

## ANNUAL REPORT 2011

### Introduction

Before submitting the report all of us at G UW were devastated and saddened by the recent loss, after a dreadful illness, of Sue Turner. She was a remarkable woman who made a lasting impression with everybody she met and who had the rare, almost unique, ability to communicate and earn the respect of every generation. She was Captain of our Ladies team and, in 2011, was the greatly admired Captain of the GB&I team for the first ever girls match versus Europe and she will be a huge loss to Welsh and British golf. We send our condolences and kindest thoughts to her family whose loss is the greatest of all.

### Chairman's Report

"We are committed to golf becoming a sport for all, and for life, and to making Golf a headline sport and an integral part of community life in Wales"

This is our Vision for Welsh golf which the Council and Board believe properly reflects what all of us are trying to achieve.

Because we enjoy the tremendous support of Sport Wales, the R&A, the PGA, the Golf Foundation and our sponsors we have been able to offer a wide range of services to our clubs and players, a number of which have been internationally acclaimed, which are establishing an excellent foundation for Wales becoming one of the most vibrant Unions of clubs in Europe. We could not achieve a fraction of our programmes without their help and financial support and we will continue to work with them to ensure that we achieve the goals they have for our sport and that golf in Wales prospers at every level.



*G UW Chairman  
John G Jermine*

In recent years these are some of the achievements:-

- Introduced golf to over 180,000 people, including many youngsters and women, and
- Trained over 5,000 volunteers and coaches to help people new to the game enjoy it and make it a part of their life.
- The Golf Awareness Week will be a Golf Awareness Month in 2012 and under a campaign "Golf – Sport4Life" will target new players and nomadic golfers to help the clubs market the benefits of membership to them.
- Developed Business Training Courses that, in 2011, were attended by 35 clubs; the 10 that completed all of the modules increased their membership numbers by an average of 7% compared to the national decline of 3.1%.
- Over 70% of clubs are using the GDW "Securing the Future" Resource Pack.
- A comprehensive web based Health & Safety and HR resource specifically for golf clubs was developed in partnership with England Golf, the SGU and the Xact Group and over 60 clubs used it during the first three months.
- Established a programme of 24 national tournaments that, in 2011, attracted over 12,000 entries and, in our 4 open events, over 75% of the players came from outside Wales
- In 2011 90 of our most talented players were selected for our coaching squads and enjoyed 200 sessions that included every element of elite coaching and development.
- The coaching programme has been restructured to establish a more targeted and personal approach to every individual with agreed benchmarks for both players and coaches; a Performance Monitoring website will be fully operational in 2012 for the benefit of the players and to ensure we give maximum support, within our resources, specifically to those players who give the proper level of commitment.

- In 2011 we entered 60 players and teams of all ages into international events and Tegwen Matthews and Nigel Edwards respectively captained the GB&I teams for the Vagliano Trophy and Walker Cup matches.
- The G UW Rules School has enabled 150 Welsh candidates to qualify as Rules officials.
- A centralised, computer based handicapping system has been developed in conjunction with the SGU and SLGU and will be fully operational in 2012.
- Every course in Wales is periodically re-rated to establish an internationally recognised Standard Scratch Score.
- Numerous workshops for clubs were well attended and this year will be designed for the Chairmen of Green Committees and Secretaries/Managers, the R&A Health and the new G UW Greener Golf website.

This year we have enjoyed unprecedented support and commitment from a huge number of people sharing our ambitions and many of the innovations have been generated by the grass roots of Welsh golf – we will continue to look for new ideas and to widen the participation of golfers throughout Wales. We would like to encourage club members to stand for election to the Council and the process is outlined in the Chief Executive's report.

### **The G UW Council and Board.**

Since 2007 the Council has comprised 19 members elected by the districts and the Council also has the option to co-opt up to 4 additional members. The Board in addition to the President, Chairman and Treasurer has 5 directors who chair the Union's committees. It works very well and Council, recognising the different role of board members, has recently agreed that instead of co-opting Board members to the Council they will be given an open invitation to attend Council meetings and, similarly, 2 members of Council are invited to every board meeting, as observers but with the opportunity to raise any current, or new, matters of interest. The board meets formally 4 times each year and the Council twice but, as a recent innovation, we have introduced 2 additional informal meetings, held alternatively in the north and south, to provide even better lines of communication and continuity. We believe it vital that both the Council and Board have continual access to each other while maintaining the integrity of the well proven operational and governance structures.

