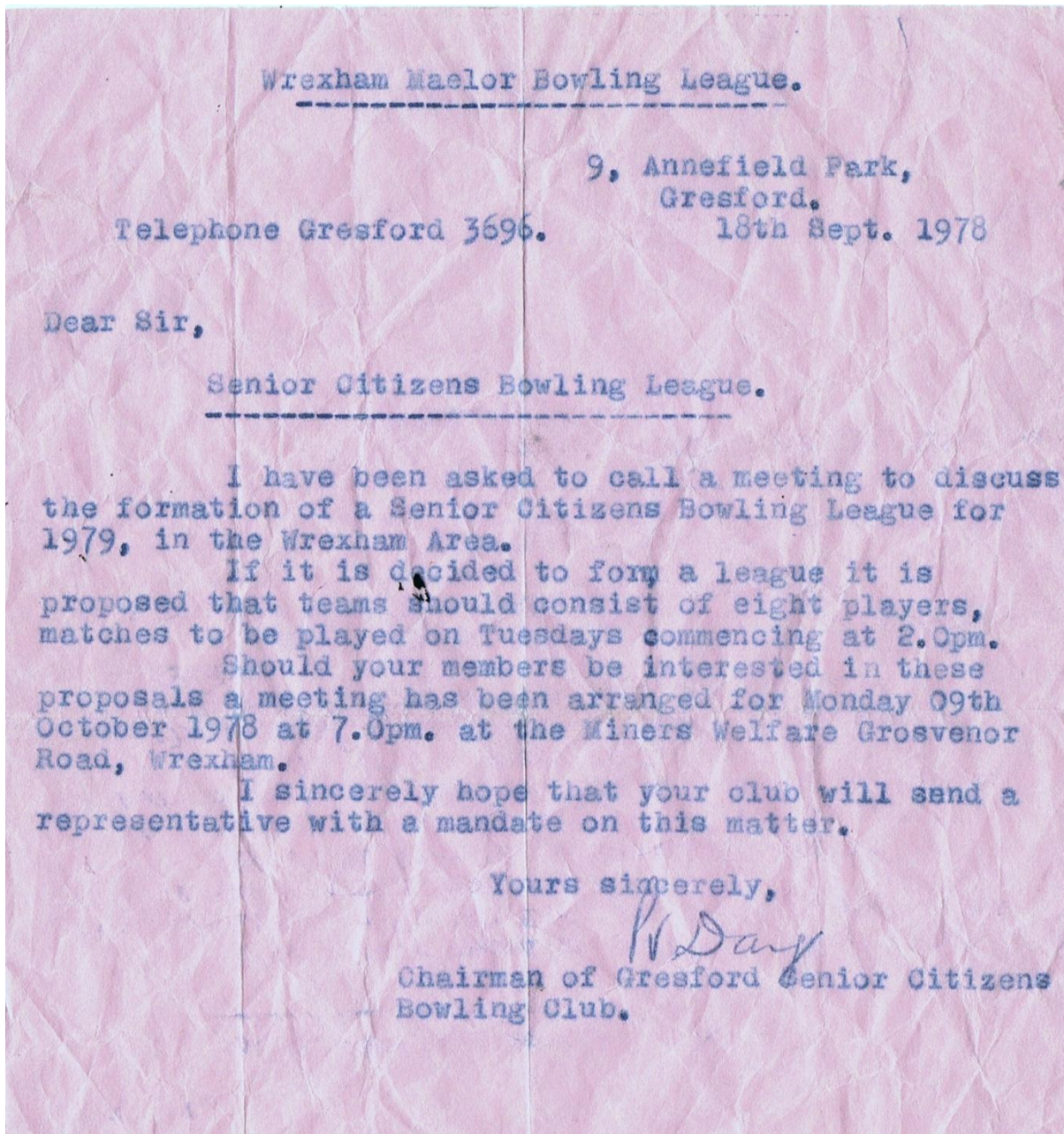


# A History of the Wrexham Veterans' League



## The First Decade

Mr P V Day of Gresford convened a meeting of interested parties at 7 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1978 at Wrexham Miners with a view to forming a Wrexham Veterans' League. Present at the meeting were: Mr C Adams and Mr D E Dodd (President and Chairman of Wrexham Bowling League), Mr P V Day (Gresford), Mr E Wright (Miners), Mr H Jones (Gresford Colliery), Mr L Bradley (Parciau), Mr L Roberts (Esclusham), Mr A Owens (Coedpoeth) and Mr A Jeffries (Gresford).

Mr Dodd was elected Chairman for the evening and read the proposal from Mr Day: that .....  
"A Veterans section of the Bowling League be formed for season 1979. Matches to be played on Tuesdays commencing at 2 p.m. and each team to consist of eight players. All members to be over 60 and not in regular

employment. All to be registered with the League". The proposal was seconded by Mr Owens and agreed unanimously.

An election of officials took place as follows: Chairman – Mr E Wright, Secretary/Treasurer – Mr P V Day. It was agreed that one member from each club would complete the composition of the Executive Committee. It was resolved that eight teams should enter the league in the first season: the seven which had already expressed an interest – Rhos, Miners, Parciau, Esclusham, Coedpoeth, Gresford Colliery, Gresford Village, leaving one vacancy to be filled by the first team to apply to the secretary.

The first meeting of the newly elected committee took place at the Miners on 22 November 1978 at 2 p.m. It was agreed to adopt the rules of the Wrexham Maelor League and to allow ten teams to enter - the seven already mentioned and in addition: Ruabon, Llay and Gresford Ladies. An offer by Mr Reg Jones to provide the fixtures for the new league was gratefully accepted.

At the first meeting of 1979 held on 21 March a Gresford representative asked if lady members under the age of sixty would be allowed to play in the league. The reduced-age motion was not accepted on this occasion but at the next meeting on 23 May a formal application was put on the agenda by Gresford Ladies to be allowed to play from the age of 55. It was carried with the proviso that members under the age of 60 would have to pay an additional 8p per person when playing on Maelor Council greens. Thanks were expressed to Mr N Povah (Esclusham) for negotiating a reduced charge of 8p per player (total £1.28 as against the standard of £3) for the use of Council greens. A discussion took place over the future use of two trophies: a shield donated by the secretary Mr P V Day and a cup by Mr Ernie Smith.

