

Welsh CA 2002

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The year 2001 was a fairly quiet year for Welsh croquet following the excitement of 2000, with no visiting teams at Dyffryn and only an away match in Switzerland. However 2001 did see the inaugural handicap weekend for the Trickey Trophy, which was played over a blazing hot weekend at the beginning of June. Once again the Welsh Championship was blessed with fine weather. It has only rained twice in the eleven years the event has been held. On an individual front Chris Williams won the Welsh Championship for the third time and the Trickey Trophy handicap weekend. Tony Mrozinski was the Welsh representative at the European Championships together with Garry McElwain who had come through a difficult qualifying event at Dyffryn. Four Welsh players featured in the WCF World Championship in London in July but none played well enough to survive the blocks.

On the team front Wales beat Scotland for the first time in 3 years to avoid the wooden spoon in the Home Internationals, which were held at Carrickmines in Ireland for the first time. The trip to Switzerland was a very successful and enjoyable one with Wales running out comfortable winners by 16 games to 3.

In 2002 Wales will travel to Scotland at the beginning of July to contest for the first time the Celtic Shield, which is a handsome trophy, kindly donated by Bryn Lewis. The match will be played at the new Scottish headquarters at Meadows West in Edinburgh. September will see Wales travel to Belgium for the first time when we take on Belgium at Genva. The croquet lawns are situated at the five star Chateau du Lac hotel, so it should be a wonderful gastronomic experience for all those involved.

At the end of July we will be attempting to retrieve the Atlantic Plate from Canada, who will be playing at Dyffryn for the second time. The match will be played midweek.

Croquet in 2002 has already got underway for Kevin Ham, who was selected to play for Wales in the recent World Golf Croquet Championships, which was held at the new National Croquet Center at Palm Beach, Florida. A report from Kevin will be included in next year's newsletter.

It is not yet known whether the 14 point World team

Championship will take place in Cairo in October. At the time of going to press it is looking unlikely. However one event that is definitely on is the WCF World Singles Championship that will be held in Wellington New Zealand in December. Wales will definitely have one place and I have made a strong case for us to get two places.

Changes at Dyffryn.

Regular visitors to Dyffryn will be interested to know that there are plans to move the tea room to the old restaurant area next to the main house near the lawns. Hopefully they will get a licence and we will once again be able to easily get a drink whilst playing.

Dates to note for 2002

June 15-16 Home Internationals (Nottingham)
June 15-16 European Qualifier (Ramsgate)
June 22-23 Handicap tournament (Dyffryn) £12
July 6-7 Scottish CA v Welsh CA (Edinburgh)
July 26-28 Welsh Championship (Dyffryn) £20
July 31-Aug 1 Wales v Canada (Dyffryn)
Sep 14-15 Belgium v Welsh CA (Genva)
Sep 20-22 European Championship (Jersey)
Dec 2-8 World Championship (New Zealand)

Please let Chris Williams know of your availability for any of the above events. It makes selections a lot easier if we know who is available rather than having to chase round. Send entry fees and annual subscription to Chris Williams. Make cheques payable to the Welsh CA (not to me). Do it now before you forget.

Please note that the Handicap Weekend will be two days this year. The closing date for the Welsh Championship will be Tuesday 4 June. Places will be allocated on that date based on the current ranking list.

Chris Williams
Ty Twmpyn
3 Wentwood Drive
Llanvaches
CALDICOT
NP26 3BR
01633-400853

Home Internationals 2002

Wales returned to third place in the Home Internationals by beating Scotland 3-2 in their decisive final match; both countries having previously lost to England and Ireland. In the title decider Ireland narrowly beat England 3-2 to clinch the title for the second time in 3 years.

For the first time the Home Internationals was held at Carrickmines in Ireland. Carrickmines only has 4 lawns, which in the past would not have been enough for the Home Internationals. However the increase in speed of games, and the relatively easy lawns, meant that it was possible to delay the match between the number ones of each country until one of the other matches had finished.

In the end the whole event was finished by 5pm on the Sunday afternoon; not much later than when five or more lawns were used.

The draw, which was made prior to the start of play, saw Wales pitted against England, Ireland and Scotland in that order. Wales then, according to the other teams, sprung a surprise, with their order of Ian Burridge at 1,

Chris Williams at 2, Tony Mrozinski at 3, William Prichard at 4 and debutant Sam Tudor at 5. The main objections to the order seemed to be that Ian was currently ranked at 5 with Sam at 1. However the Welsh selectors looked at historic reasons, as well as the fact that the Welsh have a tradition of playing debutants at 5.

