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www.cardiffcitytabletennisclub.com

Volume 1, Issue 1

### Dates for your diary:

- 14th– 15th Feb.– Junior British League teams in action at RAF Cosford.
- 22nd Feb.– Dragon tournament held at the club for juniors.
- 28th Feb.– 1st March– Senior Team Championships held in Sophia Gardens.

## Club Teams Edge Closer to Promotion in Senior British League

Both of the club's senior mens teams remain firmly in the promotion chase after January's dramatic penultimate weekend of the British League season. Whilst Wiktor Dzwonkowski, Simon Noutch, Patrick Thomas and Lawrence John travelled to Halton for their Division 1 fixtures, Lloyd Gregory, Jiakun Lin, Tommy Heydon and Pouyan Javanmard went to Southampton to represent Cardiff City II in Division 5.

The club teams were in ruthless form in the day's early games with both sides recording their first 8-0 total victories of the season. Trickier tests lay in wait, however, and that afternoon



**Lloyd Gregory advises Pouyan Javanmard as Cardiff City II achieve a win and a draw in the penultimate weekend of the season.**

would see Cardiff City I go down to their first defeat of the season in their clash against league leaders Drumchapel II, whilst Cardiff City II were held to a draw against Kingfisher III.

Cardiff City I's strong season so

far means that despite the defeat they are still breathing down the neck of the leaders, trailing only one point behind Drumchapel. If they can sustain second place through the final weekend then Cardiff will be heading for the play-offs, where victory would mean becoming the only Welsh side in the sport's Premier Division.

Meanwhile Cardiff City II's strong showing in January keeps them in their own promotion mix-up, currently occupying third place. If Cardiff can maintain their form through the season's final games in March, a realistic run of fortunate results elsewhere could see them take back second place and ensure automatic promotion.

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## Changes to Timetable Mean More Opportunities to Play

The New Year has brought some changes to the club timetable, allowing members and casual players more chances to take advantage of the facilities. The updated timetable can be viewed in full on the club website but regular users can rest assured that the more established sessions are staying exactly where

they are.

Every weekday afternoon in 2015 the club shall now be open from 2 until 5 for casual 'Pay as you Play' sessions. If you have the afternoon free, or simply feel like taking a late lunch, this is a great opportunity to bring a friend and make use of the tables whilst the club is quiet.

The popularity of our Wednesdays' over 50s sessions last year has also led to the addition of an extra session for this age group between 10 and 12 every Monday morning. Last year's special offer for these sessions is still in effect, allowing newcomers to have their first three sessions completely free.



You can visit the blog for yourself at [www.cardiffcitytabletennisclub.wordpress.com](http://www.cardiffcitytabletennisclub.wordpress.com).

*“The competition is open to all, so anyone keen to compete should get in touch now so that we can contact them when places become available.”*  
- Nathan Thomas



You can find a link to listen again to the interview on the club's Twitter and Facebook pages.

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## Club Launches New Blog

January saw the launch of the club's brand new blog page. As well as providing all the latest in club news, the blog aims to report on some of the hot topics in modern table tennis in a form which is accessible to non-experts. The first few posts have already received several hundred views from table tennis fans as far away as Australia and so the club is hopeful that in the months to come the blog can become an established source for table

tennis content online, assisting in further raising the profile of Cardiff City TTC within the sporting community.

The site shall also host extended match reports on all of the club's competitive action; so if you've been representing the club at any level, then keep an eye on the blog to see if you get a mention.

If members have any suggestions for what they feel we should be covering on the blog then we would love to hear from you.

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## New and Improved Sunday League is Back

The Club's 'Sunday Super League' was recently relaunched with an evening of competitive action on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The revamped league shall run in a series of six week 'season' cycles in which sixteen players shall compete for cash prizes awarded at the end of every cycle.

A significant shift in format has accompanied the relaunch. Rather than consisting of a group

stage and then a knockout, the tournament will now invite competitors to 'play for places', with a minimum of four games guaranteed for every player against opposition close to them in the league tables.

Keen club members filled all sixteen places and several reserve places ahead of the league's opening round of games, making for some highly competitive matches.

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## Nathan Interviewed on Radio Cardiff

Head Coach Nathan Thomas took to the airwaves last Saturday as the club was featured as 'Club of the Week' on Radio Cardiff's afternoon sports show 'Griff's Locker Room.' Nathan's interview could be heard on FM radio across the city and has since been uploaded to the internet.

Nathan spoke to Griff about the continuing development of table tennis as a highly accessible and social sport, moving from the youth club tables where many people first encountered the game to the increasing popular 'ping pong bars' that are now springing up in nightlife hotspots around the UK.

## Dragon Competition Proves a Roaring Success

Thirty-nine young talents got an early taste of competitive table tennis in January, as the club again hosted the TTAW's monthly Dragon Tournament.

