



wsa: news

Governing Bodies Set to Benefit from BingoLotto Scheme

The Welsh Sports Association is delighted to announce that Governing Bodies will be amongst the beneficiaries of BingoLotto – a new TV game which will raise money for sport and the voluntary sector.

BingoLotto will be a weekly game broadcast on digital TV channels Virgin1 and Challenge. Tickets will be on sale from outlets around the country and will allow viewers to take part in the BingoLotto game from the comfort of their own homes, with a 1 in 9.5 chance of winning.

The BingoLotto game has run in Sweden since 1991, where it has raised just under £1bn for charities and sports organisations. At least 20% from each ticket sold in the UK will be distributed to sport and recreation projects up and down the country. Profits from the show will be distributed to the governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation.

The funding the Welsh Sports Association will receive will be distributed amongst governing bodies to be spent on new and enhanced programmes of activity at the grassroots or on special projects, like infrastructure improvement and capacity building, for which funding is currently unavailable.

The game will also provide valuable profile to a wide range of sports and activities by featuring them on the weekly show and on

the BingoLotto website. The WSA will support the game by promoting it to its members, by providing examples and case studies of how the proceeds have been spent for the TV show, and by identifying current and future stars from sport to appear on the show when required. The more tickets are sold each week, the more Governing Bodies benefit.

The game's motto is 'Real people. Real winners.' and it will offer life-enhancing, rather than life-changing prizes to winners. The prizes in the game are varied and range from tickets for the following week's game, through to cars and holidays, to a maximum cash prize of £100,000. BingoLotto is regulated by the Gambling Commission.

The Welsh Sports Association believes the investment the organisation will receive can make a big difference to our members. Governing bodies will receive further information and details of how the money will be distributed in due course.

For more information about the game, please visit www.bingolotto.tv.



Legislation Round-up

There are several new legislative changes coming into force in April 2008 which will have an impact for sports governing bodies and those employing staff.

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007- will come into force on 6 April, creating a new offence of corporate manslaughter. This new law would allow organisations to be prosecuted for management failures that lead to the deaths of employees and others.

Employers with 50 or more employees will have additional duties to consult their employees under the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004 and the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Consultation by Employers) from 6 April.

Statutory maternity/paternity/adoption pay – from April 2008, the flat rates for SMP, maternity allowance (MA), SPP and SAP will be increased to £117.18 per week (or 90% of average weekly earnings if less).

Statutory sick pay – from April 2008, the flat rate for SSP will increase to £75.40 per week.

New immigration regulations - in the first quarter of 2008 the introduction of a 5-tier points based immigration system is being phased in where workers from countries outside the EEA will be graded on their qualifications, previous earnings, age and UK experience. This will have an impact on sportsmen and women entering the country to either play professionally or attend competitions and events.

More information on these changes can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk.



Wales Touch Association

A focus on the sport of Touch - a fast, dynamic catch & pass game...see page 3



London 2012 Games

An update on the rising cost of the games and its effect on Wales...see page 5



Welsh Language Officer

Ceri Thomas has transferred over to the sports council for Wales...see page 4



Call For Contributions

The WSA is keen to hear from its members. Please get in touch...see page 8

wsa:

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gwasaethu chwaraeon cymru

Nominations Sought for WSA Unsung Hero Awards

The Welsh Sports Association is calling for nominations for its prestigious annual Unsung Hero Awards.

The Unsung Hero Award, presented at the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame dinner in City Hall, Cardiff, on 16th May 2008, seeks to acknowledge the tireless efforts of one volunteer within Welsh sport, and is awarded to someone who demonstrates a selfless passion and determination for their sport. It may be an official, coach, parent helper, or just one of those people that every organisation needs – the unheralded volunteer who goes about their business without any fuss or without seeking any recognition, but without whom things fall apart quite quickly.

The Welsh Sports Hall of Fame was formed to provide a national focus for recognising and preserving sporting achievements by Welsh sportsmen and sportswomen. The winner of the prestigious competition will be treated, along with a guest of their choice, to a VIP evening with 4-course meal, drinks and a chance to meet and be photographed with some of Wales' most famous sporting legends.

