

Timeline 28-08

A history of the Boy's Club Movement in Wales



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Introduction

Governments come and governments go, new policies and statements are offered, Ministers relate their passion for resolving the 'problems' that young people face throughout the decades. Meanwhile Clubs for Young People Wales continues to offer its programme to young people in Wales regardless of what party wins an election or what crisis descends on our country. Apart from the occasional change of name CYP Wales continues to stand proud as one of the largest voluntary youth organisations in the Principality.

I hope that by reading this publication you will be more aware of the journey that the Organisation has undertaken since its inception in the 1920s to the present time.

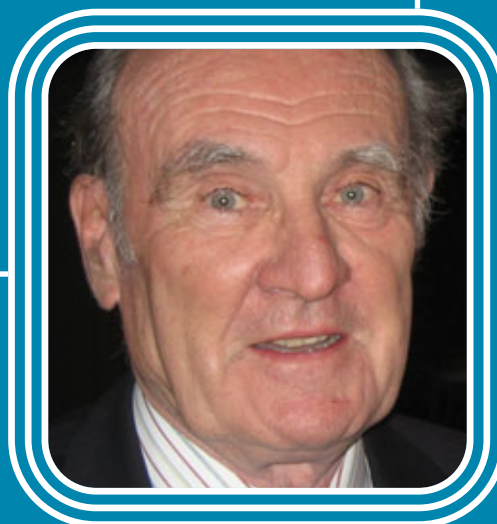
The Organisation owes its conception to a philanthropic coal owner, David Davies, later Lord Davies of Llandinam, who was Chair of the mighty Ocean Coal Company. Clubs were formed to occupy young collier boys in their leisure time activities. The annual programmes offered new experiences and opportunities whilst retaining the best of traditional activities favoured by our young members, and this is still the case today.

The Organisation has been fortunate in attracting many thousands of adult volunteers throughout its eighty years who have led and supported tens of thousands of young people who have chosen to participate in all the activities offered by CYP Wales throughout the ages.

I am proud and honoured to be the Chairman of a young people's organisation which has successfully assisted so many young people through possibly difficult stages of development from youth to adulthood. Many have achieved national honours but all have enjoyed participating and being members of one of Wales' foremost voluntary youth organisations.



Cenydd Thomas MBE, QPM
Chairman 2002 – Present (2009)



1922
*Opening of first boys' clubs at Treharris,
Ton Pentre, Treorchy, Nantymoel,
Wattstown and Nine Mile Point.*

The Early Years

The Organisation was founded by Captain J Glynn-Jones and David Davies, later to become Lord Davies of Llandinam - two good friends who made the major contribution to the foundation of the Boys' Clubs Movement in Wales following the end of the First World War.

Capt Glynn, appointed as Welfare Officer of the Ocean Group of Collieries scattered over the South Wales coalfields, was immediately faced with the problems of the adolescent 'collier boy'. In 1922, Miners' Welfare Organisations linked with the Ocean Group of Collieries. The United National Collieries and other colliery companies came to the conclusion that welfare schemes would make little impact on the 'collier boy' if there were no Boys' Clubs in which they could be engaged.

In 1922 the first Boys' Club was opened in Treharris, to be followed by the establishment of other Boys' Clubs at Nantymoel, Ton Pentre & Gelli, Treorchy, Wattstown and Nine Mile Point.



Captain J Glynn-Jones



1923 – Treharris Boys' Club

These were led by full-time youth workers on a scale unparalleled elsewhere in Great Britain, even during a time of economic depression. Capt Glynn wanted every boy to be a member of a club which provided healthy exercises, cultural activities and discipline. He also believed that the boys had a responsibility to the community to which they belonged.

He soon came to realise that a closer unity between clubs was essential and had many advantages, especially in the exchange of ideas and the discussion and resolution of problems.

In 1923, Captain Glynn-Jones and Lord Davies led a party of boys from the Ocean Coalfield Area to a camp organised annually by HRH The Duke of York. Resulting from this visit the idea of a camp on similar lines in South Wales was conceived and in 1925 St Athan Boys' Camp was opened.

In August 1928 a conference of Boys' Club Leaders, Management Committee Members and Secretaries was held at St Athan Boys' Camp which led to the formation of the South Wales Federation of Boys' Clubs.

*1928
Formation of South Wales
Federation of Boys' Clubs.*

*1935
St Athan Camp Chapel built by
unemployed mineworkers.*

Formation and Development of the Organisation 1928 – 2008

1928 was a notable year in the history of the Movement. In February of that year the leaders of the clubs already in existence spent four days on an instructional tour of some of the best London boys' clubs. In the summer of that year at a weekend conference at St Athan with leaders, secretaries and members of the first six boys' clubs – Treharris, Ton Pentre, Treorchy, Nantymoel, Wattstown, Nine Mile Point Cwmfelinfach (name derived from its distance from Newport Docks), it was decided to form the South Wales Federation of Miners' Boys' Clubs under the presidency of The Rt Hon Earl of Plymouth. At the conference concerns were raised that outside bodies, like religious organisations and schools, tended to regard the clubs as being a negative influence to their work. Others believed that the development of these clubs was, essentially, a miners' affair.

In 1936/37 a process of decentralisation took place. Instead of a large central staff a group system was established where leaders were located at pivotal clubs, each responsible for a large club and satellite clubs within a specified area of effective influence. Twelve effective groups were organised in the South Wales Special Area.

Towards the end of the decade public attitude towards clubs had considerably improved and the Federation had established itself as a fundamentally essential social service. The growth of the Federation was seen as one of the outstanding features of contemporary South Wales life. Local LEAs talked of youth centres 'to keep the boys off the streets' and that 'there should be dances or the boys would get into mischief'. It was said that 'the young boys may have to face changes in the years to come and when peace is achieved it will be their ideals that will be needed to restore the world'. 'They are the first reserve of manhood and our reserve should be trained in a real Boys' Club, not in a dance-hall'!!



First Conference 1928



1929 – Treorchy Boys' Club

*1939 – 1945
The War Years*

1940s – The Annual Report of 1940/41 states that ‘our own Federation has made a considerable contribution to the national effort on behalf of its youth. The Federation has been able to maintain and even extend its work through it – a satisfying state of affairs in conditions resulting from the greatest emotional and social upheaval in the history of our country’.

Several thousands of club boys served in HM Forces whilst the younger members also played their part. It was reported that a number of boy messengers had been killed in civil defence.

Throughout the war the Federation, although buildings were becoming unsuitable and in some cases unusable, together with the loss of club leaders to the war effort, continued to offer young working boys ‘a place where he may find friendship, healthy relaxation and an opportunity to enjoy a quiet room’.



1932 – HRH The Duke of York lays a wreath at the St Athan Camp Memorial

The following is an extract from the 1944/45 Annual Report:

This is as it should be for in 1944-45 not only was it assured that free man would not be dominated by evil, but he was by his effort given a new and finer opportunity of perfecting his freedom. The principle of individual liberty has been sustained but at a terrible cost to human happiness. "Greater love hath no man – " and their sacrifice has been made. There is left sorrow, but not sorrow alone for pride goes with it – pride in the revelation that liberty has been made possible by my son, my daughter, or by my brother. But sorrow and pride are not enough for both are of the past; sacrifice is vain unless it brings a future to those whom it preserves. Their sacrifice was glorious, it is we who can make it productive of equal glories. Victory is a time for celebration, it is also a time for re-dedication of effort.

We who work with young people have great opportunities and very heavy responsibilities. There are faces we will never see again – faces we remember so well, serious in the library, eager on the football field and radiant at camp. That small boy, clutching his penny and half afraid of being disappointed, asking "Please can I join the Club?" we last saw as an equally eager and equally vulnerable young soldier. What he said was "Just wait until I come back!".

Sentiment? No – reality. For he had seen even more strongly than those who founded his Club its real purpose, its real value. The Club does not seek to train the individual; rather it encourages his expression and gives him opportunity for bearing responsibility. And in these two things lie true freedom – the inner revelation of a purpose, of an ideal and a will and capacity to achieve it. Neither can be inculcated but both can be stimulated.

Club members have contributed to the success of our military efforts; they have contributed valuably through their fitness and alertness; they have helped too, because of their experience of the art of being together and their sense of the balance between the responsibility of the individual and the joint responsibilities of the many.

In spite of the war, the drastic diminution of outside financial support, and the complete loss of youth organisers at educational settlements, there was no serious reduction in the number of clubs. Fortunately too, the youth service of the Ministry of Education filled the breach in the supply reservoir to some extent, at an opportune moment.

On 31 May 1947, after discussions with the National Association of Boys' Clubs, the South Wales Federation extended its area to cover the whole Principality and became The Welsh Association of Boys' Clubs. Following a drastic 'overhaul' of affiliations and a more stringent application of membership conditions, the total number of affiliated clubs was reduced to 107, most of them located in the mining areas.

In the 50s and 60s the Organisation continued to flourish with increased participation levels in the full programme of activities. These included sport, training, social, art & crafts, cultural and residential activities. Boys' Village was at the height of its popularity with most of the attendance coming from the Boys' Club membership. During this era clubs took advantage of the new and exciting opportunities on offer at the centre, with boys being resident for weeklong activity holidays. Nationalised industries and private sector businesses also took advantage of the many character building opportunities on offer at St Athan and training and activity courses were specifically packaged for their needs.

Unfortunately, in the 70s, the popularity of both Boys' Village and the Abercrave Adventure Centre diminished due largely to the advent of the affordable family package holiday deals to foreign countries. In effect, a holiday at St Athan or Abercrave no longer had the attraction of a week on the Costa Brava and clubs became more inclined to utilise the centres for weekend-long activities only. The loss of revenue at both centres contributed greatly to the demise of the Boys' Clubs of Wales organisation and in 1990, due to extreme financial difficulties, the Organisation and its centres were forced to cease operating.



1979 - Tae Kwon Do at St Athan Boys' Village

1953
*Sir Maynard Jenour
TD, JP, DL became President
of the Association.*

1958
*Abercrave Adventure
Centre opened.*

Notable dates during these decades were:

- 1953 Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL became President of the Association.
- 1958 Abercrave Adventure Centre opened.
- 1960 St Athan Boys' Camp renamed the St Athan Boys' Village.
- 1960 The Association changed its name to Boys' Clubs of Wales.
- 1962 Boys' Village re-opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.
- 1968 Boys' Village visited by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
- 1976 BCW HQ moved from High Street, Cardiff, to St Athan Boys' Village.
- 1976 Boys' Village visited by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs.
- 1978 Captain Glynn-Jones House opened at Boys' Village by Dr Peter Glynn-Jones in memory of Capt J Glynn-Jones OBE, MC, the founder father of Boys' Clubs of Wales.
- 1979 Field Study Centre opened at Abercrave by HRH The Prince of Wales.
- 1982 A 56-bedroomed Conference Block erected at the Boys' Village and opened by Wyn Roberts MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Welsh Office.
- 1984 Boys' Village purchased from the Coal Industries Social Welfare Organisation.
- 1986 Boys' Village visited by HRH The Duke of Gloucester and during the afternoon of his visit His Royal Highness opened Georgetown Boys' Club, a new purpose built club in Merthyr. He then went on to visit Troedyrhiw, Treharris, Nelson and Ystrad Mynach Boys' Clubs.
- 1986 BCW became heavily involved in work with unemployed young people as a Managing Agent for the Youth Training Scheme, Voluntary Projects Programme and Self-Development Programme.
- 1987 Cricket and Athletics & Cross Country Panels set up.
- 1988 Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Boys' Clubs of Wales.
- 1990 Due to extreme financial difficulties, Boys' Clubs of Wales and its centres were forced to cease operating.