Both are served magnificently by our Chief Executive, Richard Dixon, and his small but excellent team, who deliver all of our programmes. Linda, Katherine and Bethan handle all of the administration and have become a superb unit, Hannah, Zoe, Dilwyn, Sian and recent recruit Stuart Finlay are Golf Development Wales, and have just completed their best ever year, and Liz Edwards and her volunteers have made our tournaments such a superb flagship for Welsh Golf - there is no better team and we all look forward to working with them in 2012 and continuing to improve our quality and range of services.

Our new Director of Performance, Ben Waterhouse, brings his own personality and wide experience of delivering support to elite coaches, players and teams – he has inherited from Nigel a highly regarded coaching structure headed by Neil Matthews, our national coach who is building a well-earned reputation for helping our talented players fulfil their potential, and Jeremy Bennett, who has made such an impact with our Ladies whose results, individually and as teams, have been quite remarkable. We will do everything possible to give them the resources they need to put in place the very best coaching structure that will see us continue to produce exceptional results – of course, we will also expect our players to fully commit to their programmes and targets and will carefully monitor every individual player to help them, with that commitment, fulfil their true potential.

## Important Changes in 2011

Two of the icons of Welsh golf, after making huge contributions to our long term success, have been recognised by others for their talents and will, no doubt, make a similar contribution in their new roles. Andy Morgan, who is a personal, lifelong friend, made his first contribution to Welsh golf in 1972 as the non-playing Captain of the first ever Welsh Boys team since when he has shown his passion for Wales in many roles. Without seeking to list them all a few of the highlights would include his drive and energy leading to the WGU building its superb head office at Celtic Manor and the appointment of a full time Secretary, securing for

Wales the honour of hosting the European Team Championships in 1989 which marked our elevation to the top table of European Golf, his role as President of the WGU during 1995 it's Centenary Year, delivering the support of the Welsh clubs to the successful bid for the Ryder Cup and then his membership of the Ryder Cup Wales board. He has Chaired Golf Development Wales since its inception in 2002 and he was recognised by the Golf Foundation in 2011 being awarded the Sir Henry Cotton Award, for long-term service to junior golf. During his two year tenure as President of the European Golf Association Wales hosted a magnificent Dinner at the National Museum of Wales which was attended by our First Minister and the highest officers in European and British golf. His contribution to Wales will never be exceeded but in his new role on the board of Sport Wales we can be comforted that our loss will be for the huge benefit of Welsh sport as a whole. And finally we thank Andy for helping us identify and recruit Rob Holt to succeed him as Chairman of Golf Development Wales. Rob was the extremely successful Chief Executive of Ryder Cup Wales where he built a wonderfully talented team who delivered the most successful, ever, Ryder Cup and he brings with him a tremendous knowledge of the infrastructure of Welsh golf and an enthusiasm for what we are all trying to do. We welcome Rob to G UW and all of us look forward to working with him to spread best practice throughout Wales.



*Andrew B Morgan receiving the Sir Henry Cotton Award from Colin Montgomerie*

Nigel Edwards took a different route via the world's great golf courses and with his single minded ambition to be the best player possible and then for Wales to have the best possible coaching structure and support systems for our most talented players – he succeeded in both cases. Although from a younger generation – I first got to know Nigel really well when he was invited to join our players' squad in 1995 – he has also become somebody for whom I have the highest possible personal regard, and a good friend, and to see his talent and integrity recognised by the R&A in appointing him as Captain of the GB&I men's teams and the English Golf Union recruiting him as their Director of Coaching has given



*Nigel Edwards*

all of us tremendous pleasure. Four Walker Cups says it all and separates Nigel from every other great Welsh player and his Captaincy of the 2011 Walker Cup team saw him become a great ambassador for Wales, both on and off the golf course. As a friend I was thrilled for Nigel when he was appointed to the biggest, specialist, administrative role in amateur golf in Europe and England, always the "old enemy", are to be applauded for recognising his talents - I have no doubt that he will transform their performances over the coming years. We will miss him but thank him for establishing the wonderful structures we have in place and his help in finding his successor in whom we all have great confidence. Ben Waterhouse has joined us from the RFU where, for 7 years, he was a development officer working

with elite players and clubs with an excellent track record. He has a considerable presence and has already established himself as somebody with a determination for Wales to succeed and an understanding of what it will take to do so. Exciting times for us all and we welcome Ben to the key role of “winning medals” and developing all the talents of our young people. Nigel will always be a passionate Welshman and we will try to take full advantage of the legacy he has left us and we all wish him tremendous success in his new role except, of course, when playing Wales!

