th September 2014, the CLUB HANDBOOK was launched by Janice Gregory AM at the National Assembly for Wales.

The CLUB HANDBOOK has been designed to provide clubs with an A to Z of everything that is required to continue to provide and develop a high quality service to young people. The CLUB HANDBOOK includes everything from risk assessment and session planning to having the correct policies and procedures in place.

The launch event took place at the National Assembly for Wales and was attended by Assembly Members: Jeff Cuthbert, Ken Skates, Leighton Andrews, Julie James, Mark Drakeford, Mark Isherwood, Bethan Jenkins, Sandy Mewies, David Rees, Mike Hedges, Anne Jones, Gwyn Price, Byron Davies and Keith Davies.

Speaking after the event, Chief Executive, Joff Carroll, said "We were delighted with the response that we had from members of the National Assembly for Wales. The comments made were very generous and appreciative towards the value and quality of the CLUB HANDBOOK and I am looking forward to making this resource available to all our clubs."

Designed in partnership with YMCA Wales Community College, club leaders, youth workers and young people, the CLUB HANDBOOK is recommended for all Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales member clubs.

If you would like further information about the CLUB HANDBOOK please contact the office on 02920 575705 or email office@bgcwales.org.uk



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Tuesday 11th November BGC Wales staff members and local supporters - including Mr and Mrs Jack Hardman of Barry, Rev Jean Humphries (ex Secretary, Christian Education Movement) and family, and retired Power Station workers Mick Lobb and Ted Higgins - gathered to commemorate Armistice Day at St Athan Boys' Village to mark the 100th year since World War I. Now a mass of derelict buildings, St Athan Boys' Village was once a thriving holiday destination for the mining communities of South Wales.

The memorial stands in the centre of the Village and the inscription reads "Ar y Ddaear Tagnefedd i Ddnyion - Ewyllys Da" ("Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All Men"). It was placed there to commemorate the fallen from both World Wars. Since 1930 the memorial has stood 'with a simple yet impressive dignity' as it still does today. A minute's silence was held and then a wreath was placed on the memorial. We will remember them.





Role: Community Media and Marketing Officer for Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales.

Time at BGCWales: 4 months.

In 10 words: I'm a traveller who tries to enjoy every moment.

Office drink of choice: Black Tea.

Responsible for: Every month I produce the e-newsletter and on a daily basis I oversee the social media communications within the Organisation ie Twitter and Facebook.

Favourite thing so far working at BGCWales office: The amazing people who work in it - always helpful and nice with each other!

I am an EVS (European Volunteer Service) volunteer and will be 12 months in Cardiff working for BGCWales. The requirement to apply for it is to be between 18 and 30 years old, European citizen, with no studies needed or money. Everything is funded - flights, accommodation, health insurance, even a monthly allowance.

EVS is a European funded programme. The application process can take some time to confirm and, therefore, it's best to start thinking about EVS about 6 months before you will be ready to leave.

So far I can say that this is one of the best experiences of my life. While I'm working and

gaining work experience I'm discovering a new city and country, meeting a lot of people and enjoying the experience of living abroad. I could not ask for more. I can now say I love Welshcakes, I understand rugby, Welsh people are so friendly, I am always meeting new people and Wales has a lot to offer.

I encourage all Welsh young people to look into EVS as it is the best way to learn about a new culture, meet different people, learn a language and discover new places. Do not miss the opportunity; you will never regret doing it!

I lived in Madrid with my family until last year when I came to London to improve my English. I studied a Marketing and Public Relations Degree and a Digital Marketing and Social Media Master and, after that, I started working for an international organisation, trying to combine work with my basketball team, summer camps as a group leader and a basketball coach. Always busy, but always fun! My hobbies have always been playing basketball, going out with friends, hiking and travelling around the world.

As to the future I don't know yet - maybe try to find a job in Wales or continue travelling - we'll see...

STAFF FOCUS: ALEXANDRA ALVAREZ LAUMANS

FUNDS TO APPLY TO:



I'm Hannah the administrator here at CWVYS and I'd like to tell you a bit about CWVYS. The Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services is the Independent representative body for the Voluntary Youth Sector in Wales.



The aims are to represent, support and give a collective voice to its membership of National and Local organisations in their work with over 250,000 young people in Wales.