A letter was read out from Rhos Bowling Club asking to be allowed to resign from the league owing to the death of three of their members, preventing them from fulfilling their fixtures. This request was accepted with great regret. At the first AGM held on 31 October 1979 silent tribute was paid to the following league members: Mr J Davies, Mr B Jones, Mr J Skellon (Rhos), Mr A Hampton (Parciau), Mr I Thomas, Mr E Jones (Esclusham) and Mr N Williams (Miners).

Officers elected to serve for the 1980 season were: President – Mr P V Day, Chairman – Mr Lloyd Hughes (Miners), Secretary – Mr John Albert Jones (Miners), Match Secretary – Mr Reg Jones (Gresford). A motion was passed that matches would start at 2.30 p.m. from then on. The Miners were congratulated on being the first champions of the new Veterans League and Mr P V Day presented Mr J A Jones with the cup. Membership fees for the league would remain £1 per club. The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £9.19.

The AGM of February 1980 began with a silent tribute to the late Mr Trevor Roberts of Coedpoeth. Garden Village indicated that they were hopeful of forming a team to take over the vacant slot in the fixtures. Ruabon went on to win the league and were presented with the cup on 30 September following a match at the Miners between their team and a team representing the remaining clubs. At a meeting held on 27 August 1980 members stood in silent tribute to the late Mr Alf Lea of Gresford Colliery.

Mr Henry Williams of Garden Village was elected vice-chairman at the AGM on 3 March 1981. Tributes were paid to three deceased members: Mr L. Edwards, Mr E Vaughan (Miners) and Mr R Evison (Ruabon). Parciau dropped out of the league but Gresford Village entered a second team. It was unanimously agreed to revert to the original starting time for matches of 2 p.m. The balance sheet now showed a credit of £25.38. The draw for the Percy Day Shield was made as usual.

The annual general meeting prior to the 1982 season was held on 3 February and began with silent tributes to Mrs E Fellows (Gresford Ladies) and the wives of Mr H Hughes and Mr L Challoner (Llay). It was decided to

introduce a Merit Shield to be played for by the merit winners of each club on a knock-out basis. Mr T W Jones (Esclusham) was appointed auditor. League fees would be raised to £2 per club. The credit on the accounts had risen to £30.20. Twenty rules were approved for the Rules and Constitution of the league.

At the AGM in February 1983 the chairman was pleased to announce that Mr Ernie Smith (Garden Village) had donated a cup for a Pairs competition and entries would be invited from each club. He reported also that Parciau had rejoined the league. Members stood in respect for deceased members: Mr E Holmes, Mr M Jones (Garden Village), Mr R Savage (Esclusham), Mr F Nicholas (Ruabon) and Mr I Jones (Gresford). The audited accounts showed a balance of £56.80.

Penyffordd Bowling Club was welcomed into the league in 1984 and Ruabon decided to enter a second team. Mr Cyril Adams, who had made an annual donation to the league, was made an honorary patron. Silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Mr F Large (Miners), Mrs R Hughes, Mr J Jones (Gresford), Mr I Vaughan and Mr B Bithel (Ruabon). The financial statement showed a credit balance of £72.90. The presentation of trophies took place at the Miners on 2 October following the Champions v Rest of the League match (eight players only, so Garden Village B, Ruabon B and Miners were excluded).

The Emlyn Wright Singles competition was introduced in 1985. At the AGM tribute was paid to the late Mrs B Jones, wife of the secretary, and deceased members: Mr I Jones, Mr A Jones (Coedpoeth), Mr C Beattie (Llay), Mr E Williams (Parciau), Mr E Jones, Mr W Jones and Mr G Williams (Ruabon). In the following year there were further tributes for Mr R T Jones (Ruabon), Mr G Jones (Penyffordd), Mr A Clarke (Garden Village) and Mr E Davies (Coedpoeth). An application from Chirk Bowling Club to join the league was rejected on the grounds that there should be a limit of twelve teams participating.

Two obituaries were recorded in the minutes of the 1987 AGM: Mr K Parry (Penyffordd) and Mr A Spurdle (Gresford). It was noted with great regret that the match secretary, Mr Reg Jones, intended to step down at the end of the season. A notice of motion was passed that if two teams finished on equal points at the end of the season they should replay. The bank balance now stood at £102.60. In the following year the secretary was pleased to report that Mr Reg Jones would be withdrawing his resignation. Mr Jonathan Jones of Rhos submitted an application for that club to re-enter but again it was decided to restrict the league to twelve teams. Silent tributes were paid to: Mr E Wright, Mr D Jones, Mr L Challoner, Mr A McCartney, Mr J Rogers and Mr W Taylor. A special tribute was paid to Mr Emlyn Wright because of his efforts in the formation of the league. Green fees for the coming season would be chargeable at 20p per player.

Penyffordd withdrew from the league for the 1989 season and applications were received from Monsanto and Broughton. On a show of hands Monsanto were accepted and teams offered to play friendly matches with Broughton in lieu of membership. Members stood in silence for the late Mr E Williams and Mr T George. A letter of condolence was sent to Mr Cyril Adams on his recent bereavement.

## **The Nineties**

In 1990 Mr Lloyd Hughes was replaced as chairman by Mr Henry Williams and Mr D L Jones (Monsanto) became vice-chairman. It was unanimously agreed that Mr Hughes should become a life-member. The following deceased members were remembered: Mr J P Evans, Mr F Morris, Mr P West, Mr C Davies, Mr E Trevor and Mr J Charles. The Cunliffe Arms applied to join the league but was refused because of the twelve teams limit. At the AGM of 1991 the death of Mr Reg Jones, fixtures secretary, was announced. Tributes were paid to him and Mr A Owen. Mr J A Jones decided to retire as secretary and it was resolved to hold a special meeting for the purpose of filling the two vacancies. Mr P V Day and Mr J A Jones were made life members. The Cunliffe Arms were again refused entry to the league.

