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Dates for your diary:

- 22nd March– Dragon Tournament held at the club for juniors.
- 28th– 29th March– Club’s two senior teams play in final weekend of Senior British League held in Runcorn and Southampton.
- 30th March– April 12th– Club opening hours subject to change due to Easter Holidays.
- 6th April– First ever ITTF World Table Tennis Day.

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Juniors Triumph in Thrilling British League Finale

The club’s first season in the Junior British League ended this month with the Boys team bringing home their first piece of silverware, and the club’s Girls side narrowly missing out on promotion. Club coaches travelled to Shropshire with nine of the most promising young juniors in February for the final weekend of play. While the boys battled their way to the top of Division 4A, one of the youngest teams in the British League impressed as the club were denied promotion in the Girls Division 3 by only two points.

After a frustrating run of draws and close defeats on the Saturday, Cardiff City Girls responded brilliantly by winning all of their games on Sunday.

Their strong finish to the season left them in a respectable fourth



The Girls and Boys teams pose with the club’s newest trophy after the final weekend of play at RAF Cosford in Shropshire.

place, with plenty of promise to build upon next season. One Cardiff player who left a particular impression on the Girls’ competition was thirteen year old Lydia John, who gained the second highest player average in her division.

In the Boys league a strong Ormesby side had held top spot in Division 4A since the early

stages of the season, with Cardiff breathing down their necks from second place. The destiny of the trophy eventually rested on a dramatic final game between the division’s two leaders. The title-decider saw Cardiff mounting a sensational come back from being two sets down to win the match 4-2 and snatch the championship in the final round of matches.

Coaches praised the performances and behaviour on show from the club’s talented young players, Nathan Thomas highlighted how involvement in the junior league would aid the players’ development.. “It’s such valuable experience,” Nathan later said, “their success is great news for the future of the club.”

Club Coaches and Players in International Action

Early March saw players and coaches from the club representing their national sides in competitions across Europe.

Club regulars dominated the Team Wales Cadets selection ahead of ten hectic days that would see them compete in the Italian Open just days before returning to Wales to host table tennis’ own Six Nations tournament. The club’s young

players all excelled themselves on international duty but it was eight year old Anna Hursey who came away with a medal, winning bronze in the Six Nations.

While the club’s Cadets took on the home nations in Cardiff, two of their coaches were already picking up medals at the Hungarian Para Open. Representing Holland, Danielle de Jong was eliminated in the quarter finals of her singles com-

petition but claimed silver in the team event the following day. Nathan Thomas likewise tasted silver after defeat in the final of the singles competition, but later added to the Team GB medal tally by securing a bronze in the team event. Club member Paul Karabardak was Team GB’s most prolific player at the Open though, boosting his chances of selection for Rio 2016 by winning gold in both the singles and the team events.

Racketlon Players Train at the Club Ahead of Welsh Open



A poster for Racketlon, a combination of tennis, squash, badminton and table tennis rounds.

Accomplished squash, badminton and tennis players were at the club in February to brush up on their table tennis skills ahead of Cardiff's annual Racketlon competition.

This burgeoning combination sport, comprising of sets in each of the four major racket disciplines, recently held its third annual Welsh Open at the David Lloyd Leisure Centre in Cardiff.

Ahead of this year's competition several Racketlon players with backgrounds in other sports approached the club seeking a

boost to their skills ahead of the table tennis round of the competition.

"Many of those who came to the club were already coaches in their own sports so they had a good deal of relevant knowledge", said Coach Lloyd Gregory of his first experience coaching Racketlon players.

"Rather than teaching them from scratch, our job was more about finding what skills might be transferable. Perhaps unsurprisingly, we found that the tennis players mastered spin quickly and the

squash players would play fast and hard. It all made for a really interesting challenge."

"Ideally we would have liked to have more time with the Racketlon guys to make some real progress with them", admits Nathan Thomas. "Hopefully next year that can be arranged. Maybe they'll even be some club members in the tournament for us to cheer on."

Party Planning Underway for World Table Tennis Day

"The idea behind this day is to gather Table Tennis enthusiasts, attract people who usually don't play table tennis, promote the love of our sport, and ideally engage new players for the long term."

*Thomas Weikert,
ITTF President*

The International Table Tennis Federation has recently announced that April 6th will mark the first ever official World Table Tennis Day. Events are being planned across six continents with a global emphasis on attracting new players to the sport.

The date was chosen because April 6th is already recognised by the United Nations as an

'International Day of Sport for Development and Peace'. This year the day happens to fall on the Easter Monday Bank Holiday, meaning that in the UK many people will be off work with more time to get involved in the celebrations.

To honour the occasion the club intends to invite local people along to our facilities for a day of free table tennis, entertainment

and socialising. We would like to give the event an international theme to celebrate both the global reach of the game and the multicultural character of the local area. If you have any ideas for what the event should feature, or if there's anything that you would like to contribute yourself, then please get in touch.