To find more information about CWVYS, our members and more, take a look at our website on: www.cwvys.org.uk. You can also find us on Twitter

@CWVYS and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CWVYS.

Also at CWVYS we provide organisations with the latest information about funding opportunities, have a look at some of these but please be aware of the deadline dates as we don't want you to miss out.

Funding Opportunities:

1 B & Q – Waste Donation Scheme.

B&Q donates unsaleable products to community groups, charities and schools for projects that will benefit the local community. For more information please go: www.diy.com/wastedonation

2 Millennium Volunteers

Millennium Volunteers: For organisations looking to recognise the commitment young people give to volunteering through offering the 200 hour award of excellence. Millennium Volunteers grant applications can be for up to a maximum amount of £10,000. Closing date 13 March 2015

3 The announcement of £2bn of EU funding for Wales

over the next seven years is good news for Wales and will have a real impact on the Welsh economy, Finance and Government Business Minister Jane Hutt said today. The European Commission approval sees around £1.6bn going to West Wales and the Valleys and over £325m to East Wales. Read more wefo.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/141030eufunds/?skip=1&lang=en

4 The Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund

is looking to help small, local community groups and charities across the UK and Ireland by donating cash awards to support warm hearted people and projects. Open for entries until 23 February 2015, the Fund will distribute five £300 awards to deserving recipients every week. Further details are available from <http://www.galaxyhotchocolate.com/>

5 £1.1bn EU investment for Wales gets green light from European Commission.

Finance and Government Business Minister Jane Hutt Has announced the European Commission's approval of the new £1.1 billion European Regional Development Fund programmes to help boost the Welsh economy and create jobs in Wales. Read more: <http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/9402168/?lang=en>



JOBS GROWTH WALES

In June 2014 I was lucky enough to be successful in my application to work on a six month paid placement with the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales (BGC Wales), working in clubs including Nantymoel BGC, Wyndham BGC and Aberkenfig BGC. In my time with BGC Wales I was given the opportunity to attend events for StreetGames as well as organise a trip for three to four clubs to attend an event in Merthyr Tydfil which I found to be very successful.

The best part of the Jobs Growth Wales placement at BGC Wales was being able to make a difference to young people's lives and have fun doing so at the same time. The staff I worked with within BGC Wales made my time there pleasant and overall it was a great experience.

The placement has now finished and I still volunteer at Nantymoel BGC at present and keep in contact with the other clubs to make sure they're still running smoothly. I also have a new job working nights so I can still support club activities and make a difference to young people's lives. Despite not being a paid member of BGC Wales, I still consider myself an integral part of the BGC Wales team as a volunteer.

By Gareth Clinton



CLUB NEWS: TREHARRIS BGC

In each issue of the @BGC Wales newsletter the Organisation will aim to feature one of its member clubs. As this is the first time the Organisation has done this, we thought we would kick things off with the very first Boys' Club - Treharris which was formed in 1922. This article has been written by Cardiff Met student, Ashleigh Clark, who has undertaken her youth work placement at the club.

The last couple of months have seen some changes. Long serving club leader, Lisa Bruford, has taken a position in Pen-Y-Dre High School and we now have Ray O'Neil taking over the leader's role. We're also saying goodbye to Saheera, Paul and Joanne and hello to Kristen and Alex. We couldn't be sadder to say goodbye to them but we are looking forward to what the new team can bring to the centre.

After a lot of interest we have decided to start a 5 a-side football club. We have two teams and so far they are smashing it! They've got new kits and are proud to be wearing them. We can't wait to cheer them on at their next game.

Treharris Christmas Fete was enjoyed by all! We're very lucky to have had a stall near the Christmas lights 'switch-on' in the middle of Treharris. We braved the cold conditions and had a beautiful stall where we sold hot drinks, handmade goodies and hand crafted soaps. To make the day even better, we had Mickey and Minnie Mouse switching on the lights, with a guest appearance from Olaf! It was such a fab night! The young people got to carry lanterns through the street and up to the church. A beautiful fun filled evening for all!