## **Summary**

I thank everybody on the Council and Board, especially Louise Fleet, our President, who has helped me through all stages of my learning process and who has ensured we have enjoyed continuity throughout; as the first home country to form a merged Union, under her direction, we have become the template that others are following and our current position of strength reflects her understanding of the unique requirements within Wales. And all of us thank Richard and his team for their total commitment and hard work and, personally, I thank them for their unfailing support and good humour which is always greatly appreciated.

Without exception everybody makes a great commitment and contribution to the Union and, I believe, enjoy being involved in some cutting edge initiatives that are delivering positive results that will gradually take us towards our long term Vision. We are looking forward to a successful 2012 and seeing golf in Wales continue to lead the way.



***Louise Fleet***  
***President Golf Union of Wales***

**John G Jermine**  
**Chairman**

## Chief Executive's Report

### Introduction

The euphoria of Wales hosting the "best ever" Ryder Cup has now passed but I firmly believe that we are entering an extremely exciting time for Welsh Golf.

The Chairman has alluded to the G UW's new vision which states that "We are committed to golf becoming a sport for all, and for life, and to making Golf a headline sport and an integral part of community life in Wales" The Board and the Council of the G UW have committed to delivering this vision through:-

Working with our clubs, partners, coaches and volunteers to:

- Grow the game
  - Make the game more accessible and offering everyone in Wales an enjoyable introduction to golf
  - Increase participation and membership
  - Develop a thriving workforce of volunteers and coaches
- Improve the quality of experience for all players
  - Support the development of a thriving network of clubs, providing innovative membership services, championing an ambition to develop Europe's best coaches and providing great championship and events
- Develop our best talent into world class players
  - Players and Teams to win international events and our best players to gain selection for GB&I representative teams

### Effective Administration & Corporate Governance

The G UW Board meets quarterly and the full Council comprising of 19 elected members and up to 4 co-opted members meets twice a year.

The **Board** is responsible for:-

- setting the organisations aims;
- providing leadership to deliver these aims ;
- supervising the management of the Union;
- reporting to stakeholders on the stewardship of the Union;
- maintaining and improving good governance

The **Council** is responsible for:-

- approving the appointment of Directors, monitoring Board decisions and holding the Board to account
- acting as ambassadors for the Union
- assisting at events
- assisting committees
- establishing effective communication with clubs and counties

We are always looking to recruit committed volunteers and this applies particularly to the G UW Council which plays such an important part in helping the Union achieve its ambitions. The electoral process is straightforward and anyone interested should contact the G UW office or their home club for information. In October each year clubs are invited to submit nominations in the districts there are vacancies and these must reach the G UW office by 30<sup>th</sup> November. Regulations provide for candidates to submit a pen portrait/election address of not more than 200 words, this must be submitted either with the respective nomination or by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> December. Voting forms will be sent to member clubs by 15<sup>th</sup> December and the deadline for voting forms to be received at the G UW office is the 1<sup>st</sup> February of the following year.

## 2011 Financial Results

The statutory accounts for the 12 month period to 31 December 2011 show a surplus of £35,000, compared with a budgeted deficit of £16,000, the result of us focussing on tight cost control to ensure our resources are correctly aligned to our objectives. The most significant savings were in international events, and in particular lower costs for the Home Internationals and European Team Championships.

Income during the year benefited from membership numbers being ahead of expectations, a factor which can be attributed to the initiatives of Golf Development Wales. We remain extremely grateful to both Sport Wales and the R&A for their contributions towards our efforts in supporting golf clubs, and investing in Elite golf. We have also enjoyed great support from the PGA, with whom we are working to expand our quality and network of coaches throughout Wales, and the Golf Foundation whose support and commitment to our GDW initiatives is invaluable.

The balance sheet position remains healthy, with reserves at acceptable levels. The cash balance as at December 2011 appears high at £482,000, although this has been impacted by the receipt of both grant income and donations in advance, a position we expect to unwind during 2012.

The budget for 2012 shows a deficit of £26,000 in the GUW, and £4,000 in Golf Development Wales. Within this budget investment in both Golf Development Wales and Elite golf has been maintained at the current level but the board has agreed, in principle, to add a new Development Officer within Golf Development Wales to expand our support of the clubs to increase participation and membership and this will be funded from our Reserves.

## Golf Development Wales (GDW) – Developing the Game in Wales

It has been another extraordinarily successful year for Golf Development Wales based on the exciting the new strategy 'Securing the Future'.

