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The rugby magazine for North and Mid Wales - Issue 42, 26th January, 2015



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# WELCOME TO THE OVAL ZONE

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# THE OVAL ZONE

## Comment

It's that time of year when there's so much going on, cup competitions galore, Six Nations just around the corner, start of the Women's Super Cup and the odd league game or two thrown in for good measure.

Amongst the good news is that the NWRUC have new sponsors for the region's cup competitions, namely Zip-world and GM Jones (more on this further in the issue). I had the pleasure of meeting the new sponsors at the recent Dinner at Coleg Llandrillo and I'm sure that all would like to thank them for their generous sponsorship.

Talking of cup competitions, Mid Wales have followed the lead of the North, in that they will also be having a 'rugby extravanga' on their Finals Day and will be including an Under-14 final between the Senior Cup and Plate Finals. Thanks to Mid Wales sponsor Cambrian Training for also sponsoring this extra competition.

The dinner at Coleg Llandrillo to raise funds for the WRU Charitable Trust was an excellent evening, great food, great company and after-dinner speeches by Dennis Gethin, WRU President, Gareth Davies, new Chairman of the WRU and North Wales' own Tony Gray. A fantastic sum of £2000 was given to the Charitable Trust.

Parc Eirias will be getting prepared for some big rugby events. There's the Under 20 Six Nations (coupled with RGC v Narberth prior to the Wales v England game) and RGC v Cross Keys in the Swalec Cup, their reward for that epic win away at Neath.

The good news continues in the Swalec Plate with Nant Conwy and Aberystwyth both in the last eight, and with the Millennium Stadium final just a couple of games away, we wish them both all the best.

As I tap this out, results are just coming in from the first games in the WRU Women's Super Cup and the region's premier side, Caernarfon have started with a great win on the road at Penybanc. It is my intention to keep you fully updated on the progress of Caernarfon, Abergele, Colwyn Bay, Pwllheli and Welshpool in future issues and on the web-site.

Best wishes

*Gary*

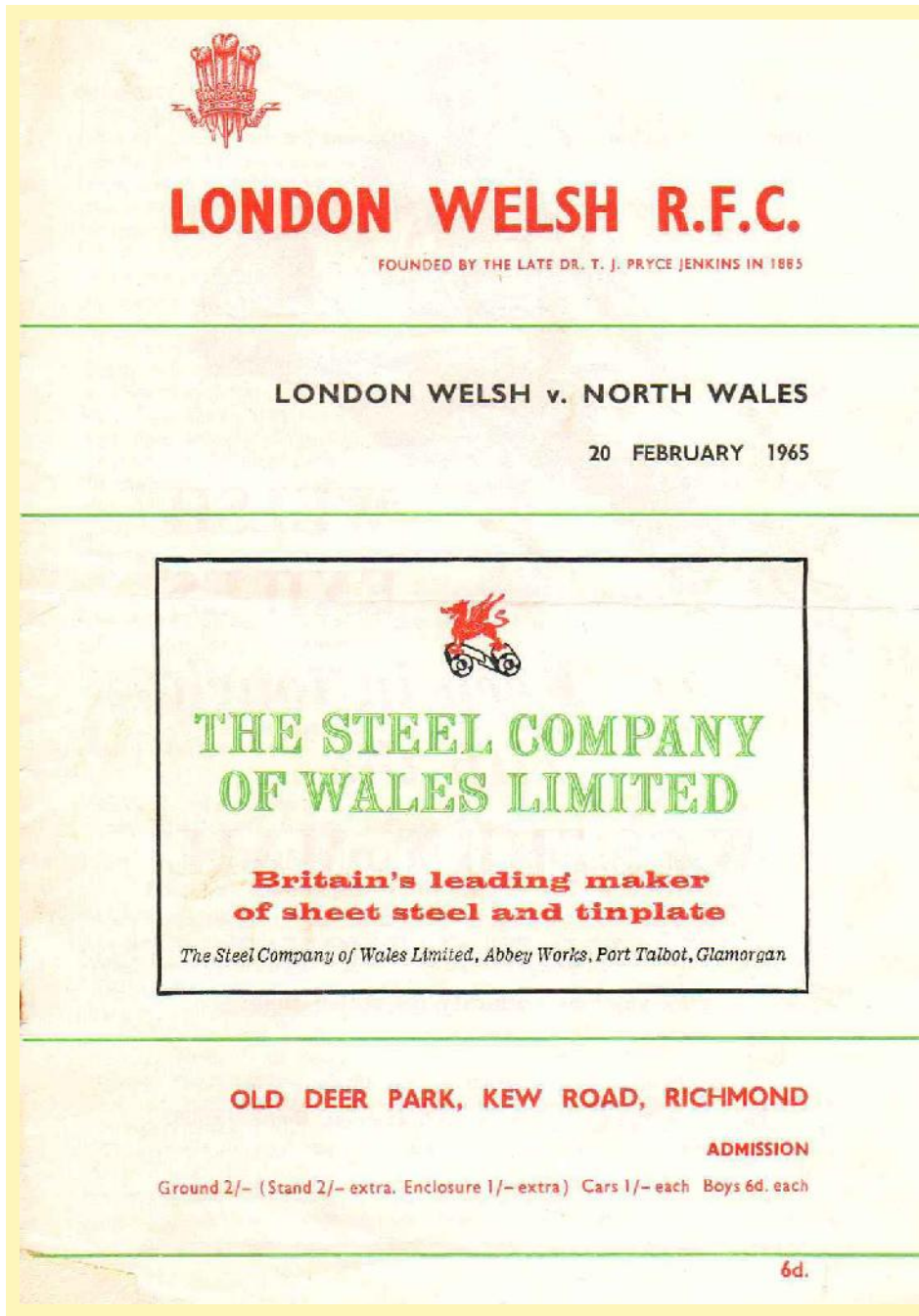
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## London Welsh v North Wales



Many thanks to NWRU President, Tony Gray, for loaning this match programme and others which will be featured in future issues.

I'm the sort of person who, when Christmas arrives, is provided with a big list of jobs by 'her indoors' that she'd like me to get done around the house when I'm enjoying a couple of days off from work.

However, I have my own little list (in my mind of course) which usually comprises something to do

with rugby. This year, I've decided to have a blitz and tidy up all my rugby paperwork which has accumulated in to enormous proportions. In fact, don't be surprised to see me on one of those 'hoarder' programmes on TV...

Amongst the gems that I've unearthed is a little pile of programmes from Tony and I thought this would be an ideal opportunity for a feature in the next few issues. So, here we go.

This game, as you can see from the cover, was played on 20th February, 1965.

I'm going to reproduce the 'Club Notes' below which appeared on the intro page inside the programme:

'The cover to today's programme gaily abbreviates our guests' title to NORTH WALES, and, with abandon, omits RUGBY UNION. We are sure that they won't mind, but all the same, we'll apologise, beg their pardon, and hope that they'll have a good time and go home convinced, if they didn't know it before, that Old Deer Park is a thunderingly good place to come to.

For our part, we are delighted to welcome North Wales RU for their second visit. We suppose that, for their part, they are happy to make the trip to the big and wicked city but we fear that they might not be accompanied by their president, and our old friend, Arthur Rees who si now, as well all know, Chief Constable of Staffordshire.

