



THE CLUBHOUSE

APRIL 2015

WRU NEWSLETTER

TICKET ALLOCATION POLICY

A new international ticket allocation policy which rewards levels of participation from individual clubs has been approved by the WRU.

Details of the plan are being outlined to each district so that a full debate on the initiative can include representatives of every club.

Under the terms of the new policy the same amount of tickets (37,931) will be made available to members clubs as the

core allocation. WRU clubs get offered tickets first before any left go on public sale.

In simple terms the new scheme rewards the most active clubs so the ones with most teams and therefore with more players would be allocated for tickets for its members.

The plan ringfences the home game allocations to the Regions, the Principality Premiership and Championship clubs with Divisions One to Three getting a base

allocation of 83 tickets topped up with a further eight based on the number of active teams they run.

The WRU is also planning to allocate directly to District clubs and to the School Hubs.

Under the plan there will be a small reduction of the away international ticket allocations across all clubs and Regions.

The scheme is being presented through the districts so that every club is fully aware of the new policy and how it works.



BOARD MEMBER STANDS DOWN

A new member of the Board of the WRU has been appointed to represent District E.

Phil Thomas is the chairman of Vardre RFC and took on his WRU role from the April meeting of the full WRU Board.

He replaces Richard Gwynn who joined the Board in 2011 but has decided to step down after a recent illness.

When accepting his resignation last month the Board thanked Richard

Gwynn (pictured) for his hard work and dedication as a director.



Phil Thomas joins Geraint

Edwards as one of the two District E representatives on the full WRU Board.

A native of Clydach, he is a former Wales Schools U16 international and initially played youth rugby for

Morrleston before joining Vardre where he eventually became club secretary and then vice chairman before becoming chairman three years ago.

DO YOU KNOW AN 'UNsung HERO'?

The search is on for someone who is an unsung hero of Welsh rugby deserving recognition for their achievements and hard work.

It could be a player who has never missed a training session, a coach who always goes beyond the call of duty or maybe a supporter who has shown exceptional dedication to the team.

SSE SWALEC has launched the



campaign to find our heroes from within the domestic leagues of Welsh rugby.

The winner will get a signed Wales jersey from SSE SWALEC ambassador and ex-Wales skipper Ryan Jones plus four complimentary tickets to the SSE SWALEC Finals Day at the Millennium Stadium on May 3.

To nominate your hero email swalec@golleyslater.co.uk and include 100 words on why you think he or she should be rewarded.

Remember to include a contact telephone number and name, so you can be contacted for more details if the nomination is successful.

You can get more details on Twitter by following @SWALEC.

WALES V ITALY: FULL FIXTURE LIST

A full SSE SWALEC league fixture list will go ahead on the day of the Wales v Italy Rugby World Cup warm up international in September with the approval of the Board of the WRU.

The WRU Board have made the move to ensure the early season fixture schedule is not disrupted by the match.

The international at the Millennium Stadium kicks off at 5pm on Saturday, September 5 so that League fixtures can be fulfilled in time for players, administrators and fans to get back to the clubhouses in time to watch Wales play as well.



FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback or ideas for Clubhouse content you can contact the WRU Head of Communications, John Williams, directly, via: jwilliams@wru.co.uk



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CLUB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

A range of training courses which help clubs run more efficiently and effectively are now available directly through the WRU.

More than 24 formal advice and training opportunities ranging from MyWRU Club Audit workshops through St John First Aid to Grant Funding workshops are on offer.

A full list of the training opportunities and advice has been supplied to WRU Board directors and is available through the Club Operations team and in your mywru library.

Whether a club wants legal advice, help in coordinating volunteers or assistance in applying for grants - these skills are catered for.

The WRU wishes to give all clubs the chance to progress as we aim to improve the off the field support for the game of rugby across Wales. Clubs can ask for advice from the WRU Club Operations team (Tel: 02920 822438) to ensure they are getting their share of the help on offer.



FOREIGN LINKS FORGED

There is a strong tradition of communities in Wales forging links with towns and villages abroad through rugby.

This month the 25 year anniversary of the links between Abergavenny RFC and Cholet in France were celebrated.

Delegates from Cholet were in the Welsh town to attend a special dinner celebrating their union and friendship.

The above photograph features the President of the WRU, Dennis Gethin and the Vice Chairman of the WRU and District A Director, Ken Hewitt with their guests and local representatives.

YOUNG STARS SHINE

Six of the best Youth teams in Wales provided a showcase of rugby excellence at the Millennium Stadium for the first finals day for the new three tier knock out competitions for the age grade sides.

Some 3,000 fans watched Pontypridd lift the cup with a 27-19 victory over holders, Penallta while Pontypool United beat Rhydfelin 17-8 for the Plate and Ystradgynlais took home the Bowl by beating Wattstown 13-10.

The new tiered structure means teams of varied ages and abilities can compete for silverware in what surely will become a celebration day for Welsh youth rugby going forward.

Wales stars Dan Lydiate (below), Andrew Coombes and Jake Ball handed out the awards to the winning teams.



NEW CEO SEARCH TEAM CONFIRMED

The WRU has entered an important new phase in the search for a new Group Chief Executive to replace Roger Lewis who departs in the autumn.

Following a tender and interview process, Sports Recruitment International has been appointed as the agency tasked with leading the search.

A briefing document has been drawn up outlining the details of the role and this will be distributed or made available to suitable candidates.

Sports Recruitment International has a worldwide network of offices and contacts so the process will be widespread and thorough.

A number individuals have already declared an interest in applying for the role so there is already a clear momentum of interest.

The WRU has always insisted that the priority is to ensure the job search is wide enough to ensure that the very best available person is appointed to this pivotal position.

In the interests of transparency the WRU

will keep all clubs informed of progress as the process moves towards a conclusion so you will receive regular updates via Clubhouse and directly from the WRU through the normal administration channels.

DISTRICT CLUB ENTRY CRITERIA

A question currently under debate is whether there should be a geographical element to the qualification of Welsh district clubs into full WRU league status.

It has been raised at district level in some areas and focuses on the number of clubs in areas already heavily populated with competing teams.

The point has been debated at WRU Board level and it is clear district directors will be listening out for any feedback on the issue.

Underlying the debate is the declared ambition of the WRU to bring the whole of Welsh rugby under the umbrella of the governing body so it is important all views are shared.