

Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales

Clybiau Bechgyn a Merched Cymru



IT'S WHAT WE DO
bite-sized

September 2024



Andrew Borsden MBE
CHAIRMAN

I aim to bring together the best practice of the organisation and to ensure quality youth work is delivered in Wales and beyond. I look forward to the future and it is my wish that we will all work together to take Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales to the next level.

Grant Poiner
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

My aim is to drive the organisation forwards and offer more opportunities for young people within our membership. Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales is not only holding on to its traditional mission of serving our young people here in Wales, but also taking a big step onto the global stage!



TRUSTEES

Vice Chair: R Fussell
Treasurer: R Williams
Secretary: Vacant
Football: A Howells
Rugby: A Morgan

Members: P John
S Khaireh
J Lloyd
C Evans

**MANAGEMENT
TEAM**

Apple Tang - Organisational Support & Finance Manager - to manage the organisation's finance and to organise the HQ's operation.

Gayle Harris - Business Development Manager - to fundraise for the organisation and provide help and advise to member clubs.

MEMBER CLUBS

140+ affiliations across 22 counties in Wales. Among these clubs or organisations, there are 25 boxing clubs, 39 football clubs, 32 youth and community clubs and 34 rugby clubs. (August 2024)

According to the statistics collected from our member clubs, BGC Wales is reaching 5653 young people aged 11-14, 3548 aged 15-16 and 3653 aged 17-25.

We are not going to stop! BGC Wales is eager to follow our mission and aim to support young people in Wales to live healthy and happy lives, develop new skills, have fun and make a meaningful contribution to their community. The organisation aims to create a brighter future for young people in Wales.

AFFILIATION

For a fee of £30 per year, your affiliation will give access to high-quality, accredited youth work and exceptional opportunities for the young people at your club and in your area. As a national youth organisation, we are committed to expanding our reach and developing new initiatives in North and West Wales. We would greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word and building a stronger network for youth engagement.



FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

MEMBERSHIP

Business Support & Development



BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION

As a **national youth work organisation** with more than 95 years experience and proven record, **Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales** offers our member clubs to participate in our sport competitions and events, be part of best practice and evidenced-based educational projects and programmes both nationally and internationally. Member clubs can take advantage of our services such as DBS checks, training programmes, advice and support on youth work and best practice, helping to achieve sustainability goals in maintaining the standard within our **BGC Wales Network**.



Gayle Harris, Business Development Manager, is available for funding advice and support, please contact her at **gayle@bgc.wales**



45 attendees at our AGM that was held in November 2023. We hosted at Treorchy BGC and announced the establishment of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.



For information please contact office@bgc.wales or on 02920575705 or **subscribe** to our eNewsletter at www.bgc.wales



National & International

YOUTH WORK

PROJECTS AT MEMBER CLUBS

Our brilliant team of dedicated youth workers delivers high-quality youth work across Wales, the UK, and internationally. Through our BGC Wales network, young people can participate in diverse projects and programmes that inspire and empower them. Our team also leads curriculum-based projects and interactive workshops at member clubs, helping young people develop valuable skills and make lasting connections.

Stay updated on our latest projects, events, and opportunities by subscribing to our eNewsletter. Visit our website at www.bgc.wales to sign up and be part of the exciting work we're doing for young people across Wales and beyond!



Safer Internet Week, Science Week, Summer of Fun, Environment workshop, Fuel saving advice.



Inter-club competitions, youth-led activities, social media safety, eLearning, Youth Forum, volunteering project



Meet and Code, Sport Leadership, Football against Racism, Politics project, outdoor activities.

SPORT PANELS

Health Lifestyle & development



BGC WALES SPORTS

Sport plays a pivotal role within our membership, acting as a transformative "vehicle" for young people to acquire essential skills that facilitate their overall development. BGC Wales is dedicated to advocating the numerous advantages of sports, encompassing not only **health and fitness** benefits but also **social and community** benefits. We actively champion successes and assist clubs in recruiting volunteers and securing funding to further promote and foster sports within our community.



We offer young people at our member clubs high-level and competitive sports activities, including inter-club events, tournaments, and competitions.

The season for 23/24 holds special significance as we celebrated the formation of our **first Girls Rugby** U16s Team. Awards Presentation was held in Newcastle Emlyn RFC in June 2024.

Our Boys' and Girls' Representative Teams have opportunity to compete nationwide and internationally such as European countries, Canada and the USA.