The under 9s category was particularly hotly contested, with the youngest category at the tournament attracting more than twice the number of entrants it had in previous months. Organisers were thrilled to see so many young competitors getting the kind of head start in the game

that many older players envy.

The tournament was aimed at relative beginners to the sport under the age of 15. There were four categories and Cardiff City members Kavin Durai and Dan Jones both took home trophies for their respective age groups, with Dan topping both the under 13s and under 15s categories.

The next Dragon Tournament will be held at the club on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



Application forms for the next Dragon Tournament can be found on the TTAW website: [www.ttaw.co.uk/tournament-entry-forms/](http://www.ttaw.co.uk/tournament-entry-forms/)

## Club Featured in Cardiff Student Newspaper

An article entitled 'Table Tennis: the New Student Sport in Cardiff?' appeared last month in the Gair Rhydd, the Cardiff University student newspaper.

The article focused heavily on our club, which is located close to the university campus, and the report included an interview with

Cardiff City TTC's head coach Nathan Thomas.

With a paper circulation of over 8,000 copies, the issue was published during the university's busy 'refreshers week', when students are encouraged to try out new activities ahead of the new term.

*"The sport is enjoying a real boost in popularity, particularly with young people. We're really keen to be a part of that and so we're hoping to build a strong base for the club within the student community."*

*-Nathan Thomas in the Gair Rhydd*

## Cardiff Games Hosted at Club

Working with Sport Cardiff, the club has played host to the Cardiff Games' Inclusive Day.

The Cardiff Games are a raft of inter-school competitions in eighteen different sports, ranging from Rugby to Cheerleading. The Inclusive Day gave local pupils the chance to try out table tennis in a non-competitive environment.

Pupils from three schools attended on the day, packing out the club tables. At their pupils insistence, even the teachers were unable to resist joining in and were soon asking to borrow bats for themselves.



**Taffy the Tiger**, mascot of the Cardiff Games, launched the cross-sport competition for Cardiff schools back in 2014.



## Cardiff City Table Tennis Club - 'A club for all.'

Cardiff City Table Tennis Club is Wales' only dedicated, full-time table tennis centre. Located in Cathays in the heart of Cardiff, our state of the art facilities are open to the public six days a week for casual 'Pay as you Play' sessions as well as international-standard coaching.

The club extends a warm welcome to players of all abilities and levels of experience. Newcomers to the sport can have as much access to our tables as the pros, and can also access individual or group coaching from our friendly team of top quality coaches. The more competitive players will also find themselves well catered for by club teams going strong across the British and local league systems.

Since opening in 2012 the club has built strong links with the local community. Our coaches work alongside the council initiative Sport Cardiff, sharing their ambition of providing sporting opportunities for every schoolchild in the city. The club constantly seeks to build partnerships with local businesses and organisations, supporting the enterprises of our members and neighbours wherever we can.

The club prides itself on its exceptional spirit of inclusivity. We believe that almost anyone can take part in our sport either in its full format or when various adaptations are made. All facilities have been specially designed for wheelchair use, and many of our coaching team have experience of competing at the highest levels of para-athletics.

Our overall ambition is to increase participation in table tennis amongst all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities both leisurely and competitively. We aim to promote our facilities as a major asset of the city, whilst maintaining the character of the centre as a friendly community hub where anyone is welcome to join us for sport, play and socialising.

### Cardiff City TTC

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#### Get in Touch...

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**Twitter:** [@CardiffCityTTC](https://twitter.com/CardiffCityTTC)



**Wordpress:** [cardiffcitytabletennisclub.wordpress.com](https://cardiffcitytabletennisclub.wordpress.com)

### Club Announces New Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities



**A 6x2ft banner advertising your business could be the first thing visitors to the club see as they walk in to our centre.**

Attracting an average of over two hundred players and friends through the door each week, Wales' only full-time table tennis centre is rapidly developing a name for itself as one of Cardiff's leading sports facilities. Now Cardiff City Table Tennis Club is offering the chance for local and national companies to be amongst the first to partner this unique community club with a growing national reputation.

Our sponsors can expect a 2x6 ft. banner of their own design to be manufactured and hung above the tables closest to the club's entrance. Future issues of the club newsletter will also feature customised advertisements from our sponsors, who can also expect extensive exposure through the club's social media channels and on the club website homepage.

Our sponsorship package offers more than

simply prime advertising space, however. Partnering with a community sports club generates invaluable goodwill around a brand, as people come to associate a certain business with a sport or pastime which they feel passionate about.

Businesses can take advantage of the package at only £200 for a full calendar year of sponsorship.

The club expect to expand their range of advertising opportunities in the future, with shirt sponsorship packages becoming available in advance of the next British League season, when the club may well be featuring in the UK Premier Division.