During the Christmas holidays we thought we would treat the young people to a disco. CJ-DJ (Morgan Tandy) was the host (some of you may know Morgan from the youth exchange back in the summer). It was a fabulous night and a lovely way to say goodbye to old staff Treharris Style! The week before Christmas, the Club took young people to Winter Wonderland so they could go ice skating! We are looking forward to putting on more events for our young people in 2015.



YMCA WALES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales is pleased to continue the long established partnership agreement with YMCA Wales Community College to provide Level 2 Awards and Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work training opportunities to BGC Wales volunteers.

YMCA Wales Youth Work Training Manager, Gillian Wilde, said "There are Level 2 courses starting in February and any interested candidates should send their applications directly to g.wilde@ymca.wales.ac.uk"

STUBBERS

A date for your diary Essex Adventure Weekend at Stubbers Friday to Sunday 26-28 June 2015

For details contact BGC Wales Office



GERMAN YOUTH EXCHANGE

BY ABBEY WELLS

The annual youth exchange aims to provide young people from BGC Wales member clubs with opportunities to discover different cultures and a number of skills including confidence, leadership and teamwork. Reflecting with the young people after the youth exchange brought us to the conclusion that the twelve-day exchange was beneficial to everybody who took part and a big success for another year. Confidence building and leadership were two areas where young people improved the most.

Georgia Vassallo, 18, who was a young leader at the youth exchange said: "I enjoyed the youth exchange as I went as a young leader and it was really good doing so many activities which helped to build my confidence as a leader. I also enjoyed meeting new people and understanding their different way of life." Expanding on this, Georgia learned to develop her leadership skills and is hoping to return to another youth exchange in the future as an adult leader. Jacob Edwards, a young person taking part on his first youth exchange, described his time on the youth exchange: "I really enjoyed the experience of meeting all the Germans along with learning some of the phrases. It was a good two weeks, I really enjoyed myself and feel I gained confidence and improved my personal skills."

We will continue the success of the exchange by visiting Germany in summer 2015.





BGC WALES VOLUNTEERS

We would like to say a special thank you to all our volunteers throughout the Organisation! Below are a few photos of volunteers saying why they volunteer! No matter what the reason - BGC Wales Volunteers, We Salute You! Volunteers pictured from headquarters, Wyndham BGC, Nantymoel BGC, Treharris BGC, KPC Youth, Cwmbran (CCYP) and Llwynypia BGC.



BGC WALES CHRISTMAS JUMPER COMPETITION

Back in December, BGC Wales held a competition to see how many young people our clubs could get in a photo with everyone wearing a Christmas jumper. Here are some of our favourites from Pencoed BGC, Wyndham BGC, Pant & Dowlais BGC and KPC Youth.



BLAST FROM THE PAST



We were delighted to hear from Struan James-Robertson, who worked as Training Officer for Boys' Clubs of Wales from 1967 to 1975 and who still takes a keen interest in all that happens in the Organisation. James sent a donation of £100 to mark what would have been the one hundredth birthday of Mr Seymour Southwood MBE, who was the well respected leader of Caewern Boys' Club, Secretary of the West Glamorgan Group and a past Executive Committee member.

James was honoured and delighted to receive a BGC Wales recognition plaque but, unfortunately, at 89 years of age, was unable to travel from his home in Pwllheli for the presentation evening. However, he has sent a photograph of himself proudly wearing his BGCW tie and another of his plaque which takes pride of place at his home next to a photograph of him being presented by HRH the Prince of Wales with his Churchill Fellowship medallion in 1974.

Some great advice from James - "Enjoy the highs and overcome the lows that make up the lives of each of us, taking strength from the warmth and support we gain from others." Keep in touch - we value your support and are always pleased to hear from you!





#CLUB FOCUS

What a fantastic start to the #CLUBFOCUS project with an introduction day and two mentoring sessions being held in November. The introduction day was organised by Cathryn Evans, Project Co-ordinator, to go through what would be happening during the project. On the first session, Steve Groves, freelance radio producer, came to teach us about storytelling and how to find a story. He also taught us about interview techniques with the help of our special guest, retired World

Cup Referee and ex Boys' Clubs of Wales General Secretary, Clive Thomas.