If he is absent we would suggest to him that he should get a little order, if not law, into his private affairs and ask North Wales kindly to tell him so and to convey our very best wishes to him.

North Wales (we'll persist) admit that they have not enjoyed the best of playing records this season. They have lost on Merseyside (that's enough to depress anyone) and suffered a particularly heavy defeat early in the season at the hands (and presumably feet) of Aberavon - they're not the only ones and there's no disgrace attached to it.

Like other combined teams they sometimes have difficulty in fielding their strongest XV, but, they proudly claim, they believe in throwing the ball about. That'll put anybody at Old Deer Park in sympathy with them.



# FEATURE: LONDON WELSH v NORTH WALES

They like the fact that some of their players find their way to London Welsh - for example D. Gray and W. Williams - and we are happy to find Gerry Lougher, who played at full-back for them last year, on a wing this year.

Last year, too, they had W. J. Morris of Newport in their ranks and now express their pride in his being capped for Wales.

As, for technical reasons, it is difficult to add details to the list of players in the centre spread, we'll repeat the team again and show the players' parent clubs alongside their names:

R. Ll. Jones (Waterloo)  
D. W. Jones (Birkenhead Park)

F. Mitchell (Coleg Harlech)  
G. Lougher (The Army)  
E. Burford (Trawsfynydd)  
S. Addicott (Loughborough Coll)  
T. Crook (Birkenhead Park)  
J. Byrne (Birkenhead Park)  
N. Ashworth (Birkenhead Park)  
G. Evans (Bangor University)  
D. Blick (Birmingham)  
R. Fletcher (Dunstable)  
J. M. T. Rogers (Old Birkonians)  
C. S. Dutson (Wasps)

As a further part of the programme's Club Notes 'a keen supporter' had been watching the Druids play Ealing the week before and penned a report which was a little uncomplimentary to the Exiles' second team.

At the end of the report the 'Editor'

summed up, as follows:  
'This is the voice of an honest man. We are delighted to have such an unusual piece for this programme. Lots of people will be offended, but one man's opinion will have been freely expressed. That, we suspect, is exactly what we mean when we utter such bromides as 'the British way of life' or 'democracy' or 'freedom of thought'. Let's have more of it.'

## LONDON WELSH v. NORTH WALES

Saturday, 20th February, 1965

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

LONDON WELSH (Colours—Red)	POSITION	NORTH WALES R.U. (Colours—Gold)
1. H. J. Davies (Capt.) †	Full Back	1. R. Ll. Jones
2. W. H. O. Williams	Right Wing	2. D. W. Jones
3. J. Dawes †	Right Centre	3. F. Mitchell
4. G. Davies	Left Centre	4. G. Lougher
5. G. Richards	Left Wing	5.
6. T. B. Richards †	Fly Half	6. E. Burford
7. R. Richards	Scrum Half	7. S. Addicott
8. T. Davies	Front Row	8. T. Crook
9. G. Roberts		9. J. Byrne
10. E. Jones		10. N. Ashworth
11. C. Mallows	Second Row	11. G. Evans
12. D. I. Jones		12. D. Blick
13. A. Gray	Back Row	13. R. Fletcher
14. D. Richards		14. J. M. T. Rogers
15. J. Ryan		15. C. S. Dutson

Referee: Mr. G. R. Walker, L.S.R.F.U.R.

† International.

RESULT — G T Pts. G T Pts.

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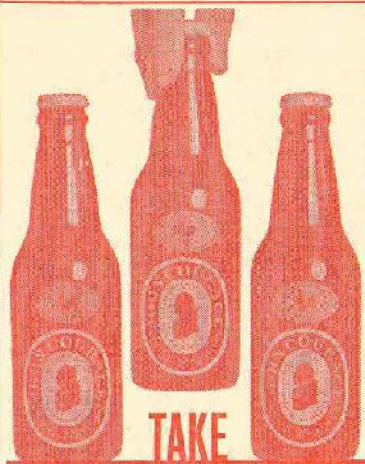
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### CLUB RESULTS TO DATE:

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag't.
1st XV	25	8	0	17	324	356
Druids XV	17	11	1	5	285	125
Dragons XV	19	10	0	9	204	185
'A' XV	18	15	1	2	269	64
Ext. 'A' XV	18	16	1	1	317	71
'B' XV	17	14	0	3	283	79
Total	114	74	3	37	1682	880

Next Home Match: 1st XV v. NEATH — 27th February, Kick-off 11.15 a.m.



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# Gogledd Cymru 17 v Welsh Guards 22 February 2008 at Old Deer Park

For those of you who like a bit of nostalgia, I couldn't resist putting this match report in after finding the match programme in my attic.

## GUARDS SNATCH VICTORY IN LAST PLAY OF GAME

The venue, Old Deer Park, the opposition the Welsh Guards in a pre-international game which both sides hope will become a regular fixture at the London Welsh home ground.

A brave and enthusiastic Gogledd Cymru team, depleted through injury and led by experienced back row forward Richard (Tin-tin) Jones set out for London on Friday night for this 12.00pm fixture.

Gogledd Cymru opened the score with a try by Sean McDonagh, the first Colwyn Bay player to turn out for the team. This was quickly followed by an equaliser from the Welsh Guards to take the score to 5 all. The Gogledd pack, containing newcomer Tom James, performed well, with the Llangefni front row pairing of Andrew Baston and Rhodri Owen outstanding. It was Baston who score the Gog's second try. At this stage Gogledd Cymru were in control and it looked as if they would win this game comfortably.

By half time the Welsh Guards had equalised and with the score at 10 all, everything was set for an exciting second half.

Light footed Rhodri Carlton Jones, playing at 10 for the first time, made a number of searing breaks and apart from final passes not going to hand Gogledd Cymru would have scored 2 or 3 more tries.

In the end it was the Guards who took the lead and with 10 minutes to go it looked as if they would win the game. Then, Sean MacDonagh took advantage of a Guards' knock on to hack the ball through. In the chase Mac-



donagh had the pace and composure to score.

Carlton-Jones added the conversion to take the score to 17-15. A Gogledd Cymru victory seemed certain when in the last of the game, the ball shot out sideways from a scrum in front of the posts. The Guardsmen's scrum half pounced on it and the easy conversion made the final score 22-17.

It was a bitter blow for the Gogledd Cymru but with clear improvements in both decision making and skill, the development process continues.

