

## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

### Chairman's Report

#### Introduction

"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"

During 2012 we continued to improve and widen the range of services offered to clubs of whom 51 have joined the Business Scheme and over (70) attended one of the seminars or road shows which were targeted at the key issues currently faced by our clubs. Our aim is to identify and share best practice and to help clubs develop their own policies and programmes designed to meet their own, unique, challenges.

Introducing new players to the game and attracting and retaining members are the top priorities and based on the proven success of our programmes in 2012 we are committing a significant amount of our reserves into expanding our development team so that more clubs will be able to take advantage of them.

This is only possible because we continue to enjoy the tremendous support, and advice, from our partners, Sport Wales, the R&A, the PGA and the Golf Foundation, who, between them, contribute over (50%) of our income all of which is used for the benefit of our clubs and players. We are extremely grateful for their continuing support.



*G UW Chairman  
John G Jermine*

#### The G UW Council and Board

Golf in Wales is heavily dependent on the dedication and hard work of a small group of volunteers in our clubs and the same is true of the G UW. The Council members are elected by the clubs and serve on our committees which are responsible for delivering all the club services, tournaments and elite players' development. The board establishes the strategy and operating policies and one of the board members is chairman of each sub- committee. The board meets quarterly, and two members of the Council are invited to attend each meeting and the Council meets, formally, twice a year and, informally, twice during the golfing season, to ensure that communications are continuous, and any issues are resolved in good time. Detailed reviews of our development arm, Golf Development Wales, Club Services, Handicaps and Course Rating, Communications, Championships and Teams and Performance Committees are included later in the Report. I am extremely grateful to all of the board members for their support and enthusiasm throughout the year and am delighted to confirm that the same team has agreed to continue for 2013.

All are serviced by a professional, enthusiastic and hard-working executive team lead by our Chief Executive, Richard Dixon. It is marvellous to see him restored to such robust good health and we are tremendously impressed by the quality of all the individuals making up the team that Richard has developed over recent years which has earned a burgeoning reputation, throughout the UK and internationally, for excellence.

Since the merger of the two Unions, in 2007, Louise Fleet has been instrumental in shaping the merged Union and in her roles as Chairman, from 2007 until 2011, and, since then, as President, she has ensured that the Union has been built on strong foundations with an operating structure that deals with the current challenges. We all greatly appreciate her huge contribution to Welsh golf which has guaranteed her, forever, a place in our role of honour.



*Louise Fleet  
President*



**Celia Bartlett**  
**Incoming President**

The Council is similarly delighted that Celia Bartlett has accepted our invitation to succeed Louise as President; she has been a member of Council for nearly 7 years and, as a qualified referee and keen supporter of Welsh golf, is well known throughout Wales. Uniquely she has been similarly honoured as the first woman President of her home club, Newport Links, Pembrokeshire, and there is no doubt that both club and country will be well served by Celia, who will represent us at many important national and international events during the next two years; like Louise I am sure Celia is also very much the right person at the right time.

We have also been very fortunate that for the past 5 years Guy Bates has been our Treasurer and has ensured that our finances have been well managed. Just as importantly he has played an important role on the board and been a driving force in helping us determine our priorities and formulating our policies on a wide range of issues and his wise counsel has been invaluable. But a growing family, and an ever more demanding career, need more of his time and he will be standing down at the AGM but we are all extremely pleased that Guy has indicated a wish to return to the Union as soon as he is able – he will always be very

welcome. Personally, and on behalf of us all, I thank Guy for his support and advice, and wish him every success in the coming years.

### **Coaching and Squads**

A major role of the Union is to identify and develop our most talented young players to help them earn individual, and team, successes and, during 2012, we have implemented a number of changes we all believe will significantly improve our longer term results. We received over 300 applications to join our squads, of whom we interviewed 150, and selected 28 women and 55 men; each of them has signed a letter of commitment and acceptance of our code of behaviour and they will all be appraised regularly to assess their progress so that only those who fulfil their commitment will remain in the squad. This will ensure we are able to concentrate our financial and training resources on those players who are willing to work hard and commit to the programmes. Our coaches, who were instrumental in devising the new procedures, are delighted with the attitude and approach of the players in the squads and all of us believe that we see considerable progress during the next few years.