Nominations are open to all national governing bodies of sport and physical recreation and their member clubs and associations. Forms can be obtained by telephoning the WSA on 0845 846 0020, e-mailing gheta.gueresi-leach@welshsports.org.uk or downloading from the Association's website, www.welshsports.org.uk/UnsungHeroAward.asp

The closing date is Friday 18th April 2008.



Ken Jones, winner of the Unsung Hero Award in 2007

Impact of New Vetting and Barring Scheme for Sports

Employers working with children and vulnerable adults are responsible for the safety and well being of those individuals. Legislation will be phased in from autumn 2008 to streamline the vetting and barring process and increase the levels of protection.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 lays the foundation for a new scheme which aims to help avoid harm, or risk of harm, to children and vulnerable adults. The scheme aims to do this by preventing those who are deemed unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults from gaining access to them through their work. The Act introduced a new vetting and barring scheme to significantly strengthen safeguards. This will be achieved by:

- Integration of lists – the Protection of Children Act list, the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list, List 99 for teachers and all disqualification orders will be combined and held centrally
- Continuous updating – employers will be notified if a person's status changes
- Pre-employment vetting – barring decisions made prior to employment must be declared to employers
- Consistent decisions by experts – the Independent Safeguarding Authority, an independent statutory body, has been established to continually monitor the barred list.
- Real time and domestic checks – employers will have instant access online and parents can check the status of nannies and private tutors.

From now on all individuals who wish to work with children or vulnerable adults need to be registered. The register will confirm whether there is any known reason why an individual should not work with these groups.

The core purpose of the Act is to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. The Scheme will reform current vetting and barring practices, but employers retain their responsibilities for ensuring safe recruitment practices. This will be done by:

- Providing employers with a more effective and streamlined vetting service for potential employees

- Barring unsuitable individuals from working, or seeking to work, with children and vulnerable adults at the earliest opportunity

Within the Act the term "employers" refers to both employers and managers of volunteers, and the term "employees" refers to both paid and unpaid/volunteer work/activities. This new scheme will be phased in from autumn 2008.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority will:

- Maintain the barred lists and decide to include individuals on the barred lists
- Consider representations
- Comprise a balance of different expertise

The Criminal Records Bureau will:

- Receive applications to the scheme
- Gather and monitor information for the Independent Safeguarding Authority
- Administer automatic inclusions on the barred list
- Provide the facility for online checks and continuous updates

The Welsh Sports Association recently asked all Governing Bodies for their views on the new scheme and has fed the information back to the Independent Safeguarding Authority via Steve Boocock (Child Protection in Sport Unit). The consultation sought views on a wide range of policy issues that will ensure the successful implementation of the Act.

The outcome of this consultation will define those individual workers and volunteers within sport that will be brought within the scope of the Act and therefore required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority. In the meantime, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office are drafting the regulations and guidance that will underpin the scheme and help prepare for its launch.

For more information please visit <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/independent Safeguarding Authority/>

The name of the game is Touch



One of the most recent members of the WSA is the Wales Touch Association (WTA), who have responsibility for the governance and development of the sport of Touch in Wales.

They promote the development of the sport at grass roots level, provide an affiliated league and tournament structure around the country, as well as selection, coaching and management of National teams to take part in international competitions.

For those who are new to Touch it is a fast, dynamic catch-and-pass sport that is played throughout the world. It is informal in nature and places the emphasis on fun and expression. It is played in the summer in male, female and mixed competitions and can be played by juniors through to those past their physical peak.

Its origins stem from Australia in the 1960s where it was initially used as a warm up game for rugby. There are similarities between the two games and Touch is sometimes also referred to as Touch Rugby. There is, however, minimal contact in Touch as well as no scrummaging, tackling or lineouts instead concentrating on the open field skills required for either code.

The simplicity and minimal contact nature of Touch saw participation numbers increase quickly as it expanded to the rest of the southern hemisphere where it is still heavily supported. New Zealand, for instance, currently reports 47% of the population participates in Touch, and it is

now the number one sport in the Australia and New Zealand school system. The sport has seen such phenomenal growth worldwide in the last 20 years that it is now played in 60 countries and is one of the fastest growing participation sports in the world.