So England were first up for Wales and early on it looked as if there was a possibility of an upset as Wales took the first game in three of the matches, with Chris Williams beating Chris Clarke with a triple and William Prichard and Sam Tudor gaining narrow wins over Dave Kibble and Dave Foulser respectively. However the early optimism soon vanished as the English won game after game to run out winners by four matches to nil, with the Prichard Kibble match halved at one game all. In the other match Ireland crushed Scotland 5-0 with only one game dropped.

The second match for Wales against the home country, Ireland did not last long as Ireland ran out comfortable winners 4-0 with William Prichard again managing to halve his match; this time against Alan

McInerney. The only bright spot in the other matches was Ian Burridge taking the first game against Ed Cunningham.

The England Scotland match ended at 3-2 to England, which sounds closer than it actually was. The three England wins were all in straight games.

On the Saturday evening the Irish CA treated us all to a marvellous dinner at Carrickmines.

The final round of matches were played on the second day and it was a good job that we had most of the day to play them since over half the matches went to a third game. Wales triumphed 3-2 over Scotland with Tony Mrozinski clinching the vital game to beat David Magee by 3 in the third; Tudor and Williams having beaten Appleton and Patmore earlier and Burridge having gone down to a resurgent Ian Bond fresh from his previous days triumph over David Maugham. In the title decider Ireland just managed to beat England 3-2 with Simon Williams beating David Foulser by 6 in the third and deciding game when the countries were tied at 2 matches all.

Carrickmines was an excellent venue for the Home Internationals. Most of the players stayed in Trinity College, Dublin, which is right in the centre of Dublin, about 20 minutes drive from Carrickmines. Hopefully the Home Internationals will return there on a regular basis.

Home Internationals 2001

Carrickmines June 2001

Ireland 3 wins
England 2 wins
Wales 1 win
Scotland 0 wins

England beat Wales 4.5-0.5

Maugham beat Burridge +22tp, +25
Clarke beat Williams -26tp, +20, +16
Cordingley beat Mrozinski +10, +3
Kibble drew Prichard -3, +25
Foulser beat Tudor -8, +15, +15

Ireland beat Scotland 5-0

Cunningham beat Bond +17, +16tp
M McInerney beat Patmore +16, -4, +2
R McInerney beat Magee +25tp, +26
A McInerney beat Kirby +3, +23
Williams beat Appleton +22, +13

England beat Scotland 3-2

Maugham lost to Bond +26tp, -4, -2
Clarke beat Patmore +26tp, +13tp
Cordingley lost to Magee +24tp, -16, -14
Kibble beat Kirby +5, +22tp
Foulser beat Appleton +26, +22

Ireland beat Wales 4.5 - 0.5

Cunningham beat Burridge -3, +24, +26tp
M McInerney beat Williams +25, +25tp
R McInerney beat Mrozinski +23tp, +17
A McInerney drew Prichard +14, -11
Williams beat Tudor +9, +6

Ireland beat England 3-2

Cunningham lost to Maugham -9tpo, -14
M McInerney beat Clarke +13, +18tp
R McInerney beat Cordingley -23, +26tp, +7tp
A McInerney lost to Kibble -9, +3, -26tp
Williams beat Foulser +5, -11, +6

Wales beat Scotland 3-2

Burridge lost to Bond -2, +22, -9
Williams beat Patmore +17, -6tp, +16
Mrozinski beat Magee -15, +25, +3
Prichard lost to Kirby -7, -3
Tudor beat Appleton +17, +26

Past Representative Matches

CA 3-2-3 (H 2-0-2 A 1-2-1)

1992 3-3 Ebbw Vale Williams, Evans J, Dorke, Regan D
1993 3-7 Cheltenham Williams, Regan D, Dorke, Heath
1994 5-5 Dyffryn Evans J, Carter, Pristavec, Marsh
1995 6-1 Cheltenham Evans J, Gunasekera, McElwain, Thomas
1996 6-1 Dyffryn Williams, Evans J, Grimshaw, McElwain
1997 6-6 Cheltenham Williams, Gunasekera, McElwain, Thomas
1998 7-0 Dyffryn Williams, Evans J, Morgan
1999 4-6 Bath Williams, Evans J, Morgan, McElwain