For the most talented players, including those whose work commitments prevent them from becoming full members of our squad, we are able to arrange specific programmes targeted at their personal requirements so that they benefit from our support and continue to progress and we benefit from their experience and availability for team selection. It is increasingly difficult for players with careers to find the time for coaching as well as the tournaments but we are making every effort to help them continue their competitive careers for as long as possible. To complement these innovations we are currently developing training programmes for prospective team captains and managers to ensure continuity and the benefits of experience are passed to successive generations.

### **Summary**

As Chairman I have greatly enjoyed these past two years and was delighted to accept the invitation from the Council to continue as Chairman until 2015. The real pleasure is to be working with such a talented and committed group of people – all of them share our passion for the game and I am sure that we can deliver meaningful progress in all areas. Golf is particularly fortunate that we have a superb team of volunteers in the clubs, on our Council and as members of our board, a truly excellent executive team and partners who share our vision and work with us to deliver it. I thank all of them and look forward to a wonderful season of golf in 2013.

**John Jermine**  
**April 2013**

## Chief Executive's Report

### Introduction

"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
- Improve the quality of experience for all players
- Develop our best talent into world class players

### 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 formally 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.

### Changes in Personnel

The Chairman, in his report, quite rightly alluded to the important role of volunteers in the successful development of the game in Wales, he also recognised the contribution of the executive staff. We have an excellent team based at Catsash and I would urge you to make use of their expertise. At the end of 2012 Liz Edwards retired from her position of Director of Championships, Handicapping & Course Rating a post she excelled in since the merger of the two Unions in 2007. Before the G UW Liz was Secretary of the Welsh Ladies Golf Union and before that she was an elected member of the WLGU's Executive Committee and a past Chairman, all in all Liz has contributed a huge amount to Welsh golf and will be missed by all who worked with her. One of our administrative staff Katherine Jones left us in July moving out of Wales with her family we wish her and Liz all the very best for the future. We have been extremely lucky in securing high quality replacements with Rhys James being appointed as Championship Manager, Rhys who is a qualified PGA professional and also a former club manager will be responsible for running all our championships with the assistance of Nicola Miller who joined the admin team during 2012.

## 2012 Financial Results

The statutory accounts for the 12 month period to 31 December 2012 show a surplus of £27,000, compared with a budgeted deficit of £26,000. As with prior years we have remained focused on cost control and ensuring maximum value for money in all of our operations. The largest individual areas of savings compared with budget were in the costs associated with entering teams in International Events (£26,000 lower than budget), and in staff costs where we have had some staff changes during the year (£10,000 lower than budget).

The initiatives run by Golf Development Wales continue to have a positive impact on membership; Income has benefited from there being around 1,000 more registered members in 2012 than forecast, which has created additional income of £9,000 compared with budget.

Grant income remains critical to our efforts in supporting golf clubs and developing Elite golfers, and we are working increasingly closely with Sport Wales and the R&A to deliver our objectives. We are extremely grateful to them for providing around half of our income to grow the game. The continued support of the Golf Foundation is also invaluable, as is the contribution made by our various sponsors.

The balance sheet position remains healthy, with reserves at acceptable levels. The cash balance as at December 2012 remains high at £542,000 although this is inflated by having received grants and donations in advance. The unwinding of these advances, coupled with the implementation of our 4 year plan should see the cash position reduce significantly over the coming years.

The relatively strong balance sheet position created by tight budgetary control has enabled us to plan for significantly increased losses in the coming years, as we increase the resources available for Club Services and Golf Development Wales. Fundamental to this plan will be the recruitment of two new Golf Development Wales officers on fixed contracts to boost the membership and participation schemes undertaken. The budget for 2013 shows a deficit of £55,000 in GUW, and £20,000 in Golf Development Wales.

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

It has been another successful year for Golf Development Wales based on the ‘Securing the Future’ strategy.



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 is no different – what we have done is develop innovative initiatives to help positively influence this trend. Golfers are choosing to play golf differently and in order to ‘Secure the Future’ of the sport it is imperative that clubs and the GUW make changes and work together to introduce advanced management policies designed to increase sustainable membership levels.