In 1991 the Welsh Federation of Boys' and Girls' Groups was formed to include, officially, girls (although many girls were already involved with many clubs). The HQ office was set up at Headlands School, Penarth.

The new Organisation developed into one of the foremost voluntary youth organisations in Wales, offering new opportunities for young people through a full and varied programme of educational, sporting, social and cultural activities.

Notable dates in the new Organisation's history:

- 1992 The new Organisation established as a registered charity.
- 1992 Stanley Thomas took over as President of the Organisation following the death of Sir Maynard Jenour who had suffered ill health for a number of years.
- 1993 New HQ offices set up at Western Business Centre, Ely, Cardiff.
- 1993 The Organisation changed its title to Welsh Federation of Boys' and Girls' Clubs.
- 1994 Girls' Football introduced.
- 1995 Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Swansea Friends of Young Disabled, Baglan, Wyndham, Nelson and Radyr clubs.
- 1995 President's Challenge – The Cambrian Way Walk (274 miles).
- 1996 North Wales Project piloted.
- 1996 President's Challenge – Prestatyn to Cardiff Arms Park Walk.
- 1996 Next Generation Youth Council formed.
- 1997 Iechyd Da Day (healthy lifestyle promotion) held at Cardiff International Arena – 700 people attended and the Organisation was awarded the Principal Youth Work Achievement Award by the Wales Youth Agency.
- 1998 The Organisation changed its title to Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales.
- 1999 North Wales office opened.
- 1999 Hosted Four Nations Football Tournament at Merthyr Tydfil.
- 2000 First Girls' Football International match versus Australian Schools.
- 2000 Millennium Project – Window on Wales – a 7-week 700 miles walk around the boundary of Wales.
- 2003 Hosted Four Nations Football Tournament in North Wales.
- 2003 Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Llangland Bay Lifeguards followed by meeting with young people from Treforus Netball, Llanelli Reds and Mumbles Cricket club.
- 2003 Swansea Group won National Gillette Football Cup – presented by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.
- 2004 First Exchange with youth sports organisation, TSV Eltingen, Stuttgart, Germany (continues annually).
- 2006 The Organisation changed its title to Clubs for Young People Wales.
- 2007 CYP Wales attained the Investor in People Award.
- 2008 80th Anniversary of the Organisation.

Officers of the Organisation 1928 – 2008

	President	Chairman	Gen Sec / Chief Exec
1928	Finlay Gibson Oliver Harris	M J John MBE	Capt J Glynn-Jones MC
1935/36	Rt Hon The Earl of Plymouth PC	M J John MBE	Capt J Glynn-Jones MC
1938/39	Rt Hon The Earl of Plymouth PC	M J John MBE	G B Bradney
1939/40	Rt Hon The Earl of Plymouth PC	Sir Herbert Miles MBE JP	G B Bradney
1944/45	D M Evans-Bevan JP	Sir Herbert Miles MBE JP	T G Jeffreys-Jones MSc
1947	D M Evans-Bevan JP	Sir Herbert Miles MBE JP	Bryn James (Acting)
1948/53	D M Evans-Bevan JP	Sir Herbert Miles MBE JP	T Chapman
1953	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	J R Morgan	T Chapman
1954	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	J R Morgan	Capt J Glynn-Jones OBE, MC
1965	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	J R Morgan	Capt J Glynn-Jones OBE, MC (to 31.3.65) Geoffrey Spencer (from 1.4.65)
1965/66	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	D E J Davies BA, LLB	George Stokes
1966/67	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	D E J Davies BA, LLB	George Stokes MBE
1969/70	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	D E J Davies BA, LLB	Clive Thomas
1977	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	D E J Davies BA, LLB	Hugh Poyntz MBE, MBIM
1978/79	Sir Maynard Jenour TD, JP, DL	H G Lewis (from Oct 79 to 1991)	Alwyn Morgan
1991	Stanley Thomas	Len Carroll	David Allen-Oliver
1993	Stanley Thomas OBE	Len Carroll	David Allen-Oliver
1995	Stanley Thomas OBE	Len Carroll	David Evans
1998	Stanley Thomas OBE	Len Carroll MBE	David Evans
2002	Stanley Thomas OBE	Cenydd Thomas MBE, QPM	David Evans
2006	Sir Stanley Thomas OBE	Cenydd Thomas MBE, QPM	David Evans
2008	Sir Stanley Thomas OBE	Cenydd Thomas MBE, QPM	David Evans
2008	Sir Stanley Thomas OBE	Cenydd Thomas MBE, QPM	Joff Carroll (Acting)

Membership

Date	Clubs
1928	6 Treharris, Ton Pentre, Treorchy, Nantymoel, Wattstown, Nine Mile Point
1930	6 Treharris, Ton Pentre, Treorchy, Nantymoel, Wattstown, Nine Mile Point
1931	7 Treharris, Ton Pentre, Treorchy, Nantymoel, Wattstown, Newbridge, Llwynypia

Date	Clubs/ Membership	Date	Clubs/ Membership	Date	Clubs/ Membership
1932	17	1967	115 <i>6849</i>	1988	98 <i>8650</i>
1933	29	1968	109 <i>6043</i>	1989	99 <i>8760</i>
1934	34	1969	104 <i>8112</i>	1992	83 <i>8200</i>
1935	31	1970	86 <i>5728</i>	1993	84 <i>8350</i>
1936	51	1971	97 <i>5789</i>	1994	85 <i>8420</i>
1937	54	1972	101 <i>8641</i>	1995	101 <i>9600</i>
1938	86	1973	103 <i>8179</i>	1996	86 <i>8560</i>
1939	133 <i>11000+</i>	1974	80 <i>7192</i>	1997	86 <i>8570</i>
1941	160	1975	76 <i>6665</i>	1998	91 <i>8965</i>
1944	206 <i>16000 12-20</i>	1977	87 <i>5000+</i>	1999	118 <i>10820</i>
1945	196 <i>15610</i>	1978	100 <i>5325</i>	2000	117 <i>10760</i>
1958	94 <i>6231</i>	1979	102 <i>6318</i>	2001	161 <i>15300</i>
1959	93 <i>6900</i>	1980	110 <i>6612</i>	2002	194 <i>21600</i>
1960	102 <i>7430</i>	1981	118 <i>9954</i>	2003	227 <i>29720</i>
1961	105 <i>11712</i>	1982	119 <i>10100</i>	2004	204 <i>26300</i>
1962	110 <i>11949</i>	1983	133 <i>11996</i>	2005	204 <i>26600</i>
1963	108 <i>8439</i>	1984	112 <i>9200</i>	2006	190 <i>24800</i>
1964	108 <i>8068</i>	1985	121 <i>10600</i>	2007	204 <i>26350</i>
1965	112 <i>7328</i>	1986	120 <i>10750</i>	2008	202 <i>27100</i>
1966	116 <i>6875</i>	1987	121 <i>10820</i>		

St Athan Boys' Village

St Athan Boys' Camp owed its birth to a rare breed of man, rare at least in Wales, a philanthropic coal owner, David Davies, later Lord Davies of Llandinam. He was the Chairman of the mighty Ocean Coal Company in days when coal was unrivalled king. His empire embraced a large part of South Wales when this corner of the British Isles provided the pulse for the nation's industrial dominance. They were the days when men became wealthy and others remained poor under the merciless burden of toil. A six day working week with seven days holiday a year were all that illuminated countless thousands of lives.



St Athan – First Camp – 1925

It was in the summer of 1923 that Lord Davies paid a visit to the Duke of York's Camp in New Romney, Kent. He journeyed there to see a party of his own company's boys, taken for a week's holiday to Kent by Capt Glynn-Jones. Davies was reported to have said "we must have a camp like that for our boys". He was a man of his word and Glynn-Jones was not to allow him to forget it. During the First World War they had served together in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Glynn-Jones was twice mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the MC. Glynn-Jones was a

man of unmistakable talent, self-willed and determined, and he possessed a legion of qualities that were obvious for all to see. Davies recognised them and, when the war ended, he employed Glynn-Jones as the Ocean Company's Welfare Officer at Treorchy.

Glynn-Jones at once set about a vigorous programme of much needed welfare provisions for the impoverished miners, setting up the Ocean Recreation Union. He, also, seized Davies' enthusiasm for a boys' camp project and a scheme was drafted and approved under which the Recreation Union donated £5000 to launch it into life and Glynn-Jones also persuaded Ocean's directors to part with £300 of their own money towards equipment costs. It was proposed to provide dormitories, a dining room and other amenity blocks to accommodate 100 boys, aged 12 to 18, to spend one week's holiday a year. Preference would be given to boys who were employed in mining, or who were the sons of miners. The boys themselves were to pay fifteen shillings (75p) towards the cost of their holiday.

In 1925 the camp opened for an experimental period of two weeks but it was found that a good deal more in terms of services would be necessary to make the place a permanent success – a water supply and sanitary block being necessary facilities. Another £3500 from the same welfare fund sources was donated in 1926, but not before a change of name. Boys' Village, as it was later to be known, was, under the rules of the welfare fund, to be called "The Miners' Welfare Fund District Committee Seaside Camp". The world was an inhospitable place during this period; looming fast on the horizon was the icy clutch of the depression

1960
*St Athan Boys' Camp renamed
St Athan Boys' Village.*

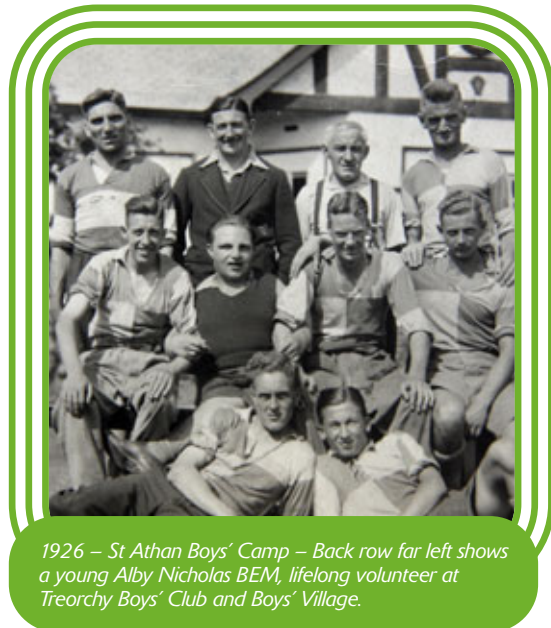
1960
*The Association changed its name
to Boys' Clubs of Wales.*

and the 1926 general strike. So grave were the strictures that it was impossible to get boys to take part in the scheme. Fifteen shillings was more a king's ransom when soup kitchens were at street corners. Much talking went on and subsequently, over a period of four years from 1925, the welfare fund made grants to the camp to a total value of £42000.

In 1929 a Declaration of Trust was drafted under which the camp was made available to all the boys in the coalfield and the Recreation Union resolved to make an annual grant towards administration and maintenance of boys. It was agreed that each boy should contribute 2s/6d per week as part of his week's cost.

On the outbreak of the Second World War the camp was requisitioned for military purposes, though a year later it was released for its former purpose. Restrictions on travel, rationing and food, especially in view of the fact that the nearby St Athan RAF Camp was bombed – in fact bombs were dropped within the boundaries of Boys' Village – made it impossible to continue during the hostilities and the camp was closed for the war period. The camp was then commissioned by the War Department as a rest camp for beleaguered forces returning from Dunkirk. Thereafter it was occupied for various military purposes until 1946.