Welcome any sponsorships to our sport teams, please get in touch and contact office@bgc.wales



MEMBER CLUBS
Expanding Our Network

EXPANDING OUR NETWORK

Soon after the pandemic, we actively re-engaged with clubs in **North Wales**. We currently have member clubs including boxing clubs, football clubs and youth clubs in Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. We are planning on securing sustainable funding to place an officer in North Wales to coordinate our projects and programmes. Our intention is to develop our network in North Wales to open up and create more opportunities for the young people in the North.



The New Dragons Speech and Language Club in Flintshire offers a safe, friendly, and stimulating environment for young people. We focus on fostering friendships, improving communication and social skills, all whilst having fun!



Clwyd Boxing Club has been an affiliated member for more than 20 years. All credits to Daryl who has been supported the young people for all those years!



We are actively seeking partnerships with organisations in North Wales to expand our network and provide young people with valuable programmes, resources, and support.

YOUTH FORUM

Raise Your Voice, Pizza & Politics



YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE

As the General Election was called earlier, we organised the "Not Your Usual Hustings" Event and it was held in a trampoline park on 27th June 2024 with a strapline "Jump Into Politics". It was well attended by over 72 young people across Wales, a majority of these young people were from marginalised groups and would not generally engage in any sort of politics or recognise the importance of why they should. They submitted their questions prior to the event and met with 6 politicians from different parties face to face, and asked their questions on the topics of education, health, transport, care issues, homelessness, home schooling and youth work.



On 25th March 2024 young people and youth workers from BGC Wales visited the Houses of Parliament to attend the award ceremony which is hosted by Mr Speaker and The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP.

Not Your Usual Hustings 2024, funded by the Welsh Government Democratic Engagement fund, partnered with Deryn and Swansea MAD, that was held in Trampoline Park, Bridgend in June 2024.

We are committed to involving young people in the political process, giving them a voice to shape both their future and the future of Wales, the country they proudly call home.

[RaiseYourVoice.Wales](https://www.raiseyourvoice.wales)

[CodaDyLais.Cymru](https://www.codadylais.cymru)



CONFERENCE
& Awards Evening

NETWORK & CELEBRATION

The Conference & Awards Evening was a resounding success, celebrating a vibrant and inspiring gathering of youth leaders, mentors, and community champions from across the UK and America. The event showcased the organisation's continued commitment to empowering young people, **recognising outstanding achievements**, and sharing innovative approaches to youth development. Held in a spirit of unity and collaboration, the conference featured engaging workshops, keynote speakers, and discussions on best practices in youth work in the theme of **Quality Matters**. Attendees gained valuable insights, practical tools, and inspiration to continue fostering positive change in their communities.



The Awards Evening was the highlight of the event, where individuals and clubs were honoured for their dedication, creativity, and impact, spotlighting the incredible work done to uplift young people.

This year's NABGC conference reflected the strength and diversity of the organisation, leaving participants feeling motivated, connected, and equipped to make even greater strides in supporting the next generation. The atmosphere was one of celebration and optimism, setting a new benchmark for future events.

EXCHANGES

Young People & Practitioners



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

We believe international exchange programmes offer numerous benefits for young people include cultural awareness, global perspective, language skills, interpersonal skills networking opportunities, and more - that's why we have been doing it for two decades and we continue to do so. **Taith** is Wales' **International Learning Exchange Programme** that supports activities that would have previously been funded by the Erasmus+ programme. Taith provides opportunities for young people, staff and volunteers at Welsh youth organisations and local authority youth services.



In 2023-2024, we organised 7 international mobilities with 220 participants, 3 advanced planning visits, giving us a total of 12 different mobilities in 7 countries including Canada, France Spain, Germany, Netherlands and the USA.

We hosted Welsh/German Exchange here in Wales, over 50 participants from both countries took part in a variety of fun activities throughout the 15 day including cultural excursions, and collaborative projects.

Four exchange visits were organised to strengthen our organisations in Wales and give Youth Workers and Volunteers a full insight into youth work practices abroad. These visits took place in Montana, Seattle, Orlando and Atlanta, offering valuable learning experiences in different settings.



Outdoor adventure & activities

CHALLENGES

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

It is all about **personal challenge**, not a race. Participants call on their skill, determination and stamina to achieve many of our outdoor adventure activities. The achievement brings a sense of personal fulfilment that will remain with the individual for life. These events are an extended opportunity to undertake quality youth work with a group of young people who will be pushing themselves to achieve. It is not easy and requires effort which in turn leads to the reward of completion and satisfaction.