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

**GDW Business Support Scheme (BSS)** - 51 clubs to date have been selected through an application process to benefit from the business support scheme. The project is an intensive business development and mentoring programme. It provides a group of people involved in the decision making process at the club with the education, support and tools to drive the project forward and implement change at the golf club. There are 2 levels of support. Level 1 is a more flexible approach and involves a 1 day training course by an industry expert and additional support throughout the year by the development team. Level 2 is more intensive and consists of the 1 day training course but additionally includes 4 club visits by the industry expert, as well as, further meetings by the development team. All clubs are also provided with supporting tools and resources such as the option to upgrade their website at a discounted rate, free data capture tools and business templates. GDW are continually looking to improve and strengthen, so in addition to this clubs have had the option to gain business specialist advice from the Welsh Government Regional Business Centre service on business, environmental and/ or employment issue.

The initial tranche of 10 level 2 pilot clubs had consistently showed a year on year decline in membership since 2007 however in 2012 they achieved an average increase of +8% compared to a national average decline of 1%. Further results showed an average of 5% increase in turnover (results based on 8 clubs) and a 17% increase in visitors (results from 9 clubs). The feedback delivered from the clubs was very positive about the support scheme but clubs stressed that it does require hard work from fully committed drivers of the scheme, as well as, support from the whole club.

The 'Securing the Future' resource is a comprehensive, flexible guide for golf clubs on recruiting and retaining golfers. To date 117 clubs have requested a copy (this is still available to clubs on request).



2012 saw the fourth National Golf Awareness Month - supported by the R&A. The newly extended month-long (previously week long) promotional drive, coincided with the first major championship of the year, the US Masters recognised as the unofficial start of the golfing season. It primarily focused on non-members and beginners with the ambitious aim of increasing club membership. In 2012 we promoted the benefits of membership to nomadic and beginner golfers. 57 clubs were involved in the scheme and 968 participants took part in GAM activities.

The Beginner Start Golfing Scheme was run by 65 clubs across Wales and the girl's scheme was run in 25 clubs. 1341 participants took part (357 in the girl's scheme) and 869 trial members we gained. This scheme enables clubs to 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. 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.

2012 also saw the launch of the 'New 2 Golf' GDW membership benefit scheme, which was promoted to all those who took part in a beginner scheme. The scheme gives added benefits to ease the transition to full membership and to get more participants hooked on golf for life. There are nearly 800 members to date and a robust communication plan has been developed. A survey has also been developed to ensure we learn from the golfers New2Golf experience. As part of becoming a New2Golf member the participant receives an attractive welcome pack with various benefits.

**NEW 2 GOLF**

Designed to encourage beginners to progress through lessons, to get hooked on golf quicker!

**Member benefits**

- Adult/Junior package
- Vouchers for Discounted lessons
- Rules & Etiquette packs
- Welcome pack
- Public liability insurance\*
- Voucher for discounted golf insurance
- Prize draws

**£2.50 Juniors**  
**£5.00 Adults \***

Our school based golf projects saw over 6200 primary school children and over 3,200 secondary school children participating in Tri-Golf and Golf Xtreme.

47 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. The [www.juniorgolfguide.org](http://www.juniorgolfguide.org) website is also a tool that fully supports clubs in achieving the award as well as acting as a general guide for junior organisers.

**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 Rhys Davies at the Celtic Manor the previous year, while there were also tests for all elements of golf in the award-nominated new scheme. 33 clubs and organisations are now registered to use the resource as well as the online leader board.



The Welsh Mini Masters continues to grow with more than 300 young people taking part in 2012. The Final was once again held at The Celtic Manor Resort, home of the 2010 Ryder Cup. Competitors included children who were not members of clubs and did not have handicaps. The competition is designed to be their first, fun, competitive experience and was coordinated by GDW and Shelter Cymru. The tournament was a huge success and will continue for 2013.

The Ryder Cup Wales Legacy fund, financed by the Welsh Government, has proved very beneficial in the development of golf in Wales. All 38 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.

### **Initiatives to look out for in 2013**

**Golf Awareness Month (GAM) 2013** – This is a national promotional campaign co-funded by the R & A. In 2013 during GAM we aim to focus our efforts on recruiting new people to the sport, promoting golf as an inclusive sport and providing opportunities to anyone wanting to try the sport and potentially take up the sport for life. During the campaign we aim to promote the clubs running beginner golf schemes during GAM. Every participant that takes part in a scheme during New2Golf month will also become a 'New2Golf' member. The membership scheme will give added benefits to ease the transition to full membership. All clubs participating will support and encourage golfers from their initial taste of golf right through to club membership and beyond and New2Golf month/ GAM will ensure we communicate this to the masses.

