



LATEST NEWS

@BGC WALES

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#BGCOSPREYSDAY

The BGC Wales @ the Ospreys day saw over 500 young people, club leaders and volunteers take part in a day full of activities for BGC Wales member clubs. A StreetGames/Ospreys rugby session took place at Morrision Rugby Club where young people had an opportunity to learn new skills and, importantly, have fun. After the coaching session the young people were provided with food, courtesy of Domino's Pizza, before making the short trip to watch the Ospreys beat Zebre by 53-22 in a crucial PRO12 game.



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

I regard it as a great honour to take over as the new Chairman of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales and to follow in the footsteps of the late Alan Lloyd MBE. I had the highest regard for Alan but it is a bit like entering a singing talent contest and the act before you was Tom Jones. I could never outperform him but hope to continue to support and develop an Organisation that is running so efficiently thanks to Alan and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales staff team.

Since my appointment I have attended, along with my wife:

- The **U/15, U/17 and U/19 Boys' Football in Scotland** from which we returned with three victories and three cups - the first occasion we have won all three games back to back.
- The **U/19 Boys' Football Tournament in Germany** where we played teams from Germany, Croatia and Slovakia, losing to a German league team academy in the final on penalties.
- The **U/17 NABGC Boys' Football in Clydach Vale and Ystrad Mynach** where we played Scotland and Essex BGC, beating Essex, drawing with Scotland and retaining the Celtic Cup. Not only was the football of a high standard but the behaviour of the boys was impeccable.
- The **National Athletics Championships in Cardiff** where we enjoyed a well-run event for over four hundred young people.
- We also attended the **Cefn Cribwr BGC presentation evening** and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean of Cefn Cribwr for the invite. Hopefully, we will attend more events like this in the near future.

I am sure everyone involved with the Organisation is looking forward to benefiting from the numerous opportunities on offer from the NABGC programme of activities which will develop over the next ten years.

We have recently reopened the North Wales office in Colwyn Bay and will work with other agencies in this area to develop our presence in the region.

I look forward to contributing again to this newsletter and wish to thank all who have taken the time to add their news and reports.

Richard Bennett

Chairman
Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales

SHIRLEY - 50 YEARS WITH BGC WALES!



Shirley is now celebrating her 50th year of working for the Organisation – she said to mention she was very young when she first started!

Shirley has enjoyed working with eight different General Secretaries/ National Directors/Chief Executives as well as numerous Sports, Training and Project Officers. She has been based at the offices in High Street, Cardiff, St Athan Boys' Village, Headlands School, Penarth and now at Western Business Centre.

As Finance/Administration Officer, Shirley has responsibility for the day-to-day financial and administrative control of BGC Wales but also organises the design and publishing of match day programmes for the sports panels and flyers and posters for all our activities.

Shirley met her husband, Ted, whilst working at St Athan Boys' Village where Ted, a Power Station Engineer, was lodging at the time. They have been happily married for 40 years and Ted is, these days, since his retirement, a very supportive and valued volunteer at BGC Wales.

In 1993 Shirley was awarded the MBE for her service to Boys' Clubs of Wales but has always insisted that the award is a tribute to the hard work of all the Organisation's volunteers whose dedication and hard work never ceases to amaze her.

Chief Executive, Joff Carroll OBE, said "I have enjoyed working alongside Shirley for 18 years. We have seen both good and tough times but Shirley has always been supportive. Her knowledge of the Organisation and its history, successes and setbacks is so important when planning future strategies and organisational development and her sound advice is always welcome. Should Shirley ever retire (doubtful) she would be a very hard act to follow!"

CONGRATULATIONS JOFF!



We are delighted to announce that our Chief Executive, Joff Carroll, was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to young people in Wales.

Joff said "I was proud to be nominated for such a prestigious award but sincerely feel that the honour is a testimony to the great work of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales and one which I hope my colleagues, our volunteers and all the membership feel they can share. I thank you all for your support".

Congratulations Joff on this wonderful honour!



It was a fantastic day for everyone, a day which went smoothly and where everyone had a good time. We want, again, to thank all the volunteers who participated and supported us so much, all clubs who attended and, of course, the Ospreys staff.