The driving force behind all the developments of St Athan Boys' Village was Capt Glynn-Jones. He had written himself a permanent place in the history of the Boys' Clubs movement. His name is engraved on the milestones of the development of the movement in Wales, for no-one was more intimately involved. He was honoured with the OBE in 1928 in



1926 – St Athan Boys' Camp – Back row far left shows a young Alby Nicholas BEM, lifelong volunteer at Treorchy Boys' Club and Boys' Village.

recognition of his services to youth, became a member of the National Fitness Council and, soon after, its full-time secretary for Wales. In 1939 he was appointed a member of the Welsh Board of Health, a post he occupied for 14 years. Through the years of the Second World War he supervised the organisation of hospital ambulances, air raid shelters and health services for thousands of evacuees. In 1954 he returned to the world of youth work when he accepted the post of full-time secretary of the Boys' Clubs movement.

His enthusiasm was undiminished, his work inspired. He gave in total over 50 years services to youth and the boys' club movement in particular. It has been said "that no other Welshman of our time has known more boys, known more about them or done more to help boys to help themselves".

1962
Boys' Village re-opened by
HRH Queen Elizabeth,
The Queen Mother.

1968
Boys' Village visited by
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

St Athan Boys' Village



St Athan Camp 1928 – Investing First Lord Mayor.



1978 - St Athan Boys' Village

During the grim depression years, relays of boys trekked from their mining homes to St Athan to build the camp chapel and some 20,000 youngsters had a holiday break from their villages where children queued for a mug of steaming hot cocoa and a bread and jam sandwich before going to school, and their fathers had nothing to do except hope work would return eventually.

One of the marvellous ideas introduced at St Athan was selecting an old miner and his wife to spend a holiday, free of charge, as Mayor and Mayoress of the camp which had become one of the most cherished institutions of the coalfield.

In 1962 the Boys' Clubs of Wales took out a lease with the Coal Industries Social Welfare Organisation and, with the help of a Government grant and generous donations, renovations took place at a cost of £20,000. Boys' Clubs of Wales saw it as a centre where boys could broaden their outlook and the name of the camp was changed to St Athan Boys' Village.

Few could better express the aims of the Boys' Village than Camp Manager, Ivor Llewellyn BEM, who had been at the camp almost since its inception. He said "the camp is an attempt to assist young people to learn to live together and help each other and those less fortunate than

themselves and, through sports and other organised activities, learn self discipline and fair play". Ivor, with his wife Dilys, held the centre of the stage at St Athan for nearly half a century and held a place of unique affection amongst generations of Welsh boys. Recalling the days of the twenties and thirties he said "You could see real poverty in those days. Many of the boys who came down to the camp did so, not so much for the recreation we provided, but for a good square meal. Others had next to no clothing or footwear."

The camp was visited by HRH Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in April 1962.

The Village continued to serve the Organisation and its members, as well as parties from countless other organisations throughout the UK and Europe. The centre also became recognised for delivering valued courses for apprentices employed by major industries throughout Wales.

In 1976 the Boys' Clubs of Wales moved its headquarters from High Street, Cardiff, to St Athan where General Secretary, Clive Thomas (famous FIFA Referee) and his staff settled in and operated at a considerable economy in administration costs to the movement.

The camp went through many phases of improvement and development until the sad demise of Boys' Clubs of Wales in 1991.



1962 – Visit of HM The Queen Mother to St Athan Boys' Village – pictured with Sir Maynard Jenour (President).



1966 – Staff discussion at Boys' Village – Ivor Llewellyn (Camp Warden), George Stokes (General Secretary), Clive Thomas (Sports Adviser).

*1976
BCW HQ moved from
High Street, Cardiff,
to St Athan Boys' Village.*

*1976
Boys' Village visited by
HRH The Duke of Gloucester.*

Abercrave Outdoor Pursuits Centre

The Abercrave Outdoor Pursuits Centre was situated in approximately 11 acres of beautiful woodland on the fringe of the Brecon Beacons at the foot of the Black Mountains where activities such as orienteering, pony trekking, caving and canoeing were undertaken. It was also ideal as a base for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

A large number of young people of varying ages used the Centre, coming from a cross-section of Industry, Commerce and Social Agencies. Groups spent weeks, weekends as well as days at the Centre, some camping in the field, others using the indoor accommodation.

The Centre was operated on the principal of a youth hostel. Parties brought their own food and cooked for themselves, although meals could be prepared by a cook by arrangement,

the engaging party being responsible for the cost of the food and the wages of the cook. This arrangement proved very successful with schools and industrial organisations.

A great deal of satisfaction was derived by the young people who used the Centre, climbed the mountains and completed the confidence course, learning to be self-reliant, trusting their own judgement, learning to use maps and compasses as well as enjoying the companionship engendered at Abercrave. They also experienced a new breadth of vision, as well as the thrills of achievement.

Mention must be made of the late Keith Pepperell, Arthur Pinner and Trevor Lewis – much respected Centre Wardens who contributed greatly to the success of the Centre.



1979 – HRH The Prince of Wales visit to Abercrave Adventure Centre – pictured with Sir Maynard Jenour (President).



Team Building Exercise at Abercrave – 1985

1978
Captain Glynn-Jones House
opened at Boys' Village.

1979
Field Study Centre opened
at Abercrave by
HRH The Prince of Wales.

History in the making

The following section of the book is dedicated to those who have played an important part in the history of the Organisation. Material has been supplied by past club members, past employees and volunteers who felt it important to contribute to this book.



Past Officers

Sir Stanley Thomas OBE

President, CYP Wales, 1991 – 2008



*1995 Royal Visit - HRH The Duke of Gloucester
with Sir Stanley Thomas (President)*

Sir Stanley became President of the Organisation when it was restructured as the Welsh Federation of Boys' & Girls' Clubs in 1991. His interest in the Organisation emanated from his formative years as a member of Merthyr Tydfil YMCA - then affiliated to the Boys' Clubs of Wales – where he developed his skills as a schoolboy boxing champion.

Sir Stanley, through many years of hard work and endeavour, became one of Wales' leading businessmen and we are grateful that he found time to demonstrate an interest in the development of young people in Wales, especially those resident in some of our most deprived areas. He provided support as a 'hands on' high profile President and was fundamental in establishing the President's Challenge when over 300 young people participated, on three occasions, in walking expeditions across, around and up and down Wales, gaining new skills and learning about the environment, culture and history of Wales. The 'Walk Around Wales' Challenge resulted in young people designing and helping to produce a set of stained glass panels sited in the new Children's Hospital for Wales – another of Sir Stanley's favourite charities.

Sincere gratitude is due to Sir Stanley for his financial and 'hands on' support and for the support of his company, TBI, of which he was Chairman until selling the company in 2003.

1982

*A 56-bedroom Conference Block
erected at Boys' Village.*

1984

*Boys' Village purchased from the
Coal Industries Social Welfare
Organisation.*

Past Officers

Len Carroll MBE

Chairman, CYP Wales, 1991 – 2001



1993 – Opening of new HQ Offices at Ely Bridge, Cardiff.
Len Carroll MBE (Chairman), Gareth Edwards, David Allen-Oliver (Chief Executive)

Len was born in Aberbargoed in the Rhymney Valley in 1920. He served in the RAF during the war and later played professional football for Luton.

He built up a successful engineering business – IPC Engineering – in the 1960s and was Chairman of Welsh League Football Club, Sully AFC. It was during this period that he developed a friendship with Clive Thomas who was General Secretary of Boys' Clubs of Wales and also a well-known FIFA Referee and, from that friendship, his involvement with Boys' Clubs of Wales developed.

Following the demise of Boys' Clubs of Wales in 1990 Len was invited by Sir Maynard Jenour

and David Allen-Oliver to become Chair of a newly formed Organisation – The Welsh Federation of Boys' and Girls' Clubs. He invited his friend, Stan Thomas, to become President, a position he held until 2008. A highlight of Len's time in office was the visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Wales in 1995 and being awarded the MBE by HRH The Queen at Buckingham Palace in 1997.

Len was gifted with an infectious enthusiasm which reflected in the high standards and performance he expected from the staff. He was fully aware of the importance of the volunteers who support the Organisation and would make every effort to let them know how much their commitment and efforts were appreciated. He would also call a spade a spade. If he liked you he did, if he didn't, well that was that. Len would arrive at HQ like a human tornado engulfing the place with his presence, arguing about signing the cheques, then ten minutes later take the pen out of his pocket and as meekly as ever, sign whatever was required! Len enjoyed playing 'the rough diamond'. Certainly he could be rough but he could also give an extremely polished performance when that was required. There is no doubt that he had the qualities of a diamond – he was hard, had a cutting edge, was bright and extremely valuable.

Sadly Len died suddenly in 2001. He will long be remembered for his efforts in 'getting the show back on the road'. Len's commitment to improving the lot of young people in Wales was total – he was forceful and ambitious for the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales and saw its potential. He would have been proud of the development of CYP Wales.

1986
Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Boys' Village,
Georgetown, Troedyrhiw, Treharris, Nelson and
Ystrad Mynach Boys' Clubs.

1986
BCW became heavily involved
in work with unemployed
young people.

Volunteers

Eiron Dodd MBE

Rugby



It has been a pleasure and privilege to be connected with the Boys' Clubs of Wales Rugby Panel since 1986 and, with twenty years as Chairman, I have seen our fortunes change. It was in 1986 I travelled to a trial match in Penarth and there met David Allen-Oliver, the BCW Field Services Officer, later to become the Chief Executive of the newly formed and renamed organisation. David 'invited' me to assist and little did I anticipate being a committee of one for the next few years as David battled on with his efforts to keep the Organisation afloat – for this we are all very grateful.

Slowly rugby within the Boys' Clubs began to recover and with the marvellous support of others it has grown into a very successful part

of the Organisation, from a fixture list of one, into a full representative programme which includes fixtures against the Irish Youth, Scotland, Holland and Belgium and many other representative teams in England and Wales.

Boys' Clubs Rugby has always been forward thinking, with an eye to develop young players. Since its formation we have provided opportunities for young people beyond school leaving age to play rugby football, catering at the start for the 'working lad' or ex-schoolboys. Boys' Clubs sport would provide a worthwhile, healthy means of recreation for them and engender a sense of sportsmanship and fair play, which has been the ethos of the Organisation since its formation.

We are, in fact, the oldest representative youth rugby organisation in the world and originally provided the only structured youth rugby in Wales. The first recorded game, eighty years ago, was the Under 18 Cup Final between Nantymoel and Treorchy. Can you imagine the intensity of the game which ended in a 3-0 victory for Nantymoel, with those two teams of young men from strong mining communities battling it out.

1949 saw the first Boys' Clubs Rugby International to be played between England and Wales. The game was played in Carmarthen and resulted in a Welsh win 41-3. This game superseded all other known youth internationals.

In 1949 the Welsh Youth Rugby Union was founded, with the Boys' Clubs of Wales being a founder member, and it was as the BCW

1987
*Cricket and Athletics &
Cross Country Panels set up.*

1988
*Diamond Jubilee of the
Boys' Clubs of Wales.*

Volunteers

representative I served for 18 years on the Welsh Youth Executive, eventually becoming Chairman. In 1988 we formed an Under 16s representative team and this has proved to be a great success.

Many of our players have gone onto senior international honours, our recent successes being Dafydd James (Wales & British Lions), Nathan Thomas, Morgan Stoddard, Richard Hibbard (Wales) and Gavin Stacey (Wales 7s team). Alan Phillips (Wales and British Lions) is now the current Welsh team manager.

In conclusion it is pleasing to write on our 80th anniversary that the Organisation has justified the praise and commendation it has received over the years. Tribute must be deservedly paid to those early pioneers for their foresight, enthusiasm and dedication in providing opportunities for the playing of Rugby football and other sports for the young people of Wales and I feel proud and privileged to have been a part of such a great organisation.