The teams were as follows:

### Gogledd Cymru

1. Aaron Jones
2. Andrew Baston
3. Rhodri Owen
4. Llion Trevor
5. Tom James
6. Dylan Owen
7. Dylan Hughes
8. Richard Hughes (Capt)
9. Rhys Hughes
10. Rhodri Carlton Jones
11. Edwyn Roberts
12. Gareth Coy
13. Iwan Edwards
14. Huw Parry

15. Sean McDonagh
  16. Gary Teeson
  17. Osian Williams
  18. Paul Jones
  19. Tom Watkins
- Coaches Jon Aby, Norman Stalker

### Welsh Guards

1. LCpl M. Lewis 23 (Capt)
2. LCpl M. Dwyer
3. LSgt M. Prosser
4. LCpl D. Ahearne
5. LCpl S. George
6. LCpl P. Quarmi
7. LCpl J. Saniger
8. LSgt C. Scarf
9. Gdsm J. Evans 15
10. Gdsm G. Carter
11. LCpl G. Davies
12. LCpl P. Lewis
13. LCpl N. Hiscock
14. Gdsm G. Greggson
15. LSgt D. Lewis 29
16. SSgt N. Wheeler
17. Gdsm G. Brownette
18. Gdsm M. Walters
19. LCpl L. Soko
20. Pte P. Delana
- 21 Sgt C Williams 205

Coaches:  
Sgt. J Hawkins  
Wo2 A Campbell





Following report kindly supplied by Will Morecombe

Saturday, 27th December

# Pontypool 29 v RGC 7

In spite of their long coach journey to Pontypool it was RGC rather than the home side who started the brighter and they were rewarded for their early endeavours when following a incisive line-break from right wing Huw Grundy, full-back Afon Bagshaw crossed the whitewash under the posts for the opening score of the game. - Rhodri Carlton-Jones adding the extras.

The lead was however to prove short-lived. RGC were penalised following a scrum 10 metres from their line and when they were penalised again after Pontypool had opted to have it reset the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty try to the home side and with the conversion being made from in front of the posts the scores were tied at 7-7.

Within 5 minutes of the re-start Pontypool were in the lead for the first time in the match.

In a manner reminiscent of RGC's score, their left wing punched a hole up the middle before off-loading to the supporting runner, Marc Thorley, who touched down under the RGC posts.

Again the extras were added to give Pontypool a 14-7 lead and the RGC cause was made no easier when their

number 8 and Captain Kelvin Davies was yellow carded just before the break for a late tackle.

Early in the second-half Pontypool extended their lead further when a cross field kick was grounded by second rower Ryan Thomas and although the conversion was missed any thoughts of an RGC comeback were extinguished by 2 further tries for the home-team.

The first came when the ball came loose following a scrum in the RGC 22 and was pounced upon by the Pooler scrum-half who off-loaded to Josh Porter to score, the second and Pontypool's fifth in total was a pushover dropped on by their number 8, Matthew Thomas.

It was a disappointing end to a disappointing performance from the RGC side, particularly given their bright start.

They will look forward to next Saturday's game v Blackwood at Eirias Parc to get their season back on track.



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Following report kindly supplied by Rob Griffiths, North Wales Daily Post

Saturday, 3rd January, 2015

## RGC 86 v Blackwood 0

Phil Davies was a happy man after watching his side run in 14 unanswered tries in a demolition job of Blackwood, but insists bigger tests lie ahead.

Davies had called on his side to show a reaction to last weekend's loss at Pontypool, and he got that and more as RGC ran out 86-0 winners.

It could have been a three-figure score, such was the level of dominance shown by the men in black at Parc Eirias, and Davies was pleased with the professional manner his side showed.

"We paid Blackwood a lot respect in the build-up and we paid them a lot of respect in the way we played for 80 minutes," said Davies.

"That was something we talked to the players about, and I was pleased because while you can only play who is in front of you, the basics of the game, catching, passing, our break down work, the execution, our set play is improving, so it was good improvements all round.

"When we had to defend we defended okay, so I was just pleased that the intensity that we have been working on over the past five or six weeks is starting to show.

"The next game now is Neath (in the Swalec Cup this weekend) which will be tough. We will make a few changes and try to refresh a few people and the squad by giving them a break from training here, so they have all had individual training plans which they will be working on at their own venues, because still there are a lot of players who have to travel an hour and a half or two hours to get here.

"That was more like it, but for me the reaction has got to come in our first away game which is next week at Neath.

"We had a good reaction, the crowd here are fantastic and the supporters are great, but the boys are very comfortable here.

"But they have got to be comfortable being uncomfortable, and that is away from home which is something we

*Phil Davies: "It is a good scoreline and the way we were playing and the execution of how we were doing things, it was going to give us that score – everything feels pretty good."*

have got to get better at. So this is a good feeling, but they have got to build on it."

Davies added there could be more to come from the North Wales outfit heading towards the end of the season.

He added: "The most pleasing thing was the way we did things and the intensity that we did them at, that was the most important thing for me.

"Credit to Blackwood I thought they continued to play and it is not easy on the third of January coming to North Wales, but they came and they had a go and I am sure they will learn a bit from the game. But it was a good performance from us.

"It is a good scoreline and the way we were playing and the execution of how we were doing things, it was going to give us that score – everything feels pretty good.

"We have got two away games on the bounce so next week will be a regeneration week really, and then we play Neath and then we are back into our routines for the Bargoed game. It is keeping building and seeing where the season takes us."

RGC took the lead as early as the second minute as winger Tom Blackwell scored the first of his four tries, before full-back Afon Bagshaw crossed on 12 minutes to double the tally.

The home side were helped by a sin-binning to Joe Phelps, the Blackwood second-row 'accidentally' catching the ball while retreating from an offside position after Harri Evans had carved the visitors open and been hauled down short of the line.



A man down it got harder for Blackwood as Andy Williams was credited with a try as the pack drove over, before Blackwell added his second for the bonus point on the half-hour mark.

He then strolled in for his hat-trick two minutes later with fellow winger Richard Hopkins adding a sixth try before the break, Rhodri Carlton Jones converting four of the six as RGC ran in 38-0 up at the interval.

At the start of the second half the hosts went further ahead, Evans dotting down after Maredydd Francis took the restart and fed Tiaan Loots, who broke free and sent his centre partner clear to score.

Kelvin Davies came up with the ball from a driving maul as the home side pack were rolling all over their opponents, while Blackwell added his fourth, before two quick tries from Bagshaw as the full-back and winger finished off some flowing moves involving Loots, Evans, Carlton Jones and Hopkins.

Skipper Davies touched down for his second try of the afternoon, before Williams added his second following a great burst up the middle by hooker Evan Yardley, while the last act of the day was reserved for Andy Baston to dive on the ball as the pack won a scrum against the head and the makeshift back-row had the easiest of scores. James Lang, who came on for the impressive Carlton Jones, enjoyed better luck with the kicking tee as he slotted four out of five attempts to wrap up a convincing win.



# RYGBI GOGLEDD CYMRU



# SWALEC/WRU CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES 2014-15

06/09/2014  
Cardiff Met v Swansea  
Bargoed v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Tata Steel  
Llanharan v Merthyr  
Narberth v Bridgend Ath  
Tondy v Newbridge  
Blackwood v RGC 1404

13/09/2014  
RGC 1404 v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Llanharan  
Bridgend Ath v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Tondy  
Newbridge v Narberth  
Swansea v Blackwood

20/09/2014  
Llanharan v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Tata Steel  
Cardiff Met v Bridgend Ath  
Tondy v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Newbridge  
Narberth v Merthyr  
Blackwood v Bargoed

27/09/2014  
RGC 1404 v Tondy  
Bridgend Ath v Swansea  
Bargoed v Llanharan  
Newbridge v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Narberth  
Merthyr v Glynneath  
Tata Steel v Blackwood

04/10/2014  
Narberth v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Newbridge  
Tondy v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Bridgend Ath  
Cardiff Met v Merthyr  
Glynneath v Pontypool  
Blackwood v Llanharan

11/10/2014  
RGC 1404 v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Swansea  
Bargoed v Narberth  
Newbridge v Tata Steel  
Llanharan v Tondy  
Pontypool v Cardiff Met  
Bridgend Ath v Blackwood