**Looking forward to organising more events like this one!
Thanks to the Ospreys!**



#BGCOSPREYSDAY

The 28th March 2015 was a great day for everyone who was a part of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales. Almost 500 young people, youth workers, parents, volunteers and Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales staff were involved that day. The clubs taking part were: Abercrave RFC, Aberkenfig BGC, BAD Bikes, Bettws BGC, Caerphilly RFC, Georgetown BGC, Llangyfelach FC, Llwynypia BGC, Nantymoel BGC, Noddfa Community Project, Pant & Dowlais BGC, Tanyard Youth Project, Treharris BGC, Troedryhiw Willows Centre, Wildmill Youth Club and Ystrad Mynach BGC. The clubs that were unable to attend missed a really enjoyable event.



It was a fantastic opportunity for young people to watch an Ospreys match as well as being a day to showcase our Organisation, as the match was shown live on S4C TV. Before the kick-off we enjoyed a day full of activities at Morriston RFC. Young people were invited to take part in the StreetGames Rugby Training Sessions, in 10 different stations, where young people enjoyed and learned different aspects of rugby. Each station was 5 minutes long, enough time to understand the exercise and have fun. All the young people completed the sessions.



After more than an hour running and exercising, Domino's Pizza provided everyone with free pizza - best moment to take some team pictures! Each club had the opportunity to select some of their young people for a pitchside role during the game, be it pitchside flag bearers, players' guard of honour or mascot to walk out with the players. It was pretty easy to recognise us as we occupied the northern corner of the stadium, all in our red T-Shirts, waving our flags and next to the massive #BGCWales flag.

CLUB HANDBOOK

Through our partnership with YMCA Wales Community College we are now pleased to offer our Boys' and Girls' Clubs free 'Club Handbook' accredited training. A member of the YMCA Wales Community College team will visit member clubs and deliver training in the Club Handbook which includes risk assessment, safeguarding and guidelines on policies that clubs should have in place. For more details please contact office@bgcwales.org.uk





STAFF FOCUS: KEVIN ROBERTS

Role: North Wales Get Skilled Project Officer.
Time at BGCWales: 4 months.

In 10 words: An energetic, sport loving individual seeking to make a difference.

Office drink of choice: Fresh coffee

Responsible for: Re-introducing BGCWales to North Wales and managing the 'Get Skilled' North Wales Project. "I am looking to increase our membership base in North Wales whilst having a positive impact on as many young people as possible!"

Favourite thing so far working at BGCWales office: The incredible passion of all the staff to improve the lives of young people across Wales.



CWVYS @ THE SENEDD

On Tuesday 17th March CWVYS hosted an event for member organisations at the Senedd, National Assembly for Wales. New CWVYS Chair and former Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, spoke at the event about the importance and value of the voluntary youth work sector in Wales. BGC Wales members, Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP) and Tanyard Youth Project were also in attendance flying the flag for their Organisations. It was also pleasing to hear positive words from Keith Davies AM, during his opening address, about the long history of BGC Wales' commitment to young people

NORTH WALES NEWS

Hello! I'm Kevin Roberts and I'm based in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, working on a brand new project as BGC Wales seeks to renew its links with the North Wales area. In partnership with StreetGames and Spoted, amongst others, we are aiming to involve young people from across North Wales in new training, youth work, and sporting opportunities. Girls are a key target area for this project and, with the launch of the new Us Girls Wales project, it really is an exciting time for young people in North Wales!

Of course, it isn't just girls we are focussing on. We are currently seeking to expand our programme into as many youth clubs and groups as possible across the whole of North Wales. As a direct licensing centre for both Sports Leaders UK and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we have the ability and staffing infrastructure to deliver these awards in North Wales. In addition to our work with youth clubs in North Wales, we are also working with Conwy Youth Service, headed by Jane Williams, to reach even more young people across the region.

Don't feel like attending a youth club as a young person? Fear not! As a new project we are looking to develop a bank of volunteers to support our clubs across North Wales, as well as helping out with local events and residential activities. The benefits of volunteering, for both you as a person and your career, are endless so if you have the desire to develop yourself, learn new skills, and meet some amazing people, get in touch with me (details below) - I will always be happy to have an informal chat with you!

As proof of our continued commitment to the North Wales region, we are delighted to welcome Heather Robertshaw to the North Wales Office. I am certainly looking forward to her support as we continue to expand our work in the area.

Finally, I am always keen to hear the views of young people across North Wales. If you have an idea, or feel there is something we should be doing in your area, please get in touch and we can have a relaxed, informal chat.