2001 – Bucket Collection at Cardiff Airport with Neil Jenkins, Pontypridd & Wales Rugby International.

1991
Welsh Federation of Boys' &
Girls' Groups formed.

1992
The new Organisation established
as a registered charity.

Volunteers

Richard Bennett

Football



I was first introduced to Boys' Clubs of Wales in 1977 when I started a football team in the village of Brithdir, my hometown. I then joined the East Glamorgan section of the movement because there was an opportunity for the team to play against other opponents and the opportunity to play other sports.

In 1979 I was asked if I would like to become a regional selector for East Glamorgan so that boys from the area could compete and represent their county in the Boys' Clubs of Wales Cup competition which would progress to the national trials held at St Athan.

In 1981 I was invited to become a national selector alongside former selectors, Roy Priday, Clive Kinsey, Dave Beynon and Len Jones – a position I still hold.

In 1984, and due to the lack of coaches, I joined the management team looking after the Under 16 national team. One of the coaches working with the national team was Brian Clarke, a former Cardiff City player. The BBC approached headquarters to ask if they could film Brian and myself doing a coaching session and interview us afterwards on football for youth. When it came to the interview Brian's lasted ten minutes and mine was approximately two minutes – that's the price of fame I suppose!

During this time the football calendar was very busy with fixtures against the YMCA, the Army, and Boys' Clubs of Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

We are proud to have had some very talented players with several of them joining professional and top amateur clubs. One player that springs to mind, who I was coaching at the time, was Gavin Williams, a current Welsh International. Gavin had spells with Hereford, Yeovil and Ipswich and is currently with Bristol City. Other former Boys' Club members who went on to become Welsh Internationals are John Hartson (who started his career with Luton and went on to play for Arsenal, West Ham, Wimbledon, Coventry, Celtic and West Bromwich Albion), Clayton Blackmore (who started his career with Manchester United and went on to play for Middlesbrough, Barnsley, Notts County) and Colin Pascoe who had spells with Swansea, Sunderland and Blackpool. The following players all went on to become professional footballers – Kristian O'Leary (Swansea), Michael Hughes (Swansea), Brian Thomas (Hereford), Huw Morgan (Swansea), Darren Davies (Tottenham Hotspurs, Morton). Darren was also capped for Wales at Under 21 level but, unfortunately, I did not have the pleasure of coaching any of these.

1992

*Stanley Thomas took over as
President of the Organisation.*

Volunteers

It was during this time that I came across a very knowledgeable and crafty Scotsman by the name of Bill Donaldson (Football Chairman, CYP Scotland). His knowledge of football and the Boys' Club movement is second to none. Bill and I became good friends and that friendship lasts to this day.

After several years of coaching the Under 16 team I was asked to become Chairman of the Football Section. My knowledge and experience of coaching and selection put me in good stead for the job in hand although I did reluctantly step down as coach as I was enjoying the challenge.

As with most voluntary organisations, finances do become a problem. This occurred with the Four Nations some years ago when we were unable to play our annual Under 16 Four Nations Tournament because of funding. This affected several organisations we had played previously and, of course, it affected the progress of players. The Four Nations Tournament is now back on track for the Under 16s. Contact with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy is ongoing and, hopefully, a fixture will be confirmed for the Under 18s. We are also trying to arrange a fixture for the Under 14s against Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland so, with a bit of luck, International Football for Boys' Clubs will this year be as strong as ever. We are also lucky to have coaches and managers who have served several years with Boys' Clubs – Phil Robinson, Mark Robinson, Sean McCreesh, Ivor Bynon, Michael Holmes, Barry Jones, John Bird, Steve Jones and Doug Mallen – and, because of their dedication, knowledge and skills we are not only competing with national sides but also beating them.

Another feature of the commitment shown by individuals is in the trials. The smooth running of the trials is down to the Secretary of the Football Panel and former FIFA referee, Alan Howells, and I bet there are not many Chief Executives like Joff Carroll who help select the national teams. We have also been praised on how smart our players look on and off the field and this is thanks to Steve Wood, our kit manager. A big thankyou to all Football Panel members.

There is also a 5-a-side tournament held for ages 10 to 18 but, because of the lack of volunteers and their time, this is organised by headquarters. Our knockout cup is still a popular tournament and is run solely by our Treasurer, Peter Reynolds.

It gives me great pleasure to see the commitment shown to the movement by club leaders, coaches and staff who provide support on a daily basis. I would like to emphasise that their support and dedication is vital for the movement to progress. I wish everyone success in the future.



1969 - Stan Montgomery, Sports Adviser, coaching during a Football Weekend at St Athan Boys' Village.

1993
*New HQ offices set up at Western
Business Centre, Ely, Cardiff.*

Volunteers

David Powe

Athletics



After the British Empire Games at Cardiff in 1958 I decided to join an athletics club which was affiliated to the Welsh Association of Boys' Clubs. This was my first introduction to Boys' Clubs and I took part in the Cross Country, the Athletics at Ynysyngharad Park, Pontypridd and Penydarren Park, Merthyr Tydfil (on the greyhound track), the Bridgend to Cardiff Road Race and Seven-a-side Rugby. I also took part in the Arts & Crafts Exhibition at the City Hall Cardiff and was the first boy attached to the Monmouthshire Group to gain the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is something I would not have done if it was not for the Boys' Club.

Later I became a voluntary helper at Newbridge Boys' Club, with Mr Joe Davies, before moving to Pontymister. I then became Secretary of the Gwent Group and later Cardiff Group. With my wife, Linda, we helped run the Indoor Games, Five-a-side Football, Pool, Snooker and 100 Mile Canoe Test, as well as the Athletics and Cross Country Championships, over many years where we met and became very good friends with many people locally and nationally.



1995 – Jamie Baulch visits WFBGC Athletics Championships carrying Junior Olympic Torch

1993

The Organisation changed its title to Welsh Federation of Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

Volunteers

Moira Thomas

Girls' Football



International Girls' Football within Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales started in 1999. The BGCW U18s boys' football team were playing Australian Schools and I was asked if it was possible to get a girls' team organised to play their girls' team. Myself and my former coach, Christine Green, set about recruiting girls – we went to Newport Strikers, Neath BGC and Giants' Grave BGC and managed to get a squad together, trained once and then had our game. Considering we had just met up the day before for a training session we gave a good account of ourselves although we lost 4:0. Full Welsh International, Michelle Green, was one of our players that night.

We were then asked to play in the Rose Bowl Tournament in Northern Ireland which was being played for every year between Northern Ireland and Scotland. We went about recruiting

players and held trials and got together a very young team. In August 2000 we travelled to Ireland where we played Scotland first and lost 3:nil but we were not too upset, as it was our first game at international level. Our next game was against Northern Ireland and we won 2:1. Now nine years later I am still enjoying running Girls' Football within the organisation together with a dedicated team – my husband, Glyn, Christopher Rees, Richard Williams (Coaches) and Sandra Williams (Kit Manager).

In 2006 CYP Wales won the Rose Bowl Tournament after years of coming second to either Northern Ireland or Scotland. In that year the Republic of Ireland entered the competition but politics stopped them coming after two years. England joined the tournament in 2007 and this made the competition much stronger. In 2008 CYP Wales came joint first to England and Scotland losing out on goal difference.

In 2009 the Welsh International Girls' Football Squad includes seven girls who have represented CYP Wales.



Girls' Representative & Development Squad 2008

1994
Girls' Football introduced.

Past Boys Club Members

Lynn Davies CBE

Athletics



'Lynn the Leap' – 1964 Olympic Long Jump Gold Medallist.

Nantymoel Boys' Club (the Memorial Hall), or the 'Mem' as we used to call it, played a big role in my life when, as a teenager back in the 1950s, I spent many happy hours there with my friends from Nantymoel and Pricetown.

We all loved sport and the 'Mem' gave us lots of opportunities to play soccer, basketball, table-tennis, snooker and many other recreational activities.

I remember, about 1958, Frankie Vaughan, who was President of the Boys' Clubs in Britain, visiting the 'Mem' and we all lined up waiting to get his autograph. Little did I realise then that six years later I would return from the Tokyo Olympics with a gold medal to a wonderful welcome home reception at the 'Mem' and people were lining up for my autograph!

My memories are of a warm, welcoming place where we were encouraged to take part and enjoy the companionship of the many friends we made. It really was a home from home and Mr Cemys always made us feel very welcome.

Looking back now, the 'Mem' helped us develop confidence and self-esteem and these qualities have contributed to my career over the years.

Over the years the Boys' Clubs of Wales, now Clubs for Young People, have made a huge contribution to the personal development of our young people in Wales. This is thanks to the many people and volunteers who give their time to make clubs for young people so successful.

In this the 80th year, I would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday and to say thank you for giving me a great start in life and wonderful memories.

1995
*Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to
Swansea Friends of Young Disabled, Baglan,
Wyndham, Nelson and Radyr clubs.*

Past Boys Club Members

Joe Calzaghe

Boxer

Joe Calzaghe won the National Association of Boys' Clubs Class A Boxing Championships at the Hilton Hotel, Bristol in 1987. After an outstanding career in boxing he retired undefeated as a professional in 2009. Known throughout the world as 'the Pride of Wales' Joe was the Ring Magazine World Light Heavyweight Champion, WBO, WBA, WBC, IBF Ring Magazine and British Super Middleweight Champion. In 2007 Joe was BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Joe is considered by many to be the most successful British boxer of all time.



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

Scott Gammer

Boxer

Scott, another former National Association of Boys' Club Champion, nicknamed 'The Hammer'. In 2006, following 16 undefeated professional fights, he defeated Mark Krence to lift the British Heavyweight title.



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

1995
President's Challenge –
The Cambrian Way Walk.

Past Boys Club Members

Nathan Cleverly

Boxer

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to enter and represent CYP Wales in the CYP UK Boxing Championships several years ago. The experience I gained through being a CYP member has, no doubt, contributed to my current success and has helped me in my progression to further honours.



Jon Alsop

Boxer

Greetings on the organisation's 80th anniversary from Brisbane, Australia, where I work for Origin Energy as Operations Manager – Eastern Australia, responsible for managing operation and maintenance of an 1820MW portfolio of gas fired power stations and wind generation plants in Queensland and New South Wales.

I was a member of Rhosun ABC and became Boys' Clubs of Wales Boxing Champion 1978-80 (Class A, B & C), NABC British Champion 1980-81, Welsh Junior 60kg Champion 1980, Welsh ABA Lightweight Champion 1982, Commonwealth Games Representative 1982, Welsh ABA Light-Welterweight Champion and British ABA



Light-Welterweight Champion 1986 and Commonwealth Games Representative 1986.

I am grateful to the Boys' & Girls' Club Movement for supporting my development during my formative years.

1996
North Wales Project piloted.

Past Boys Club Members

John Hartson

Football (Ex Luton, Arsenal, West Ham, Celtic, West Bromwich Albion, Wales International)

The Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales gave me one of my first opportunities to represent my country. It is a fantastic organisation, especially for giving young people the chance to develop their skills in their chosen sport and play against other countries.



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

Alan Curtis

Football

I was very fortunate and feel very lucky to have been in professional football for over 35 years. My playing career saw me play for Swansea City (3 times), Leeds United, Southampton, Stoke City and Cardiff City. I have also coached at Swansea City at youth level, first team level, Assistant Manager, Caretaker Manager and other various jobs. I am currently working as coach with the Welsh Under 21's, Under 19's and Under 17's alongside the coaching position with Swansea City.

I owe a lot of my success to the grounding I had at Treorchy Boys' Club. I spent six happy years at the club and loved every bit of it. It wasn't just the football, which was obviously important, but all the great friends I made there then who are still great friends to this day. It was at the Boys' Club where I came into contact with the late great Alby Nicholas who



worked tirelessly for decades for the sheer love of it. Alby was awarded the BEM for his services to the club and I remember his devotion to Treorchy Boys' Club with great affection.