In March 1991 Dr Frank Long was appointed Secretary/Treasurer but following the death of Mr T W Jones the position of auditor was not resolved. An offer by Mr L Roger (Parciau) to take on the role of fixtures secretary

was accepted with enthusiasm by the committee. At an Executive Committee meeting on 3 December 1991 it was decided to recommend to the AGM that a second division should be formed, as five new clubs and second teams from four existing clubs wanted to join the league. A further decision was to drop the Champions v Rest of the League fixture and add a Merit Competition for division 2. The annual team fee should rise to £4 and there should be an annual registration fee of 50p per player. At the AGM of 1992 these recommendations were accepted and implications for the constitution discussed. Division 1 would remain with twelve teams and division 2 nine teams. Mr J Mainprize became Treasurer and Mrs S Corfield Auditor. The five new clubs were: Broughton, Cunliffe, Gate, Nags Head and Castell Alun. The second teams from existing clubs were: Gresford, Monsanto, Parciau and Llay. Mr Merwyn Williams would donate a trophy for the division 2 winners. Mr D Parfitt (Broughton) gave a shield for the merit winner. The AGM paid silent tribute to Mr T W Jones (Esclusham) for his long service to crown green bowling.

In May 1992 the Executive meeting heard about difficulties with the landlord of the Nags Head who was charging £6 green fee per match and who was making the future of bowling at the venue hard to predict. By August the members there were actively looking for an alternative venue. The bank balance had now risen to £333.07 because of registration fees and this would allow for a subsidy for the buffet at the merit competitions and annual presentation event at the Miners on 23 September. At the 1993 AGM both the chairman and vice-chairman indicated their wish to resign. Mr R Cooke was elected chairman and Mr A Cherrett vice-chairman. Silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Mr H Brown (Coedpoeth), Mr J Williams, Mrs M Jones (Ladies), Mr Bob Jones and Mr R Stewart (Llay). Applications to join the league had been received from Bangor-on-Dee, Rhos, Farndon and New Broughton. Esclusham were unable to raise a team and withdrew, leaving twelve teams in each division. The treasurer reported a balance of £498.62 and the number of registered players stood at 303. Problems over payments on council greens despite members having season tickets continued to be a source of irritation. A meeting would be arranged with council officials.

For 1994 there were 24 team applications, with Ruabon B dropping out and Johnstown taking their place (only after a green inspection by council officials to check its condition). Mr L Roger was replaced as fixtures secretary by Mr J Turner. Tributes to deceased members were: Mr I Rogers (Coedpoeth), Mr P Jarvis (Monsanto) and Mr A Jeffries (Garden Village). Back-to-back fixtures were approved for the coming season. A sub-committee met with officials from Queensway to discuss the forthcoming Wrexham Maelor Bowling Festival. Preparations were made for the first Inter League competition between Wrexham, Deeside and Clwydians.

Tributes were paid at the 1995 AGM to: Mr M Davies (Broughton), Mr I Roberts (Coedpoeth), Mr H Warburton (Gate), Mr C Bean and Mr H Davies (Gresford), Mr R Martin (Llay), Mr H Davies and Mr P O'Leary (Garden Village). The new vice-chairman was Mr C Tapp (Gresford). He was praised for his efforts in formulating the Constitution into a booklet for all clubs. It was agreed that the back-to-back system for fixtures should revert to the old system. Fixtures would be incorporated into the Wrexham and District Bowling League booklet for the first time. A Referees Seminar was to be initiated. Complaints were made about league tables not being published in the Leader often enough and discussions were to be held with the Sports Editor. It was reported that only one of seven Wrexham nominees was selected for the British Inter County Veterans Championship team: George Jones. At various Executive meetings held during the season members stood in silent tribute to: Mr A Barclay (Bangor-on-Dee), Mr P Crotty (Garden Village), Mrs M Tapp (Gresford), Mr T Hughes (New Broughton), Mrs M Hopley (Farndon), Mr J Bennett (Broughton), Mrs D L Jones (Monsanto), Mr D Torrence (Cunliffe), Mr B Williams (Broughton), Mr D Turner (Gresford), Mr J Kosinski, Mr J Matthews (Parciau), Mr D Samuels (Ruabon), Mr G Williams, Mr F Bazeley (Parciau) and Mr J Pritchard (Gresford).

1996 saw the introduction of a third division, when three new teams (Royston, Bersham BL and Coed Talon) and B teams from three existing clubs (Johnstown, Gate and Bangor-on-Dee) applied for membership. It was decided to have 10 teams in divisions one and two with 9 teams in the third. Chairman, Mr Ron Cooke, was

congratulated on winning the Welsh Veterans' Merit and the Wrexham Festival competition. The selection panel for the Inter League Challenge was chosen as follows: Ron Cooke, Frank Long, John Turner, Cyril Adams and E Boyer Jones. Tributes were paid to deceased members: Mr L Bradley (Parciau), Mr E Burton (Garden Village), Mr J Astbury (Farndon), Mr H Price (Ruabon), Mr R Rowlands (New Broughton), Mr J Fields (Bangor-on-Dee), Mr J Lord (Miners) and Mr D Newnes (Gresford). Members expressed appreciation to the family of the late Mr D Turner for donating a trophy for the Division three Merit Competition. Mr Dennis Roberts (Garden Village) undertook the post of Referee Co-ordinator for the various events. He was pleased to report that eight people had passed the examination at the recent seminar. Four new team applications were received for 1997: Chirk, Ruabon, Coed Talon B and Bersham BL B. The three divisions would now have eleven teams in each. In order to accommodate Chirk's entry, an amendment to the constitution to widen the area of the league to nine miles from Wrexham town centre was passed.