18/10/2014  
Cardiff Met v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Pontypool  
Tata Steel v Merthyr  
Narberth v Llanharan  
Bridgend Ath v Newbridge  
Glynneath v Bargoed  
Blackwood v Tondy

25/10/2014  
RGC 1404 v Swansea  
Bargoed v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Tata Steel  
Llanharan v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Bridgend Ath  
Tondy v Narberth  
Newbridge v Blackwood

01/11/2014  
Tata Steel v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Bargoed  
Cardiff Met v Llanharan  
Bridgend Ath v Pontypool  
Newbridge v Merthyr  
Glynneath v Tondy  
Blackwood v Narberth

06/12/2014  
RGC 1404 v Bridgend Ath  
Llanharan v Swansea  
Bargoed v Tata Steel  
Tondy v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Newbridge  
Narberth v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Blackwood

13/12/2014  
Newbridge v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Tondy  
Bridgend Ath v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Llanharan  
Cardiff Met v Narberth  
Merthyr v Pontypool  
Blackwood v Glynneath

20/12/2014  
RGC 1404 v Merthyr  
Narberth v Swansea  
Bargoed v Newbridge  
Tondy v Tata Steel  
Glynneath v Cardiff Met  
Llanharan v Bridgend Ath  
Blackwood v Pontypool

27/12/2014  
Pontypool v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Narberth  
Newbridge v Llanharan  
Bridgend Ath v Tondy  
Cardiff Met v Blackwood

03/01/2015  
Swansea v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Llanharan  
Bridgend Ath v Narberth  
Newbridge v Tondy  
RGC 1404 v Blackwood

17/01/2015  
Bargoed v RGC 1404  
Cardiff Met v Tata Steel  
Llanharan v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Bridgend Ath  
Tondy v Merthyr  
Narberth v Newbridge  
Blackwood v Swansea

24/01/2015  
RGC 1404 v Llanharan  
Tata Steel v Swansea  
Bridgend Ath v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Tondy  
Newbridge v Glynneath  
Merthyr v Narberth  
Bargoed v Blackwood

31/01/2015  
Tondy v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Bridgend Ath  
Llanharan v Bargoed  
Cardiff Met v Newbridge  
Narberth v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Merthyr  
Blackwood v Tata Steel

07/02/2015  
RGC 1404 v Narberth  
Newbridge v Swansea  
Bargoed v Tondy  
Bridgend Ath v Tata Steel  
Merthyr v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Glynneath  
Llanharan v Blackwood

14/02/2015  
Glynneath v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Merthyr  
Narberth v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Newbridge  
Tondy v Llanharan  
Cardiff Met v Pontypool  
Blackwood v Bridgend Ath

28/02/2015  
RGC 1404 v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Swansea  
Merthyr v Tata Steel  
Llanharan v Narberth  
Newbridge v Bridgend Ath  
Bargoed v Glynneath  
Tondy v Blackwood

07/03/2015  
Swansea v RGC 1404  
Cardiff Met v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Llanharan  
Bridgend Ath v Merthyr  
Narberth v Tondy  
Blackwood v Newbridge

28/03/2015 (SW Cup QF)  
RGC 1404 v Tata Steel  
Bargoed v Swansea  
Llanharan v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Bridgend Ath  
Merthyr v Newbridge  
Tondy v Glynneath  
Narberth v Blackwood

04/04/2015  
Bridgend Ath v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Llanharan  
Tata Steel v Bargoed  
Cardiff Met v Tondy  
Newbridge v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Narberth  
Blackwood v Merthyr

11/04/2015 (SW Cup SF)  
RGC 1404 v Newbridge  
Tondy v Swansea  
Bargoed v Bridgend Ath  
Llanharan v Tata Steel  
Narberth v Cardiff Met  
Pontypool v Merthyr  
Glynneath v Blackwood

18/04/2015  
Merthyr v RGC 1404  
Swansea v Narberth  
Newbridge v Bargoed  
Tata Steel v Tondy  
Cardiff Met v Glynneath  
Bridgend Ath v Llanharan  
Pontypool v Blackwood

25/04/2015  
RGC 1404 v Pontypool  
Glynneath v Swansea  
Bargoed v Merthyr  
Narberth v Tata Steel  
Llanharan v Newbridge  
Tondy v Bridgend Ath  
Blackwood v Cardiff Met







Following report kindly supplied by Rob Griffiths, North Wales Daily Post

Saturday, 10th January, 2015

## Neath 26 v RGC 32

RGC assistant-coach Josh Leach put Saturday's historic Welsh Cup victory at mighty Neath down to strong defence.

The North Wales side recorded the biggest triumph in their three-year history as they turned over the six-time Welsh Cup winners 32-26 at The Gnoll.

"The game was won with our defence - and that is one of the things we have been working hard on in training over the past few weeks," said Leach.

"We knew we had the ability to win against a team at Premiership level and today we proved it.

"I think we showed some defiance in our defensive work - which was clearly shown in the lead-up to the second try from Tom Blackwell."

It was RGC's first win against Premiership opposition and a debut victory in the Swalec Cup following eliminations at the hands of Ebbw Vale and Swansea in the past two seasons.

The Gogs opened the scoring after some early pressure with a James Lang penalty. The home side hit back with a try from Alex Humfrey.

Afon Bagshaw and Richard Hopkins were looking lively when they had the ball, and it was clear the visitors wanted to run it at every opportunity.

It was the boot of Dafydd Howells that added to the Neath lead with a penalty before Lang replied with a three-pointer.

The RGC defence was being tested to the full and to a man they worked hard at the breakdown.

Neath's back-line were trying to break the gain line with darting runs from Ashley Evans and Howells, but RGC picked up the turnovers at vital times.

Another penalty from Wales Under-20s fly-half Howells then made it 11-6 to the Welsh All-Blacks.

Lang missed a penalty but it was not long before the Gogs picked up their opening try.

RGC worked the scrum well before Blackwell ran in score.

As half time approached Neath made a break down the wing and to the surprise of most people at The Gnoll, Dean Howell was given a try by the referee when it looked like his foot was well in touch. The home side went into the turnaround 16-11 ahead.

It was always going to be a big second half for RGC and when Neath were reduced to 14 men with a yellow card they were given an opportunity to close the gap, but Lang pushed a penalty wide.

However, RGC then edged ahead when Leach and Andrew Williams made a break before Evan Yardley burst through the defence to ground by the posts. Lang converted to make it 18-16.

The home fans were starting to get restless as the hosts struggled to break through the RGC line.

Tiaan Loots and Blackwell were making some big tackles when it looked like the home side were going to score.

As the game nudged towards the 60-minute mark, things turned in RGC's favour.

The Premiership team worked 14 phases as they camped on the Gogs line before the travellers worked the turnover.

The ball was spun wide to with a superb pass by Lang and Blackwell did the rest. The winger ran 60 yards, evading a tackler and stepping inside with pace to score a fantastic try.

It was the RGC speedster's sixth try in two games, Lang supplying the extras for a 25-16 lead.

Neath landed a penalty quickly to close the gap before RGC claimed a fourth try.

Richard Hopkins hit the gain line before timing a pass perfectly for Bagshaw to sprint under the posts.