**Ryder Cup Trust Fund** – In 2012 GDW secured a grant to run a PGA Development Ambassador project and to increase staff resource to help co-ordinate the project. This is aimed at utilising PGA professionals as mentors and/ or tutors who have a proven track record of running thriving businesses, successful Golf Development schemes and have contributed to increased membership numbers at their club. Their main role will be to share good practice with other clubs and PGA professionals and provide 'hands on' advice and support. PGA professionals who are striving to deliver similar successful projects can tap into this resource as well as gaining CPD points. For clubs and PGA professionals interested in receiving this support please contact the Golf Development Wales team.

**Inclusive Disability Forum** – G UW and GDW in partnership with Sport Wales and Disability Sport Wales has set up an Inclusive Golf Forum consisting of a strategic group and implementation group. GDW will be leading on the implementation group. We will set up 10 disability beginner golf hubs delivering beginner coaching sessions with specially trained PGA professionals. An Inclusive Golf Coaching Sport Coach UK workshop has recently been delivered to help pilot these projects.

**Golf Roots Task Force** – 2 pilot meetings will take place in South East Wales and South Central involving Golf Development Wales, Local Authority Sports Development staff, local club junior organisers, club professionals and Sport Wales. These meetings will aim to provide links and co-ordination of grass roots golf across Wales.

**Volunteer and Coach Education Workshops** – GDW will continue to provide a calendar of courses throughout the year which will include: Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshops, a pilot Child Protection Time to Listen workshop, Junior Leader workshop, Street Golf and more.

**Social Networking** – GDW now have a twitter and facebook account, so to keep updated please 'like' us on our facebook page - Golf\_Development\_Wales and 'follow' us on twitter GDW\_golf.

**Golf Development Wales New Website** – All related initiatives will be promoted on a new interactive GDW launched in April 2013. The website will also enable clubs to promote their beginner sessions and activities throughout the year.



## Elite Performance and Coaching 2012



**Rhys Pugh**  
**European Men's Individual Amateur Champion 2012**

There were many notable Welsh performances in 2012 with Amy Boulden and Rhys Pugh again leading the way. A summary of their achievements can be found in the Welsh Golf Awards section but they provided two of the biggest highlights of 2012; Pugh winning the European Men's Individual Amateur and Boulden topping off a stellar year by being part of the winning GB&I Curtis Cup team.

2011 Duncan Putter winner James Frazer finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to Pugh at the European Individual and in the process set a new course record at Carton House, Ireland with a third round of 62. Frazer went on to finish in 6<sup>th</sup> place and was the highest ranked British player at the World Amateur Team Championship.

Our Order of Merit winners were Ben Westgate (Pinnacle Men's), Amy Boulden (PING Ladies) and Henry James (Hugh James Boy's). James had a strong year with the highlight coming at the British Boys Amateur Championships where he finished as runner-up.

The biggest team events in Amateur golf, the World Amateur Team Championship's, took place in Turkey in October. Over 70 teams took part in the Men's event and 52 in the Ladies and our Men finished a very creditable T17th and the Ladies T22nd.

The Ladies produced a huge team performance at the Ladies Home Internationals, finishing unbeaten in 2<sup>nd</sup> and only losing out on count back after victories over Scotland and Ireland and a final day draw against England.

We must also congratulate Wales' Tegwen Matthews who led the GB&I Curtis Cup team to a historic win over the USA at Nairn in June. There was a strong Welsh influence at Nairn with Tegwen, herself a former 4 time Curtis Cup player, being joined by a Welsh team manager in Anna Hubbard and of course Amy Boulden whose final session singles win was integral to GB&I's win.

Ben Waterhouse (Director of Performance) has been in post for a year and is working with the G UW coaches and Teams & Performance committee to ensure our resources are used in the most effective manner. We have further streamlined the numbers in our squads and as a result have been able to invest in a more individualised programme for a smaller pool of players. We have developed new partnerships and

brought in outside agencies to work with our coaches and players as we aspire to set up a world class performance structure to develop and support current and future Welsh talent



*Amy Boulden and Tegwen Matthews with the Curtis Cup*

During 2012 players in our squads have benefitted from:-

- Dedicated group and 1-2-1 coaching
- On & off-course delivery
- Strength & Conditioning advice
- Psychology support
- 3D Bio-Mechanic analysis
- Performance Lifestyle advice
- Sessions with current Welsh Tour Professionals
- Specialist putting sessions
- Warm weather training week
- Use of G UW Centres of Excellence

One of the most exciting developments we are working on at the moment are the G UW Coaching Centres which will plug a gap on our player pathway and ensure that young players can access high quality coaching at high quality facilities. The idea behind the Coaching Centres is to bring together the programmes that Golf Development Wales support and link it to our current Academy squad programme. We will be piloting this during 2013 with a view to launching it in late 2013 / early 2014.



