

22nd ANNUAL SQUASH PRESENTATION
30th June 2017, Angel Hotel. Castle St, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan CF10 1SZ

Lights dim...

GRASSROOTS FILM TO BE PLAYED

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, good evening and welcome to the Wales Squash and Racketball Awards evening here at the Angel Hotel.

I'm Sam Lloyd and what an evening we have in store as a celebration of the 2016 and 2017 season. And there's plenty to celebrate as we are a small squash playing nation that continues to be supported by Sport Wales and consistently punches above its weight in all areas of the sport.

It is fantastic to see so many of you here tonight from all across Wales and a big SHOUT OUT to just a few squash clubs here this evening – St Mellons , Barry Leisure Centre, Rhiwbina , Cardiff, Abergavenny, Bridgend, Llanishen, Llanwrst, from North Wales, Meads from Pembrokeshire, Llanfyllin, Newtown Powys.

Now tonight we want you all to get involved so please feel free to tweet pictures and your own personal experience of the night by tweeting #walessquashawards. And there will be a prize awarded to the person with the best tweet of the night.

There's no doubt we share the Sport Wales vision of uniting a proud sporting Nation where we endeavour to get every child hooked on sport for life and we strive for a nation of Champions. We aim to achieve this through increased partnerships with Local Authorities, players, parents and volunteers by ensuring clear targets and realistic goals managed by strong corporate governance.

So plenty to be proud about as tonight we will honour many individuals and teams.

So let's start by highlighting the work that is being done with the under 11's and under 13's and the point of entry into the WSRB player pathway.

Under 11's Under 13's Film to be played (2016 Film)

And the enthusiasm of the girls and boys nearly broke our equipment as the mic levels were on overdrive but fantastic to see just how much these guys enjoyed the tournament!

Can I also take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors – Sport Wales, I Dare, Dunlop, Bourse, Bangor University, Salming, Merchasyllum, LasersRus . Ladies and Gentlemen let's give them a huge round of applause.

Right moving on and the South Wales squash League continues to be the 'backbone' of club squash in Wales. Huge thanks must go to League Manager Mike Howe and the 176 volunteer Captains that field a team week in week out!

Can I please ask Board member **Richard Bennett** from Bangor University and **Mark Davies** from Wrexham Brymbo onto the stage to present the trophies..

So onto the winners and runners up and this is the plan. As I call each team please come up to the stage in the order I announce where you will receive your trophies from **Richard and Mark** and then please make your way to the side for photographs. So here goes...

Winter 2016

Runners up of Two East – Abergavenny B

Runners up of One East – Cardiff B

And Runners up of Premier 2 – Rhiwbina B

Spring 2017

Winners of Two East – Rhiwbina C

Winners of One West – Bridgend A

And Winners of One East – Cardiff B

Meanwhile in North Wales the Eryri (Eruri) Division 2 Champions are Llanwrst

And the Eryri (Eruri) Division 1 Champions are also Llanwrst

Moving on, the runners up of the Premier League are Rhiwbina A SRC

And the Premier Champions are St Mellons!

And great to see the guys from Llanwrst – lovely to see you here this evening and thanks for making the effort to come down from Snowdonia.

**Well done to all teams and my thanks to Richard and Mark.
Ladies and Gentlemen give the players a huge round of applause.**

Now it's not only the players we should be proud of here in Wales, as we have huge success in terms of the level of refereeing. So let's take a look at some of the work that goes on behind the scenes...

Referee film to be played

Let's move on to the Juniors as we present our young stars with their caps, but first

Can I ask the ladies no 1 and world ranked **16 Tesni Evans** and Mens no 1 Joel Makin world ranked **47** to make their way onto the stage for a chat before handing out the caps...

Q&A Joel and Tesni

Well thank you both for joining us and showing our aspiring youngsters what is possible with the right attitude and commitment!

Right let's congratulate the players who are here tonight on their success and once you have left the stage please make your way to the photography area for a group photo!

UNDER 13 FIVE NATIONS MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS ON 31st March – 2nd April 2017 IN CARDIFF, WALES. – 4th

- Dan Lewis, **Josh Davies**, **Lewys Audsley**, **Nero Harms**, **Alyx Kelleher**, **Olivia Stephens**, **Emma Jameson**

UNDER 15 FIVE NATIONS MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS ON 31st March – 2nd April 2017 IN CARDIFF, WALES. – Bronze Medal

- Ryan Lewis, **Tate Harms**, Rhys Evans, **Joshua Audsley**, Bronte Wright, Lucy Jones, **Georgia Lincoln**

UNDER 19 EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS ON 8th – 16th APRIL 2017, IN LISBOA, PORTUGAL – 6th

- Elliott Morris Devred, Dan Christopher, Jordan Williams, Ciara Richards, **Megan Thomas**

U15 EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PRAGUE, CZECH REP ON 11-14 MAY 2017 – 8th

- **Tate Harms**, Rhys Evans, Dan Lewis, Bronte Wright, Lucy Jones

U17 EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PRAGUE, CZECH REP ON 11-14 MAY 2017 – 10th

- Lewis Poole, Ryan Lewis, Ciara Richards, **Megan Thomas**, **Srikar Mummidi**

Well done to all the players and thanks to Tesni and Joel and good luck for Manchester! Can I **ask I Dare Sponsor Kevin Murray** to come to the stage

Q&A Kevin

New sponsor, really helping to develop squash in Wales

Big thank you for making such an impact

Ok moving on with our caps presentation and the older age groups...