The whole team, including the substitutes, surrounded the Wales U20s player, clearly showing how much that score meant to everyone. Lang's boot added another two points for 32-19.

The final 10 minutes were all about digging in for the North Walsians and working hard at the breakdown.

Neath were looking to their pack to do some damage and when RGC's Bryn Williams was yellow-carded for a deliberate knock-on, The Gnoll crowd noise picked up.

A score was given to the hosts via a penalty try after pressure from the forwards and the tension built on and off the pitch.

RGC stuck to the job in hand, stood strong in defence and won a couple of penalties to clear the danger.

When the ball was kicked out at the final whistle the RGC celebrations on the pitch will be remembered by everyone involved.

A truly magnificent day for North Wales rugby.







©RGC1404



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## Neath v RGC: Pictures by Alan Skeates



©RGC1404



©RGC1404





# NWRUC Dinner raises £2000 for WRU Charitable Trust



*Pictures and report by Gary Williams*





The recent Dinner, held at Coleg Llandrillo, and organised by the North Wales Rugby Council, resulted in a magnificent figure of £2000 being donated to the WRU Charitable Trust.

The evening kicked off to a memorable start with a medley of songs by the North Wales Rugby Choir.

The after-Dinner speakers were Dennis Gethin, President of the Welsh Rugby Union, Gareth Davies, the recently-appointed Chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union and Tony Gray, President of the North Wales RU.

Compere for the evening was Dilwyn Morgan who was ably assisted during the auction by Rupert Moon and Hywel Roberts.





# New sponsors for North Wales Cup competitions announced

The NWRUC are delighted to announce that the North Wales Cup have new local joint sponsors in Zip World and G M Jones Ltd who have agreed a two year deal to ensure the future of this prestigious competition. This year's finals will take the form of a Rugby Extravaganza week end on 2/3rd May with five finals been played coupled with other special attractions at Parc Eirias.

Zip World was set up by local daring entrepreneur and keen grass roots rugby supporter Sean Taylor who has put Wales on the map for adrenalin tourism.

Sean was named Business Person of the Year in last year's Daily Post Business Awards.

He was chosen after setting up a woodland high ropes course, Europe's longest and fastest zip wire and an underground giant trampoline attraction - which have put global attention on the region and helped boost tourism.

Zip World won international acclaim when it opened Zip World Velocity at Bethesda in March 2013. The newest member to Zip World, Titan, opened in June 2014 at Llechwedd Slate Caverns, near the historic slate min-

ing town of Blaenau Ffestiniog. This is the first 4 person zip line in Europe and the combination of Velocity and Titan makes North Wales the zip line capital of the world. Zip World Titan is also home to Bounce Below, a unique subterranean experience!

G M Jones Ltd are a leading Building Contractor in North Wales with a proven track record in providing quality projects with a long standing reputation for integrity, professionalism and excellence. Led by Directors, Mark Jones and Tony Jones, they provide a comprehensive range of construction services including: New Build, major alterations and refurbishment, property upgrades and insurance repairs. With a strong reputation for achieving excellence in quality, innovation and delivery the team at G M Jones Ltd ensure a level of service that meets and exceeds expectations.

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Managing Director, Mark Jones was one of the first rugby coaches in North Wales to achieve the top Level 3 qualification whilst coaching Clwb Rygbi Nant Conwy.

Dai Davies NWRUC Chairman said "I would like to express the appreciation of the NWRUC Executive and all the Rugby clubs in North Wales to Sean and Mark for their sponsorship.

With their support we can now continue and aim to build on the past success of the cup competition which is now our seasons premier event and is such an important part of our community game.

I am very pleased that two local long established rugby personalities with close links to grass roots club rugby have got together to undertake the sponsorship partnership which hopefully be mutually beneficial to the NWRUC, ZIP World , and G. M. Jones Ltd during the ensuing two years I am sure that with their involvement our cup competition will continue go from strength to strength.'

Pictured below at the recent NWRUC Dinner are Mark (third from left) and Sean (second from right).







**Aberavon Schools U15 12  
v RGC East U15 18**

**A great win on the road for the RGC East youngsters.  
Many thanks to Andy Edwards for supplying the photos.**





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# NORTH/MID WALES RUGBY NEWS

All the latest news from around the region - please send your club news to [midwalesrugby@aol.com](mailto:midwalesrugby@aol.com)



## COBRA raise £3000 for Marie Curie Trust



A great effort by COBRA's players who completed the Three Welsh Peaks in 24 hours challenge. The picture shows some of the players presenting the cheque to Kaye Derwas of the Marie Curie Trust.



### SWALEC PLATE 2014-2015 QUARTER FINAL

To be played the weekend of 28th  
March 2015

Skewen v Nant Conwy  
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Ystrad Rhondda v Loughor  
Newcastle Emlyn v Aberystwyth

### SWALEC BOWL 2014-2015 ROUND 5

Games to be played on 21st February,  
2015

Burry Port or Ystradgynlais  
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Nantfyllon v Lampeter Town  
Llangefni v Ynysddu  
Nantymoel v Ynysowen  
Cambrian Welfare v Aberaeron  
Oakdale or Aberbargoed  
v Swansea Uplands  
Cwmavon v Tonyrefail or Treharris  
Cefn Coed or Abercarn v Caerleon

### SWALEC Cup Round 2

(games to be played weekend of  
February 21)

### RGC v Cross Keys

Bedwas/ Pontypool v Cardiff Met  
Tata Steel v Newport  
Carmarthen Quins v Bridgend Athletic  
Llandovery v Swansea  
Llanharan v Cardiff/ Bridgend  
Merthyr v Newbridge

### Builth Wells are looking for a Junior Section Fixture Secretary

The Junior Section is looking for a new fixture secretary following the decision of Sian Davies to stand down due to other commitments. The Junior Section would like to thank Sian for her hard work over the last few seasons and wish her all the best for the future.

If you have some free time and would like to give something back to the club or indeed just help out we would be very grateful for your assistance. Please contact the Junior Section Chairman, Adam Johnstone, on 07918 039906.





# NORTH/MID WALES RUGBY NEWS

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## WRU Chairman impressed with development in North Wales

WRU chief says region has 'its act together' but still feels there is more to come in developing the game. By Rob Griffiths.

Gareth Davies is hugely impressed with the massive strides that have been made in developing the game in North Wales – but he still insists there is more work than can be done.

Davies, who last year was elected as chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, sees a high level of potential in the north. 'The first thing to say is I have been impressed with what has been done in North Wales,' said Davies.

"It has always been, I suppose, the soccer centre of Wales for a couple of reasons.

"Soccer is very strong up here, probably because of the pull of Merseyside and Manchester. But when you think of the investment from the local authority (Conwy Council) and the support of the Union to establish a more competitive side through RGC, it is promising.

"I'm also impressed by the work of the North Wales Rugby Council. If you look at figures in terms of funding of clubs, North Wales has got their act together, because they run so many teams. What they have done is mobilise their troops very well, admittedly against a low base to start with. The strong hold of rugby has always been down south

"They are making in roads and making noises in a positive way, and obviously it would be great if RGC could break into a higher state also. You are seeing players coming through and getting regional contracts.

"Some are staying in Wales and some are going across the border, so I think there are moves afoot."