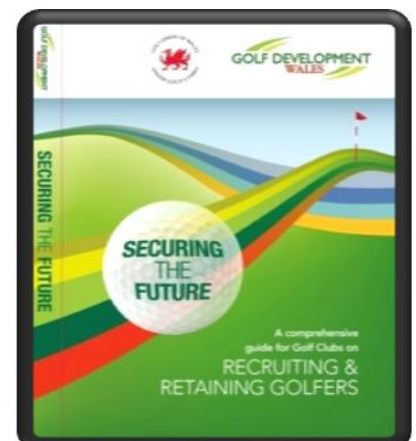


It follows on from the initial work outlined in the "d3" strategy and focuses on working with clubs, volunteers and coaches in planning for the future and creating opportunities for all that last a lifetime. It has been developed through consultation with key partners, Board members, clubs and representatives all of whom have been involved in golf development. While participation levels are increasing the worldwide trend for golf club membership is in decline and Wales has been no different but we have developed

cutting edge initiatives to reverse that trend. Golfers are choosing to play golf differently and in order to 'Secure the Future' of the sport it is imperative that clubs and GDW/GUW make changes and work together to introduce advanced management policies designed to increase membership levels.

In this new strategy, Golf Development Wales is focussing its efforts in supporting clubs to adapt and plan for their future making golf the game everybody wants to play, where it becomes an integral part of the local community and where it becomes the sport that is played for life. A full copy of the strategy can be downloaded from [www.golfdevelopmentwales.org](http://www.golfdevelopmentwales.org)

'Securing the Future' clubs - 35 clubs to date have been selected through an application process to benefit from business and development planning support with the main aim of increasing turnover and recruiting and retaining members. The project involves training, mentoring as well as support in putting the tools in place to assist clubs in achieving their aims. There are 2 levels of support and all clubs have the option to upgrade their website, tee time booking system and data capture tools, which is free of charge for the first year. Total membership in the original 10 selected business clubs was analysed and showed a large year on year decline since 2007 but in 2011 they achieved an increase of +7% compared to the average decline of 3% elsewhere in Wales. These results can be replicated by every club that is willing to introduce the new



policies and that is why the board believes that an increase in the GDW resources is fully justified.



The 'Securing the Future' resource is a comprehensive, flexible guide for golf clubs on recruiting and retaining golfers. To date 117 clubs have requested their copy (this is still available to clubs and available through the GDW office). 2011 saw the third National Golf Awareness Week - supported by the R&A, it built on the success of previous years, aimed at increasing awareness and encouraging nomadic and former club members to join their local golf club. A week long Real Radio campaign occurred in the run up to the week. Over 60 clubs took part, with hundreds of trial members secured as a result. 12 LA's participated linked to clubs, 40 festivals took place with over 4,000 children.

The scheme will be increased to a month long campaign in 2012.

Following on from the successful pilot in 2010, the Beginner Start Golfing Scheme was run by 67 clubs across Wales. Clubs could access a coaching grant to encourage beginners to learn and take up the game, targeting general beginners, or specific groups e.g. juniors, families, women and girls etc. The clubs were also required to run a trial membership to include an introduction to: the course, rules and etiquette, existing members, the club environment and social events. This year most of the schemes commenced in a 3 week block starting in GAW, so beginners as well as nomads were catered for throughout Wales.

The continued success of our school based golf projects saw over 7,300 primary school children and over 3,000 secondary school children participating in Tri-Golf and Golf Xtreme (academic year 2010/2011). Furthermore, 27 clubs ran GDW's Girls Start Golfing scheme, with over 400 girls taking up lessons.

46 golf clubs to date have achieved GDW's National Junior Club Accreditation (Junior GolfCert). The Junior Golfcert award has been developed to recognise those clubs attempting to increase the number of young people playing golf by providing a quality and fun experience. It also acts as a model for a junior section to strive towards.

Welsh professional Rhys Davies helped launch the Golf Skills Cymru challenge at the GDW stand during the 2011 Wales Open. Golf Skills Cymru is an 'off the course' challenge with fun standard skills that can be arranged at the club, county or central venue. It is for all ages and abilities, focuses on recruitment, retention and improvement and promotes constructive practice. School children, junior sections and community groups were invited to attend the stand and compare their game with the best. Participants had the chance to match their putting against the score set by Davies at the Celtic Manor launch, while there were also tests for all elements of golf in the award-nominated new scheme.



*Rhys Davies with eager youngsters at the Wales Open*

Golf Development Wales was one of several top sporting bodies commended for achieving the NSPCC's child protection in sports standards at an event hosted by Welsh Minister for Housing, Regeneration & Heritage Huw Lewis. Over the last 12 months GDW had been working towards achieving standards within the national child protection framework. The framework provides practical support for sporting organisations and groups throughout Wales to help raise child protection standards within their sport.