I have wonderful memories of Treorchy Boys' Club and the Boys' & Girls' Club movement as a whole. Congratulations on the 80th Anniversary and long may the association continue to prosper for the enjoyment of boys and girls everywhere.

Past Boys Club Members

Clayton Blackmore

Football



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

In his early footballing days Clayton turned out for Neath Boys' Club and was capped by Boys' Clubs of Wales at Under 14 level. He had trials with Neath RFC before becoming an apprentice at Manchester United, for whom he made over 250 appearances. Clayton went on to play for Middlesbrough, Bristol City (loan), Barnsley and Notts County and was capped 39 times by Wales.

Brian Flynn

Football



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

Brian represented both Neath Boys' Club and Afan Lido in his early footballing career. He made 120 appearances for Burnley before joining Leeds United in 1977. He later returned to Burnley and then joined Cardiff City, Doncaster Rovers, Bury and Wrexham. He successfully managed Wrexham and Swansea City and went on to become Wales U21 Manager.

Mark Pembridge

Football



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

Mark started his football career at Georgetown Boys' Club, Merthyr, and Penydarren Boys' Club. His best seasons were at Everton where, although troubled by a persistent calf injury, he made over 100 Premier League appearances. He transferred to Fulham in 2003 where he became Academy Coach. Mark made 54 appearances for Wales.

Past Boys Club Members

Ryan Day

Snooker

Runner-up in the Shanghai Masters Snooker Tournament in China in 2007. Runner-up in the Malta Open in 2007. In 2008 reached the final of the Snooker Grand Prix and the quarter finals of the World Championships. Ranked no 6 snooker player in the world in 2009.



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

Rhys Day

Football

Represented Wales at every level from U14 up with Boys' Clubs and Schoolboys before moving on to captain the Welsh U21 team. Gained a full Welsh cap in America in 2005. Successful football career with Manchester City and Mansfield Town and captained Aldershot Town back into the Football League. Joined Oxford United 2009.

We send our congratulations to Clubs for Young People Wales for a successful 80 years in youth work. We both came through the boys' club ranks of Garw 33 Boys' & Girls' Club and we achieved youth international honours in our sports at boys' club level before moving on to



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

become full time professionals. During our formative years Garw 33 BGC played an enormous part in our development and we both realise the importance of the role of the community based youth club.

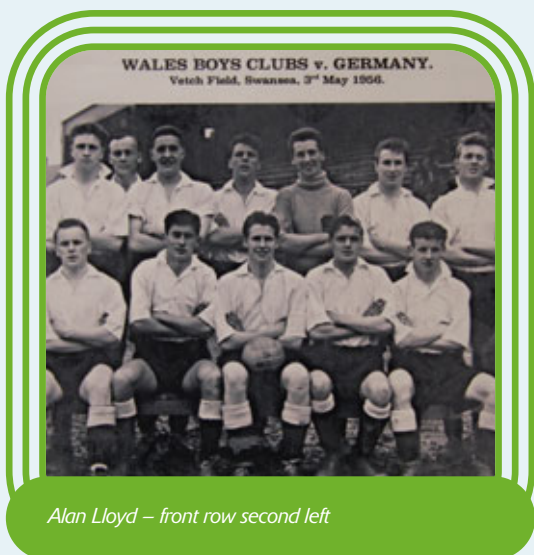
1996
*President's Challenge – Prestatyn to
Cardiff Arms Park Walk.*

1996
*Next Generation
Youth Council formed.*

Past Boys Club Members

Alan Lloyd MBE

Recollections and ramblings
of a very old centre forward



In 1954 I was a telegram boy with the GPO in Swansea, catching the 4.40 am Mumbles train every morning. The train arrived in Rutland Street at 4.58 am – you could set your watch by it. A very fast sprint along the street enabled you to clock on at exactly 5.00 am!

That year I joined Mumbles Rangers FC, the club formed by the late great Billy Johns BEM. All the boys at the football club were summoned to a meeting in a wooden shack on the seafront in Mumbles in 1955, the headquarters of the Mumbles British Legion. The meeting was addressed by Mr Fisher Davies who was the organiser of the West Glamorgan Branch of the Welsh Association of Boys' Clubs. There was much excitement as we became members of the organisation and the football club came to be known as the Mumbles Rangers Boys' Club, a name still

proudly used by the football club today. As young boys we were introduced to athletics, table tennis and many other events (as well as fund raising). This was our first introduction to organised events of this nature.

Like most boys of my generation, I dreamed of being a professional footballer and that certainly did not seem likely when I got dropped from the Rangers under 18 team in 1956. I turned up to the match and the boy replacing me didn't, so I played and scored 2 goals. The Boys' Clubs selectors were present and I was selected to represent West Glamorgan Group of Boys' Clubs against Wolves Youth – English Youth Champions. I scored all four goals in a 4-1 win and had great delight in giving Laurie Wright (brother of Billy Wright) a torrid afternoon. As a result of that performance I was capped by the Boys' Clubs of Wales against Germany in May 1956. I went on to play for Llanelli and Gloucester City in the Southern League and was offered trials with Aston Villa and Luton – but my mother said I wasn't good enough!

In 1974 I formed the Langland Bay Lifeguard Club and was affiliated to the Boys' & Girls' Clubs of Wales via the Swansea Group. I have since served on the Group as Secretary and in 2008 became Vice Chair of CYP Wales.

It has been a pleasure to attempt to put a little bit back in for the support Grant Poiner and Joff Carroll have given the club in getting our new clubhouse built and from the support received as a member fifty years earlier.

The moral of my ramblings is that this Organisation will always give you a chance. I had mine and enjoyed every minute of it. Tens of thousands of other youngsters have had their lives turned around by this Organisation but, sadly, their stories will probably never be heard.

1997
CYP Wales hosted young people
attending Commonwealth Youth
Forum in Edinburgh.

Past Boys Club Members

Max Boyce MBE

Entertainer



It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Boys' Clubs of Wales on this their 80th year since their foundation.

Their contribution to society and to sport in Wales has been immense and I have seen at first hand, as President of the Rugby section, how invaluable their work has been over the years.

It has not always been easy and they have experienced difficult times but have steadfastly kept faith with their ideals and ambitions. That is to their eternal credit.

Once again my sincere congratulations and long may you continue to inspire the youth of Wales to fulfil their hopes and dreams.

Llongyfarchiadau

Max Boyce MBE, FRWCMD

Owen Money MBE

Entertainer



Congratulations on the 80th Birthday Year of the Boys' Club. The Boys' Club is and has been very important to Wales and to me personally. I first learnt my skills as a footballer at Troedryhiw Boys' Club in Merthyr Borough and Treharris Boys' Club. The great thing about the organisation is the support it gives young people in that it gets the whole community together not only for sport but for many other pastimes.

My early performances as an entertainer were at the Troedryhiw Boys' Club dances on a Friday night and without that grounding I do not think that I would have had the success that I've had as a comedian, entertainer and broadcaster.

Long may the Boys' Club movement thrive in Wales and here's to the next 80 years!

Owen Money MBE

Present Club Members

Our membership today includes inner city and coastal clubs as well as the more traditional valley based boys' clubs. The following clubs are a cross section of today's membership

Grangetown Club for Young People



Grangetown youngsters wearing their prestigious Welsh International vests with pride after enjoying considerable athletics success.

By building the character and esteem of young people Grangetown Club for Young People offers an alternative to the less desirable attractions facing young people and helps them to reach their potential, whilst making friends and enjoying life. Our approach is still unique in that we strongly believe in activities – sporting, arts and outdoor pursuits etc – as the medium for dealing with current issues facing young people.

Treharris Boys' & Girls' Club



Guitar and Drum lesson at Treharris BGC.

Treharris, the first Boys' Club opened in South Wales in 1923, has gone from strength to strength. This club has traditionally been at the heart of this community for over eighty years and continues to offer new and more traditional activities for young people under the guidance of club leader, Lisa Bruford and her team, continuing the great work of one of the Organisation's most famous stalwarts, Meirion Williams MBE. The club has recently been refurbished at a cost of over £500,000 and now offers residential experiences, a computer digilab, a function suite and is used during the daytime by other local organisations.

Present Club Members

Nantymoel Boys' & Girls' Club



Byron Lock with winning National 5-a-side Football Team 2002.

Nantymoel has recently been refurbished with support from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. The club is one of the most supportive of the national activities programme of CYP Wales and has produced many national champions in indoor sports such as table-tennis, snooker and pool. Club Leader, Byron Lock, is well supported by a strong team of volunteers including his mother Enid who has been involved with the club for over forty years.

Ystrad Mynach Boys' & Girls' Clubs



*1997
Iechyd Da Day
(healthy lifestyle promotion) at
Cardiff International Arena.*

Ystrad Mynach BGC is another example of a club which has undergone a complete refurbishment. The club has traditionally played a major role in providing activities for young people in the area since the 1930s. Ken Pritchard, Tony Honeywill and their team of volunteers have made a major contribution to the success of the club for many years and Ken Pritchard was awarded the CYP UK 'Volunteer of the Year' title in 2009.

*1998
The Organisation changed its title to
Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales.*

Present Club Members

Georgetown Boys' & Girls' Club



Georgetown Boys' & Girls' Club is situated in Merthyr Tydfil and was opened in 1966. The current leader, Ray Davies, has been involved with the club since 1971 and is nowadays well supported by Mandy Keating who recently won the BBC 'Unsung Hero' Award. The main activities provided by the club are football, netball, dance and street dancing and the club is also used during the daytime by other community groups.

Langland Bay Lifeguards Club



Langland Bay Lifeguards Club has probably the most enviable setting of any youth club in the country. It is situated 50 metres from the beach at Langland Bay on the beautiful Gower Coast near Swansea. The club, completed in 2008, took almost eight years to construct from start to full completion, due to funding shortages, but is now sitting proudly as a state of the art facility for young people. The club, which has digilab facilities, offers training in first-aid, lifesaving, lifeguarding and competes in the UK National Lifeguards Championships. Langland's members are very supportive of the CYP Wales national programme and have also hosted many CYP Wales events. The President, Alan Lloyd MBE, is a former boys' club football cap and Vice-Chair of CYP Wales.

1998
Festival of the Future.

1998
New Century Youth Challenge.

Past Staff Members

Clive Thomas

1965 – 1977



Picture courtesy of Media Wales

During my term of office I introduced sponsorship. The word 'sponsorship' had not been used previously in the organisation and I was bringing in companies with a view to giving them media coverage with television, radio and press. One of the first companies was Modern Buildings owned by industrialist, Alf Gooding, who had been very successful in building wooden houses in Canada and had come back to Wales to continue his building in the Principality. Other companies were Wilkinson Sword and IPC Engineering of which Len Carroll was Managing Director. Len later became well known as Chairman of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales. These companies sponsored the Under 18 football team who played England, Scotland and Ireland at home and away. To give the international matches more publicity I would always try to play the games at Football League venues such as Ninian Park, Vetch Field, Somerton Park and the Racecourse, Wrexham. It was similar in rugby, playing on grounds in Aberavon, Llanelli and Newport.

With my Sports Committees we organised a Whit Monday event each year which included 5-a-side football and basketball competitions for boys under 16 years of age. This was a huge success with over 1000 youngsters coming down to St Athan Boys' Village for the tournament. The clubs were represented from all over Wales with buses of families having a day out at St Athan. Games would start at 10.30 am and go on until 7.30 pm. The day became so successful that we had to limit the number of teams from each boys' club. We then introduced Junior Boys' Holiday Week, a week in August for boys between 12 and 14 years of age, which involved various sporting competitions with 120 boys broken down into 10 teams. The boys would be competing for points during the week and living in the dormitories. Today these, now, men are still talking about those weeks and some have become very good footballers and have moved on to professional football careers.