Scottish CA (SCA) 2-1-2 (H 2-0-1 A 0-1-1)

1995 15-5 Dyffryn Evans J, Grimshaw, Harding, Pristavec
1996 8-10 Bush Grimshaw, Jennings, Evans M, Lewis
1997 12-8 Dyffryn Williams, Grimshaw, Pristavec, Lewis, McElwain, Trickey D
1998 10-10 Bush Williams, Pristavec, Walters, Lewis
2000 10-10 Dyffryn Williams, Trickey A, Lewis, Butt

Switzerland (ASC) 4-2 (H 2-1 A 2-1)

1994 9-11 Dyffryn Grimshaw, Evans J, Evans M, Lewis, Pristavec, Boon, M Regan
1995 5-15 Geneva Evans J, Evans M, Marsh, Lewis
1997 10-5 Dyffryn Prichard W, Prichard C, Evans J, Marsh, Ham
1998 11-8 Geneva Williams, Grimshaw, Evans M, Ham
1999 12-8 Dyffryn Grimshaw, Prichard C, Tudor, Mackay
2001 16-3 Geneva Williams, Mackay, Walters, Evans M

USA 2-0

1985 12-3 Hurlingham Prichard C, Croker, Prichard R, Peterson, Hilditch, Jones K
1992 7-5 Dyffryn Prichard W, Prichard C, Burridge, Williams, Dorke, Evans J

New Zealand

1996 0-9 Dyffryn Prichard W, Prichard C, Williams, Evans J, Mrozinski, Carter

Canada

1998 22-14 Dyffryn Prichard W, Evans J, Mrozinski, Grimshaw, Trickey A
1999 17-32 Toronto Williams, Evans J, Trickey A, Lewis

Australia

1999 17-7 Dyffryn Prichard W, Williams, Evans, Grimshaw, McElwain, Tuthill

Welsh Championship 2001

Chris Williams won the Welsh Championship for the third time when he defeated four times champion Ian Burridge in a final which went to three games.

Ian's long distance shooting appeared to get better and better as the final wore on, but two vital six yard misses at the ball on the boundary after twice running four back hard by a foot, cost Ian dearly.

Chris, who had finished runner up to Tony Mrozinski at the block stage, survived a very tough semi final against Sam Tudor. Sam pegged Chris out in the decisive third game, before missing a vital 6 yarder at Chris's ball, which was lurking on the boundary at 4 back, leaving Chris a sweaty three hoop three ball break to finish.

Ian, who had struggled through the blocks in third place, easily beat John Evans, in their single game quarter final, and then Tony Mrozinski in the best of three semi final, to clinch a place in the final before Williams and Tudor had even finished the second game of their semi final.

The surprise in the blocks was the excellent third place for Championship debutant James Mackay, behind Tudor and Evans. Unfortunately for James he then came up against Chris Williams in the quarter final.

Originally there were fourteen entries for the twelve places. However Garry McElwain had to drop out, leaving a place for, the originally unlucky, David Walters. Welcome returnees to the event were William and Colin Prichard and Lewis Palmer.

The twelve players were divided into two all play all in a single game blocks, with the winner of each block gaining direct entry into the semi finals, whilst the second played the third in the other block in a single game quarter final.

As mentioned earlier the biggest surprise in the blocks was James Mackay qualifying ahead of three times Champion William Prichard.

On the final day for the first time for many years all the eligible players elected to play in the plate event and hence triple banking was the order of the day on lawn 2 with a striped set of old Walker balls pressed into service. The balls did not appear to be much of a problem to William Prichard who managed 5 peels of a sextuple in one game. The plate was won by Lewis Palmer whilst Sam Tudor

easily beat Tony Mrozinski in the third place play off match.

On the Saturday evening William and Salts Prichard put on a wonderful barbecue at Gobion Manor for all the players and partners.