Over the coming year this process will continue with improvements continually being sought to improve our structure and coaching programme. We always try to make the best use of a relatively limited budget and we remain extremely grateful for the financial support we receive from Sport Wales and the R&A.

## Championships and Events

Congratulations to all our Champions, both individual and team. Amy Boulden won the Welsh Ladies' Close Championship at Cardigan GC whilst Jason Shufflebotham successfully defended the Welsh Amateur Championship at Royal St David's.

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

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	WINNER/POSITION
Ladies' Open Strokeplay Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Becky Harries, Haverfordwest. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chloe Williams, Wrexham.
Ladies' Close Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Amy Boulden, Conwy. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Becky Harries, Haverfordwest.
Welsh Open Stroke Play Championships	1 <sup>st</sup> Craig Hinton, the Oxfordshire. Vaughan McCall, Gore.
Welsh Open Youths' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Nick Marsh, Huddersfield. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Will Jones, Oswestry.
Welsh Seniors' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Glyn Rees, Fleetwood. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phil Jones, Bromborough.
Welsh Open Seniors' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Andrew Stracey, Denham. 2 <sup>nd</sup> John Ambridge, Moor Park.
Welsh Boys' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Henry James, Kiddminster. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Evan Griffith, North Wales.
Welsh Boys' Stroke Play Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Evan Griffith, North Wales. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Zach Galliford, Borth & Ynyslas.
Welsh Girls' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Chloe Williams, Wrexham. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ella Griffiths, Pyle & Kenfig.
Welsh Amateur Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Jason Shufflebotham, Prestatyn. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Will Jones, Oswestry.
Welsh Boys' U15 Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Thomas Williams, Wrexham. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tim Harry, the Vale Resort.
Welsh Boys' U13 Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Tom Froom, Nefyn & District. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Lewis Jones, Monmouthshire.
Welsh Girls' U16 Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Danielle Jones, Padeswood & Buckley, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ella Griffiths, Pyle & Kenfig.
Welsh Senior Ladies' Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Ann Lewis, Royal St David's. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jane Rees, Hendon.
Welsh Individual Handicap Championship:	<i>Category 'A'</i> 1st Phillip Dixon, St Andrews Major, 2nd Roy Hickman, Machynlleth <i>Category 'B'</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Simon Sweet, Tenby, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Martin Kenyon, Raglan Parc
GUW Medal	1 <sup>st</sup> Lauren Hillier, Newport, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cerys Jenkins, Bryn Meadows.
Australian Spoons	1 <sup>st</sup> Whitchurch GC, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vale of Glamorgan.
Challenge Bowls	<i>Silver</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Elin Jones, Carmarthen, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chris Harries, Llanwern. <i>Bronze</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Alison Williams, Langland Bay, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Margaret van de Wever, Pontypool.
Centenary Greensome	1 <sup>st</sup> Aberdovey, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Abersoch.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Welsh Inter Counties	1 <sup>st</sup> Glamorgan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dyfed.
Welsh Ladies' County Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Monmouthshire, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mid Wales.
Welsh Boys' Inter Counties	1 <sup>st</sup> Glamorgan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gwent.
Welsh Girls' Inter Counties	1 <sup>st</sup> Glamorgan, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Carmarthen & Pembrokeshire.
Welsh Ladies' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Southerndown, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Royal St David's.
Welsh Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Newport, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Radyr.
CCV Welsh Handicap Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Flint, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pontnewydd.
Welsh Junior Inter Club Challenge	1 <sup>st</sup> the Vale Resort, 2 <sup>nd</sup> St Pierre.
Ping Welsh Mixed Team Challenge	1 <sup>st</sup> Woodlake Park, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Carmarthen.
Victory Shield	1 <sup>st</sup> Radyr, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pontnewydd.
European Boys' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Sweden/16 <sup>th</sup> Wales
European Girls' Team Championship	1 <sup>st</sup> Sweden/20 <sup>th</sup> Wales
Boys' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England/4 <sup>th</sup> Wales
Girls' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England/3 <sup>rd</sup> Wales
Men's Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> Scotland/4 <sup>th</sup> Wales
Ladies' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England/2 <sup>nd</sup> Wales
Senior Men's Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> England/ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wales
Senior Ladies' Home Internationals	1 <sup>st</sup> Ireland/3 <sup>rd</sup> Wales
Eisenhower Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> USA/17 <sup>th</sup> Wales
Men's World Team Championship	
Espirito Santo Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> South Korea/22 <sup>nd</sup> Wales
Women's world Team Championship	