Touch is a relatively new sport to Wales, having been introduced in 1990 by the arrival of two New Zealanders, Paul Napia and Dave Swain who established an inaugural league. Since then they have seen a steady growth of players to 2000 and a well-established league and tournament structure in place. The WTA itself was set up in 1999.

Internationally, Wales has a good record overall. They have seen significant success at European level and finished second behind England in the last European Championships in 2004 & 2006, having won the competition in 2002. They have yet to see the same level of success on the world stage where the sport is dominated by the teams from the southern hemisphere, but are making good strides.

As a recreational sport touch has many benefits. Common with any sport, Touch delivers the health benefits of sport participation, promotes basic sport skills and encourages teamwork and communication. It is, however, different to many sports in other ways.

The lack of instruction and equipment needed means that it can be easily learned and modified to suit local needs.

It promotes mixed-gender interaction, enabling girls and boys to play on the same field on an equal basis, while the small sided nature of the game promotes maximum participation.

The absence of physical contact offers the opportunity for mothers, fathers, and children to play together in a common physical activity, whilst also enabling players past their physical peak to continue to participate.

As a competitive sport the rewards are significant. There are many opportunities for those who are committed to develop and improve their skills to new levels of competition. The global nature of the sport provides potential to travel and mix with people from other cultures.

The WTA are keen to expand and develop further local leagues and festivals and incorporate them into a national framework of events. Such events provide opportunities for individuals and teams from the local communities to get active over the summer months, whilst enjoying themselves in an environment where social interaction and meeting new people are also important.

They are eager to talk to any clubs or individuals interested in running, leagues, one-off festivals or try it sessions. For further information on Touch in Wales visit the WTA website at www.walestouch.co.uk

New Implementations to Companies Act

From 6th April 2008 a number of changes will be implemented to the Companies Act. These include:

Accounts Changes (for companies with accounting periods starting on or after 6th April 2008)

The delivery time for accounts has been reduced by one month (for both private & public limited companies). Private companies have reduced from 10 months to 9 months, and public companies from 7 months to 6 months. Full calendar months for filing periods have also been introduced. Where the accounting period ends on a month end, the accounts filing period will end on a month end, except for the first accounting period. The accounts balance sheet and director's report will be required to refer to the Companies Act 2006 statements.

Secretary Changes

From 6th April 2008 the provision for enabling private companies to choose whether they wish to have a company secretary will come into force. If it decides they no longer need one they will need to

inform Companies House and the company will be required to amend the Articles if there is a specific reference to the company having a secretary. This is done by submitting a written or special resolution together with an updated version of the Articles. However, if the Articles only refer to the secretary's duties there is no need to make an amendment. The remaining provisions relating to secretaries come into force on 1st October 2009.

From that date secretaries who are an individual person will be able to file a service address for the public record and corporate secretaries will be required to give details of where they are registered and the registered company number, if applicable.

Auditors

For accounting periods starting on or after 6th April 2008 auditor's reports will have to state, in the case of an individual, the name of the auditor and be signed by him/her. Where the auditor is a firm the report must state the name of the senior statutory auditor, the name of the firm and be signed by the statutory auditor in his/her

own name. All signatures on auditors' reports must be dated.

There are, however, certain exemptions from stating the auditors name on the auditors report. If the company feels that there is a risk that the auditor or any other person is at risk of serious violence or intimidation as a result of the auditors' name being stated they may pass a resolution to omit the name. A notice of the resolution must be given to the Secretary of State. This will only be applicable to auditors' reports relating to accounting periods starting on or after 6th April 2008.

Other changes to auditors' reports include Section 507, which makes it an offence if a person knowingly or recklessly causes an auditors report to include any misleading, false or deceptive material. A person guilty of this offence will be liable to a fine up to a maximum of £5000.

For more details on all these changes please visit

<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/companiesAct/implementations/apr2008.shtml>

The WSA bids farewell to its Welsh Language Officer



As a result of the success achieved in his work with the Welsh Sports Association, The Welsh Language Development Officer, Ceri Thomas, has recently been transferred over to the Sports Council for Wales to continue in his role of mainstreaming the Welsh language in sport.

Ceri worked for the WSA for over two and half years and was successful in designing and collating results of a national audit on the Welsh Language as well as creating a three year development plan in the first three months of his role.