Block A

- 1 Tony Mrozinski 4 wins
- 2 Chris Williams 4 wins
- 3 Ian Burridge 3 wins
- 4 Lewis Palmer 2 wins
- 5 John Grimshaw 1 win
- 6 Paul Pristavec 1 win

Block B

- 1 Sam Tudor 4 wins
- 2 John Evans 4 wins
- 3 James Mackay 3 wins
- 4 David Walters 2 wins
- 5 William Prichard 2 wins
- 6 Colin Prichard 0 wins

Quarter Finals

Williams beat Mackay +15
Burridge beat Evans +25

Semi Finals

Williams beat Tudor +14, -17, +11
Burridge beat Mrozinski +11, +17

Third Place

Tudor beat Mrozinski +15, +25

Final

Williams beat Burridge +23, -26, +6

Welsh Championship winners

91	Burridge	beat W Prichard	-13, +14, +26
92	Burridge	beat Evans	+9, +12
93	W Prichard	beat Burridge	+8, -7, +4
94	Williams	beat Evans	+24, +17
95	Burridge	beat Williams	+11, +9
96	W Prichard	beat Mrozinski	-3, +25, +26
97	W Prichard	beat Burridge	-22, +15, +21
98	Mrozinski	beat Evans	+25, -18, +17tp
99	Williams	beat Evans	-19, +13, +11
00	Burridge	beat Tudor	+26, +9
01	Williams	beat Burridge	+23, -26, +6

Switzerland v Wales. Geneva 15-16 September 2001

It was with some trepidation that we set out for Geneva, so soon after the events of September 11th. However, by the time that dusk was falling on the Friday night, we had all made our individual journeys to converge on the apparently deserted CERN site, just across the French border. As the rain started to fall, we chose not to practice, but headed instead for the comfort of an Italian restaurant.

Suitably refreshed, we returned to the lawns on the Saturday morning and rapidly felt at home, winning each of the first two blocks of singles 3-1. Chris, in particular, was finding conditions to his liking, starting with his first straight triple. Lunch, al fresco, with agreeable wines started me thinking that this was how croquet should be enjoyed! The first day's doubles were halved, giving Wales an overnight lead of 7-3.

On the Saturday night, we were treated to more wonderful Swiss hospitality and were invited to the Swiss CA's 10th anniversary dinner at Le Coq Rouge.

Come Sunday and it was the Les Dragons Rouges that handled the morning the better, first opening up an unassailable lead, with Chris completing his fourth successive triple and then, after another delightful lunch, completing a 16-3 victory, with James Mackey talking me through my first ever triple peel in the final doubles.

David Walters

Teams

Switzerland

Peter Payne (Captain)
Ian Sexton
Norman Eatough
David Payne
Mike Gerard

Wales

Chris Williams (Captain)
James Mackay
David Walters
Mike Evans

P Payne lost to Mackay -4
Sexton beat Evans +13
Eatough lost to Williams -26stp
D Payne lost to Walters -19
P Payne lost to Walters -9
Sexton lost to Williams -22tp
Eatough beat Mackay +3
D Payne lost to Evans 15-17
P Payne & Sexton beat Mackay & Walters +13
Eatough & D Payne lost to Williams & Evans -17tp(W)

P Payne lost to Williams -15tp, -22
Sexton lost to Mackay -3, -5otp
Eatough lost to Evans -13
Gerard lost to Walters -22
Eatough lost to Walters -17
Gerard lost to Evans -9
Sexton & Eatough lost to Mackay & Walters -17tp(W)

Welsh Rankings at the end of 2001

	Grade	GmsWins	Index	%age
1 John Evans	2282	20 13	2291	65.0
2 Chris Williams	2207	106 59	2262	55.7
3 Sam Tudor	2199	80 42	2211	52.5
4 Tony Mrozinski	2168	41 21	2126	51.2
5 William Prichard	2155	14 6	2067	42.9
6 Ian Burridge	2154	38 13	2193	34.2
7 Lewis Palmer	2118	14 8	2103	57.1
8 James Mackay	1918	31 17	1987	54.8
9 Colin Prichard	1895	8 2	1848	25.0
10.Deiniol Morgan	1859	18 1	1757	5.56
11 John Grimshaw	1831	14 3	1799	21.4
12 Tal Golesworthy	1786	21 14	1846	66.7
13 David Walters	1777	20 14	1878	70.0
14 Garry McElwain	1751	14 7	1752	50.0
15 Chris Tuthill	1742	5 2	1672	40.0
16 Paul Pristavec	1725	30 10	1731	33.3
17 Stan Harding	1638	5 2	1544	40.0
18 Richard Hilditch	1630	16 0	1582	0.0
19 Mike Evans	1515	4 3	1579	75.0
20 Kevin Ham	1491	5 1	1471	20.0

Welsh CA Website

Answers to all your Welsh croquet questions, such who played when and where and who won what can be answered at the Welsh CA website at

<http://www.butedock.demon.co.uk/>

The site contains all past Welsh croquet results in team and individual events.