You can contact me via any of the following methods:

- Drop in at 23a Abergele Road, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL29 7RS
- Phone me on 01492 471185
- E-mail me on kevin@bgcwales.org.uk
- Drop me a tweet @BGCNorthWales





STREETGAMES UK VOLUNTEER FESTIVAL

To thank young volunteers for all their hard work across Wales, StreetGames UK hosted a Volunteer Festival at the National Diving Centre near Chepstow. The event was attended by many clubs from Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales and was a thoroughly enjoyable day for those involved.

During the day, StreetGames provided a variety of activities including Archery, Raft Building, Segway Rides and even a Zip Line across a quarry! This day provided the opportunity for young volunteers to try out activities in which people may not have participated before. In the evening, after the activities, there was a free BBQ for all young people and an outdoor cinema experience watching the film Guardians of the Galaxy.

Jonathan Price, BGC Wales Get Skilled Project Co-ordinator, said "It was brilliant to see so many BGC Wales volunteers have a direct impact on what was a very successful event. BGC young leaders helped to ensure that participants from all over Wales had a fun action packed day!"



100 MILE CANOE TEST

Over the May Bank Holiday nine young people from Llywynpia Boys' and Girls' Club, along with the BGC Wales young leaders, took part in the annual 100 Mile Canoe Test along the River Severn.

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales teamed up with a group from Young Bristol for the training and for the duration of the 100 mile test. Matt from Young Bristol led the two teams very professionally and was a great asset to not just the two organisations but also to canoeing as an experience.

The group completed the full 100 mile test over the four days on the River Severn! Ruaridh Lewis, a young volunteer, said "It was a very enjoyable long weekend despite being physically draining. I am very proud of myself and all of the others that took part for finishing the 100 miles on (and in) the water."

Jess Lloyd, Llywynpia BGC leader, said "I am so impressed with the young people from my club as they really pushed themselves during the experience. I am also very grateful to Young Bristol for their support throughout the whole event"



FUNDS TO APPLY TO!

1 BBC Children in Need

BBC Children in Need has a Small Grants Programme that is open to all charities with applications being capped at £10,000 over the course of a twelve month period. The main aims of these funding bids are to improve the lives of young people under 18 and could be a great way to kick-start a project with your young people.

2 Awards for All Wales

Awards for All Wales provides voluntary and community groups with easy access to

National Lottery funding between £500 - £5,000. They provide funding which supports community activity, extend access and participation or generally improve the quality of life to young people within their area.

3 Community Chest (local)

Community Chest funding offers grants of up to £1,500 in any 12 months towards sporting activities that increase participation and improve standards. Community Chest is run in partnership with the 22 local authorities throughout Wales and application forms can be found through the Sport Wales website.

4 The Santander Foundation

The Santander Foundation Community Plus programme provides grants of up to £5,000. The scheme is open to small local projects

with funding available to cover salaries, equipment and other materials needed. The Santander Foundation also has other schemes to help young people. To find out more visit the Santander Foundation website.

5 People's Postcode Trust

The People's Postcode Trust has enabled organisations to deliver schemes involving sport, health and reducing poverty. The programme provides funds of between £5,000 and £20,000, for a 12 month project, to registered charities and community groups. The application process for this programme is open between the months of October and April only.



ABERKENFIG BGC YOUTH EXCHANGE

In April Aberkenfig Boys' and Girls' Club embarked on their first international youth exchange to Germany, led by Club Leader, Adrian Parsons, with support from staff and parents from the club. Eighteen boys attended the exchange - members of the club's under 14 and under 16 football teams. The exchange was supported by the organisation, UK German Connections, and Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales helped with some of the arrangements.

The trip was, primarily, a cultural exchange with a sporting theme as friendly football matches had been arranged between the groups. Aberkenfig Boys' and Girls' Club were joined by young people from F.C Rommelshausen for the exchange week.

After a twenty hour drive the Welsh group was met by German youth worker, Albrecht Niessner, the Leader of the German group for the week. The exchange took place in the Weinstadt region of Southern Germany and was based in a hostel type bunkhouse called Friends of Naturehouse.

The first few days of the exchange were organised in the grounds of the Naturehouse and consisted of team games and puzzle solving type events. This was a great way to break the ice. The boys were split into equal groups, half Welsh and half German, so that the boys would mix and start to communicate. This resulted in some new friendships being built and both groups began to mix together.

Some great activities had been arranged by the German group which included a visit to the Mercedes Museum in Stuttgart, a stadium tour of Bundersliga Club FC Stuttgart and a water park.