Wales under-20s have set up permanent home in Parc Eirias and will be again playing their home games – against England and Ireland – in Colwyn Bay in this season's junior Six Nations championship.

The matches have been a great success in terms of attendances and Davies believes that highlights the thirst for top-class rugby in the area.

He added: "I've been living in Leeds for the last few years and I have been over for the under-20 games at Parc Eirias. Seeing the facilities and seeing the interest. Bearing in mind most of the nights of the games have been played in horrendous conditions, I've seen six, seven, eight thousand fans turn out. It is testament to the idea that something is working and we need to keep that going.

"The authorities are facing tough times, we won't be taking a step backwards. I know discussions are on going between the Union and the local authority and are hopefully going in the right direction."

Davies insists he would like to see more growth in rugby in North Wales, but doesn't feel throwing money at the situation would be an answer.

As a former chief executive of the Newport Gwent Dragons, Davies knows how to run a region on a shoe-string. He admits he would like to see RGC advance up the ladders, but also hopes to see the game in general grow within the whole of the region.

"I think we need to look at, and I know the executive are looking at strategies going forward, and that would include North Wales, both on a community, club and semi-professional level, so there isn't one answer like giving more money to a regional team," said Davies.

"There isn't an easy answer. In an ideal world, yes, we would like to strengthen North Wales and create an even deeper development area, to develop their own players, for themselves and also for Wales and some of the other regions.

"But it isn't a case of why won't you do it, it is not just a case of saying, yes, here you go. There is a knock on effect in terms of financial performance.

"It would be great to do something, but that will follow with the overall strategy that the Union is working on at the moment.

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All the latest news from around the region - please send your club news to [midwalesrugby@aol.com](mailto:midwalesrugby@aol.com)



## Welshpool RFC's Barry Williams wins Coach of the Year Award



Congratulations to Welshpool's Junior Academy Director, Barry Williams, who won the coveted Coach of the Year Award at the Montgomeryshire Sports Awards, held recently at Theatr Hafren, Newtown.

The club were also nominated for the Club of the Year Award but unfortunately didn't manage to bring some more silverware home.

**Please send all your news items to [gwcymru1@aol.com](mailto:gwcymru1@aol.com)**

## Presentation to Austin Thomas at NWRUC meeting

Pictured right is Tony Gray, President of the NWRUC presenting a clock to Austin to recognise the many years of hard work that Austin did whilst being the WRU Community Rugby Manager for North Wales.

The presentation took place prior to the recent NWRUC meeting at Parc Eirias. Also in the picture (far right) is Dai Davies, Chairman of the NWRUC

## Galeri, Caernarfon to stage new one man show about rugby legend Ray Gravell

In February and March, The Torch Theatre Company will present and tour a one-man show based on the life of rugby legend and cultural icon Ray Gravell.

In February and March, The Torch Theatre Company will present and tour a one-man show based on the life of rugby legend and cultural icon Ray Gravell. The show will include two performances at Galeri, Caernarfon on 2-3 March.

Raymond 'Ray' William Robert Gravell was a Welsh rugby union centre who played club rugby for Llanelli RFC. At international level, Gravell earned 23 caps for Wales and was selected for the 1980 British Lions tour to South Africa. In his later career, he became a respected broadcaster and occasional actor. Then In October 2007 Gravell, a man who for many embodied what it is to be Welsh, passed away aged 56, after succumbing to complications resulting from contracting diabetes. Known to millions for his legendary exploits on the rugby field, 'Grav' was and is so much more than that. An actor, a cultural icon, a father, a husband, a man with a life packed



full of stories that deserve to be heard once more.

Written by Owen Thomas, Grav the play has been written with the blessing of Mari, Ray's widow, and contributions from his Welsh and British Lions team mates.

Performed by Gareth Bale (The Indian Doctor, High Hopes, Pobol Y Cwm, Richard Parker, Bedroom Farce, Boeing Boeing, Neville's Island, Up 'n Under, Bouncers), Grav will remind the world once more of a unique life well lived.

Grav is on at Galeri for on Monday [02.03.15] and Tuesday [03.03.15] at 19:30. Tickets [£9 | £7] are available online at [galericaernarfon.com](http://galericaernarfon.com) or from the Box Office on 01286 685 222.







# Judgement Day III just the ticket at £10 per head

**Judgement Day is back at the Millennium Stadium for 2015 with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and Regions confirming today that tickets will cost just £10 per head to see all four of Wales' GUINNESS PRO12 sides in action under one roof.**

Judgement Day has all the ingredients now to grow and grow, it is a hot ticket for any rugby loving fan in terms of the action and drama that will be played out on the pitch and the spectator experience we are able to offer at the Millennium Stadium.

Judgement Day III goes on sale at 12 noon tomorrow (Tuesday) and marks a new era for the East versus West double derby clash - leading the WRU and the home Regions to agree a reduced, one-off, single, all category price for the event, which will take place this year on Saturday 25th April.

Cardiff Blues host the Ospreys to kick-off the third incarnation of the back-to-back matches at the national ground at 2.30pm, before Newport Gwent Dragons welcome the Scarlets to town in a match which kicks-off soon after the final whistle is blown on the first (4.45pm).

Tickets are available at just £10 from [WRU.wales/tickets](http://WRU.wales/tickets), the WRU ticket office on Westgate Street, each of the four regions (see below for full details) or by calling ticketmaster on 0844 847 1881.

Existing season ticket holders at the host regions, Newport Gwent Dragons and Cardiff Blues, are accommodated on their existing tickets as in previous years, but all other fans are encouraged to buy early to avoid the rush for last minutes sales which a £10 price ticket will naturally encourage.

The action packed double-header first captured the public's imagination in 2013 when a 36,000 strong crowd donned tribal colours and headed for the Welsh capital to watch their sides face-off at one of the world's greatest rugby stadia.

The event, which is the only time the country's top rugby talent gathers in one place outside of international matches, attracted similar interest when it was repeated last Easter.

But the WRU and the Regions have ambitions to build the event into a must see match-day for all rugby fans after signing up to retaining the fixture for at least the next six years (alongside the ground-breaking Rugby Services Agreement all parties signed this summer).

And the Judgement Day III hosts have taken the extraordinary step of dramatically dropping the entrance fee to just £10 in all categories for one year only, to ensure fans of all four Regions, and top class rugby in general, find their way to the Millennium Stadium for a bumper day out.

"The event already has a magnificent following amongst Welsh rugby fans and the experiment of 2013 has been more than vindicated by the attendances and also the standard of rugby on show each year," said WRU chief executive Roger Lewis.

"But now we have been able to bring another important and attractive factor into play, for this year only, tickets will be at the incredible price of just £10 per head.

"The fans can also be assured that this fixture will take pride of place in our sporting calendar at least until the year 2020.

"Judgement Day has all the ingredients now to grow and grow, it is a hot ticket for any rugby loving fan in terms of the action and drama that will be played out on the pitch and the spectator experience we are able to offer at the Millennium Stadium.

"The Regions, and the Cardiff Blues and Newport Gwent Dragons in particular who will host their West Wales colleagues, have fully backed the concept and these matches have the real potential to become part of the folklore of Welsh rugby year on year, talked about in clubs and pubs throughout the land for years to come."