## Welsh Champions – 2012



*Jason Shufflebotham*



*Amy Boulden*

### Rules Schools

The Rules Sub-Committee continues to stage bi-annual Schools in addition to arranging re-sits in following years. The 2012/2013 rules school was attended by 25 potential new referees. Fourteen of these successfully passed the exam and several of these successful candidates will be experiencing life as a GUW official for the first time as they have offered to assist with the running of the 2013 championships. Maurice Berg and Rhys James attended the annual R&A Tournament Administrators' and Referees' School, both Maurice and Rhys successfully passed the exam and are now looking forward to putting their experiences to good practice during the 2013 season.

### Club Services

The GUW ran a number of informative workshops for clubs during the year focusing on such topics as the role of the Chairmen of Green, the R&A Health Tracker, the Wales Greener Golf website, Health & Safety and Human Resources, IT and Marketing and changes to the CONGU handicapping system. The Wales Central Database of Handicaps is now operational with over 90 clubs having uploaded their member's handicap records onto the system. As always our Course Rating teams have been kept busy both with the 10 year cycle of rating and with assessing courses which have made significant structure changes.

### 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 2012 – we hope they share our pleasure in seeing our young players developing as true ambassadors for golf in Wales.

### The Future Financials Welsh Golf Awards

The Future Financials Welsh Golf Awards were presented at a luncheon at the Vale of Glamorgan Resort in December 2012. These awards would not be possible without the support from sponsor Future Financials. 2012 was the third year they have sponsored the awards and they have already committed to 2013. 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.

**Welsh Golf Club of the Year** Welshpool Golf Club was the worthy winner of this award. Langland Bay, Pennard, Pontypool and Trefloyne were the other shortlisted candidates, but Welshpool's list of achievements was most impressive.

They have increased subscriptions by almost a third with general income up by 20%, allowing them to employ a secretary five days a week. They have achieved the highest Golf Development Wales certification for their junior section, got involved with social media, improved facilities including a fleet of

buggies, improved the course and embraced the Equality Act. Also their ladies team are the Montgomeryshire Team of the Year, a member was selected for the Wales Girls team and junior member Frankie Jones is a two-time winner of the British Junior Disabled Championship “It is wonderful to receive this award,” said club captain David Rowlands. “It has been a lot of hard work, but it has been great to be part of this today. “It is great for the club, we are not a big club but we are very, very hard-working. Other golf courses have sprung up and taken our members over time, but those members are coming back. “We have increased our membership, we have not been afraid to introduce fresh members onto our committees with young people to take up the mantle which has been very important.”



**Welshpool Golf Club  
Welsh Golf Club of the Year 2012**

**Welsh Volunteer of the Year** - Pontypool golf club lynchpin Allan Smith was rewarded for 39 years of contributions with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Allan Smith has been the Competition and Handicap Secretary at Pontypool GC for a remarkable 39 years after joining in 1958, he was a regular first team player and club champion in 1971, taking over as Competition and Handicap secretary from his father in 1974. In that time he has processed almost 200,000 competition round cards to allocate vouchers and prizes to the winners as well as all related handicap adjustments. “Allan is quiet and unassuming, he does not want any praise ever, nothing is too much problem and he has been there 39 years. He does not want recognition,” explained club secretary Less Dodd. “On our presentation evening he comes up in the morning and lays out all the trophies to make sure they are all in place, does all the preparation beforehand but does not come along in the evening. “He does quizzes through the winter, does all the questions.” Pontypool officials estimate he has spent 5,500 hours and driven almost 7,000 miles on club business without asking for any expenses. He also played a leading role in their centenary in 2003. The award was presented by Golf Union of Wales Chairman John Jermine, who said, “Volunteers are the lifeblood of every golf club through Wales and it is a privilege to be able to recognise the work they do for the good of the game.”