On a sporting front the groups took part in a coaching morning at the Academy of FC Weiblingen, a feeder club for FC Stuttgart, and a very high level of quality coaching was enjoyed. Of course, there was the small matter of the two exchange groups playing two friendly matches against each other. The first game was won by Aberkenfig BGC, beating F.C Rommelshausens 4-1 in the first match, a result that even the Welsh team didn't expect. The second game was a much closer affair which ended in a 2-2 draw. Afterwards the German youth workers put on a great barbeque to finish off a fantastic day.

It was an awesome week and all who took part were very sorry to see it come to an end. The German party gave us a good send off and there were a few tears shed by the leaders and boys on the final morning of departure. I think all the Welsh group can honestly say they have made some lifelong German friends.

Arrangements were made for further exchange visits to take place between the two groups and it is hoped that a German visit may take place to Wales in Spring 2016 followed by a Welsh visit to Germany in 2017. A fantastic event which really showed the value of Boys' and Girls' Clubs as an opening to new cultures, friendships and lasting memories!

ESTONIA YOUTH EXCHANGE BY ABBEY WELLS

In February five BGC Wales members took a week-long trip to Estonia to participate in an Erasmus+ funded programme. The aim of the project was to explore the role of youth information in the lives of European young people. Four participants and one leader from five European countries took part in the project. These countries included Estonia, Wales, Spain, Italy and Lithuania.

Our accommodation was based an hour from Estonia's capital, Tallinn. The bedrooms were shared and the complex was very similar to what you would imagine an American summer camp would consist of. Activities that the members participated in throughout the week included ice breaking games, partnership workshops and a trip to an Estonian youth centre.

Over the course of the week, the participants, leaders and organisers formed bonds despite the language barrier and, by the end of the week, it was tough for us all to say goodbye and many tears were shed. However, the programme rewarded participants with an Erasmus+ programme Youthpass Certificate and a life changing experience. On behalf of BGC Wales we would like to thank Madli Muuga, Janeli Palits and Marin Vomm for organising this project and Erasmus+ for the funding.



YOUTH EXCHANGE 2015 – INCREDIBLE!!

BY JESS LLOYD, LLWYNYPPIA BGC

Throughout my first year as a leader with Llwynypia Boys' and Girls' Club I have had many new adventures but none as fulfilling and rewarding as the Youth Exchange. The exchange presented a fantastic opportunity for young people from different Boys' and Girls' Clubs to come together for the experience of a lifetime.

The exchange gave the young people, and the leaders, the opportunity to experience a different culture and way of life, wrapped in a fun filled activity programme in the beautiful Ebnesse and Bavaria regions. From driving a handcar through the countryside to swinging through high ropes in the Bavarian hills, the exchange was jam packed with exhilarating activities that many of us were trying for the first time. The togetherness of the group saw young people gaining confidence as they supported each other to confront their fears and grasp the opportunities in front of them. The evening activities provided the chance for the Welsh and German young people to get to know each other and work together creatively through drama, dance and performance. It was a pleasure to see the young people from both countries embrace each other and learn from one another, with the Welsh group performing in German and the German group performing in Welsh.

As new members of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales' family, here's what some of the boys from Llwynypia had to say about the exchange:

"I had an amazing chance to go to Germany - it gave me the opportunity to fly for the first time! In Germany, I had one of the best experiences of a lifetime and made many new friends. Before I went on the exchange I was very nervous but after all the activities, acting, dressing up etc - I have become a more confident person. I met some amazing people and learnt a little bit of German. Everything about the trip was amazing, apart from having to come home."

Sean Lyons

"During the summer holidays I took part in an exchange which took place in Ebnesse alongside a German youth group. We took part in various activities which showed us the many different roles we could take on within the group!!! The best part would probably be meeting new people, Welsh and German, and experiencing new and exciting personalities. During the stay we lived in a tent camp for most of the time but for 3 days we stayed in a mountain shelter which was like a barn. I am glad to have experienced it as it has taught me many ways to interact and connect with different people from around the world."

Liam Tranter

"In the youth exchange this year, which took place in Germany, I spent twelve days in an amazing place and made some fantastic friends. It was an unreal experience and helped me see a new way of living and taught me many things including not to be afraid of new experiences and give everything your best effort no matter what. The main thing involving this was the high ropes activity we participated in - I have a massive fear of heights but all the great leaders and my German friends pushed me to complete the hardest and highest course. From this I felt a great amount of pride in myself. I have everyone to thank for making my time in Germany as amazing as it was. It was the time of my life!"