The Millennium Stadium will be divided into East and West supporter zones for match-day with a host of initiatives designed to make Judgement Day III a unique experience whether fans are making their Stadium or Regional rugby debuts or are more seasoned supporters.

All factors point towards Judgement Day III being a mouth-watering prospect for

all rugby fans - competition between each of the four Regions should be at its highest with positions in the PRO12 table, leading to qualification for Europe, still in the balance and post six nations rivalry will be at its most intense.

Director of Rugby Mark Hammett said: "Judgement Day III will see all the best players under one roof and both games should be fantastic spectacles.

"I really enjoyed the festive derby games between the regions where we saw big crowds and games full of passion and intensity. I've been told Judgement Day is a truly memorable occasion in the rugby calendar in Wales with a double-header of big games. I hope fans from all four regions get right behind it and come to the Millennium Stadium in big numbers."

Head Coach Kingsley Jones commented: "I am sure that playing at the Millennium Stadium is an ambition for many young Welsh players; so Judgement Day is a great opportunity to fulfil that ambition whilst playing for their region.

"These players will play in front of a great crowd in what is, an important fixture which everyone wants to win.

"It really is a great showcase for both the fans and the players and I am sure that everyone involved with the Dragons is looking forward to it."

#### FULL TICKET INFO:

Tickets for Judgement Day III, costing £10 each, can be purchased from:

WRU Ticket Office: 02920 822432

([www.wru.wales/tickets](http://www.wru.wales/tickets))

Cardiff Blues Ticket Office : 029 2030 2030

([www.cardiffblues.com/tickets](http://www.cardiffblues.com/tickets))

Scarlets Ticket Office : 0871 871 8088

([www.scarlets.co.uk](http://www.scarlets.co.uk))

Newport Gwent Dragons : 01633 674990

([www.newportgwentdragons.com](http://www.newportgwentdragons.com))

Ospreys : 0844 815 6665

([www.ospreysrugby.com](http://www.ospreysrugby.com))

or by calling ticketmaster on 0844 847 1881





## Wales women - focus now on Six Nations



Wales have narrowly missed automatic qualification for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017.

Report and picture by Welsh Rugby Union.

Wales finished eighth in this year's Women's World Cup held in France.

We now know what is required for qualification in the next World Cup and so there is now a huge focus on the forthcoming Six Nations campaign

World Rugby has confirmed the qualification process for the next Women's Rugby World Cup, which sees the top seven teams from Women's Rugby World Cup 2014 automatically qualify, meaning reigning champions England, Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand, USA and Australia are confirmed for the 2017 tournament.

Wales finished eighth in this year's showpiece tournament in Paris which now leaves Rhys Edwards' side with two avenues of qualifying for 2017.

The two best ranked Six Nations Women's teams (outside of those

teams already qualified) from the combined results of the 2015 and 2016 Women's tournaments will qualify which means Wales, Scotland and Italy will be fighting it out over the next two campaigns.

The lowest ranked side in the Women's Six Nations (combined 2015 and 2016 results and outside of the teams already qualified) and the Rugby Europe Women's champion will then contest a home/away playoff match.

"We now know what is required for qualification in the next World Cup and so there is now a huge focus on the forthcoming Six Nations campaign," said Edwards.

"The Dubai Sevens was a real eye-opener for some of the girls where they discovered exactly what it takes to perform at the highest level.

Hopefully they can learn from that and take those experiences into the Six Nations where we need to focus for the full 80 minutes in each and every game to get over the finish line in games we have just let slip over the past couple of occasions.

"The way the games have fallen in this year's Six Nations, we've got every chance of getting some good results," added Edwards.

"We begin at home in Swansea against an England side which will probably have quite a few changes before travelling to Scotland and France before taking on Ireland at home before completing the campaign in Italy."

Head of Rugby World Cup Alan Gilpin said: "The record-breaking success, appeal and excitement of Paris 2014 underscored just why women's rugby is one of the world's fastest-growing team sports.

"We're happy that the qualification process for the 2017 tournament is robust and will ensure the 12 best teams in the world will be competing."

The tournament, which was won by England in Paris last August, will move to 2017 to maximise synergy with the Olympic and Rugby World Cup Sevens cycles. The event will return to a four-year cycle after 2017.



## WRU Super Cup starts this weekend



The action started this weekend for the clubs of North/Mid Wales this weekend as they play the first game in their respective Pools.

The recent World Cup certainly showed how the women's game had progressed and this, coupled with the efforts of all at grass roots level in Wales, means that the WRU Women's Super Cup now has a healthy 32 clubs in the structure, allowing for four full quarter finals in the Cup, Plate, Bowl and Vase, giving all those taking part a realistic chance to progress to the silverware.

The action starts this weekend for the clubs of North/Mid Wales as they play the first game in their respective Pools.

Caernarfon Ladies, playing in Pool A, start their campaign away at Penybanc on Sunday. Their league comprises of Caernarfon, Penybanc, Maesteg Celtic, Kidwelly, Gorseinon, Skewen, Whitland and Seven Sisters.

Fixtures for Caernarfon are as follows:  
25th January - Penybanc v Caernarfon  
1st Feb - Maesteg Celtic v Caernarfon  
22nd February - Caernarfon v Kidwelly  
1st March - Gorseinon v Caernarfon  
8th March - Caernarfon v Skewen  
22nd March - Whitland v Caernarfon  
29 March - Caernarfon v Seven Sisters

The Region's other four teams, Welshpool, Pwllheli, Abergele and Colwyn Bay, have a little Pool of their own (E) and their fixtures are as follows:

25th January  
Abergele v Pwllheli  
Colwyn Bay v Welshpool

1st February  
Pwllheli v Welshpool  
Abergele v Colwyn Bay

22nd February  
Colwyn Bay v Pwllheli  
Welshpool v Abergele

1st March  
Pwllheli v Abergele  
Welshpool v Colwyn Bay

8th March  
Welshpool v Pwllheli  
Colwyn Bay v Abergele

29th March  
Pwllheli v Colwyn Bay  
Abergele v Welshpool

If you can make it, please go along and watch some of these games, you will be astounded by the standard.





## Nant Conwy U15 22 v Bala U15 10



Following match report kindly supplied by Eifion Harding.

Mor braf oedd cael gweld y genod yn cael y sylw dyledus am unwaith ar faes Pant Carw, Nos Fercher. Cymerodd bron i ddeugain o genod ran mewn gem hynod gystadleuol o'r cychwyn hyd at y chwiban olaf. 'Roedd strwythur pendant i'r gem a'r dyfarnwr Mr John Roberts yn lliwio y cyfan yn ddyheug dros ben.

Nant agorodd y sgorio gyda hyrddiad cryf ar yr ochr dywyll yn dod a chais i Ruby Roberts. Yn gyffredinol 'roedd y tim cartref ychydig yn gryfach yn gorfforol na'i gwrthwynebwyr ond pan gyrhaeddodd y bel ddwylo medrus Sara Fflur Jones yr asgellwraig bu i'w chyflymder dwyllo pawb nes ei gweld yn sgorio cais ardderchog i ddod ar sgor yn gyfartal.