Keep an eye on the club website and social media channels for further information.

Dragon Tournament Equals Record Number of Competitors



A poster for the monthly junior event bearing the slogan "so you think you can slay the Dragon?"

The club matched its best ever turnout for the junior competition last month as thirty-five hopefuls valiantly took on the Dragon in February.

Club members Felix Bockelmann-Evans and Anthony Fazio emerged victorious from the under 9s and under 13s categories respectively, but all the club's young members

competed well against players from across Wales and the West of England.

"There were plenty of new faces this month and that's just what we want", said Coach Nathan Thomas, "but there are still players who've been to a few Dragons before and weren't at the last one. If we can get that combination of returning players

and first-timers then March's competition could be the biggest one yet.

March's Dragon Tournament is held at the club on Sunday 22nd and is open to players under 15 of any ability. Entry forms can be collected in the club or from the Table Tennis Wales website.

New Division Added to Popular Sunday Super League

After a successful relaunch of the competition last month, interest in the club's Sunday competition has proved so high that a second division is now being introduced.

The current league, which runs in 'season' cycles of six weekly match days, began after sixteen players registered their interest in late February. Since then the club has received so many enquiries about the competition that it has now been announced that once the current six week season comes to an end in April, a 'Sunday Super League: Division

2' will be added for the next cycle of six match days. This development doubles the amount of players able to take part in the league.

For the coming 'season' cycle, entrants to the competition will be assigned by the club to one of the two divisions based on a balance of the player's ability and their wishes. In future seasons a promotion and relegation element may be introduced into the competition.

The new system means that the league is now open to an even wider range of abilities. Whilst the competition is not recommended for complete beginners, the Sunday League presents a fantastic opportunity for any player wishing to improve their game with regular competitive play.

Anyone keen to be a part of either division should get in touch with the club as soon as possible.



A sign-up sheet for the league is currently up in the club on the pillar in front of the office.

Your Opinion Counts with Launch of First Club Questionnaire

Both members and casual players using the Cardiff City facilities are being offered the chance to help shape the future direction of the club by completing a short questionnaire gathering information about how the facilities, coaching and services on offer might be improved.

Paper copies of the questionnaires will be available in the club throughout March and

an online version of the survey can now be accessed via the club's website. Those completing the form are welcome to remain anonymous and paper copies of the form can be returned discretely to a deposit box.

The club would be grateful if as many players as possible could find just a couple of minutes to complete the survey. As the club develops our intention is to make

sure that our users remain as happy as possible and that the club does not lose its community feel. We would like to get your feedback on a range of issues, so that the club and its players can move forward together.

The response we've had so far has been fantastic and the club would like to thank anyone who has already taken part.

Student Night Only £1 For the Rest of Spring Term

Although the club's regular Tuesday evening students-only sessions have been gradually growing in popularity over recent weeks, the club remain eager to further establish our sport among the large local student population, and so have again slashed prices in a bid to introduce more young people to the sport.

At only £1 for a full two hours of

play, Student Night is now the cheapest slot on the club timetable. This reduction in price will run until at least the end of the semester in June, offering students a novel way to unwind through a stressful period of coursework and exams.

Students also receive a discount at all of the club's 'Pay as you Play' sessions, which are now running every weekday

afternoon in addition to the pre-existing evening sessions. The club are hopeful that these afternoon openings could prove particularly popular with students.

If users of the club have any suggestions for what more could be done to reach out to the local student community then please do let us know.



The popularity of table tennis among young people in London (pictured) has made the sport a central part of the city's nightlife.



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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.



Club Announces New Sponsorship Deal with CPS Homes



The CPS Homes logo is a regular sight on sales and letting boards around the City.

The club are pleased to announce that CPS Homes have become our first ever commercial partner after CPS agreed to support the development of the club over the next twelve months.

CPS Homes are Cardiff's leading lettings and estate agency. Founded in 2000 as a Cathays-based lettings business, CPS has used its thirteen years of experience in the Cardiff property market to extend its portfolio on to management services and, most recently, to residential sales. Today CPS oversees nearly eight hundred

properties right across the city.

If you're looking for somewhere to live in Cardiff then the CPS website can provide a huge database of properties ranging from student digs to luxury apartments. If you have a property that you would like to let or sell then CPS can also offer a free marketing appraisal to players from the club, helping you get your sale or let off the ground.

The club are particularly delighted to be partnering CPS because of the reputation of their business, their roots in the local area and their pre-existing

ties to high level sports in the city; CPS Homes are already official partners to the Cardiff Blues rugby team.

Next season the club intends to extend the sponsorship packages we have on offer, with shirt sponsorship, online match broadcasting and naming rights to competitions all likely to be available. The support provided by our commercial partners will help take the club to the next level, improving the facilities and services on offer for all table tennis fans in Cardiff.