Part of our second mentoring session was held by our EVS volunteer, Alexandra Alvarez, who gave a fantastic and informative presentation about Social Media. The rest of the session was delivered by our mentor, Jonathan Price, who also gave a great presentation about how to film effectively. We had the opportunity to create our own movie trailers by using iMovie on the iPads and, for sure, they had great fun creating them. Gareth Clinton, one of the youth leaders who attended, said "The best thing is to be able to take this back to our clubs and do this type of filming etc with club members."

The next stage of #CLUBFOCUS will be to use what was learned in the sessions to teach the club members. Meetings have been held with several clubs to discuss individual club projects that will start in the New Year. Very exciting times ahead! For all the latest news and photographs follow us on Facebook, Twitter @ClubFocus1922 Youtube and Instagram @clubfocus1922. If you fancy getting involved please contact Cathryn Evans, Project Co-ordinator, via e-mail cathryn@bgcwales.org.uk



SHW'MAE

Mae diwrnod Shwmae Su' mae yn gyfle i ddathlu'r iaith Gymraeg yn y gweithle, yn yr ysgol ac yn y gymuned. Roedd yn gyfle i ddangos bod Clybiau Bechgyn a Merched Cymru yn amlieithog, gyda nifer o weithwyr yn siarad mwy nag un iaith.



"Shwmae, Su'mae" day is a chance to celebrate the Welsh language in the workplace, in schools and in the community. It was a great opportunity to show that Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales is a multilingual Organisation with numerous members of staff who are able to speak more than one language.

BAD BIKES DO BARGAIN HUNT FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

BGC Wales member club, BAD Bikes, was selected to appear on the very first Children in Need 'Bargain Hunt Special' together with Chicken Shed (an organisation based in London). They were chosen from over 2000 Children in Need funded projects across Britain.

Mark Davies, chair of BAD Bikes, stated: "Sometimes it's quite difficult to explain the impact our work has on young people but, in this case, it was really stimulating and emotional to hear (without prompts or prior

notice) young people explaining the support and changes



in their lives that our workers had made. Although a small example of our work was broadcast there were many other young people eager to share their stories with the cast but, unfortunately, time restraints did not allow everyone to be shown. Who knows, they may return again such was the impact on the crew, some of who stated that they had been touched by the many experiences that the young people shared."

MINER'S LAMP



In 1957 Frankie Vaughan, a famous singer and avid supporter of the Boys' Clubs, visited Nantymoel Boys Club (Mem). He visited many clubs throughout his career and even donated the royalties of one of his albums to the National Association of Boys Clubs (NABC).

Many came to the Mem that night and some were hanging onto the railings in the hope that they might see him. One fan remembers thinking how handsome he was and another felt that royalty had arrived in Nantymoel.

During the night Frankie sang many songs which drove the crowd wild. Not even a technical issue with the microphones could ruin this very special night at the Mem. During the evening Frankie Vaughan was presented with an engraved Miner's Lamp as a thankyou for his ongoing support.

Do you have any memories of Frankie Vaughan visiting your club? If so please let us know!

NABGC BY ANDY HAMILL

"It's really great that Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales are considering teaming up with us at the National Association of Boys' & Girls' Clubs. They have traditionally been an integral part of the movement almost from its inception and we hope that will continue as we grow and develop the new organisation.

It has been a whirlwind year. At the time of writing, it is almost exactly a year when just five counties came together to decide exactly the role they wanted the NABGC to fulfil and how we might seek to move things forward.

Since then charitable status has been achieved and many other county organisations have aligned themselves with the organisation as they believe in the kind of work we want to do and the role we envisage playing in the marketplace.

We now have fifteen county and national organisations who are working with us and who believe in supporting the work that we have traditionally done of getting alongside local, grass-roots, voluntary youth clubs and helping them provide a good service to young people in the most deprived communities, engaging them in purposeful, positive activities that help them to learn, grow and mature and become positive members of society.



It is our aspiration at the National Association of Boys' & Girls' Clubs to help with this work by providing a diverse programme of activities that young people can take part in, developing training for leaders and volunteers and offering a suite of national resources that can be delivered locally that enhances the services offered at the grass-roots. We already have a programme of activities in place for delivery in 2015, we hope to grow and improve that for subsequent years.

We have come a long way in the last year or so and we believe that through the network of mutual support we will continue to grow and (more importantly) meet the needs of our members.

We look forward to seeing you at our events - please keep in touch with staff at the Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales to find out what is coming up."