Nodwedd i'w chanmol yn fawr oedd safon y taclo o du pawb a'r ysbryd y chwaraewyd y gem ynddo. Manteisio ar bel yn adlamu oddi ar un o amd-diffynwyr Bala wnaeth Cari Jones i gael yr ail gais gyda un o'r prysura ar y cae, Heledd Roberts yn llwyddo gyda'r trosiad.

Cyn yr hanner sicraodd bylchiad a chyflymder Sara Roberts fod cais i'w henw yn y gornel.

Rhaid canmol Bala yn arw am ddangos dycnwch yn ystod yr ail hanner gan y medrai y gem fod wedi mynd allan o'i gafael wedi i bel rydd adlamu yn lwcus i ddwylo Lea Thomas i'w galuogi i sgorio pedwerydd cais Nant.

O'r pwynt hwnnw bu'r gystadleuaeth yn ffyrnig am bob pel rhydd a meddwl chwim Sara Fflur Jones oedd eto ar waith pan yn dewis cymryd cic gosb sydyn ac yna gweu ei ffordd i'r linell gais i roi pump pwynt haeddiannol iawn i'r ymwelwyr.

Gobeithio yn fawr y bydd hyn yn gychwyn ar gyfres o gemau tebyg ar gyfer genod o amrywiol oedrannau yma yn y Gogledd. Profwyd fod digon o dalent yn bodoli ond cael gwirfoddolwyr egniol i roi y cyfle iddynt. Llongyfarchiadau i'r holl chwaraewyr boneddigaidd a diolch i Miss Teleri Davies a Mr Euros Jones o du Bala a Miss Elin Royle a Miss Cenin Eifion o'r Nant am sicrhau fod cynifer wedi cerdded ar ac oddi ar y cae gyda gwen lydan.

It was pleasing to see nearly forty girls compete with such enthusiasm from start to finish at Pant Carw on Wednesday evening. The game had distinctive structure with referee Mr John Roberts steering proceedings astutely.

Nant opened the scoring with a strong blind side charge by Ruby Roberts. In general the home side were a little physically stronger but when the ball reached the capable winger Sara Fflur Jones she showed a surprising turn of speed to leave defenders trailing in order to score a fine individual effort to allow Bala to draw level.

The standard of tackling was a revelation throughout with the spirit of gamesmanship being maintained constantly. Cari Jones was able to

benefit from a spilt ball amongst the Bala backs to score the second try with totally committed Heledd Roberts adding the conversion. On approaching half time a break by Sara Roberts coupled by her pace, saw her score out wide.

Bala were to be congratulated for their continued commitment as the game could have gone out of their reach when a loose ball was pounced upon by Lea Thomas to score Nant's fourth try.

From this point onwards every ball was fiercely contested with the quick thinking of Sara Fflur Jones once again to the fore when she took a quick tap penalty and weaved her way to the try line to score a fully deserved try for the visitors.

Hopefully this game could be the trigger to promote a number of possible encounters at various age groups for girls throughout the North. There is obviously an abundance of talent if suitable volunteers can be ensured to give them the opportunity.

Congratulations to all the players and a special thanks to Miss Teleri Davies and Mr Euros Jones of Bala and Miss Elin Royle and Miss Cenin Eifion of Nant who ensured that so many took to and left the field of play with such a broad smile.

**If you are in charge of a Ladies/ Girls team at your club, please send in your news to [gwcymru1@aol.com](mailto:gwcymru1@aol.com) for inclusion in future issues of The Oval Zone.**



# RGC and Wales Double Header at Eirias

**It has been announced that RGC will play their home game against Narberth on Saturday 7th February 2015 before the U20s Wales versus England game.**

RGC will kick off against Narberth at 4pm and the U20s clash will be 7.30 kick off.

A showcase of Welsh rugby is set to attract thousands of fans to Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay when two top class matches take place at the venue on the same day.

The Welsh Rugby Union has unveiled the unique double-header on Saturday 7 February in its latest move to help grow the developing support base for the game in North Wales.

Wales Under 20 take on double world champions England in their opening Under 20 Six Nations fixture at 7.30pm and to kick off a true celebration of rugby in the development region, RGC will play their SWALEC Championship home game against Narberth at 4pm.

The RBS 6 Nations game between France and Scotland will also be shown on the big screen and in the fan zone inside Colwyn Leisure Centre between the two live games. Local choir Cor Meibion Colwyn will entertain the crowd before the Wales Under 20 game kicks off to add to the big match atmosphere.

WRU Group Chief Executive, Roger Lewis, said: "From Narberth in West Wales to RGC in North Wales we are all united in rugby.

"That unity has inspired us to grasp the opportunity to make a statement about the importance we place on rugby in North Wales.

"We are seeking to grow the game right across our nation and Saturday 7 February will show how great rugby is accessible all around Wales.

"From top flight internationals at the Millennium Stadium to professional rugby at our great Regional venues, an attractive and competitive Principality Premiership and the vital grass-roots game on all our doorsteps we have a lot to offer.

"The Wales Under 20 side has made Eirias their home in recent years and RGC has carried the banner for North Wales rugby up the divisions and now into the Championship.

"It will be a great day on a fantastic weekend for Welsh rugby and I urge as many fans as possible to head for Eirias to savour the atmosphere and enjoy the spectacle."

RGC currently sit mid table in the SWALEC Championship, with their next two home games - this weekend against Llanharan, followed by fourth-placed Narberth a week later, crucial games for Phil Davies' side.

Rupert Moon, General Manager, RGC added, "This a fantastic chance for the North Wales rugby family to support both of their 'home' teams for the price of one ticket. Our clubs and schools will also be able to take advantage of a group offer in order to make this a day to celebrate not only North Wales rugby but the future of the game in Wales."

Wales Under 20 coach coordinator Allan Lewis said, "We are very much looking forward to returning to our home ground in Colwyn Bay. The support the team receives there is outstanding and the players are very grateful for that and the boost it gives them.

"England are certainly the team to beat at this level having won the last two Junior World Championships but it is a challenge we will relish and embrace.

"We are excited by our young squad and team of coaches and we have a playing philosophy which underpins our ultimate aim of developing capable and rounded players for the senior national team. We are fully aware that this will take time, but game management, heads-up decision making and enhancing skills under pressure are key areas we want to work on."

Supporters are urged to purchase tickets for these games soon to avoid disappointment. Tickets are on sale now from the official WRU website ([wru.wales/tickets](http://wru.wales/tickets)), from [venue-cymru.co.uk](http://venue-cymru.co.uk), by calling 01492872000 or to personal callers at Colwyn Leisure Centre and Venue Cymru, Llandudno.

Prices have been frozen for the second consecutive year for Wales Under 20 meaning seated tickets are £15 and terrace tickets are £10 and £5 for Under 16s and OAPs.

District J clubs, North Wales schools and Narberth RFC will be offered a group ticket discount.

Hospitality is available at £100pp (inc VAT) from Richard Orme: 01492 577914, [richard.orme@eirias.org.uk](mailto:richard.orme@eirias.org.uk)

Wales U20 home Six Nations fixtures:

Saturday 7 Feb  
RGC v Narberth 4pm,  
Wales v England Sat 7th Feb 2015 7.30pm (S4C)  
Friday 13 March  
Wales v Ireland 7.45pm (BBC Wales)







**Rhyl v Colwyn Bay by Paul Brookes**







**RGC WEST U15 v RGC EAST U15 by Tom Last**