Rhys Newman

The exchange has provided us all with memories and friendships that will last a lifetime and has equipped the young people with new skills and attributes that will support them as they develop into young adults. All the young people put in an incredible amount of effort and enthusiasm and it's fair to say they reaped the rewards with the continuous sound of laughter ringing around the tent camp. As expected, our last day saw tears of joy turn into tears of sadness as we all said our goodbyes but we made the journey back to Wales knowing that our new German friends are friends for life!

CAMP BIRMINGHAM

StreetGames organised an amazing weekend where some of our volunteers had the opportunity to participate in many different activities such as Zip Line, 3G Swing, Climbing Wall, Abseiling, Crate Tower as well as enjoying the swimming pool. Besides undertaking the activities they had an opportunity to volunteer at the Sainsbury's British Athletics Championships and meet volunteers from around UK. This time the BGCWales volunteers were Jack Elsbury, Gareth Hamilton, Abbey Wells, Ieuan Davies, Adam Davies and Owen Dawes.





#CLUBFOCUS

Since the last newsletter, so much has been happening with #CLUBFOCUS. We set out to work with young people from Nantymoel, Llwynypia, Wyndham and Treharris Boys' and Girls' Clubs and taught them about filming and holding interviews. We've had such a great response from the clubs, especially with the filming aspect of our project.

Another great aspect to the project is our partnership with the Richard Burton Archives in Swansea. So far, we have been to the archives twice! Nantymoel BGC went first and then Treharris BGC. Fun was had by all and ended with one of the members from Nantymoel saying that "History is heaven to me" which is obviously great to hear as a Project Co-ordinator. We also had the chance to go to the Glamorgan Archives with Treharris BGC because they have quite a few documents on Deep Navigation Colliery.

We held a Basketball Heritage Event at Llwynypia BGC towards the end of April. It was an opportunity for young people to play basketball, film the event, create a memorabilia collage and interview past members of the club. We had some great feedback from the young people and the past members who attended so we are holding a similar event at Treharris BGC.

For all the latest news and photographs follow us on Facebook, Twitter @ClubFocus1922 or follow our blog <http://clubfocusblog.tumblr.com/>. If you fancy getting involved please contact Cathryn Evans via e-mail cathryn@bgcwales.org.uk



RHONDDA HERITAGE EVENT



With #CLUBFOCUS there are opportunities to visit local museums and on August 21st a group of young people went to the

Rhondda Heritage Park. At the time there was an exhibition about Tower Colliery which is the colliery that our President, Tyrone O'Sullivan OBE, along with other miners, bought in 1994. We were fortunate enough to have him at the event to speak to the young people about his experiences with the colliery then and now. After the talk, all of us took the opportunity to look around the museum and even went on the underground tour.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

We had a lovely visit from Ron Aston this month. He previously played football for the Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales (Boys' Clubs of Wales at the time) and won 4 caps between 1952-56. Cathryn, our #CLUBFOCUS Project Co-ordinator, interviewed him about his time with the Boys' Clubs, his time as a football player and being called up into the Army. He brought his memorabilia with him and all who were in the office were intrigued to have a look. Ron is particularly interested in finding the names of the others in this photo. Can you help?



RUGBY STORIES

Treharris, Dowlais and Wyndham Boys' and Girls' Clubs went to an evening held at the Firing Line Museum, Cardiff Castle, to take part in a project called #rygbistories. It was an opportunity for our young people to look at the relationship between rugby and the Army. They were shown rugby memorabilia and were told about famous individuals associated with rugby and the Army. They were then asked to write a poem, a short story or tell a story through digital storytelling. The theme was rugby and the Army so they went off around the museum searching for some inspiration. Some found their inspiration by dressing up. It was a great evening and all enjoyed. Fingers crossed we have some winners amongst them!

STORIAU RYGBI

Gwahoddwyd Clybiau Bechgyn a Merched Cymru o Dre Harris, Dowlais a Wyndham i dreilio amser yn Amgueddfa'r Milwr Cymreig yng Nghastell Caerdydd, er mwyn cymryd rhan ym mhrosiect #storiaurygbi. Roedd yn gyfle arbennig i'n haelodau ifanc i edrych ar y perthynas rhwng rygbi a'r fyddin. Edrychwyd ar hen grysau, chapiau a phêl rygbi a hen luniau. Yn ogystal â hyn ddaru nhw ddsygu am unigolion enwog oedd gyda chysylltiadau gyda rygbi a'r fyddin. Yna, roedd gofyn iddynt ysgrifennu barddoniaeth, storiâu byr neu greu ffilm. Y thema oedd rygbi ar fyddin felly fe aeth yr aelodau o gwmpas yr amgueddfa i edrych am ysbrydoliaeth. Dengys yn y llun bod rhai wedi cael ysbrydoliaeth wrth wisgo i fynnu. Roedd yn amlwg bod pawb wedi mwynhau'r noson, a gobeithio bydd rhai o'n haelodau yn llwyddiannus yn y gystadleuaeth!