As the office of secretary was becoming increasingly onerous, Mr Harry McCormack was elected Assistant Secretary with responsibility for all competitions. At the September executive meeting members stood in silent memory of: Mr D L Jones (Flexsys), Mr R Smith and Mr R Lewis (Rossett), Mrs T Picken and Mr D Fleetwood (Parciau), Mrs W Burton and Mr W Simm (Garden Village), Mr F Parry and Mr R Jarvis (Gresford), Mr D Cutler (Gate), Mr E Cole (Rhos) and Mr J Jones (Ruabon). John Percy was thanked for his donation of shields for Merit prizes. Three extra applications were received for the 1998 season – Treuddyn, Cunliffe B and Flexsys C - making 35 teams in the three divisions. Two amendments to the constitution were passed: the rule about not being in full time employment was rescinded and the C team of any club would have to play home matches on Mondays. The treasurer reported a balance of just over £700. The Wrexham Maelor League was thanked for offering to include all details of the Veterans' League in the annual handbook. Prior to the opening of the season, Coed Talon indicated their desire to enter a C team. This was unanimously accepted bringing the total to 36 teams. Stan Percival replaced E Boyer Jones on the Inter League selection panel. It was decided not to hold celebrations for the twentieth anniversary of the league but to wait a further five years.

At the AGM before the 1999 season, congratulations were given to the Inter League team on winning the British Aerospace Cup for the third successive year. The Chairman referred to the sudden and sad loss of fixtures secretary John Turner, who had put in a great deal of effort over the years. Mr P V Day was honoured with the position of Life President and Mrs J Lloyd was elected President. Mr Alan Greetham took over the role of Vice-Chairman from Mr C Tapp and Mr P Mansley was elected Fixture Secretary. Mrs G Hughes agreed to act as Auditor. Silent tribute was paid to five members at the March Executive meeting: Mr J Jones (Rhos), Mr H Roberts (Bangor-on-Dee), Mr W Davies (Parciau), Mr D Rogers (Cunliffe) and Mr G Hughes (Ruabon). Mr P Mansley was congratulated for the greatly improved reporting in the local press and he himself commented on the excellent co-operation he had had from the Leader personnel. He also felt it was a great privilege to be a member of the Inter League selection panel.

In August members honoured the memory of Mr P V Day and Mr J Mainprize, two past officers who had recently died and who had served the league with dedication and distinction. Percy Day had convened the inaugural meeting in 1978.

## **The New Millennium**

At the AGM in February 2000 the Chairman, Mr Ron Cooke, again expressed the loss felt by all members for the former President and Treasurer, who had given so much of their time to the League. He was disappointed to report that the Clwydian league had beaten Wrexham in the Aerospace Cup. Bangor-on-Dee B would not be seeking re-election and Gresford Ladies would be renamed Gresford C. Silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Mrs H Williams (Gresford), Mr K Roe (Parciau), Mrs B Fleming and Mrs M Jones (Bangor-on-Dee),

Mr R Carrol (Gresford) and Mr D Edwards (Llay). At the end of the season the Secretary Mr Frank Long announced that he would not be seeking re-election to the post. Bangor and District had applied to join the Inter League competition. There was some doubt about Royston and Garden Village for 2001 but Cunliffe and Gate had applied to enter C teams.

The 2001 AGM began with tributes to six deceased members: Mr L Hughes (former Chairman), Mr R Richards (Rhos), Mr B Shephard (Gresford), Mr R Hester (Garden Village), Mr G Jones (Johnstown) and Mr C Matthews (Castell Alun). Mr Harold Wynn would take over the secretary's role on a temporary basis and Mr Frank Long became Inter League secretary. Mr Dennis Davies was thanked for his help in compiling the fixture lists; at the next AGM he would be proposed as a Life Member of the league. At the October Executive meeting the Chairman, Mr Ron Cooke, announced that he would be retiring at the end of the season. The Fixture secretary, Mr Phil Mansley, also stated that he would continue for one more season only.

After completing ten years as Chairman of the league, Mr Ron Cooke gave his final report at the 2002 AGM. A vote of thanks to Ron for the high standards he had set was endorsed by all members present. There was some difficulty in filling the vacant posts but after a great deal of discussion Roy Parker (Cunliffe) was elected Chairman, Dennis Davies (Brymbo) Vice-Chairman and Alan Greetham (Gate) moved from Vice-Chairman to Secretary. Tribute was paid to deceased members: Mr J Clewes and Mr H Williams (Garden Village), Mr D Jones (Ruabon), Mr R Roberts (Cunliffe), Mr J Unwin (Coedpoeth), Mrs S Corfield (Bangor-on-Dee), Mr W Forrester (Gate), Mrs E Morris (Gresford), Mr R Chatham (Llay), Mr S Hughes (Gresford), Mr R Rees (Johnstown), Mr A Roberts (Treuddyn) and Mr J Green (New Broughton). Members were informed about new BCGBA rules concerning the use of mobile phones and smoking on the green. An application from Garden Village B to re-enter the league was approved. An application from Rhos to play their matches at Gresford Colliery was rejected.

A special meeting was called in October 2002 to try to find replacements for three retiring officers: Fixtures Secretary, Treasurer and Competitions Secretary. Approaches had been made to Mr Alan Luckcock, Secretary of the Wrexham Saturday League, to undertake the post of Veterans' Fixtures Secretary also. The Chairman had also sounded out Mr Ron Jones, Treasurer of the Cunliffe, to see if he was willing to take on the extra task of Veterans' Treasurer. Mr Neville White of Gresford offered his services as Competitions Secretary. All three were proposed at the next AGM and elected. Mr Harry Bainbridge (Cunliffe) was elected Auditor. Honoraria were agreed and accepted as follows: Secretary £100, Fixture Secretary £200, Treasurer £100 and Competition Secretary £100. Following successful applications to join the league from Hawkesbury and Brymbo, the composition for 2003 would be: first division 12 teams, second division 12 teams and third division 14 teams. Tributes were paid to members who had died during the last year: Mrs E Bean and Mr R Renshaw (Gresford), Mr H Griffiths (Rhos), Mrs K Griffiths, Mr H Ffoulkes and Mr L Rowland (Garden Village), Mr A Adams (Parciau), Mr D Bond (Flexsys), Mr E Jones and Mr V White (Llay), Mr B and Mr J Jones (Chirk), Mr D Smith (Ruabon), Mr G Forster (Farndon), Mr G Bellis (Coed Talon) and Mr T Brett (Bangor-on-Dee).