Throughout my period as General Secretary, like most organisations, we had problems raising money and grants were then from the Welsh Office. On one occasion we were so desperate for cash and the Welsh Office had made it clear they were not giving any further grants so I requested, and was granted, a meeting with the Minister for the Department of Education and Science, the then Margaret Thatcher. My Chairman (D E J Davies), Vice-Chairman (Ralph Kendrick) and myself went up to London to meet Margaret Thatcher and her officers in Curzon Street. I outlined our appeal with the Welsh Office and after a lengthy meeting the Minister decided against any increase as it was felt this would be preferential treatment to BCW against other organisations. I immediately stated I would resign as General Secretary forthwith and hold a press conference in Cardiff to explain the position of BCW. When I arrived back there was a message to ring the Minister who stated she had reconsidered the decision and would give us the grant as requested, but the grant was only to our organisation.

Past Staff Members



1974 – Frankie Vaughan meeting young club members.

Frankie Vaughan, the famous entertainer, was controlled by the National Association of Boys' Clubs as he would give them a week of his invaluable time to travel around the country to raise money for their Club Week, and no Boys' Club was able to directly contact him. Frank and myself became great personal friends and he decided that he would also give one week to BCW. We were raising an enormous amount of money during Club Week and during the year he would appear in his professional capacity at nightclubs such as the Double Diamond, Tito's and the Stardust Club, Usk. During these stays in Wales he would give us his time and I would organise functions in various boys' clubs around Wales to raise money for HQ and for individual boys' clubs. Frank was a tremendous asset to the organisation and raised many thousands of pounds, for which the organisation is indebted to him and his family.

Fisher Davies, who became Senior Field Officer to the organisation, operated generally in West Wales and was a keen worker for the Abercrave Outdoor Pursuits Centre, ensuring the success of many training courses for young people with the Army Youth Team. He was a very well respected officer throughout the organisation spending many weekends at training courses back at St Athan Boys' Village.



Stan Montgomery

Stan Montgomery was a former professional footballer who became an outstanding player at Cardiff City FC before retiring to a college in Reading as a groundsman. He joined Boys' Clubs of Wales from Reading to be appointed Sports Adviser. During his time in BCW he organised all sporting activities including football coaching courses with the South Wales Football Coaches Association and the Boys' Clubs international trials at Boys' Village. He was also the chief scout for Bristol Rovers FC and a number of young boys' club members were attracted to the Bristol Club. Wayne Jones from Treorchy BC was one member who later played on a number of times for the Welsh Senior football team. Stan was devoted to football and gave an enormous amount of time to young people.

Important occasions – In 1968 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited the St Athan Boys' Village where he met a number of young people and others who had been in the organisation for many years. In 1973 the Ivor Llewellyn Staff Block was opened by world boxing champion, Jack Peterson. Then, for financial reasons, as well as to ensure headquarters working closer with St Athan Boys' Village, we had the historic move of BCW HQ from High Street, Cardiff to St Athan. I still believe that was one of the most important moves for the organisation as it showed everyone working together. We also had the official opening of the Ringland Boys' Club by Sir Maynard Jenour – this had been an on-going project for many years.

Past Staff Members

North Wales

We had always been criticised in North Wales for calling the organisation South Wales Boys' Clubs, Boys' Clubs of Wales and not involving young people from North Wales. It was imperative that we had a North Wales Group and therefore appointed Barry Williams who became the BCW North Wales part-time organiser. Barry was influential in setting up the group and ensured that they would be represented at all football trials down at St Athan Boys' Village. It was wonderful to see a North Wales group mixing with the South Wales participants during the trials weekends.

Sir Maynard Jenour became President in 1953. He was one of the most respected businessmen in Wales and was Chairman of the Aberthaw Cement Works which, fortunately for Boys Clubs of Wales, was situated near St Athan Boys' Village. Sir Maynard was a working President and would always represent the organisation at functions throughout the country. He would attend Executive Council meetings on a regular basis and at all times wished to know the progress of individual clubs. The Boys' Village Warden, Ivor Llewellyn, would only have to ring Sir Maynard with any work required and within minutes a worker would be down to complete the job. Lady Jenour was also a staunch supporter and would be in attendance at functions at Boys' Village. Sir Maynard, during his twenty five year term of office, the longest period of any President, saw seven General Secretaries appointed during that time. During the difficult periods he would always be extremely positive in his views and felt very strongly the need for a Boys' Club organisation. He would be prepared to preside at any functions where the boys' clubs could raise money. He then formed his own President's Committee inviting top industrialists from Wales which included Lord Brecon and rugby player, Billy Cleaver, who was the Director of the National Coal Board. This

committee would meet only four times a year and raised many thousands of pounds. As well as ensuring that money came into the organisation during his years in office, he also left a personal legacy for the movement. He will always be remembered as a proud and well-respected gentleman of the organisation.

When I joined BCW I was a football referee and the Executive Council gave me plenary powers to continue my career. I was then appointed to the Football League and later to the FIFA Panel which took me around the world so I was able to use my contacts, which were quite invaluable for the organisation. I met many footballers who had been former boys' club members such as Terry Venables, Terry Medwin, Alan Curtis, Wayne Jones, Mel Hopkins, Brian Flynn, Leighton James and many others. I was also able to use my influence in getting venues for our international matches at Football League grounds. The NABC used me as their Gillette Cup Final referee for five years. I was very much involved with Lord Althorp who was the President of the NABC, attending presentations as Clive Thomas, the International Referee.



Ex Welsh International footballer, John Charles, picking out the winning ticket in our 1967 Club Week Prize Draw, watched by George Stokes, General Secretary, and Clive Thomas, Sports Adviser.

Past Staff Members

Struan James-Robertson

Training Officer – 1967/1975

Having restarted a local part-time youth club, and past the age of forty, I decided to start a new career in full-time youth work. I was fortunate to be able to do so under the guidance and encouragement of George Stokes, whose experience and know how was invaluable to me, a beginner. Initially, I took over the field work of the late Fisher Davies, servicing clubs in the western area, and then I was invited to become Director of the Monday-to-Friday Adjustment to Industry courses at Boys' Village, established on such a firm foundation by Clive Thomas.

Ever changing circumstances required continual alterations and adaptations over the years and, also, I had a wish to meet many of the apprentices again in a different environment. The encouragement of Commander Charles Thomson (Chairman of the Training Committee) and the understanding of Keith Pepperell (Warden of the Abercrave Centre), was able to make my dreams become realities, and resulted in the Adventure into Leadership weekends. These lasted after my time and I was able to use them, in an adapted form, for the rest of my career. They also provided a continual supply of valuable young voluntary leaders and three of the Centre's Assistant Wardens.

When George Stokes left Boys' Clubs, I was asked to continue the annual Rotary Week that he had started as a holiday week at Boys' Village, sponsored by South Wales Rotary Clubs, for disadvantaged boys in their areas. All this work was very satisfying, but one week stands out above all others. When in 1972 we



Members enjoying the lake during an Adventure Weekend at Abercrave.

were asked if we would take half the boys from Northern Ireland, mainly from Londonderry, we had no hesitation in agreeing, the opportunity was unmissable.

Originally Irish teachers agreed to act as leaders, but after Bloody Sunday they all withdrew and the only two replacements available were an older man, who organised youth football matches between different denominations, and a student home from an American College Athletic Scholarship. From the list, the only indication of the denominations for the fifty Irish boys was the names of their schools. I placed some of each in all six sections, together with a portion of the forty Welsh boys.

Apart from two experienced adults, my deputy and the pocket-money treasurer, the rest of the staff were young voluntary helpers. All the boys arrived on the Saturday afternoon and, on the Sunday morning, a Catholic Canon and a Protestant Vicar held an ecumenical service in the small interdenominational chapel built by unemployed miners during the depression.

Past Staff Members

Apart from all the activities, sports and competitions in the Village, one afternoon was spent at the local seaside resort of Barry Island where the owner of the amusement park had donated a large pile of free tickets so that the boys could enjoy plenty of free rides. The Irish boys had to fly back on the Friday night and every Welsh boy went to the airport to see them depart. On my return I learned that one of the

Irish boys had lost a brother in the conflicts; I already knew that one of the Welsh boys had. For just one week we had all lived together in perfect harmony – if only that could have been true for them back home. For all of us, few other weeks in our lives would ever be as great.



Struan James-Robertson pictured with a group of youngsters at St Athan Boys' Village.

1998
*Talent Contest in Berwyn Centre,
Nantymoel.*

Past Staff Members

Barry Doughty

Training and Development Officer
1984/86



1985 – Barry Doughty (middle row 2nd right) pictured with Adjustment to Industry Course members at St Athan

My first association with Boys' Clubs of Wales was in 1973 when, as a Sergeant in HM Forces Army (Royal Signals), I was posted to Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. I was a team member of 70 Army Youth Team, one of four in Wales. Soldiers of the Welsh Guards staffed the 68 Army Youth Team whose base was at Abercrave Centre when Keith Pepperell was the Warden. Both teams worked closely together on outdoor activities with schools, youth and boys' clubs throughout Wales, at Abercrave and at St Athan Boys' Village. These were excellent bases for the residential experiences notwithstanding the access to the swimming pool and lake at Abercrave for canoe activities.

I was appointed in 1984 as Training and Development Officer for the Boys' Clubs of Wales with a responsibility for developing a training programme for the movement in Wales. This coincided with the initiative to advance the Keystone Movement – a worldwide Boys' and Girls' Clubs enterprise which

encouraged participation of young people (senior members) to get involved in the movement. The initiative was started in the early 80's by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America. Keystone development courses included practical elements and the experience of residential seminars and training as well as the chance to take part in an international event. In September 1984 I was heavily involved with organising the International Federation of Keystone Youth Clubs Conference which was attended by eighty five delegates from Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Canada and America. The delegates visited many of the Boys' Clubs in Cardiff and the South Wales valleys.

The annual 100 Mile Canoe Test challenge took place in 1984 and 1985 on the Rivers Wye/Thame and Trent respectively and, although Wales had a small contingent on both occasions, a great time was had by those taking part with a great feeling of achievement. I took part in both years as a leader on the water.

In 1984/85 I resurrected the Adjustment to Industry Courses which had been a feature of Boys' Clubs in the 70's. During the year we held courses with over fifty apprentices and/or trainees attending from twenty or so local South Wales companies.

In 1985 a week's holiday was held at Abercrave Outdoor Pursuits Centre for twelve disabled young people, supported by volunteers from the Keystone movement. The week's activities involved various outdoor pursuits and the event created an awareness of the importance of integrating young disabled people into the organisation's clubs. Participants, staff and volunteers alike achieved many personal challenges in the preparation and delivery of the programme.

1999
Ardeche Expedition.

Past Staff Members

During my time at BCW we engaged in two-way youth exchanges with young people from Belgium, Ireland and Germany. Exchanges formed an important part in the development of the Keystone movement in Wales and many of the young people from BCW welcomed the chance to be part of the United Nation's objectives in 1985 of the International Youth Year, encouraging youth engagement with the themes of participation, development and peace. BCW members and clubs hosted visiting groups from the above countries, many joined the reciprocal visits, and their experiences will stay with them throughout their lives.