GET SUSSED

It has been really encouraging to see the progress that some clubs have made over the past few months and how their management has embraced the concept of developing their facilities into valuable assets within their local and wider communities.



Clubs such as Ystrad Mynach BGC, Treharris BGC, Troedyrhiw BGC, Nantymoel BGC and the recently reopened Ton & Gelli BC and Llwynypia BGC, have set great examples of how the problem of long-term sustainability can be addressed by developing the potential which exists on their 'doorsteps'. All these clubs have created employment, volunteering and training opportunities and developed enterprising ideas to improve their sustainable futures.

We are now planning to hold a Funding Conference in early 2015 and will inform BGCWales membership in a future e-newsletter of further details. Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales Chief Executive, Joff Carroll, said "We are pleased that clubs continue to be prepared to restructure plans and strategies and develop ideas to create employment, volunteering and training. The cuts to public services create opportunities for the voluntary sector to add further value to the already substantial commitment we make to the economy, communities and our young people in Wales."

STREETGAMES RESIDENTIAL IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

BY GEORGIA VASSALLO

During the autumn term I attended a StreetGames event at Brathay Hall. At first I was nervous as I didn't know anyone who was attending the event. After everybody had arrived we had a group meeting and split into different groups with the other volunteers. On this residential we got to meet lots of new people from different countries and it was nice to learn where they were from and meet new friends. In the short space of time we had at Brathay Hall we had to gain trust between our peers as lots of the activities involved depending on each other to finish the activity.

It was a new experience for everyone as we weren't familiar with some of the activities. The activity I enjoyed most was called Ghyll Scrambling. This involved walking in a river, climbing over some rocks and at the end we had the opportunity to jump in the deepest parts of the river. It was a really enjoyable experience. During the residential I met lots of new people from around the country. We learnt lots of new skills from each other; this helped us all to grow in confidence.



The part of the residential I enjoyed most was meeting the volunteers from different areas and sharing ideas with each other. One of the activities was called Mini Games where we were given props such as beanbags, rope, hula hoops and other equipment to create our own game, expanding my teamwork skills. Once the mid-week residential had come to an end it became apparent that most people had a really good time and didn't want to leave. I have to thank StreetGames on behalf of everybody that took part and I hope to attend something very similar in the future.





Boys Club of Wales U16's 2014/2015



Boys Club of Wales Youth 2014/2015

RUGBY

Following a successful 2013/14 season the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales U16s squad kicked off 2015 with a fixture against East Midlands. The closely fought encounter, which ended with a 23:20 victory to East Midlands, was described by Rugby Panel Chairman, Eiron Dodd MBE, as a "truly great game."

The planned U19s fixture against Somerset County was, unfortunately, a casualty of the weather. They will be back in action on 25th January against Scottish Exiles. The fixture will be held in Bristol and we look forward to another exciting encounter against top opposition. Rugby Panel Chairman, Eiron Dodd MBE, said "Our squads are eagerly anticipating their upcoming fixtures this year and I am very much looking forward to watching the teams play"

The 2015 BGC Wales Rugby Calendar is now available at a cost of £4 each. Contact Alan Sadd (07969 001063) for details.



BOXING

It has been a busy time for our boxing clubs. In November Cwmgors Boxing Club held a very successful dinner show at Manor Park Country Hotel with four of the club's boxers winning their bouts on the night. Port Talbot Boxing Club held their show in December with clubs from as far afield as Bideford and Torrington taking part. Port Talbot boxers had a great night and were successful in seven of the eight bouts contested on the evening. Both clubs were invited to send boxers to the Bideford boxing show and were delighted with the welcome they received from the host club in Devon.

Former BGC Wales Boxer, Chris Jenkins – twice a silver medallist at the NABGC

Boxing Championships and now a full time professional boxer – is to box Willie Limond for the British title in Sheffield on 28th March 2015. We wish him every success.

We are pleased to hear of some recent success stories from Gwent Boxing Club in Swansea. Sonny Lee won the 2014 NABGC Boxing Championship and was the only National Championship winner from Wales in 2014. Sonny beat Keiron Marshall of Tamworth BC in the final winning with a comfortable points decision. He also beat Jonathan Clatworthy in the final of the Wales ABA Youth Championships. During the year he also boxed for Great Britain in Bulgaria, beating T Senguan of Mongolia.