The 2004 AGM began with tributes to nine deceased members: Mr D Burke and Mr L McCain (Llay), Mr F Smith and Mr C Tapp (Gresford), Mr B Hart (Hawkesbury), Mr D Evans (Flexsys), Mr D Williams, Mr R Clarke and Mr L Butts (Chirk). Mr Ron Cooke replaced Mrs Joy Lloyd as President. Hawkesbury B, Plaskynaston and Farndon B had applied to join the league. Further tributes to past members were paid at the 2005 AGM: Mr F Perry (Cunliffe), Mr G Bowen, Mr B Edwards and Mr R Roe (Garden Village), Mr G Davies, Mr C Rathbone and Mr R Warrington (Miners), Mr B Gale (New Broughton), Mr G Rogers (Parciau), Mr S Campbell and Mr J Tomlinson (Rossett). Letters of application had been received from Aston (two teams), Esclusham and a C team from Garden Village. Gresford Colliery withdrew their application and Flexsys no longer wished to enter a C team. The total number of teams in the League would now be 42 and therefore it was resolved to make four divisions of 12, 10, 10 and 10 teams respectively. The Executive Committee would contain one member from each of the four divisions: Division 1 – Merwyn Williams, Division 2 – Pauline Lindley, Division 3 – Hubert Phillips and Division 4 – Glyn Lockett, plus in addition two others – Colin Evans and Harry McCormack.

The Inter league selection committee was re-elected as follows; Chairman (Roy Parker), Secretary (Alan Greetham), Competition Secretary (Neville White), Team Captains (Cyril Adams and Harry McCormack), President (Ron Cooke), plus Arnold Edwards and Merwyn Williams. Ron Cooke and Alan Greetham were re-elected as the Inter league representatives. Following the success of replacing the singles and pairs trophies with voucher or cash equivalents since 2002, it was decided to give league winners and runners-up cash prizes of £80 and £50 (for 12 team divisions) and £70 and £40 (for 10 team divisions). Likewise the P V Day winners and runners-up would receive £80 and £50. The three Inter league matches for 2005 incurred expenditure of £393.63 with income from raffles and other miscellaneous items bringing in £215. The accounts as presented by Ron Jones and audited by Harry Bainbridge showed a balance of £1430.73.

The AGM before the 2006 season was held in the previous November and began with a silent tribute to deceased members: Mrs Muriel Miller, Mr C Chowen, Mr G Husbands, Mr J Johnson and Mr E Smith (Garden Village), Mrs B Owen (Chirk), Mr T Richards (Hawkesbury), Mr D Griffiths (Llay), Mr N Rogers (Gresford), Mr L Roger (Parciau) and Mr T Howard (New Broughton). The President congratulated the Inter league squad on winning the Airbus Cup. Three more clubs were accepted into the league: Castell Alun B, Coedpoeth B and Plas Kynaston but Castell Alun were eventually unable to take up their place, leaving only nine teams in division 4. For 2006 the treasurer reported a closing balance of £1534.22; the loss of income from the Merit Finals raffles was offset by competition fees income of £266.50. It was decided to scrap the £1 per player registration fee and raise the existing team registration fee instead. Therefore for 2007 clubs will pay £20 per team at the start of the season with no further registration payments and register as many players as desired. The PV Day cup will become the division 1 cup and three further cups will be introduced for divisions 2, 3 and 4. Silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Mr A Gilpin, Mr H Floyd, Mrs S Humpage, Mr H Kelly, Mr A Rowlands, Mr E Davies, Mr R Williams and Mr R Lamb. Roy Parker stood down as Chairman and was replaced by Dennis Davies; Roy was thanked for his services over the past five years. Arnold Edwards was elected Vice-Chairman. A request from Leeswood to join the league for 2007 was accepted. Inter League selectors for the coming season would be Dennis Davies, Arnold Edwards, Harry McCormack, Peter Lacey, Merwyn Williams and Huw Phillips.

In 2007 Coed Talon A achieved the remarkable feat of winning all 22 matches in the top division, with their players Peter Lacey, Granville Rogers, Stuart Thomas and Graham Prydden taking the first four places in the divisional averages. Hawkesbury finished second with Cunliffe A in third place. Aston A also won all their matches in division 2 and will be joined by Chirk in division one for next season, replacing relegated Castell Alun and Flexsys. A new name was added to the honours boards, when Hawkesbury won the P V Day Shield for the first time. In the Inter-League competition Wrexham did well against Clwydians and Gwynedd but were badly beaten by a strong Deeside squad. Merwyn Williams was the only player to win all three matches. At the AGM held in November 2007 two new teams were accepted into the fourth division for 2008: Esclusham and Gresford Colliery. Rhos could well be playing their home matches at Gresford Colliery, if their green remains in poor condition. Members stood in silent memory of deceased players: Mrs Irene Clanfield (Rossett), Mrs Audrey Edwards (Brymbo), Mr Vic Lee (Gate), Mr Gwilym Mears (Rhos), Mr Ray Baker (Chirk) and Mr Eric Randles (Rossett). The audited accounts for 2007 from Ron Jones showed a closing balance of £1479.00. Ron Cooke retired as President and was thanked for his services; Harry McCormack was elected to replace him. The new Vice-Chairman will be Brian Kyffin. Glyn Lockett will be sharing the position of Fixtures/Results Secretary with Alan Luckock.