Welsh Croquet - From the Other Side of the Yardline

by Liz Williams

Hurlingham, Sonoma, Roehampton, Cern, Dyffryn: I have snoozed by the side of croquet lawns at them all - and I don't regret a minute.

I can hardly call myself a croquet widow, after all, I usually accompany Chris on trips, unless they are weekend tournaments to Bristol or Cheltenham, in which case I weed flowerbeds and tend to other household tasks such as painting soffits and bargeboards etc. I do however, get a great deal of fun out of visiting other clubs and countries. This is intended to be a brief canter through some of my experiences as someone on the other side of the yard line, but it won't be a blow by blow account of our jolly holidays where one or other of us might have had a paddy at some time!

Sonoma, two years ago, had to be the glitziest tournament I had ever been to, with a mammoth social whirl to accompany the event, although the best evening we had our only free evening when we, the Mulliners, Peter Payne and Sarah Burrow journeyed to Bodega Bay for a meal an excellent restaurant. I think, though, on the whole, I prefer our rather more laid back tournaments with the opportunity to mix or not as you want.

The best tournament socially has to be the Inter Counties, which is an excellent opportunity to do go shopping, sightseeing, walking and, of course snoozing. Sally Evans and I usually see the first balls played on the Saturday morning and then we hit Brighton. This has become a regular event and we have shops we always visit: haberdashery, hat shop, department store (now sadly closed) and a little caff in Lanes. Evenings are usually spent eating and drinking. But it's not all a life of Riley for us spouses. As manager's little helper I get to telephone Compton or answer the phone from Compton and take down results, or hearing others complain: slow play, one player moaning that another hit him with a ball etc etc, but it's great fun and I wouldn't miss it.

Visiting the Swiss at CERN (except it's in France) has been thoroughly enjoyable both times I have been there. On the first visit, over a very hot weekend in May, Mary Evans, Julie Grimshaw and myself went off on a boat trip across lake Geneva, and I spent at least one day shopping. Our more recent trip in September of last year was somewhat colder, and with no other spouses I had to shift for myself, so I went shopping and made a trip into the mountains. This might sound mundane, but it's not: it's time to unwind, when the phone isn't going,

when the press aren't hounding me, when I can forget work and just do as much or as little as I like. The other bonus of visiting CERN is that we are royally looked after by the Swiss, who throw open their houses to us and look after us well.

Looking after other croquet players appears to be a major part of the attraction of the game. Not only are we hosted with regularity by other croquet players, we enjoy having them stay with us, especially for the Welsh Championships. Having now a nice big house (as opposed to a two bedroom flat) we are able to put up lots of croquet players and it is always fun to have them. The Welsh Championships are a favourite with a big gang to look after, but it is nice to show overseas players Welsh hospitality. Over the past few years we have welcomed Peter Payne, Norman Eatough, Tony Hall, Trevor Bassett, a clutch of Scotsmen, not to mention regulars like Ian Burridge, Sam Tudor, and Tony Mrozinski, who was the first to stay with us in our new house and we still call the room he occupied Tony's Room. Of course, there is the memorable incident when one player, who shall remain nameless, but whose tact is legendary, on being told by Chris that I had prepared a meal for them asked: "Can she cook?".

One thing that Chris and I realised recently was that Peter Payne seems to come on most of our overseas holidays, and Chris even started our honeymoon with Peter until I joined him! This is another thing I like about Croquet: it's not too big. You can travel around the world and still bump into people you know several times a year, and, as it happens, Peter has been to the same tournaments as us, including the World Championships at Bunbury which was how we spent our honeymoon, except my boss wouldn't allow me three weeks off, so I joined Chris one week into the tournament, and Peter was there of course, before me.

Having started as a brief canter, this has turned into something of a ramble, but I am delighted to support Welsh Croquet and get a great deal of pleasure out of doing so. It has the double advantage of being able to watch a game I understand, coupled with opportunities for snoozing and shopping, which is delightful contrast to the hurly burly of the PR world.