MY EVS EXPERIENCE

During the eleven months I was volunteering for Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales at their office in Cardiff, my role was to co-ordinate social media, the monthly e-newsletter, the webpage and everything else I could help with. It was a huge pleasure to work with Dan, Cathryn, Paz, Grant, Joff and Shirley as they were a great help to me. They are more than workmates, they have become friends! After all this time living in Cardiff I consider it my home, with its wind, rain and sunny days and its kind people, always helpful and smiley.

Every weekend was a chance to discover more about Wales, I travelled to North Wales, Snowdonia, hiked Snowdon and Pen-y-Fan, Aberystwyth, Pembrokeshire, St David's, Gower, Brecon Beacons..... there is still much more to see and visit and I am sure I will. See you in the near future Wales - tara!!

I had the opportunity of living all the experiences because of EVS (European Volunteer Service). Since this year the programme is called Erasmus+, a programme based on European cultural exchange volunteering over all European projects during a maximum of 12 months. This programme gives you the opportunity of living abroad for a period of time, while you volunteer for a local organisation, learn a new language and meet new people. To become an EVS you don't need any experience or education or big budget as flights, monthly pocket money and health insurance are included.



Besides EVS there are more programmes based on cultural exchange abroad and in Wales as well, not all of them being for so long as mine. The best way to learn more about all the European Union opportunities for young people is to contact UNA Exchange, a Welsh organisation in Cardiff who will answer all your questions and help you through all the process. Contact them, you won't regret it!

Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales extends best wishes and the best of luck to Alex for her future. BGC Wales is now delighted to welcome to the Organisation our new EVS volunteer, Lioba Schuermann from Germany, who started in September 2015.

SWANSEA BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB AND COMMUNITY HUB

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales has a vision to create a multi-million pound centre developing into one of the finest community facilities in the country. Our aim is to redevelop the old Swansea Boys' Club site situated at the top of Mayhill and develop a centre dedicated to serving the needs of all aspects of the community, both locally and across the city, supporting equality and the fight against poverty. This centre will house a comprehensive range of facilities to complement the needs of people of all ages and abilities and fit for the twenty first century.

The Centre will house a full-size multi-purpose sports hall, a 'fit for purpose' youth work facility, a 150-seat theatre, community café, community rooms, community cinema facility, rented offices and workspace for other community and third sector agencies and will be the national headquarters of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales and headquarters of the Swansea Group of Boys' and Girls' Clubs. We have recently held a public meeting involving members of the local community and we are currently undertaking a feasibility study to take the project forward.

The Community Hub will be a home for working in the community with Sports, the Arts, Education and Training, Community Advice and Guidance, Health and Wellbeing and Childcare Facilities, situated conveniently for residents of Mayhill, Waun Wen and Townhill. The facility will be designed to be fully accessible and suitable for use by people with disabilities. The Hub will encourage volunteering in the community and will depend upon local support to guarantee its long-term sustainability.

The large indoor multi-purpose Sports Hall will accommodate 5-a-side Football, Netball, Gymnastics, Badminton, Wheelchair Sports, Mini Cricket, Indoor Bowls and Keep Fit Sessions. It is planned to have a viewing gallery and full changing facilities.

The 150-seat theatre area will have full access for the public and will be the Arts Hub of the Centre. It will incorporate a dance studio and possible recording studio with DJ facilities, creating a mecca for performing arts. Community rooms will accommodate arts and crafts workshops and film and camera clubs.



The Centre will provide access to learning and training for all the community. We plan to deliver workshops and courses in Building Trade Skills, IT, First Aid, Basic Literacy and Numeracy, Art, Youth and Community Work, DJ Skills and Photography. This project is supported by the Swansea Community Action Transformation Fund.

SPORTS LEADERS UK COURSES

Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales is very proud to continue to offer Sports Leaders UK Courses to up & coming young volunteers. The course is designed for young people who are interested in becoming youth work volunteers and sports coaching assistants in your clubs.