**Welsh Amateur Golfer of the Year** - European Amateur champion Rhys Pugh and Curtis Cup star Amy Boulden shared the Amateur Golfer of the Year award, for the second year running, as once against their achievements were considered inseparable.

Pugh was the first Welsh golfer to win the European Amateur title, following in the footsteps of Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia amongst others. “It is an honour to be recognised by the Golf Union of Wales,” he said. “It was very exciting to win the European title. I looked at the leaderboard with a few holes to go and thought I had a chance if I could push on. “I finished birdie, eagle, par, birdie at the end which helped. “It means I am in the Open Championship at Muirfield in 2013 which is all I have worked for, it is my dream since I was young to play in the Open, so next year will be amazing and I am just trying to soak up everything.”

Amongst Amy Boulden’s list of achievements during the year were winning the Scottish Ladies Open Stroke Play Championship, representing GB&I in the Curtis Cup and playing an integral part in the historic victory over the US at Nairn with a crucial final days singles win, playing in the Ricoh Women’s British Open at Hoylake, winning the Welsh Ladies Closed Championship, winning of the PING Welsh Ladies Order of Merit and finishing runner-up in the British Open Stroke Play Championship.

Wales is extremely fortunate to have 2 of the brightest young prospects in European golf in Amy and Rhys. They have both frequently demonstrated their ability to perform well under the severest of pressure in highly prestigious national and international events

**Welsh Tour Professional of the Year** - Irish Open champion Jamie Donaldson was been rewarded for his excellent season by winning the Golf Union of Wales tour professional of the year award for the second year running. Donaldson fought off the close competition of Ladies European Tour winner Lydia Hall as they both picked up their maiden titles, but the Macclesfield golfer had greater consistency through the season which included getting into the world's top 50 and a US Masters invitation for 2013.

Andrew Ingram, chairman of the Teams and Performance committee who judged the award said, "It was very close between the two who both had great wins this season, but in the end Jamie did enough to earn the award once again. "It is nice to think back to when he was in the Wales amateur teams coming up through the ranks and to see how well he is doing now. "He had an excellent win at the Irish Open, was seventh in the US PGA, forced his way into the world's top 50, finished a career-high 19<sup>th</sup> on the Race to Dubai with more than 1 million Euros in winnings."

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 Luke Donald and Paul Casey.



**Anthony Middleton**  
**GDW Professional of the Year 2012**

**Golf Development Wales Professional of the Year** - Rhyl's Anthony Middleton was the Golf Development Wales PGA Professional of the Year for his work which includes running three junior academies. Middleton has enjoyed a remarkable few months since taking over the role as head professional at Rhyl in the summer. North Wales Golf Development Wales officer Dilwyn Griffiths described him as "the Pied Piper of North Wales golf."

Middleton also works out of the Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund facility in Llanfrog, Flint golf club and Ruthin Pwllglas golf club. He runs three junior academies across North Wales, the numbers at Rhyl alone have multiplied massively, while his adult beginner sessions have brought

more than 50 new golf club members. "I just love being involved with golf," is his explanation. "I worked out that I have had three days off since the summer – and I used those to go and watch or play golf. "It is very rewarding to see the development and see people enjoying the chance to play and improve. I want to introduce this great game to as many people as a possible and one day I would love to produce a Welsh European Tour player from one of the academies."

## **Conclusion**

Both the Chairman and I have referred to the Golf Union of Wales' Vision which we both believe is achievable in the coming years but it is now even more essential that we continue to work effectively with our key partners especially our dedicated and skilled volunteers, and, perhaps most importantly, our clubs.

2012 was undoubtedly another very difficult year for our clubs with the country still in recession, the Olympics proving a distraction to golfers during the summer months and the unprecedented bad weather throughout the autumn and well into winter. I believe we have a collective responsibility to adapt to current challenges, to grow the game to make it stronger and ensure that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy our great game. I believe that Welsh golf has the personnel and the ideas, and that if we continue to focus essential investment in the right areas we can achieve our ambitious, yet realistic, goals. I look forward to working all concerned towards the betterment of Welsh golf throughout 2013.

**Richard Dixon**  
**April 2013**