The 2008 AGM was held in February 2009 at Brymbo and attended by all but one club. The change of date without a formal EGM provoked some discussion but the meeting was considered to be constitutional. One new team – Penryffordd- was accepted into the league and the fixtures secretary, Glyn Lockett, announced that the four divisions would have 12, 12, 10 and 10 teams respectively. Rhos would continue to play at Gresford Colliery, this policy to be reviewed next year. A motion to allow women players into the league only from the age of 60 was defeated. The Inter-league teams won the Aerospace trophy by 40 points to 32 overall, four players winning all three games: Graham Prydden, Peter Maddocks, Frank Nicholas and Doug Biddle. Peter

Lacey won the Veterans Welsh Merit at Criccieth defeating Patrick Smithson 21 -11 in the final. At the meeting silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Mr. Peter Lloyd (Cunliffe), Mr Bill Jones (Chirk), Mr Gordon Samuel (Esclusham), Mr George Williams (Gate), Mr Lewis Evans (Miners), Mr George Roberts (Cunliffe), Mr Ed Hutchins (Johnstown), Mrs Edwards (Coedpoeth), Mr Fred Large (Parciau), Mrs Mary Bell (Rossett) and Mr Terry Jones (Castell Alun). The accounts for 2008 showed a closing balance of £1602.66.

Two clubs only were missing from the 2010 AGM held at Gresford Colliery on 3 February. Tribute was paid to fifteen deceased members: John Griffiths (Sychdyn), Robert Hillman (Flexsys), Dennis Parfitt (Pentre Broughton), Cliff Jarvis (Miners), Ray Parry and Dennis Roberts (Garden Village), Stan Davies (Farndon), Mary Bell (Gresford Village), Mrs Ferguson (Johnstown), Fred Tonks (Castell Alun), Bob Brown (Mancot), Don James (Coedpoeth), Norman Kelly (Aston), Armon Davies (Gresford Village) and Ken Rogers (Miners). Rhos resigned from the league and six new clubs were voted in: Royston B, Penyffordd B, Bangor on Dee B, Gresford Village D, Ruabon and Ponciau Park, making four divisions of 12 teams. A rule was passed that a player could play for only one team within a club in cup matches. Geraint Evans (Rhos) won the 2009 Veterans Welsh Merit beating Doug Biddle in the final. The Inter-league teams won the Aerospace trophy once again with Geoff Hughes, Bryan Formstone, Peter Lacey and Brian Watkins winning all three matches. Brian Kyffin was elected as chairman to replace Dennis Davies, who was suffering from ill-health. The accounts from Ron Jones showed a closing balance of £1506.98

## **The 2010 Decade**

The 2010 season saw the introduction of league merit prizes for the winner in each of the four divisions, in addition to the usual knockout merit prizes (cups and prizes kindly donated by Merwyn Williams). Gresford Colliery has now reached the top division after only three seasons; they will be joined by Johnstown. Both Penyffordd teams topped their respective divisions. Tom Roberts of Gresford Colliery won the Veterans Welsh Merit beating Bob Dolby in the final. In the Aerospace inter-league competition Wrexham beat Deeside but lost to Gwynedd and Clwydians; Frank Nicholas was the only player to win all three matches.

The 2011 AGM was held on Wednesday 9 February at the Gresford Colliery Club. There was a large turn-out with only one club apologising. Members stood in silent memory of Roy Parker and Harold Davies (Cunliffe), Gwilym Bennett (Rhos), John Williams (Chirk), Alan King (Farndon), Jack Ellis (Ruabon), Elsie Dobson (Gresford Village), Jeff Griffiths (Parciau), Gerry Amos (Gresford Colliery), Peter Henstock (Garden Village) and Malcolm Hughes (Llay). Two new teams were admitted to the league: Esclusham and Bradley Park and it was agreed that there would be 14 teams in division 1, with 12 in each of the others. Match fees would rise from 10p to 15p per player per match. Thanks were expressed to Neville White who was retiring as competition secretary; all other officers were re-elected.

The 2011 season ended with Coed Talon winning their sixth consecutive division 1 championship. They also lifted the Champion of Champions Mel Higham Cup at the Oval Llandudno. Ken Parry of Hawkesbury became the Veterans Welsh Merit champion with a 21-20 win over Peter Maddocks in the final. Clwydians narrowly defeated Wrexham by one point in the Aerospace inter-league championship and once again there was only one player winning all three matches: Geraint Evans, Johnstown. The two new teams in the league, Esclusham and Bradley Park, were promoted to division 3. The AGM was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Gresford Colliery club. A respectful silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Fred White, John Rowlands, Mervyn Davies, Clive Guest (Hawkesbury), Terry Williams (Coedpoeth), Phil Mansley, Gwynne Belton (Cunliffe), Joe Roberts, Neville White, Ron Cooke, Jim Miller, Percy Rogers (Gresford Village), Ted Pleavin (Penyffordd), Dave Evans, Grenville Fiddler (Plaskynaston), Terry Wilson, Gareth Dodd (Parciau), Ralph Jones, Barry Edwards (Treuddyn), Charles Edwards (Flexsys), David Barton (Leeswood). Two new rules were passed: clubs not sending a representative to the AGM will be fined £10 and prize winners not attending finals day will forfeit their prize money to charity. Mancot and Nercwys were accepted in to the league. Merwyn Williams was honoured as a Life member. The accounts were presented by Ron Jones and showed a balance of £1717.71



In the 2012 Aerospace inter-league matches Wrexham topped the table with 43 points over Gwynedd with 40, having drawn with Clwydians 12-12, lost 10-14 to Gwynedd and beaten Deeside 18-6. This year six players won all three matches: Peter Lacey, Peter Maddocks, Leo Jackson, Stuart Thomas (Coed Talon) and Merfyn Jones, Eryl Jones (Cunliffe). At the AGM on 6 February 2013 at Gresford Colliery respects were paid to deceased members: John Ankers (Castell Alun), Ray Cox, Cliff Williams (Coed Talon), Arthur Jones (Cunliffe), Hugh William Allman (Farndon), Brian Kyffin (Garden Village), Les Speed (Gate HH), Martin Rigg, Len Harrison (Hawkesbury), Ron Pritchard (Johnstown), Robert J Williams (Llay), Elfed Davies (Rhos), Dennis Davies (Brymbo), Marion Roe, Richard Lincoln (Parciau) and Albert Hammond (Plaskynaston).