The Welsh Mini Masters continues to grow with more than 300 young people taking part in 2011. The Final, with 58 youngsters, was once again held at The Celtic Manor Resort, home of the 2010 Ryder Cup, and, like the Ryder Cup, it rained! The players included members without a handicap, and non-members, and competition was designed to be their first, fun, competitive experience and was co-ordinated by GDW and Shelter Cymru. The tournament was a huge success and will continue for 2012.

Furthermore, the first ever National Adult Beginner Final was held at the Celtic Manor, exactly a year after the superstars of Europe and America were there for the Ryder Cup. There were 40 new adult golfers who took part in the event representing 14 clubs from across Wales with the furthest players travelling from Ruthin Pwllglas in the North. Each of the players had been introduced to the game this year through GDW funded beginner lessons which have been delivered by the professionals in their club.

The Ryder Cup Wales Legacy fund, financed by the Welsh Assembly Government, has proved very beneficial in the development of golf in Wales. All 40 facilities are now officially open and every one of them is supported by a Development Officer trained to help them reach their full potential. In total there have been 200 new holes, 8 driving ranges, 4 indoor facilities, 10 upgrades to existing courses, 9 mini courses, 9 short game areas and 1 portable course provided through the £2 million fund.

### **New for 2012**

Following on from the pilot of the 'new2golf' membership scheme for new juniors and adults, the GDW membership will now be mandatory for every participant on a GDW coaching scheme. It gives added benefits to ease the transition to full membership and to get more participants hooked on golf for life. It includes an attractive welcome pack with discounted lesson vouchers, public liability insurance, beginner information, fun rules and etiquette, entry into a beginner competition plus added extras. This will also enable us to track and communicate with those who are new to golf, encourage them to become club members and earn additional income for G UW.



GDW has been working closely with Disability Sport Wales in 2011 and plans to work towards their NGB 'Insport Mark'. Insport is a 4 stage award programme, designed to ease NGB's into inclusion, and support through the process of opening sport up to disabled people, in terms of participation, coaching, volunteering, officiating and employment opportunities.

### **Elite Performance and Coaching 2011**

Amy Boulden and Rhys Pugh, two exceptional young talents who bring great credit to Wales, were Wales' outstanding performers in 2011 and their achievements are listed later in this report in the Welsh Golf Awards section. Our champions, Becky Harries and Jason Shufflebotham, carried the mantle in magnificent fashion in the Ladies' and Men's Home Internationals with Becky achieving 6 points out of 6 and Jason 5.5 out of 6 – results achieved by very few players in the history of Welsh golf, and both were recognised by being selected for GB&I squads. Becky also finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the English Women's Open Stroke Play, another wonderful performance.

The 2010 Welsh Champion Alistair Jones reached the quarter final of the British Amateur, James Frazer won the Duncan Putter and in doing so set a record second day score of 130 which emphasises his



talent which we hope to see reflected, in 2012, in the biggest events in the UK. Emerging star Chloe Williams finished second in the Scottish Girls's under 16's and was selected for the first ever GB&I girls team where she was GB&I's leading points scorer. A record 8 Welshmen made the cut in the Brabazon Trophy at Burnham & Berrow while Rachel Lewis won the Astor Salver and Katherine O'Connor the Bridget Jackson Bowl and the Pleasington Putter.

The Welsh Ladies team finished runners up in the Home Internationals as did the Welsh Boys team – the Ladies team only lost 1 out of the 6 sessions while the boys produced one of Wales' best ever sessions in international competition when defeating Scotland in the last days singles by 8.5 pts to 1.5 and in doing so not losing a match winning 7 and halving 3. Other notable team performances were the Ladies finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in the European Nations Cup the Men 8<sup>th</sup> and the Men's Team winning the second flight in the European Team Championship defeating England along the way.

It is essential we make every effort to maximise our relatively limited resources by continuing to be innovative in developing our coaching structures. During 2011 Nigel Edwards and our coaches decided to streamline the squads and introduce targeted and a more personal approach to those individuals willing to give their full commitment to their programmes and setting higher standards and benchmarks for both the players and the coaches. It is our long term target to develop the best coaching system in the world, to help our coaches achieve international recognition, and to provide the best of our elite players with access to the world's best coaches. The financial support we receive from Sport Wales and the R&A is absolutely invaluable and we continually review our results to ensure we make best use of those funds.

### **Championships and Events**

Congratulations to all our Champions, both individual and team. Becky Harries won the Welsh Ladies' Close Championship at Royal St David's whilst Jason Shufflebotham secured the Welsh Amateur Championship at Aberdovey.