23 enthusiastic young people, supported by 8 experienced and trained staff, participated in this year's challenging **100-mile Canoe Test** along the scenic River Wye in 2024.



We are incredibly proud of our young people. Their dedication, **resilience**, and exceptional teamwork have truly shone throughout this experience, demonstrating their hard work and commitment in every aspect of the program.



Survival Day Adventures provided Police Youth Volunteers a chance to build teamwork and **skills** through survival scenarios, stretcher and shelter building, dam creation, and learning plant uses for environmental sustainability.

THE LODGE

Activities and Residential



RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

We are delighted to introduce **The Lodge**, our specialist residential centre tailored to meet the diverse needs of young people through personalised residential visits. At The Lodge, guests can take part in a wide variety of activities designed to promote adventure, wellbeing, and personal development. Our programme includes exciting adventure activities, wellbeing workshops, and team-building sessions that encourage camaraderie and resilience. Young people can explore bushcraft skills, while nearby outdoor pursuits include BMX riding, GoApe high ropes courses, surfing, mountain biking, scenic mountain and coastal walks, and quad biking. Additional activities include stargazing, geocaching, and a flexible space to host sports groups.



Member clubs are very welcome to use our facilities at the Lodge for team building, training events or a stay for inter-club competition.

A delightful, relaxed **44-bed** group bunkhouse style venue and facility with a self-catering kitchen and communal areas.

The Lodge provides an ideal setting where we can warmly host our member clubs and extend a welcoming experience to international visitors

Dale@bgc.wales

Heol Dewi Saint, Bettws, Bridgend, CF328TA

www.bgc.wales/the-lodge

PARTNERSHIP
Working for young people



PARTNERSHIP WORKING

We continue to strengthen our collaborative partnership with **Blaenau Gwent, Neath Port Talbot, Flintshire** and **Vale of Glamorgan**, working together on joint initiatives that benefit our communities. Through this partnership, our staff are actively engaging with member clubs and local statutory youth clubs to bring new collaborative opportunities to young people across these areas. Our goal is to create impactful programmes that foster skills, build connections, and support youth development, ensuring that young people have access to diverse and meaningful experiences within their community.



With partial funding from the SPF Sustainable Communities Growth Fund and the Youth Support Fund, our team is actively supporting a range of local events and activities in Neath Port Talbot. We are dedicated to empowering young people by offering tailored training sessions, facilitating skill development, and creating meaningful volunteering opportunities. Through these initiatives, we aim to foster a stronger sense of community, encourage active youth participation, and contribute to a sustainable, vibrant future for Neath Port Talbot.

PARTNERSHIP

Police Youth Volunteer Scheme



POLICE YOUTH VOLUNTEER

BGC Wales is delighted that South Wales Police has partnered with ourselves, the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS), Cardiff Metropolitan University and University of Wales Trinity St David's to enhance the delivery of the Police Youth Volunteers (PYV) Scheme. The four-year agreement funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner marks an exciting new chapter for the scheme which works with young volunteers aged between 14 and 18. The PYV scheme is part of a police uniformed youth group recognised throughout the UK. It aims to encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship and inspire young people to participate positively in their communities and it also delivers volunteer work which helps support local policing priorities.



The Police Youth Volunteering (PYV) Scheme is a programme in which young people aged 14-18 can get involved and build on a variety of skills. The scheme has five main objectives which are as follows;

- To encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
- To support local policing priorities through volunteering.
- To give young people a chance to be heard.
- To inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.
- To promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people.

STRATEGY 2024-2028



THE FUTURE
Youth Offer

ESYTN AND STRATEGY



We are delighted to share with our friends, supporters and club leaders our excellent Estyn inspection that was recently undertaken. The inspection was the pilot voluntary youth work inspection in Wales and took place in March 2024.

We were really pleased that Estyn was able to speak with young people, club volunteers, staff members and trustees to hear their accounts of how effective the organisation is at supporting young people.

Whilst we are delighted with the inspection report, the hard work continues so that the organisation can better support member clubs and young people.

Scan the QR code to view our Estyn Report.

Our Strategy 2024-28 Launch Day was successful! We were excited to share with Trustees, staff and club leaders our goals as we move towards our centenary in 2028. A huge thank you to The Mem in Nantymoel for hosting the event.

Scan the QR code to view the strategy now



IT'S WHAT WE DO and to the future



Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales
Clybiau Bechgyn a Merched Cymru



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