In the photo are other successful members of Gwent ABC including Sonny Gilheany, Craig Stephens, Domonic McDonagh, Joshua Burt, Gareth Brimble, Keiron Smith, Callum Lee and Rhys Burgess - all 2014 Welsh Novice Champions.

It is unconfirmed as yet but we are hopeful that the NABGC Championships will be held during November and December 2015.

ATHLETICS

The 2015 National Boys' and Girls' Clubs Championships will be held at Cardiff International Sports Stadium on Saturday 13 June.

We are delighted to be hosting the event again at this highly prestigious venue and to be able to offer our young athletes the opportunity to sample competing at one of the UK's top venues.

Many top athletes have competed in this event over the years including Lynn 'The Leap' Davies CBE who, fifty years ago, produced one of Wales' most memorable sporting moments by winning Olympic Long Jump Gold in Tokyo. Following a distinguished athletics career, Lynn was elected President of UK Athletics in 2005 and has remained very supportive of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales and Nantymoel BGC.

Athletics Panel Chairman, Dave Powe, commented "The event is always well supported by WAA track and field officials but volunteers are needed to assist in both track and field activities. Would anyone interested in volunteering on the day please contact BGC Wales HQ on 02920 575705 or email office@bgcwailes.org.uk"

GRANGETOWN BOYS' JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



Grangetown Boys' Junior Football Club Under 12's show off their brand new strip this season thanks to £500 sponsorship from Kumon Education.

Grangetown Boys' Club Chairman, Steve Khaireh MBE, said "It's great to see the team looking so professional in their new kit and you can tell they are all so proud wearing their new Kumon strip by the smiles on their faces. We know that the kids really benefit from sponsorship like this and on behalf of everyone associated with the club, I would like to thank Kumon for their generosity".



FOOTBALL

Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales Football grows from strength to strength after a very successful 2014 with a main highlight of three wins out of three against CYP Scotland. On May 3rd 2015 the football teams will be playing Scotland at Forfar Athletic FC. Preparations are also under way to host the Four Nations Tournament (U16) from the 26th – 29th June 2014

Arrangements are being made to travel to Germany for the Eltingen Tournament on May 23rd with discussions taking place with our German counterparts about the possibility of having our U14 squad also competing at the end of the U18 tournament.

Richard Bennett, Chair of the Football Panel, said "We have had an exceptional season. The standard of football throughout the whole Organisation improves every year thanks to the excellent support and dedication of our coaching teams. The three outstanding wins over CYP Scotland set the standard and our performances against CYP Ireland and CYP Scotland in the NABGC Four Nations Championship in Bangor, Northern Ireland, were testament to how football has developed within the Organisation.

The Federation Cup produced some great finals especially the closely fought U14s encounter between Troedryhiw BGC and Cambrian & Clydach Vale."



GIRLS' FOOTBALL

It has been a good year for the BGC Wales Girls' Football team who played in the 2014 Rosebowl Tournament in Bangor, NI, at U17s age group. The first game saw the girls take on the hosts, CYP Northern Ireland - Wales earning a gutsy 1:1 draw, with Shannon Evans scoring an equaliser, after the team had gone behind from a corner inside the first five minutes.

CYP England were next. BGC Wales were 1:0 up thanks again to a Shannon Evans strike early in the second half. During injury time in the second half, however, CYP England struck back. BGC Wales coach, Paul Cardy, commented "It was a truly great display from our girls out there! The players and coaching staff are really disappointed as we were so close to winning."

The final game saw BGC Wales play CYP Scotland. A win or a draw against the Scottish team would see BGC Wales win the tournament but a win for CYP Scotland would see them crowned champions. BGC Wales took an early lead before CYP Scotland equalised just before half time. At the start of the second half BGC Wales hit the post and the crossbar before CYP Scotland scored a second goal and saw the game out to win the competition.

CYP England had won for the previous six years running so congratulations to CYP Scotland for their successful campaign.





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OSPREYS

VS ZEBRE

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Liberty Stadium, Swansea

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Pre-match activities

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£12 Adult £8 OAP & Student £4 U18's

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