It is extremely pleasing to report that, with a few exceptions, there was an increase in entries to our championships and events. 2011 saw the successful introduction of a Girls' Inter Counties Championship, which was run in conjunction with the Boys' Inter Counties, with Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire the inaugural winners.

A summary of the winners of our national championships and Welsh performances in international team events follows:

<b>INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	<b>WINNER/POSITION</b>
Ladies' Open Stroke Play Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Charley Hull (Woburn); 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lucy Gould (Bargoed);
Ladies' Close Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Becky Harries (Haverfordwest); R-U Amy Boulden (Llandudno Maesdu)
Welsh Open Stroke Play Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Darren Wright (Rowlands Castle); R-U Ben Stow (Rushmore)
Welsh Open Youths' Championship	Ben Stow (Rushmore); R-U Will Jones (Oswestry)
Welsh Seniors' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Glyn Rees (Fleetwood); Paul Bloomfield (Chippenham)
Welsh Open Seniors' Championship	Glyn Rees (Fleetword); Andrew Stracey (Littlestone)
Welsh Boys' Championship	David Boote (Walton Heath); Oliver Dickson (Pennard)
Welsh Boys' Stroke Play Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Ryan Thomas (Vale of Glamorgan); 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jack Bush (Morlais Castle)
Welsh Girls' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Katie Bradbury (Cottrell Park); R-U Sara Rees-Evans (Penrhos)
Welsh Amateur Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Jason Shufflebotham (Prestatyn); R-U Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan)

<b>INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	<b>WINNER/POSITION</b>
Welsh Boys' U15 Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Robert Evans (Cradoc); Thomas Williams (Wrexham)
Welsh Boys' U13 Championship	Matthew Harris (St Mellons); Joseph Blunden (Horsehay Village)
Welsh Girls' U16 Championship	Nia Greville (Ashburnham); Fauve Birch (Pontardawe)
Welsh Senior Ladies' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Chris Harries (Llanwern); Jane Rees (Hendon)
Welsh Individual Handicap Championship:	
Category 'A'	1 <sup>st</sup> Graeme Fletcher (Raglan Parc); R-U Mark Rees (Pontardawe)
Category 'B'	Layton Smith (Tawe Vale); R-U Philip Gordge (Gower)
GUW Medal	1 <sup>st</sup> Ella Griffiths (Grove); Claire Greenslade (Pontypridd)
Australian Spoons	1 <sup>st</sup> Dewstow; R-U Dolgellau
Challenge Bowls	Silver 1 <sup>st</sup> Joanna Bond (Langland Bay); R-U Eirian Williams (Penrhos) Bronze 1 <sup>st</sup> Isabel Kent (Tenby); Jayne Mitchel (Welshpool)
Centenary Greensome	1 <sup>st</sup> Ashburnham; R-U Aberdovey

<b>TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
Welsh Inter Counties	Abandoned due to adverse weather conditions
Welsh Ladies' County Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Mid Wales; R-U Monmouthshire
Welsh Boys' Inter Counties	1 <sup>st</sup> Gwent; R-U Glamorgan
Welsh Girls' Inter Counties	1 <sup>st</sup> Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire; R-U Glamorgan
Welsh Ladies' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Newport; R-U Haverfordwest
Welsh Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Neath; R-U Newport
CCV Welsh Handicap Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Celtic Manor; R-U Haverfordwest
Welsh Junior Inter Club Challenge	1 <sup>st</sup> Celtic Manor; R-U Mold
Ping Welsh Mixed Team Challenge	1 <sup>st</sup> Penrhos; Grove
Victory Shield	1 <sup>st</sup> Royal St David's; R-U Aberystwyth
European Boys' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Spain / Wales 15 <sup>th</sup>
European Girls' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> France / Wales 2 <sup>nd</sup> Flight C
European Men's Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> France / Wales 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight B
European Ladies' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Sweden / Wales 17 <sup>th</sup>
Boys' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England / Wales 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Girls' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England / Wales 4 <sup>th</sup>
Men's Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England / Wales 4 <sup>th</sup>
Ladies' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England / Wales 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Senior Men's Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> Ireland / Wales 4 <sup>th</sup>
Senior Ladies' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England / Wales 4 <sup>th</sup>

## Welsh Champions – 2011



*Becky Harries*



*Jason Shufflebotham*

### Rules Schools

The Rules Sub-Committee continues to stage bi-annual Schools in addition to arranging re-sits in the year in which there is not a School. The next School is scheduled for autumn 2012 with the examination in January 2013. Three candidates re-sat the examination this year with one achieving the pass rate of 60%. Ifor Jenkins and Keith Price attended the annual R&A Tournament Administrators' and Referees' School and achieved excellent results in the examination. The R&A published a new edition of the Decisions on the Rules of Golf which will sit alongside the 2012 – 2015 Rules of Golf.

