



# WELSH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Patron - Mr John Percy

President – Mrs Danuta Price

Deputy President – Mrs Brenda Jones

## 2017 Welsh Junior Report

The Welsh Juniors enjoyed quite a successful season with some excellent team performances and some stand out individual ones too. As always with the Juniors, every season we say goodbye to a number of players who have reached the upper age limit. Hopefully the experiences they have had with the Juniors will stand them in good stead for further progression with the Senior teams in the future.

Just as important is the introduction of new players into the fold. Both areas (Wrexham/Flintshire & Gwynedd & Glyndwr) are continuing to bring through youngsters and a number of them have played an important part in the success of the team this year. We can be proud that the game in our country is in safe hands at the moment.

This year, Wales managed to top their qualifying group with three overall wins against Staffordshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire before coming up against the eventual Champions Yorkshire in the semi-final.

The first game saw the Juniors take on Staffordshire in May with the home venue at Colwyn Bay RBL. The introduction of a number of new players gave the team a good mix of age and ability. Notable performances from Tom Owen and Mathew Hewitt helped to soften the blow of a home loss against a good Staffordshire side containing a number of older and experienced players. Our away side blew away the opposition in Wolverhampton, winning by a massive margin of 99 chalks. Four players won to single figures and the team won 10 of the 12 games.

The second game in June saw Wales choose the tricky green at Benllech as the home venue against Derbyshire. In very windy conditions, the home side won the game by 21 chalks with birthday boy Harry Lawton leading the victory with a 21-8 win, closely followed by Finley Prytherch (21-9). The away team had a tougher outing than last time but still managed to run out winners by 5 chalks. Matthew Stevenson winning 21-6 the highlight of the game in Derby.

The final group game in July saw Wales take on South Yorkshire at the Llandudno Oval. A resounding victory on a tricky green and a very hot day with Wales winning by 66 chalks. Harry Lawton and James (Toddy) Todd lead the charge and a brilliant performance by Nia Jones of Coed Talon rounded off the game. At the away venue the scores were tied 213-213. Oliver Jones of Johnstown winning the sweep with a fantastic 21-6 win! Special mention to Jess Lacey drafted in for her debut and just losing out to her opponent 21-20.

The semi-final saw the Dragons take on the mighty Yorkshire, the most successful Junior team of all time. The home leg was played at Craig-y-Don BC on an immaculate green. Despite their efforts, the team fell to an 85 shot defeat. Memorable victories for Harry Lawton and Nia Jones (Player of the Match) along with some brave performance by the rest of the team put us on the back foot in the tie. Our away team once again proved their worth with a 17 chalk victory away in Kirkheaton. A Captain's performance from Ieuan Pugh (21-5) and a great victory from Matty Worden (21-7) showed how talented we are!!

A big thank you to all involved in making this a great year. The selectors Dave, Lee, Kevin and Jay, along with Pauline Lindley, Brenda Jones, Peter and Jeanette Higham, John Percy, Matt Foster, Sandra West and of course Dusia Price and any others I have failed to mention. Without the help of these people, the Junior team would not be able to function. I sincerely hope that you continue your support for the 2018 season.

Also a big thankyou to the venues for the home games. Each club was proud to host their respective games and the hard work of all club members at each game gave us four fantastic experiences. From the green keepers to the tea ladies and those organising the after match food, you have all done Wales proud!

The 2018 season will see the introduction of a new and exciting league format for the Juniors. Due to our success in the Junior game, we have been placed in the Premier Division alongside Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Warwick & Worcester and Shropshire. All tough games, but ones in which we can achieve victory!

Finally, a big thankyou to Lee Davitt, one of our Selectors who is stepping down due to work commitments.

Phil Maddox

Junior Co-ordinator