

Dragon's Fire

The Newsletter of the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation – Edition 4



Introduction

It's been some time since our last update and a lot has happened in Welsh CC since then! Going Forward our main vehicle for communication will now be the WCCF Website which has some excellent material being published. So what has happened?:

- We held a very successful Congress in Cardiff, which was well received and “put us on the map”
- Held Three Title Norm Tournaments of our own.
- Successfully proposed the new CCE and CCM Titles
- Had a significant number of ICCF Titles awarded
- Seen our player numbers and average strength increase dramatically. (On the new rating list we will have 13 players rated >2300)
- Encouraged the participation of Welsh representative teams in the Counties & Districts and British Correspondence Team Championships.
- Inaugurated, competed in and Won the British Tri-Nations.
- Instigated a successful player development program
- Work with our Scottish and English counterparts to develop the British Championships into Title Norm Events!

So busy times and we continue to move forwards with our aims to develop Welsh CC!

Champions League

The strongest CC Club Team event in the World is starting in Mid April. We encourage any players who are serious about Titles and/or testing their game to consider taking part. Its a 4 player event with Title Norms in most sections. If you cannot form a team with your friends then a clearing house is in operation at <http://cl7.iccf.com/content/113> to pair players with Teams.

Its not a cheap event to enter at £38 per Team but inexpensive compared to entering four separate Title tournaments

International Titles

Since our last edition rather a lot of ICCF Titles have been achieved:

International Master

Tony Balshaw

Lady Grandmaster

Helen Sherwood

Lady International Master

Helen Sherwood

International Arbiter

Russell Sherwood

Correspondence Chess Master

Ian Jones

Gareth Yeo

Correspondence Chess Expert

Mark Adams

Ian Jones

Alex Sherwood

Russell Sherwood

Gareth Yeo

Many other players have Norms towards these Titles and quite a few more are expected before the end of 2017! Congratulations to all! We continue to arrange a number of Title Norm events to facilitate this – if you are interested and rated at least 2000 then get in contact if you wish to be involved.

Website

Our website at <http://www.welshccf.org.uk/> have undergone significant development work over the last few months and there are now a growing number of Annotated Games and Interesting articles. Please take a look and return regularly

AGM & Get Together

A physical AGM is being considered at the moment (all recent ones have been held online). Players will be welcome to attend as observers. What might be of more interest is that a “Get together” with a Q&A session after is being looked at. No details on date and venue have been set yet but if you would be interested, *in principle*, in attending please let me know.

Welsh Championships

We are intending to run a Welsh Championships , with a start date In the summer. More details will be issued as we get nearer the time but it will probably be a two division event. For obvious reasons

Tournament Updates

Tri-Nations




This event has been a proving ground for a number of our players and we have continually “punched above our weight”

The first edition of this event we won by 18.5 points. The 2nd edition was won by England by 1.5 points. The 3rd (2016) is now reaching its end with the current situation as

GB/TriNat/2016, British Tri-Nations 2016

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=60303>

TD Ylönen, Olli

			1	2	3	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	 Wales	2029		9	12.5	21.5	63	9	2	34	6	1
2	 England	2061	8		10	18	51	1	1	35	5	2
3	 Scotland	1991	4.5	8		12.5	35	-10	0	35	5	3

As you can see, Wales are in the driving seat and look likely to secure our 2nd win. Well done to Alex Sherwood, Gareth Yeo, Dale Cannon, Aytac Yuce, Fred Clough, Colin Denham, Andrew Robertshaw, Paul Scott, Marybeth Baron and Danny den Drivjer













Recruitment will start soon for the 2017 Team! If you are interested in taking part please get in touch.

North Atlantic Team Tournament

This event is now in its 7th edition and Wales have been involved in almost all of them!