Amendments have also been made to the Rules of Amateur Status and of particular interest to clubs is the expansion of the rules covering prize vouchers used for the purchase of goods or services from a golf club.

### Sponsorship

The GUW remains extremely grateful to its sponsors Future Financials, Glenmuir, CCV Underwriting Sports & Leisure, PING, Pinnacle Office Equipment, Footjoy, Titleist and Hugh James Solicitors who have all continued their invaluable support for Welsh Golf during 2011 – we hope they share our pleasure in seeing our young players developing as true ambassadors for golf in Wales.

In an ever competitive environment for external funding we continue to look for new sponsors who would like to be involved with any of our initiatives or teams and we have retained an independent sponsorship consultant to work with us.

### The Future Financials Welsh Golf Awards

The Future Financials Welsh Golf Awards were presented at a luncheon at the Celtic Manor Resort in December 2011. These awards would not be possible without the support from of sponsor Future Financials. 2011 was the second year they have sponsored the awards and they have already committed to 2012. Future Financials is a Cardiff based Welsh company which provides Golf Clubs with a facility that enables their members to pay their annual subscriptions by monthly direct debit payments, rather than in one large annual payment.



*Winners of the Future Financial's Welsh Golf Awards 2012*

**Welsh Golf Club of the Year** Carmarthen Golf Club was the worthy winner of this award following a remarkable turnaround in the club's fortunes. In 2007 the club's centenary year they were struggling, membership numbers were declining and members were critical of the course. In 2008 the club showed a loss of £23,000, but then started a programme of change which has seen it change to the extent that this year a profit of £40,000 is anticipated. The club took some brave decisions, including hiring a Director of golf Darren Griffiths, and they now have a thriving junior section, the condition of the course has improved immeasurably and their membership has increased by more than 100. The club has taken advantage of Golf Union of Wales and Ryder Cup Wales schemes, has introduced measures specifically designed for their local area and invested money in the right areas and is a great example of what can be achieved.

A new driving range and fitting centre was built with the help of a Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund Grant, investment was made to improve the quality of the greens and standard of the course, the catering improved dramatically and the club joined a cluster agreement with local clubs and hotels; they also introduced an online tee booking system and many other membership and visitor initiatives which have quickly given them a modern, dynamic corporate image – brilliant to see.

An added bonus for the club is that, in recognition of their achievements, the R&A has invited 4 of their members to a very special day at the Open, at Royal Lytham and St Annes, in July, which will include a visit to the Trophy Room; a similar invitation was also extended to Rhondda Golf Club whose current Captain, Gareth Hughes, won the BBC Cymru Wales Unsung Hero Award 2011, and we are all delighted that both clubs have been recognised by such a prestigious body in world golf.

**Welsh Volunteer of the Year** - Pontypridd junior organiser Ian Pickering was presented with the award by GUW President Louise Fleet in recognition of the vast amount of work he does to help juniors. Ian dedicates a huge amount of his time to ensure children in the Pontypridd community have the opportunity to try and play golf in a fun and safe environment.

His achievements at the club form a lengthy list, including helping Pontypridd to become a Junior Golfcert accredited club, he runs Mini Masters and Shelter Cymru events along with many junior social events. He has established a thriving junior girl's section which is integrated with the boys, has dramatically improved the communication with juniors and their parents, while also finding time to take the junior section to the 2010 Ryder Cup and Wales Open.

On receiving the award Ian who is also heavily involved with Glamorgan County said "It is a great honour to get an award like this and I am delighted to collect it on behalf of the team of people at Pontypridd, you do not do this sort of thing for recognition, to be honest just seeing the faces of the kids is all the reward you need. We have come a long way in a short time and a great number of people have contributed to what we have achieved".

**Welsh Amateur Golfer of the Year** - Two of Welsh golf's brightest young stars shared top honours as Rhys Pugh and Amy Boulden were jointly recognised as the Welsh Amateur Golfers of the Year. The award was presented by Walker Cup captain Nigel Edwards and it was the first time this award has been given jointly because the judges decided their achievements could not be separated.

The two 18-year-olds were both unbeaten in matches against the United States, Amy claiming two and a half points out of three in the Junior Solheim Cup while Rhys claimed a perfect three out of three on his Walker Cup debut – his ability to come back from a 3 holes deficit to win his first singles match was crucial in GB&I reversing a dangerous situation that was developing in the match, especially against a genuinely world class and ranked opponent.