His other main work involved identifying Welsh speaking coaches and developing a National Governing Body coach education resource in Welsh. He encouraged NGBs to deliver Welsh language participation programmes and also organised courses for NGB staff. He assisted with everyday Welsh language issues as well as facilitating the development of partnerships between NGBs and Welsh language providers.

Ceri was transferred over to the Sports Council for Wales on 1st November 2007 and although his role still remains largely

the same, he is now also involved in writing the Sports Council for Wales Mainstreaming Action Plan. He also ensures that the Welsh language is considered in all Sports Council operations and strategies as well as providing guidance and training to SCW staff. Furthermore, he is providing support to Local Authorities in the delivery opportunities to take part in sport through the Welsh language as part of the Local Authority Partnership Agreement.

Ceri has stated he is "indebted to the WSA, who were instrumental in making [his] role a success". He particularly expresses his thanks to Bob Turner, Graham Crimp and former General Manager, John O'Callaghan, for their support and assistance.

The Association will continue to work closely with Ceri and would like to thank him for all his commitment, dedication and hard work over the last few years. The WSA Board and staff all wish him well in his new role with the Sports Council. All Welsh language related matters should now be directed to ceri.thomas@scw.org.uk or 029 2033 8335.

WSA Questions Heritage Minister on Rising Costs of 2012 Olympics

The WSA recently met with the Heritage Minister, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, to discuss the well-documented rising costs of the Olympic Games and highlight concerns of funding being diverted from sport and the voluntary sector in Wales.

The costs of the Games have trebled to £9.3 billion already since the Olympic bid was submitted and it is clearly possible that they could go considerably higher still. £6.1 billion is already to be diverted from governmental departments and £2.2 billion from the lottery. More raids could come, and thousands of new groups applying for funding over the next 5 years are likely to be turned down. At the same time financial constraints on local authorities during the same period are expected to mean substantial cuts in services such as sports.

There is no doubt that the awarding of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to London presents a huge opportunity to the whole of the sport within the UK. The Games will excite children all over Wales to take up sports and everyone is aware of the benefits of sporting participation. However, unpaid volunteers are at work delivering grassroots sports in Wales on a daily basis, often for the benefit of our most deprived communities, and are dependent upon lottery or other public funding for their continued effective existence.

At the meeting with the WSA the Minister acknowledged the very real concerns which did exist in many quarters and a letter has been forwarded to the Sports Minister in London, James Purnell. The Minister also explained that although Wales will experience a consequential drop in Lottery funding of around £70 million between 2009 and 2012, mostly from the Big Lottery Fund, the UK Government has given a commitment that the Voluntary and Community Sector will not experience a cut in funding. The Big Lottery Fund will continue to provide 60-70% of their funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector and will make



maintaining that proportion of funding a priority. This will be coupled with further work to ensure the long-term sustainability of projects. It has also been agreed that more regular and more detailed financial briefings will be made available. This will improve scrutiny of the project's budget and, we hope, ensure that the money which has been diverted away from good causes is spent as effectively as possible. Also, following an agreement between the Mayor of London and the Minister for the Olympics, the National Lottery is set to receive a share of the profit from the sale of land after the 2012 Games.

In addition, a Creative Programmer has taken up post in Wales for the Cultural Olympiad, funded jointly by the Assembly Government and the Arts Council of Wales. The Programmer is responsible for the 4 year Olympiad – the celebration of culture – that will begin after the handover to London in August 2008 and last until the 2012 Games.

An Olympiad Advisory Board has been set up in Wales and they met for the first time in January 2008 to set the parameters for the activities of the Olympiad in Wales. As an immediate priority this board is responsible for approving an application to the Legacy Trust UK for the sum of £1.67 million. The Legacy Trust has £24 million available to the nations and regions and division is based upon a mean £1/2 million each.

Earn revenue and reward your members at the same time

The WSA, in conjunction with Opagus Marketing, developed YourBenefit - a unique software application designed solely with the purpose of raising money for your sport. We are now set to relaunch the service with the following enhancements:

Enhanced web portal and offers platform

Increased revenue potential to clubs: – ranging from 70% to 80% (for example, 70p / 80p in the pound)

New and refreshed marketing material contained in a dedicated member area of the yourbenefit site.