Three stalwarts of the Veterans' league relinquished their posts after many years' loyal service: Alan Greetham, secretary since 2002, Ron Jones, treasurer since 2003 and Glyn Lockett, committee member since 2004 and subsequently fixtures secretary. They were thanked wholeheartedly by the large meeting and later elected as life members. Their replacements were voted in: Colin Seale (Esclusham) secretary, Anthony Rowland (Llay) treasurer and Peter Bennett (Penyffordd) fixtures secretary.

The formation of the league for 2013 will be 14.13.12.12 following the acceptance of three new teams: Coedpoeth C, Parciau B and Penyffordd C. It was announced that the Veterans' Handbook for next season would be separate from the Wrexham Handbook, each club to pay £3 towards the printing costs and receive ten copies (further copies to be charged at 50p). Ron Jones's final set of accounts showed a balance of £1993.72.

Wrexham topped the final table for the 2013 inter-league competition with 57 points over Gwynedd and Deeside (37) and Clwydians (27). The final match between Wrexham and Gwynedd was cancelled owing to inclement weather and each team awarded 13 points. At the AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 two new teams were accepted into the league: Johnstown B and Bradley B. Flexsys B and Coed Talon C would be dropping out. The formation for 2014 will be as last year 14.13.12.12. Silent tribute was paid to deceased members: Reg Potts (Johnstown), Eurwyn Edwards (Rhos), Bob Williams (Rossett), Eric Davies (Penyffordd), Harry McCormack, Graham Prydden (Gresford Colliery), Walter Jones (Parciau), Joe Mills, Dave Baker (Garden Village), Walter Formstone, Elsie Clutton (Gresford Village), Trevor Jones (Cunliffe), Eric Randles (Castell Alun). Alan Greetham was elected President to replace Harry McCormack and Glyn Lockett as Vice-President.

The 2014 season saw Gresford Colliery win the division 1 title for the first time. Newcomers Johnstown B in division 4 remained undefeated with Alan Stevenson winning all 22 matches. Five of their players topped the divisional averages. Graham Bennett, Cunliffe, won the Welsh Merit in his first Veterans season and also contributed two wins to the Welsh team which was victorious in the BCGBA Team Championship. Wrexham finished second behind Clwydians in the inter-league competition; Peter Maddocks and Graham James were the only two players to win all three matches. The AGM was held on 11 February 2015 at Gresford Colliery with all teams represented. The motion to restructure the League into five divisions of 12. 12. 10. 10. 10. was carried by 25 votes to 5. Cup matches will now be played on Tuesdays and include the introduction of a Consolation Cup for those teams knocked out in the first round. John Lloyd (Coedpoeth), chairman, announced that all officers were willing to continue in post. A respectful silence was held for thirty deceased members: Alan Griffiths, Bill Hughes (Parciau), Alan Roberts, Billy Brand, Morden Hodgkinson (Llay), Bill Duffield (Gate HH), Colin Stokes (Cunliffe), Eldred Ankers, Gordon Jones, Mary Price, Trevor Waters, Vera Ankers, Tecwyn Jones, Barry Gittins (Penyffordd), Albert Wynne, Tony Grubb (New Broughton), Trevor Roberts (Coedpoeth), Harry Nicholas, Don Hughes, Harold Griffiths (Gresford Colliery), Hilda Pinnington (Garden Village), Bill Barker, Ron Riley (Gresford Village), Doreen Astbury (Bangor on Dee), Ray Hanson, Vince Roberts, Ted Jones, Trevor Jones (Hawkesbury), Colin Evans (Chirk) Meg Edwards (Coed Talon).

In 2015 Wrexham won the Inter-league Challenge with 43 points over Clwydians (39), Deeside and Gwynedd (both 37); Leo Jackson was the only player to win all three games. At the end of the previous season, Coed Talon lost to Rhos Park 151-122 in the final of the Welsh Veterans Champion of Champions. At the AGM, held on 10 February 2016 at Gresford Colliery Club, Dewi Jones was elected Chairman to replace John Lloyd,

Coedpoeth; all other officers were re-elected. Two new teams were accepted into the League: Penyffordd D and Castell Alun B. There will be five divisions of 12.12.12.10.10: the position of Royston, who may lose their venue, has yet to be decided. It was passed to introduce a one-off payment of £55 per team to cover affiliations, fees, registrations and fixture books; also, greenage fees will become £1 per head from 2016. Silent tribute was paid to 27 deceased members: Geraint Dodd (Ponciau Park), Alan Murphy, Geoff Jones, Geoff Palmer (Coed Talon), Les Stevens, Megan Kelly, Ray Williams (Coedpoeth), Dave Jones, Bob Jones (Bradley), Dave Hallett, John Booth (Llay), AP Jones (Esclusham), Colin Williams (Brymbo), Max Matthias (New Broughton), Arnold Jones, Keith Williams, Terry Harrington (Gate HH), Brenda Benson (Bangor on Dee), Travis Stokes, Ron Pierpoint (Chirk), Joe Mullen (Mancot), Ernie Margerson, Noel Tarran (Hawkesbury), Gordon Archer, John Griffiths, George Mitchell (Leeswood), Terry Hulse (Cunliffe). Next season's charity donation will be for Hope House.