The North Africa Project took place in 1985 with twenty-three young people participating, including one who was blind from birth and one who was wheelchair dependent. The young people came from eight areas in South Wales and BCW worked in conjunction with a Christian organisation, 'Horizons', based in Llanelli. We travelled overland to Morocco in a 1952 Bedford truck, via Belgium, France, Spain and Gibraltar. The group was away from South Wales for one month and whilst in Morocco they worked for one week at a 'Save the Children' Project. We climbed Mount Tubkal in the High Atlas Mountains travelling part of the way by mule. Some canoed in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean whilst visiting various places of interest in and around Morocco. As well as visiting these places of interest, the group still had to contend with the daily chores of shopping, cooking and washing up and consider the well-being of their fellow travellers.

In 1985, as part of a fund raising idea, we held a 24-hour 'Operation Jailbreak'. Teams of three/four people were dressed up as convicts and broke out from the front of Cardiff Prison

and the team that could get as far away as possible in 24 hours, without using their own money, was deemed the winning team. We had great publicity for this event and participants reached everywhere, including the extremities of the UK, and two teams got to Spain. The event wasn't held the following year, which was a shame because the publicity in the press and on TV was excellent for BCW.

To conclude, my time with BCW was exciting and rewarding. Many friendships were established, many of which remain today. The values and principles of Boys' and Girls' Clubs are as relevant today as they were when our forefathers set up the movement. May it continue to meet some of the aspirations that young people wish for themselves and may the usual long-term funding difficulties, suffered by all charity organisations, be sorted to allow growth and development of the organisation in a sustainable manner.



*1985 – Jailbreak fundraising event.
BCW Team – Jane Evans, Tim Martin, Debbie Lobb*

*1999
North Wales office opened.*

Past Staff Members

Ian Loten

Development Officer 1979 –1982



Greetings from New Zealand!

I joined the Boys' Clubs of Wales in 1979 after a short stint as Sports and Development Officer with Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Boys' Clubs. A post had been funded by the Welsh Office for a Development Officer working at the Headquarters at St Athan. I grew up going to my local boys' club and was very happy to put something back after university. My remit at the time was to help in the developmental side of the organisation. They had a sound base with regard to traditional sport, but wanted to find other areas that they could help young people in the community. I was also pleased to be working with Alwyn Morgan who I knew by reputation from the Midlands Group of Boys' Clubs.

Residential Courses at Abercrave

An area that I got heavily involved in was what we generically called character building courses. These we offered to local industry such as Metal Box in Neath, where we used outdoor pursuits as the vehicle to explore ways where apprentices could challenge themselves physically and mentally. These courses took

place up at the Abercrave Outdoor Pursuits Centre. It was a perfect spot for doing many challenging activities. There were fantastic limestone caves to explore, canoeing, climbing, night orienteering exercises, multiple day hill walks and much more to challenge the young people. I particularly enjoyed the show that the boys had to put on at the end of the course. Usually by this stage they were full of themselves and confident to perform in front of anyone. These courses were an excellent example of youth service and industrial partnership. Being a rock climber, canoeist and caver myself I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to participate in these courses and I believe the young people who attended gained a great deal from the experience.

Senior Member Training – Keystone Club

The expertise that we gained from the residential courses naturally led onto applying them to our senior members within the clubs. There was little formal training for those young people who wished to carry on helping at their clubs when they were past school leaving age. We developed a group called the Keystone Club. These were young people who wanted to give back to their community by helping the younger elements in their clubs. Consequently we adapted these industrial courses for more specific youth club training. Abercrave, St Athan and a number of different venues were used to facilitate this training throughout the region. A group of young people came out of this that went back to their clubs with a better understanding of the attributes needed to lead and support others.

Courses for Disabled Young People at Abercrave

The young people that were identified from the Keystone Club were challenged in more ways than they expected. We managed to gain sponsorship from industry and organisations to run holidays for disabled

Past Staff Members

youngsters up at Abercrave. To make this a truly successful experience we felt we needed to get young able-bodied people to join the course. Hence we partnered an able bodied boy with a disabled boy. This was an extraordinary experience for all concerned. The trust that developed between the boys over a residential course was fantastic to watch.

The disabled boys missed out on very little. Adaptations were made to equipment or the experiences that could be achieved. Even caving was not off limits. The South Wales Cave Rescue team would help to get boys through some of the caves as a way of practising rescue situations. Everyone got pulled into supporting these boys up at Abercrave, none more so than the cooks and centre helpers. One year we had a boy who was wheelchair dependent and had borrowed a motorised chair for the week to get himself around. As the week unfolded the centre staff, watching the freedom he gained from his motorised chair, decided to help raise the money for him to have his own. The clubs and pubs were fleeced up and down the Swansea Valley to raise the money and at the end of the week he had a large cheque to take home and put towards his own motorised chair. These courses were a huge success for all concerned and another example of the Boys' Clubs of Wales creating an opportunity for young people to challenge themselves.

100 Mile Canoe Test

This was a traditional challenge set out by the National Association of Boys' Clubs. It required one to paddle one hundred miles in three days as part of an organised team. These events were organised on rivers such as the Wye, Severn and Trent. Many different Boys' Clubs Associations put teams into this event. As usual we gave this a different twist in Wales. In addition to members of the boys' clubs community, Boys' Clubs of Wales offered it up as an opportunity to other relevant

organisations in South Wales to participate alongside our own members. To our amazement the Probation Service decided that this would be a good idea for some of their young offenders. Now this is a tough challenge at the best of times but with young men who were non-volunteers this was a real test for us. Luckily we were able to call on the help of the staff from the Extramural Department at Atlantic College near St Donats. With the help of Karen Wood (later Mrs Loten) and her sixth form helpers we were able to get these guys into shape and put a team on the water that would encourage them to go the distance. The land based support from the likes of Alwyn Morgan and Tim Spinks made for a very successful adventure for all. Despite blistered hands and bruised bums the whole team managed to complete the 100-mile challenge. The satisfaction and pride that these young men showed in finishing the test was reward enough for us all who helped and maybe they found some strength to be more positive in their lives.

My time at the Boys' Clubs of Wales was very rewarding for myself and it convinced me to further a career with young people. Hence I went on to Swansea University and trained as a teacher. The dedication and support of the people who were involved in the Boys' Clubs of Wales gave me inspiration and a sense that anything can be achieved with young people if you have a 'Can Do' attitude.



100 Mile Canoe Test Participants

Past Staff Members

Jim Davies

Last Manager, St Athan Boys' Village



My late wife, Ann, and myself were the Managers of Boys' Village for the last five years of its existence. We lived in the bungalow on site and led a very busy life, being on call at all times of the day and night, but I can honestly say that this was the happiest time of our lives.

We loved meeting the various visiting parties, of all ages from all over the world, and made many lifelong friends.

The Village had the advantage of being able to accommodate over 120 residents at any time and one of my outstanding memories is of when over 100 youngsters from the South Glamorgan Youth Orchestra would spend a week at the centre practising their skills.

By the end of the week they were up to a very high standard and it would be wonderful to hear the beautiful music wafting all around the camp.

The weeks for disabled and disadvantaged children were also very memorable, as it would be marvellous to see the youngsters enjoying themselves on the camp lawns and in the swimming pool, with the highlight of their holiday being trips to Barry Island funfair and other local attractions such as the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagans.

It was a very sad day when the Village finally closed but the memories of the many thousands of camp visitors over the years will live on forever.

1999
*Hosted Four Nations Football
Tournament at Merthyr Tydfil.*

2000
*First Girls' Football International
match versus Australian Schools.*

Past Staff Members

David Allen-Oliver

From Assistant Field Services Officer
to Chief Executive 1984 – 1999



I started with the Boys' Clubs of Wales in 1984 as a part-timer and worked my way through to the position of Director of Field Services and Activities.

It was obvious by 1990 that Boys' Clubs of Wales was financially in a bad way and there was very little that the old Council could do to prevent the Organisation's demise.

On 2nd July 1991 the BCW Council agreed that I could attempt to set up another organisation,

encompassing the boys' clubs that were associated with BCW. With the help of Len Carroll as Chairman, D I L Jones as Treasurer, the National Association of Boys' Clubs (London), Phil Carradice (Headmaster, Headlands School), Alan Higgins (Welsh Office), Margaret Oliver (my wife), Shirley Higgins and the Field Officers of the Groups, the Welsh Federation of Boys' & Girls' Clubs was set up. My wife, Margaret Oliver, who had been associated with BCW for many years organising indoor games, cross country and athletics, also assisted greatly in the formation of the Federation.

On 15th September 1991 the outline constitution was agreed by NABC and they agreed the setting up of the new organisation.

On 4th October 1991 a meeting was held in Bettws Boys' Club where the 84 clubs joined the new organisation.

On 23rd February 1992 the Charity Commission recognised the new organisation. The organisation started with a £150 donation from the Chairman and Mike Rogers (Swansea Group).

With grants from NABC and the Welsh Office, the Welsh Federation of Boys' & Girls' Groups was able to appoint myself as Chief Executive in January 1992 and Shirley Higgins as Administration Officer In February 1992.

Past Staff Members

Dave Evans

1993 – 2008



Between 1994 and 2008 I had the honour and privilege of being the second longest serving Clubs for Young People Wales' Chief Executive/General Secretary, serving under two most well respected Chairmen of National Voluntary Organisations in Wales – the late Mr Len Carroll MBE and Mr Cenydd Thomas MBE, QPM.

The philosophy of the Management Committee was to offer young people new opportunities and experiences so as to raise the confidence levels/self-esteem of all participants. I would like to illustrate this by recalling a number of events in which the Organisation was involved during that period.

- **1995** – The Cambrian Challenge – a 274 mile walk along the highest, wildest and most beautiful part of Wales, from Conwy in the north to Cardiff. Sixty young people participated.
- **1995** – Visit to CYP Wales by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Swansea.
- **1996** – The formation of the Next Generation, the Organisation's youth council, 35 young people involved.
- **1996** – President's Challenge – Prestatyn to Brecon on foot, then by canoe to Newport, litter picking all the way – 80 young people involved.
- **1996** – North Wales Youth Project – inviting young people and their clubs from North Wales to join us.
- **1997** – CYP Wales hosted young people who were to attend the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Edinburgh.
- **1997** – Iechyd Da Day – 700 young people attended an exhibition on healthy issues at the CIA, Cardiff – organised and hosted by CYP Wales.
- **1998** – Festival of the Future – CYP Wales was invited to organise the sport element of young people's activities on the official opening day of the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff Castle – 35 sporting activities were represented.

2000
Body Shop Project.

2003
*Hosted Four Nations Football
Tournament in North Wales.*

Past Staff Members

- **1998** – New Century Youth Challenge – CYP Wales was one of a consortium of voluntary youth organisations in Wales involved in a £1M scheme intended to support 16-20 year olds in Wales.
- **1998** – Theatre Adad – a professional stage performance relating to drugs and alcohol abuse – 300 people attended.
- **1998** – Proposed Canal Boat Project – an innovative and exciting environmental, cultural, creative experience offered to young people through the acquisition of a canal boat sited on the Monmouth/Brecon Canal. This was one of the most disappointing failures of my career and should have been allowed to be developed.
- **1998** – Talent Contest in Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel – an extremely successful event involving 20 young performers. Simon Cowell – eat your heart out!
- **1999** – Ardeche Expedition – involved a group of young people paddling down the Ardeche Gorge in the South of France – 30 young people involved.
- **2000** – Window on Wales – a walk along the periphery of Wales – 850 miles. In all 100 young people were involved. Images of the walk were made into stained glass panels which are sited in the Children's Hospital in Cardiff.
- **2000** – The Body Shop Project – to produce information leaflets/posters for young people by young people relating to all aspects of healthy lifestyles.
- **2003** – Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Swansea.
- **2004** – Annual German Youth Exchange commenced.
- **2007** – CYP Wales gained the Investors in People Award – which confirm that all policies, financial and management systems were current, relevant and in place.