*Amy Boulden Welsh Amateur Golfer of the Year*

In addition to competing for Europe in the Junior Solheim Cup, Amy also represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Astor Trophy and the Vagliano Trophy, was runner-up in the Welsh Ladies Amateur and reached the semi-final of the Ladies British Open Amateur Championship. An amazingly consistent year was capped off by coming second in the Royal Birkdale Ladies and Tenby Scratch, third in the Welsh Ladies Stroke Play Championship and fourth in the Ladies British Open Stroke Play Championship.

Rhys was also the winner of the Carwyn James Young Sportsman of the Year Award at the BBC Wales Sports Personality show, an award previously won by Amy, and was the Irish Open Stroke Play Champion. He was the runner-up in the Welsh Men's Amateur Championship, won the Pinnacle Welsh Order of Merit and the Hugh James Boys Order of Merit. He was ninth in the European Men's Individual Championship, second in the Trubshaw Cup, third in the Peter McEvoy Trophy and fourth in the St David's Gold Cross.

Two remarkable young people of whom we are all very proud.

**Welsh Tour Professional of the Year** - In receiving the award European Tour star Jamie Donaldson follows in the footsteps of Wales World Cup colleague Rhys Davies 2010, Solheim Cup star Becky Brewerton 2009 and former Masters champion Ian Woosnam 2008.

Jamie is a product of the Welsh golf system, winning the Welsh Amateur match play and stroke play championships while being a regular Wales international where he often partnered current Walker Cup captain Nigel Edwards. He represented Great Britain and Ireland in the World Amateur Team Championship of 2000 alongside current world No 1 Luke Donald and Paul Casey.

In 2011 he achieved eight top 10 finishes on the European Tour, eventually coming 38<sup>th</sup> in the Race to Dubai rankings. He forced his way into the top 100 of the World Rankings, played a starring role in the victorious GB and I team in the Seve Trophy and partnered Rhys Davies to 8<sup>th</sup> place in the World Cup in China. On being presented with the award by Andy Ingram, Chairman of the G UW's Teams & Performance Committee, Jamie said "It is always great to receive an award like this and certainly I had a lot of good times playing for

Wales as an amateur coming up through the ranks. Next year the target is to improve again and I would love to get into the Ryder Cup team. I know that will be difficult as I am currently outside the world's top 50, but it is possible and I will certainly do my best to try and make it happen."



*Jamie Donaldson receiving the Welsh Tour Pro of the Year Trophy from Andy Ingram*

**Golf Development Wales Professional of the Year** - Rhondda golf pro David Pocock was recognised for the vast amount of work he does to help juniors by being named the Golf Development Wales Professional of the Year.

He had only been in the job 18 months but in that time he has made a massive impact on golf in the area, providing coaching at 30 schools and coaching more than 100 juniors at Rhondda GC. On accepting his award from GDW Chairman Andy Morgan he said "The work Golf Development Wales do makes it very, very easy. They are there for advice, funding and support, Zoe Thacker there has been brilliant for our golf club." In 2011 David delivered six Junior Leader Workshops for Golf Development Wales and local clubs, along with several Tri-Golf activator courses. He also embarked on a charitable project with Valleys Kids where two teenagers are being mentored to deliver level one coaching to less privileged children in the local area. He is the coach to the Rhondda Golf Club Junior Golf Team which won the Glamorgan County Championship, started Rhondda Cynon Taff development squads at under 13 and 15 level and provided 3 months of free coaching to around 60 children and 10 free lessons to 30 beginner ladies as part of a business partnership with Hutchings Vauxhall.

Around 20 of David's beginner ladies have taken up membership at Rhondda Golf Club as part of the club's new lady member offer and in addition to all that he was appointed as a Glamorgan County nursery squad coach.

### **Conclusion**

Both the Chairman and I have referred to the Golf Union of Wales' new Vision which we believe is achievable in the coming years especially with the continuing support of our key partners, a tremendous band of dedicated and skilled volunteers, and, most importantly, our clubs. I believe we have a collective responsibility to grow the game to make it stronger and ensure that future generations have the opportunity to play the game and, if they enjoy it, to join a club for a lifetime of pleasure in the game we all love. 2012 will be one of the most exciting years in our recent history and I believe that we have the people and ideas, and are making the essential investment, necessary to achieve our ambitious, but realistic, goals. I look forward to working with everybody in Wales to make that happen.

**Richard Dixon**  
**Chief Executive**

**March 2012**