FREE to attend Sales and Marketing Seminars: explaining how to utilise the service, and earn maximum revenue

1 Year FREE Membership programme for your members and clubs

The YourBenefit programme is a **FREE and independent service**, which provides businesses with unique business benefits.

Business Benefits include:

- Rewards Employees and Customers
- One annual licence per company – average savings of £2000 per person
- Offers over 100 key partner offers at over 12,000 outlets
- Provides a marketing platform accessible in Wales and UK wide for both business to business and business to consumer products / services
- Saves money on business essential purchases
- No administration with all letters and posters pre-loaded onto the software

Sport Clubs / Governing Body Benefits:

- **FREE** benefits programme for Members
- Revenue generation for your club/association – no less than 70p in the pound (average income £79 for every £199 spent)
- Renewable income every year a company uses the service
- No administration on your part, just a willingness to promote the service
- Full marketing and sales support

Register now: to start promoting YourBenefit and really make a difference to your sport, we will contact you to arrange a one to one meeting to present how this can be set up and developed for your sport.

Email: Enquiries@yourbenefit.co.uk
Tel: 01908 616 511



Chief Executive Profile



Name: Dave McNally

NGB: Welsh Gymnastics

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Hobbies / Interests:

Spending time with family, Leinster Rugby Supporter, reading autobiographies, watching all sports.

Career route:

PE teaching, Leisure Management, County Sports Partnership, professional rugby league club.

Main Challenges facing your organisation:

Revenue generation, success at elite level and growing participation levels at grassroots.

Things you enjoy most about your job:

Meeting people and being part of a team, strategy development.

Things you least enjoy:

Poor communication and lack of clarity from management (Hopefully not the case with Gymnastics).

Grant one wish, what would it be?

As many Welsh gymnasts as possible in the British Gymnastics squad for 2012.

What three words best describe you?

Enthusiastic, loyal and forward thinking.

Youngster from your sport to look out for in the future?

There are many, but I would say the Welsh Gymnastics most promising is one of 3 gymnastics in the BBC Olympic hopefuls program. Venus Romaeo (Current British Champion) is one to look out for in the future.

Best advice you ever received:

To follow your ambitions you have to take the odd risk or two!!

Items for Sale

The WSA has recently moved offices within the Welsh Institute of Sport and has a number of items available for governing bodies to purchase at a reasonable price. The following are available:

1 Fax Machine and roll of paper (Brother FAX-T106)

3 DELL Computers

1 Laserjet Black Printer (Brother HL-2070N)

Any reasonable offers will be accepted and NGBs interested in purchasing these items should contact Greta on 0845 846 0020 or e-mail greta.gueresi-leach@welshsports.org.uk. Please note that the computers do not come with any software and the WSA accepts no responsibility for the maintenance or servicing of any of these items once they have been purchased.

WSA Treasurer Makes a Steady Recovery



The WSA Treasurer, Graham Crimp, would like to thank all those who sent cards and messages, following his recent illness over the New Year. In Grahams words: "I would like

to extend my gratitude to everyone who has been so kind over these last few weeks." He is making a steady recovery, however he is currently taking things easy and will not be undertaking any extra commitments at present or returning to his voluntary work for several weeks. The Welsh Sports Association would like to wish him well and hope he makes a full recovery very quickly.

Would you like to feature in the next WSA newsletter?

The Welsh Sports Association is always keen to hear about news from it's members, whether it's regarding achievements from their particular sport, new members of staff or general information about their organisation. We are happy to include items in our quarterly newsletter (published March, July and October), which goes out to over 800 people including governing bodies in Wales, selected businesses and sporting organisations as well as MPs both in the National Assembly and Central Government. If you would like to feature in our 'Chief Executive Profile', particularly if you are new to the post, then simply send us your details along with a photo. Our website is also constantly being updated to provide relevant and up-to-date information to our members and has an average of between 10,000 and 14,000 visits a month. We often include articles on the site sent in by governing bodies who are keen to promote their achievements or sporting events. If you would like to be included then please contact Greta on 0845 846 0020 or e-mail greta.gueresi-leach@welshsports.org.uk.