U18/20 Test Matches Dublin - Champions

- **Hannah Davies**, **Abby Hicks**, **Liam Eason**, **Dan Bergin**, Ricky Davies, Rob Luke

SENIOR EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HELSINKI, FINLAND ON 26-29 APRIL 2017 – **GOLD MEDALS DIV 2**

- **Joel Makin**, Peter Creed, **Emyr Evans**, David Haley, Elliott Morris Devred

SENIOR EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HELSINKI, FINLAND ON 26-29 APRIL 2017 – **Historic Bronze medals Div 1**

- **Tesni Evans**, Deon Saffery, **Jenny Haley**, **Lowri Roberts**

LADIES WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IPARIS, FRANCE – 27TH NOVEMBER / 3RD DECEMBER 2016

- **Tesni Evans**, **Hannah Davies**, **Lowri Roberts**, Nia Davies

WSRB Representation 2016/2017

- Peter Creed(**Ask Adrian Creed to collect**) & **Tesni Evans** Welsh National Champions 2016/2017

Well done everyone! Now as I look around the room what is truly fantastic is the cross section of ages here tonight as that's what is fantastic about squash – you can take up the game at whatever age and anyone can pick up a racket and get involved while it's a sport that can enhance a person's life both in physical well-being and socially – so let's now focus on shall we say the mature players and have a closer look at what is going on here in Wales in terms of not just our youngster, but the Masters too..

No 4

Masters Representation

Masters film(Generations over 75) to be played

So moving onto the Masters Representation and they are:

Kerry Davies, James Walters, Sian Johnson, Lynne Davies, Richard Murphy, Tony Smith, Alan James, Graham Bastian, Mark Davies, Jon Davies, Jenny Jones, Nick Dyer and Geoff Perrett, Rachel Cooper.

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please can you make your way onto the stage...

Well done all and thank you Kevin

To present the next series of Awards please give a huge round of applause for WSRB High Performance coaches Greg Tippings, Nick Birt and David Evans.

No 5

Special Awards

Now onto the other Awards of the night and let's start with Young Coaches of the Year so let's see our 4 finalists.

Young Coach of the Year to be played

And in fact it was impossible to pick out an outright winner as all 4 do such a fantastic job so please congratulate our 4 Young Coaches of the Year - **Gwion Roberts, Sarah Clode, Saqib Meer, Ryan Parry**

Onto Volunteer of the Year. Now this is such an important Award as we rely so heavily on our Volunteers and these Individuals play such an important role within WSRB so let's have a look at this year's winners.

Volunteer of the Year to be played

Ladies and Gentlemen please give a round of applause for all our Volunteers - **Richard Plenty /Bob Perry, Jason Salisbury and Dylan Griffiths.**

Right onto Club of the Year and can I ask a representative from the following Clubs to make their way onto the stage to receive their nomination certificates – **Llanishen , Llanwrst and Llanfyllin.**

Well done guys. Now let's find out more about the winning Club

Club of the Year to be played

Ladies and Gentlemen please give a round of applause for **Rhiwbina Squash Club!**

Q&A Richard Murphy (Chair), Bob & Richard

Well done to everyone at the Club. Now Rhiwbina Squash Club was also shortlisted for the Disability Sport Wales' Club of the Year which is also a fantastic achievement so let's see the feature on the Club that was played at the FDSW Awards..

FDSW Film to be played

Now onto the Club Coaches of the Year and let's find out more...

Coach of the Year to be played

So huge congratulations to **Jenny Jones from Carmarthen, Bob Perry from Rhiwbina and Chris Barker from Pembroke.**

We have now reached the final Award of the night and that is the Special Award and Services to Squash – there's no doubt that both these individuals have shown absolute commitment, dedication and passion for the sport that we all love. One individual has been Secretary of Rhondda squash club since 1977 – he's a qualified squash coach and referee, he's been Chairman,

Secretary and League Secretary. Meanwhile the other recipient formed Dysynni Squash Club, worked tirelessly to become a Junior Coach, was selected to represent Wales in the Home Internationals on several occasions. And if you haven't already guessed who I am talking about let's see some images of the 2 winners..

Special Award film to be played

Ladies and Gentlemen the Special Award for Services to Squash goes to David Gobey – Mid Glamorgan League organiser for 40 years and John Batty club coaching in Tywyn for 50 years.

Congratulations to David – I'm afraid John or David can't be with us tonight but we send them our very best.

And so that's the formal part of the night done - congratulations to all our winners and our thanks to.....

Satish Mummidi for the photographs , the back room team.....Elizabeth , Lynne Davies, Elizabeth, Sarah Danielle, Roy, Angel hotel.

While Mike would like to say a few words...

- Thank
- Lloydbell/Sam/Lucy/Josh
- WSRB Team
- All clubs attending /All guests in 3 years 50 to 150 -
- Praised all volunteers , 160 team captains running teams across Wales , many committee members driving squash in Wales.
- Highs & Lows-
- All representational results/medals above – summary
- Inclusivity – representation from all corners of Wales
- Llantwit Fadre ,2 courts closed ! Lost 1 court in Tywyn!
- Gained 1 court in Rhiwbina and planning an additional court in Wexham Brymbo.
- Llanishen – may have 6 teams next year
- Powys membership increase by 20% with Racketball
- The Future – WSRB prioritise school programmes 4,000 target next year– recruit children into squash clubs
- Llantrisant Open entries up 20% - Llanishen & Hirwaun have events this summer
- Rhiwbina – PSA bringing professional squash to Wales , 1st time for 10 years
- THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Raffle

Best tweet..... 1 box balls

So enjoy the rest of the night - get your dancing shoes at the ready as there is now a disco until 1 but I think you'll all agree a fantastic night of celebrations once again as WSRB has a lot to shout about. So that's the formal part of the evening done but I will leave you to watch the film about the Under 11 and Under 13's as this is all about the future and life blood of our sport! And I think you'll agree we have a lot to shout about here in Wales. Goodnight...

Under 11/13 film to be played