The courses are a blend of theory and practical work and are tailored to meet the needs of the young people in your area. The Sports Leaders UK charity has devised a number of course programmes with qualifications that are recognised throughout the United Kingdom.

Assistant Development Officer, Daniel King, said "It is a joy and a privilege to deliver these courses to the next generation of volunteers in Wales. Volunteering is such a big part of my life and I would not be where I am without courses such as Sports Leaders that enable young people to volunteer and coach within their communities."

To obtain information on setting up a course in your club or if you have any questions about the training programmes please ring the office: 02920 575705 or email: office@bgcwales.org.uk

NEW LOOK FOR YOUTHWORKWALES RESOURCE BASE

Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales (BGCW) is pleased to support the youthworkwales resource base which has been redesigned and is now mobile and tablet friendly.

The aim of the site is to provide practitioners, students and managers of youth work in Wales with a range of information which will help develop thinking and practice. The site contains policy documents, academic papers, student assignments, historical items and information on practice. Youth work related articles are welcomed so please feel free to contribute to the site! Visit www.youthworkwales.org.uk or www.gwaithieuentidcymru.org.uk



BETTWS VILLAGE LODGE

Things are looking up for Bettws BGC with the club re-opening soon! They have also been busy promoting their lodge facility and have recently launched a new website www.villagelodge.co.uk

'NOT THE USUAL SUSPECTS'

BGC Wales has recently been awarded funding from Erasmus+ to embark on the 'Not the Usual Suspects' project which aims to involve the young people who are under-represented in traditional forums in structured dialogue with politicians from the five tiers of decision making. This is an exciting project during the year of the Welsh Assembly Government elections. We hope to promote this project further in the next newsletter and via our E-newsletter. Watch this space!



MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS AT LLANGYNWYD RANGERS BGC

We would like to congratulate some of the young coaches from Llangynwyd Rangers who have recently been awarded the MV Sport Certificates for their commitment to volunteering within the club. These include Sion Lewis and Nathan Watkins who have been coaching the under 7's and Joshua Hookings and David Jones who have been coaching the under 14A team. Daniel Cornish received his MV Sport Silver Certificate for his

efforts with the under 12s team he coaches along with his mentor coach, Gavin Parry. Nathan Watkins, Joshua Hookings, Daniel Cornish, Daniel Griffiths and Morgan Thomas have also gone on to receive their Gold Awards – presented by local MP, Huw Irranca-Davies. Daniel Griffiths and Morgan Thomas are pictured with the under 18 squad who they coached to reach the top of the league!!!



ATHLETICS

We were pleased to once again host the NABGC UK Athletics Championships at the Cardiff International Stadium. Over 500 young people participated and we were pleased to welcome our friends from Durham and Essex as well as representatives from across Wales. The standard, as always, was very high and a number of championship records were broken in both the boys' and girls' sections.

We are looking forward to an even bigger event next year with our NABGC Counties promising to send teams. We were delighted that our Chairman, Richard Bennett, and his wife Sandra, could attend and present the medals to some of the participants. We are grateful to Cardiff International Stadium for again hosting the championships and to all the track and field officials and volunteers for their support. We wish to say a special thank you to Dave, Linda and Gareth Powe for again organising such an enjoyable event.

POOL

Congratulations to the Nantymoel BGC team for their success at the Pool Championship in Preston.

They returned with their best results ever - six national champions and two runners up. The champions were Megan Rayner, Daffyd Jones, Hannah John, William Conway and Carys Rayner. The runners up were Jordon Jones and Alice Smith. Thanks to all the participants and youth workers who went, we hope to have the same success next year!





FOOTBALL

It was yet another successful year for the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales football squads with some outstanding team performances in Wales and throughout Europe! During May, all three teams defeated CYP Scotland for the second time in a row to retain all three trophies. The under 14's won their game 3-2 thanks to goals from Jordan Downs (2) and Jake Dymond. The under 16's was a closer encounter with the BGC Wales winning 1-0 thanks to a goal from Jack Page. The final game ended 2-1 despite BGC Wales trailing at halftime. Goals from Daniel Jones and Alfie Jones secured victory.

The under 14's travelled to Germany to play two fixtures against FV Lochgau and Eppingen whilst the under 18's took part in the annual TSV Eltingen tournament losing to TSV Rutesheim in the final on penalties. This was a great achievement given the competition which comprised of teams from Germany, Croatia and Slovakia.