NATT/7, North Atlantic Team Tournament VII

TD Martello, Juan Alberto (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
1	 Wales	2296		3	2.5	4.5	3	3	3.5	2	2.5	3	4	3	34	55	7	3	61	27	1
2	 Portugal	2356	3		2	2.5	3.5	4.5	4	2.5	2	2	4.5	2	32.5	55	6	5	59	29	2
3	 England	2396	2.5	2		4.5	4	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4.5	4	31	56	7	6	55	33	3
4	 U.S.A.	2398	2.5	3.5	3.5		3	3	2	2.5	3.5	3	2.5	2	31	49	-1	0	63	25	4
5	 Norway	2390	3	3.5	2	4		3	2	1.5	2	3	2.5	3	29.5	48	-2	1	61	27	5
6	 France	2359	3	2.5	2.5	2	3		2.5	2	3	1.5	3.5	3	28.5	47	-3	0	60	28	6
7	 España - Desafío	2348	2.5	2	1.5	3	4	2.5		2.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	27	50	1	1	53	35	7
8	 España-Fortuna	2360	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	3	2.5		2	1.5	4	2	26	56	6	1	46	42	8
9	 U.S.A.-II	2386	2.5	2	1.5	3.5	2	3	2	1		2	4	2.5	26	50	1	1	51	37	9
10	 Canada	2320	3	2	1.5	3	3	1.5	2	1.5	2		3	2	24.5	52	2	0	47	41	10
11	 Scotland	2184	1	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1	2	1		3	22	37	-15	0	59	29	11
12	 Iceland	2330	2	1	2	1	2	2	1.5	2	2.5	2	2		20	40	-9	0	49	39	12











As you can see we currently led the event, although with a likely challenge from Portugal, Spain-Fortune and England. We have plenty more wins “in the bag” and should be still very near the top of the table at the end of this one. As we were the 2nd lowest rated team going into the event this is a phenomenal performance.

Olympiad

CCO21/S4, ICCF Olympiad 21 Preliminaries - Section 04

TD Millstone, Michael (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place
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1		Scotland	2393		1	2.5	2	2	1.5	1	1.5	1	1	13.5	51	1	0	26	28	1
2		Romania	2445	1		1	1.5	1	2	1	1	1.5	0.5	10.5	55	2	0	19	35	2
3		Wales	2348	2.5	1		1.5	1	1.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	10.5	50	0	0	21	33	3
4		Brazil	2376	2	1.5	1.5		1.5	1	1	0.5	1	0	10	50	0	0	20	34	4
5		Ukraine	2434	2	1	1	1.5		0	0.5	1	0	0	7	50	0	0	14	40	5
6		Hong Kong	2301	0.5	1	1.5	1	0		0.5	0.5	1.5	0	6.5	43	-2	0	15	39	6
7		Lithuania	2511	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5		0.5	0.5	1	6.5	50	0	0	13	41	7
8		Argentina	2458	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5		0	1	6.5	50	0	0	13	41	8
9		South Africa	2245	1	0.5	1.5	1	0	0.5	0.5	0		0	5	41	-2	0	12	42	9
10		Norway	2380	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	1	1	1	0		5	55	1	0	9	45	10

Very early days yet but our team continues to out perform its ratings.

Counties and Districts

Four Welsh Teams are involved in the event.

West Wales A in the 1st Division (Ward Higgs) <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=61532>

A very close finish is likely here, with the final placings decided on Tie-Break

East Wales A in the 2nd Division (Sinclair) <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=61579>

Back to Back promotions are likely here, with East Wales A having games (and wins) in hand!

East Wales B and **West Wales B** in the 3rd Division (Butler Thomas)

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=61584>

Rating List

The Top 15 Rated Players on 2017/2 will be

1	Tony Balshaw	2436
2	Austin Lockwood	2384
3	Peter Varley	2381
4	Helen Sherwood	2352
5	John Claridge	2352
6	Russell Sherwood	2337
7	Ian Jones	2334
8	Gareth Yeo	2324

9	Alex Sherwood	2309
10	Mark Adams	2308
11	Phillip Dean	2307
12	John Williams	2275
13	Adam Davies	2258
14	Fordham-Hall, Christopher M	2239
15	Glyn Sinnet	2225

It is indicative of the journey we have undertaken that our Top 10 5 years ago would have averaged 2062 compared to 2357 on the current list!

Recruitment for Friendly Matches

To simplify this somewhat we will look to run Friendly matches during the quieter parts of the season. So the next ones will be planned for summer 2017.

Thor Lovholt

We will be recruiting a team in the near future for this event. Its for players rated below 2300. This was originally a European Event but has widened its scope to include teams from all around the World!

Volunteering

All the organisational work within CC is undertaken by far too few people. If you have the odd hour to spare a month get in touch as we have a number of areas where help is needed!

Member Organisations

As a reminder we encourage all Welsh players to look at joining one of our member organisations namely:

BCCA <http://www.bccachess.org/>

Natcor <http://www.natcor.org.uk/>

Scheming Mind <http://www.schemingmind.com>

All offer something different and membership rates are inexpensive.

New Players

Do you know someone who you think might like CC? Please encourage them to get in touch. The WCCF do sponsor the first tournament a new player enters to get them started!

Next Edition planned for June 2017