Other events worth mentioning:

- Second Severn Crossing – 100 members walked from Chepstow to Bristol across the new bridge before the official opening.
- Millennium Encore – 1000+ young people in Wales took advantage of a free seat at a professional theatre performance anywhere in Britain plus free transport etc.

In my opinion CYP Wales has a huge future and, as always, takes on its responsibility as the largest voluntary youth work organisation in Wales with the same professional attitudes and dedication to its principles that its founder demonstrated eighty years ago.



1995 – Cambrian Way Walk – some of the group arriving back at Cardiff Arms Park

2003
Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester
to Swansea Group.

Past Staff Members

Grant Davis

National Sports Development Officer
1998 – 2004



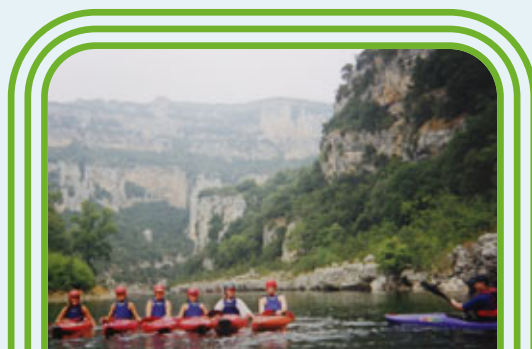
After completing my degree in Sport & Human Movement in UWIC, Cardiff, I was fortunate enough to be offered a part time post as BGCW Sports Officer. This soon developed into the National Sports Development Officer's post in which I headed up the sports programme for the Organisation as well as writing a sports development plan. Memorable projects included the Walk around Wales and the Ardeche Kayaking trip.

The aim of the Ardeche project was to take novice kayakers and train them to a level to be able to complete a 7-day self-supported kayaking expedition on the Ardeche River in the South of France. The young people were able to gain accreditation for their achievements but I take pride in the fact that when I bump into members of the group ten years on they still reminisce with fond memories of that trip.

The Walk around Wales was a 7-week 700-mile walk around the boundary of Wales with young people from across Wales in order to celebrate the Millennium and to collect memories and visions of Wales. This was a huge project which involved all the BGCW staff and the Welsh Army Youth Team and enabled the young people who joined us to achieve an otherwise impossible goal.

Whilst being responsible for the national sports programme I liaised with CYP UK to ensure our sports programme was fully integrated with the national UK sports programme as well as helping out with UK events such as Candidates Week, 100 Mile Canoe Test and Four Nations Football Tournament etc.

My lasting memories of BGCW will be working for a caring organisation, meeting the most genuine interesting people, and working with volunteers from the Welsh valleys whose sole motivation was to help the young people in their communities. As an Englishman working in Wales the HQ staff became a second family to me supporting me through some quite challenging but rewarding times. I look back on my time with BGCW with fond memories and thank the Organisation for the opportunities I was given which have benefited me in my career since as a Community Education Officer, Teacher and Community Development worker.



1999 – Kayaking Expedition down the River Ardeche, France

CYP Wales Today (2009) and the Future



Clubs for Young People Wales has been championing the role of the voluntary community based youth club for over eighty years. Through our membership network we support over 27,000 young people helping them to have fun, learn, grow and make a positive contribution to their communities. We believe in helping to develop the potential of all young people and that our clubs provide opportunities to realise this.

Today, Clubs for Young People Wales offers a full and varied programme of educational, social, sporting and cultural activities for young people and a comprehensive training programme for leaders, volunteers and senior & junior members, catered to the needs of the individual, and in partnership with the YMCA College in Wales, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Sports Leaders UK. The sports programme provides opportunities for players from grass roots to national representative levels and includes soccer, rugby, athletics, boxing, cross-country, table-tennis, snooker, pool and outdoor activities. The Organisation, which encompasses the whole of Wales, has almost 200 affiliated clubs with over 27,000 young members, supported by 2,400 trained volunteers. Through our partnership with the Sports Council for Wales we aim to provide more new activities which will promote healthier lifestyles for young people in Wales.

The Next Generation Youth Council continues to be the voice of young people in the Organisation and forms the core group of young people who participate in the annual Youth Exchange with TSV Eltingen, Germany.

The Organisation continues to work in partnership with CYP UK to provide a more structured and effective club based activities programme nationally.

Partnerships have been formed with private sector organisations such as Connaught and Connaught Academy who have a commitment to social responsibility throughout the areas of Wales in which they have a presence. Such partnerships will offer exciting new opportunities for the training and future job prospects of young people and the long term sustainability of Clubs for Young People Wales.

We are sincerely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Trust Young Roots Programme for their support in enabling this history project to be carried out. We also thank all those, too numerous to mention, who have contributed to this project

The Organisation's eighty-year journey has been blessed with achievement and success as well as moments of adversity. We look forward with optimism to the next eighty years and to the continued success and development of this great Organisation.

Joff Carroll, Chief Executive

CYP Wales Today (2009) and the Future

Joff Carroll

1998 – Present (2009)

(Chief Executive from 2009)



My association with this Organisation goes back to the days when Clive Thomas was General Secretary – I had no idea then that I would find myself acting in that role today. In my eleven years as an employee of the Organisation it has been a pleasure to be part of the HQ team, working with committed and dedicated colleagues in the office, on committees and out in the clubs.

I have found my time with Clubs for Young People Wales to be a learning curve in how the voluntary sector survives the constant struggle to provide a decent and effective service to the communities of Wales.

Whilst we at HQ are sincerely grateful for the support of WAG, CWVYS, WCVA, Sports Council for Wales and regular funders such as Big Lottery and Children in Need, our clubs and volunteers, historically, have found times of economic depression difficult to negotiate. However, these great volunteers battle through adversity with strength and commitment and it is to them we owe our thanks that this Organisation continues to provide and develop a worthwhile service to the young people of Wales.

2003

*Swansea Group won National Gillette
Football Cup – presented by
HRH The Duke of Gloucester.*

CYP Wales Today (2009) and the Future

Shirley Higgins MBE

Administration Officer
1965 – Present (2009)



I can't believe I've worked for the Organisation for 44 years – over half the period of its existence. During this time I've enjoyed working with eight General Secretaries/National Directors/Chief Executives, countless Sports, Training, Development and Project Officers, as well as Boys' Village, Abercrave and administrative staff – based in HQ offices at 26 High Street, Cardiff, St Athan Boys' Village, Headlands School, Penarth, and Western Business Centre, Cardiff.

Many of these people have become lifelong friends. My job involves everything to do with the day to day financial and administrative running of the Organisation. The work has been very interesting as everything changes constantly according to project funding we might receive, changes in youth work policy etc.

In 1992 I was honoured to receive the MBE for long service to Boys' Clubs of Wales, but the people who really deserve medals are the volunteers on our Football, Rugby, Athletics and Boxing Panels who have, for many years, worked tirelessly to organise the various sporting activities – their hard work and dedication never ceases to amaze me. I've enjoyed working with them all.

Would I do it all over again – of course I would!!

2004
*First Exchange with youth sports
organisation, TSV Eltingen,
Stuttgart, Germany.*

CYP Wales Today (2009) and the Future

Grant Poiner

Training & Projects Development
Co-ordinator, 1998 – Present (2009)



I started working for the Organisation in September 1998 not long after the change of name from Welsh Federation of Boys' and Girls' Clubs to Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales. I had recently finished my degree and noticed an advert in the South Wales Evening Post for a Swansea Development Officer for 20 hours a week. I applied for the job but, unfortunately, came second best to Wendy Anderson but I was offered a role of 5 hours a week! Fortunately, further funding was secured from the Alcoa Company and I became a part time officer (20 hours) working with the Swansea Group of Boys' and Girls' Clubs and the Next Generation Youth Council. It was an exciting time working with the Organisation alongside the very enthusiastic Grant Davis and Wendy Anderson. During the summer of 2000 we completed the 'Window on Wales' Walk. This was not only a fantastic achievement by the young people but also by the team of leaders who organised the seven weeks of camping, cooking, route planning and, of course, leading the 700 mile walk.

I have had many highlights during my work with the Organisation and I have worked with some fantastic leaders, volunteers and young people. I also had a good working relationship, whilst working on Sports Leader Awards, with Cerys Young (Training Projects Officer), who left CYP Wales in 2008 to join the Police Force. I have many good memories, particularly the Youth Exchanges with TSV Eltingen and the many friendships that have been made. I was also honoured to organise the Royal visit to Swansea in 2003 and in the same year was involved when the Swansea Group football team won the Gillette Cup for the first time in fifty six years. There are too many things to mention in this small paragraph but my time with the Organisation has been truly fantastic and I hope this continues in the future.

2006
*The Organisation changed its title to
Clubs for Young People Wales.*

CYP Wales Today (2009) and the Future

Jim Salisbury

North & Mid Wales Development Officer
2001 – Present (2009)



I have currently been in my post for over eight years and have witnessed the organisation grow from strength to strength, developing links with local statutory and voluntary bodies.

My role allows me to develop personal, educational and social skills for young people through our extensive training and activities programme, as well as providing me with great job satisfaction, flexibility and confidence. Through this role I have been able to deliver Award in Sports Leadership courses to young people, Keystone Award training to volunteers and full/part time staff members, identify specific projects from external funding avenues and plan and organise regional activities. The greatest achievement so far, in my view, is the selection of three North Walesians for the under 16s Welsh Team, when they competed in the Four Nations Football Tournament.

My favourite event has to be the annual youth exchange with a group from Germany. Both myself, and the young people who have been part of them, have benefited from long lasting experiences and unforgettable memories.

Over the past eight years, five local authority youth services have affiliated to the organisation along with numerous voluntary groups. The average total of clubs affiliated to the North Wales group, year to year, constantly exceeds 60. Through this we as an organisation have always offered support, advice and guidance, as well as encouraging them to access the CYP Wales and CYP UK events programme.

I feel very honoured and privileged to be part of an ever growing and well-respected Welsh youth organisation where the young people are always the main priority and the staff well managed.

2007
*CYP Wales attained the
Investor in People Award.*

CYP Wales Today (2009) and the Future

Laura Davies

Outdoor Activities Development Officer,
(Appointed 2009)



I am new to the Outdoor Development post with CYP Wales but I hope to develop exciting and successful projects with our clubs that will get more of our young people more active in the outdoors, more often! The post is part-funded by the Sports Council for Wales and has been introduced on the back of the Climbing Higher strategy which aims to develop health, economic, societal, environmental and cultural benefits through physical activity. My main aim is to promote and encourage healthy active lifestyles amongst our club members by using what's on our doorstep.

I developed a love for the outdoors at a young age as a member of the Air Training Corps. The opportunities and experiences I had as an Air Cadet inspired me to study Outdoor Adventure at University. I enjoy Hiking, Climbing and Paddling and absolutely love Sailing and Surfing and I try and go out as often as I can. I'd love to be able to give the opportunities I had as a young person to our club members and to pass on an appreciation of our beautiful landscapes.

I have some exciting events in the pipeline that I hope will raise the profile of the outdoors and outdoor activities, and I am bubbling with ideas and enthusiasm for new projects to develop in our clubs that will be engaging and sustainable.



*2004 – 1st Exchange with TSV Eltingen, Stuttgart, Germany –
pictured meeting Lord Mayor of Swansea.*



*Old picture shows Ivor Llewellyn (second row far left) –
St Athan Camp Warden for 50 years.*



*1998 - WFBGC Athletics Championships at Newport –
Pengam BGC Cup Winners*



1965 – Captain J Glynn-Jones OBE, MC



2000 – Window on Wales Project –
presentation of Youth Work in Wales Excellence Award.