In June, Wales hosted the three nations for the under 16's at Clydach & Cambrian BGC and Ystrad Mynach. The team convincingly beat Essex BGC in the first match and drew with Scotland to win the cup.

Congratulations to everyone for their part in the success of 2015.

RUGBY



2015 was a successful year for all associated with Boys' Clubs Rugby with some memorable results and achievements by our current players.

The BGC Wales youth side played in a tournament in Belgium and, after some great team displays, came away from the tournament as deserved victors. The Wales U16s were also in action on the continent in the Netherlands and despite a battling display were gracious in defeat.

The season was rounded off in style with the Annual Presentation Evening Dinner at the Towers Hotel. Max Boyce, President of the BGC Wales Rugby, presented the players with their caps. Joff Carroll said "I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation event at the Towers Hotel and would personally like to thank all the volunteers who give up their time and energy every week for this great sport."

YOUTH EVENTS WALES



We were very pleased to receive a donation of £1200 from Youth Events Wales Chairman, Phil John. Youth Events Wales provided many opportunities for young people to take part in sport and arts for many years until it recently wound down its operations. Following discussions with the members of the committee it was decided to donate the surplus from the account to an organisation that works with young people. We were delighted to be chosen and will use this donation to support our athletics and Us Girls programmes.

BOXING

At the time of compiling this newsletter details have emerged about this year's NABGC Championships. For further details please contact Ronnie Morris on 07883 029577.



THE Us Girls PAGE

This page is dedicated to girls and showcases the work we are undertaking to get more girls involved in sport and involved in the activities of the Organisation.

Us Girls PROJECT

Thanks to funding from Sport Wales we are delivery partners for the StreetGames Wales Us Girls Project.

This project aims to get more girls playing more sport more often! As part of the project some of our clubs will have support to deliver new and exciting opportunities for girls - these include a Dance Leadership Award which will take place at a venue in Rhondda Cynon Taff from Monday 26th to Friday 30th October 2015. If you are interested then please contact office@bgcwales.org.uk The Us Girls Project will also take place in North Wales so for more details please contact our North Wales Officer, Kevin Roberts, by email kevin@bgcwales.org.uk



Us Girls IN YOUR CLUB

If you would like to find out more about this project and would like to include the Us Girls Project in your club please contact office@bgcwales.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS

...to Troedyrhiw Under 16 Girls on your treble win this season, winning the SWWGL League, SWWGL League Cup and the SWFA Cup.

They have done a great job and made a big effort in training, being unbeaten all season. The team has produced three Welsh U16 and U17 Internationals - Ellie Lake, Niamh Tinman and Claudia Meyrick, whilst five of the girls were selected to represent BGCWales U17s in the Rose Bowl Tournament in Ireland in August. Proud of you girls! Well done!

Us Girls NORTH WALES

In partnership with Conwy Community First and the Conwy Sport Team, we launched our Us Girls programme in North Wales with an Us Girls Rocks Festival on September 19th. The launch took over Y Morfa Leisure Centre in Kinmel Bay with over 15 different taster sessions for girls to enjoy throughout the day, ranging from football, rugby and tennis, to Zumba! And best of all - it was FREE! We also had numerous prizes and incentives on the day, together with music, a selfie booth, smoothie bar, disco dome, free body art treatments, plus lots more! It was great to be a part of this event in North Wales!

GIRLS' FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Congratulations to the girls' football sides on a successful season. The girls' U17 side finished second in the Rose Bowl which was held in Northern Ireland in August. Despite losing the first game to CYP England the BGC Wales team bounced back to beat Northern Ireland 2-0, thanks to goals from Lucy Powell and Jade Hawkins, followed by a win against CYP Scotland by 2-0, thanks to goals from Claudia Meyrick and Carys Wilkinson.

Earlier in the summer the BGC Wales U15's defeated CYP England 2-0 at Goytre FC, thanks to goals from Lucy Packer and Niamh Terry.



CHALLENGE WALES

My experience on Challenge Wales:

During our trip on Challenge Wales I believe I learnt some life lessons in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This is because I met people that I'd never met before and I also completed a few life lessons that I wouldn't have done without the opportunities given to me by our club (Llwynypia Boys' and Girls' Club) The trip showed me how to work, live and survive on a boat. Throughout the trip we learnt how to run a boat and what is needed to 'tac', 'dock' and 'rig'. I never thought that I would experience something like this. I learnt a lot and I truly enjoyed the experience. It's definitely something I'd like to do again!

Abbie O'Leary (Llwynypia BGC)