



WELSH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Patron - Mr John Percy

President – Mrs Brenda Jones

Deputy President – Mr Dave Mathias

2018 Welsh Junior Report

The 2018 season saw a change in format for the Junior tournament. In order to level the playing field, the Counties were sorted into 3 divisions with Wales placed in the Premier (top) division along with Yorkshire, Warwick & Worcester, Shropshire and Derbyshire.

With Yorkshire and Warwick & Worcester the two most successful teams in the last few years, this was going to be a tough ask for the Welsh boys and girls!

The first game of the competition for Wales saw us take on Warwick & Worcester. The selectors chose the Llandudno Oval for the home leg, a green that had served us well the previous year. Despite the home team utilising the green well during practice sessions, the green was flying when it came to the day of the game, and unfortunately this proved too much for some of our youngsters. Ryan P Williams secured the best result (21-5) but the home team eventually lost 182-197. The away team played at Kings Norton BC and despite a strong start and end to the game (Sam Williams best result 21-10), they went down 226-190, an overall aggregate defeat by 51 chalks.

The next game saw Wales take on Shropshire. The West Coast team took to the Craig-y-don green and managed to secure a narrow win against a talented Shropshire away side. Ryan Rogers, in at No. 1 produced the best result, winning 21-9 to help Wales win by 4 chalks. The away team travelled to Bridgewater where they managed to pull off an impressive win by 26 chalks, helped by a strong 7, 8 & 9 – James Todd, Mathew Stevenson and Ieuan Pugh all winning to single figures. Overall result – Wales win by 30 chalks.

The third game saw Wales take on the mighty Yorkshire. A change of tactics meant that the West Coast side travelled to Golcar Liberal Club to try and secure a victory. Ultimately this proved a bridge too far, with the team going down by 83 chalks. Notably though, Wales secured 3 winners – Ryan Rogers, Ryan P Williams and Ben Hewitt, with Fin Hornbrey getting close with 20. All agreed that the trip was a great learning experience for the team. The home team selected the tricky Bersham green for the home leg and again, despite the squad practicing well in advance of the game, the weather got the better of us. Heavy rain the night before and on the day saw Wales fall to a 22 chalk defeat. James Todd winning the sweep with an impressive 21-4 win. Overall result – Wales lost by 105 chalks.

The final group game saw Wales take on Derbyshire. With league places still to be decided, the East Coast team selectors chose Llanfair PG as the home venue, an excellent decision as Wales secured 10 winners in the tie to win by 94 chalks. Five players won to single figures with Captain Ben Hewitt best winner 21-2. The away leg saw the Welsh team fall to a defeat at the tricky Kings Newton green. Although the margin of defeat was 37 chalks, there were some great performances throughout the team – 3 winners and 3 close losers. Best winner – Joe Hayes 21-14. Overall result – Wales won by 57 chalks.

The final league table saw Wales finish in 3rd place – behind the two favourites and securing our status in the division next year. The aim for 2019 will be to take 2nd place from Warwick & Worcester.

Ryan P Williams won the Merit with an impressive 4 wins out of 4!! He finished 6th out of all of the Juniors in the Premier division!!

Once again, a big thank you to all involved in making this a great year. The selectors Dave, Derek, Kevin and Jay, along with Pauline Lindley, Brenda Jones, Peter and Jeanette Higham, John Percy, Sandra West, Dave Mathias, 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 2019 season.

A big thank you also to the referees and assistants who allow these games to function.

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!

As always, we will be saying goodbye to a handful of players who will hopefully make their mark in the Senior team in the near future. Wales have a healthy group of players to choose from who will be more than capable to step into the void.

Phil Maddox

Junior Co-ordinator