Wrexham won the 2016 Inter-League challenge for the second successive year, scoring 46 points, with Deeside on 43, Clwydians on 35 and Gwynedd on 28. Four players won all three games: Martin Jones, David Baison, Graham Bennett and Mike Parry. Graham Bennett won the Senior Welsh Merit, the oldest player ever to have done so. He also reached the third round of the All-England played at Llay. The AGM was held on 3 February 2017 at Gresford Colliery Club and attended by representatives of every club. All officers were re-elected. One new team was accepted into the league: Treuddyn B, making a total of 56 teams in five divisions of 12.12.12.10.10. A new cup will be introduced for teams in the Wrexham Area only, the Dewi Jones County Cup, with the winning team competing in the WCGBA Champion of Champions at the end of the season. The Consolation Cup will be redrawn after each round, with the first team drawn playing at home. The away teams will have practice and first throw of the jack. Members paid silent tribute to 22 deceased members: Ann Thomas (Coedpoeth), Bernard Martin (Coed Talon), Rees Thomas (Esclusham), Mason Hampson (Garden Village), Barry Wynne (Gate HH), Geoff Polak (Gresford Village), Glyn Smith, (Hawkesbury), Gerald Davies, Barbara Phillips (Llay), Cliff Tomlin, Gwen Griffiths, Graham Wright (Mancot), Gordon Price, Sylvia Townley (Penyffordd), Edryd Bowyer Jones (Rhos), Ken Foulkes, Derek Williams, Alan Birch (Parciau), Val Jones (Treuddyn), Barbara Kneale, Jack Dessaur (Bangor on Dee), Gordon Roberts (Garden Village). Next season's charity will be Wrexham Special Needs.

Eryl Jones, (updated February 2017)

## Honours Table – League Champions

Year	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5
2016	Coed Talon A	Coed Talon B	Brymbo	Nercwys	Bersham
2015	Coed Talon A	Garden Village A	Treuddyn	Johnstown B	Hawkesbury C
2014	Gresford Colliery	Chirk AAA	Parciau B	Johnstown B	
2013	Coed Talon	Esclusham	Royston A	Garden Village B	
2012	Coed Talon	Penyffordd A	Esclusham	Leeswood	
2011	Coed Talon	Coedpoeth A	Gresford Vill B	Esclusham	
2010	Coed Talon	Gresford Colliery	Penyffordd A	Penyffordd B	
2009	Coed Talon	Llay A	Gresford Colliery	Gresford Vill B	
2008	Coed Talon	Flexsys	New Broughton	Gresford Colliery	
2007	Coed Talon	Aston A	Farndon A	Miners	
2006	Coed Talon	Brymbo	Aston A	Plaskynaston	
2005	Rhos	Coedpoeth	New Broughton	Aston	
2004	Coed Talon	Hawkesbury A	Plaskynaston		
2003	Rhos	Garden Village A	Hawkesbury		
2002	Rhos	Castell Alun	Ruabon		
2001	Rhos	Coedpoeth	Miners		
2000	Rhos	Chirk	Bersham		
1999	Rhos	Flexsys C	Castell Alun		
1998	Rhos	Miners	Flexsys C		
1997	Rhos	Coed Talon A	Chirk		
1996	Rhos	Broughton	Coed Talon		
1995	Rhos	Monsanto B			

1994	Rhos	Gresford B			
1993	Gresford A	Rhos			
1992	Esclusham	Cunliffe			
1991	Esclusham				
1990	??				
1989	Esclusham				
1988	Llay				
1987	??				
1986	Llay/Garden Vill				
1985	Garden Village				
1984	Garden Village				
1983	Gresford Village				
1982	Miners				
1981	??				
1980	Ruabon				
1979	Miners				

## Honours Table – League Merit

Year	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5
2016	John Bonatti	Roger Jones	Peter Davenport	Wilf Watkin	David W Jones
2015	John Bonatti	Charlie Blain	Roger Jones	Dave Poole	June Riley
2014	Colin Smith	Max Wyles	Ken Roberts	Alan Stevenson	
2013	Eryl Jones	Graham James	Mike Morris	Gordon Price	
2012	Martin Jones	Colin Evans	Dave Goodwin	Vince Murray	
2011	Peter Maddocks	Barry Gittins	Ann King	Alan Hopwood	
2010	Eryl Jones	Selwyn Davies	Trevor Waters	Eric Davies	

## Honours Table – Knockout Merit Winners

Year	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5
2016	Kevin Nicholas	Brian Williams	Carl Owen	Maurice Tudor	Ted Wood
2015	Graham James	Richie Pinder	Roger Jones	Dave Poole	Dave W Jones
2014	Kevin Nicholas	Max Wyles	Dave Humphreys	Alan Stevenson	
2013	Derek White	Graham James	Bryan Ratcliffe	June Riley	
2012	Bryan Formstone	Barry Gittins	Alan Hopwood	Hazel Lewis	
2011	Ronnie West	Barry Gittins	Audrey Hartland	Alan Hopwood	
2010	Stuart Thomas	Eric Challoner	Audrey Elms	Eric Davies	
2009	Bryan Formstone	Alan Hopwood	Max Wyles	Graham Heyward	
2008	Ken Parry	Max Wyles	Selwyn Davies	John Percy	
2007	Geraint Evans	Colin Evans	Peter Evans	Selwyn Davies	
2006	Peter Lacey	Malcolm Hughes	Ken Penk	Brian Kyffin	
2005	Merwyn Williams	Gordon Adams	Geoff Hammond	Glyn Lockett	
2004	Graham Prydden	Viv Morris	John Day		
2003	Peter Lacey	Malcolm Roberts	Dave Hughes		
2002	Granville Rogers	Jack Stokes	K Whitehead		
2001	Alun Gilpin	Eric Challoner	Arnold Jones		
2000	Wendy Kendrick	Eric Challoner	Dave Hallett		
1999	Ron Cooke	Shirley Humpage	Sheila Parker		
1998	Len Jones	Brian Jones	Ray Williams		
1997	Jack Stokes	Shirley Humpage	John Williams		
1996	Eric Challoner	Shirley Humpage	Edwin Jones		
1995	Colin Jones	Ken Roe			
1994	Ray Wynn	Ken Roe			
1993	Mason Hampson	Gwilym Mears			
1992	Gwilym Mears	Ivor Parry			
1991	Cliff Jarvis				
1990	Cyril Adams				

1989	Harold Davies				
1988	Stan Percival				
1987	Cliff Jarvis				
1986	Jack Matthews				
1985	Jack Read				
1984	S Davies				
1983	Les Bradley				
1982	Lloyd Challoner				

## Honours Table – Cups

Year	P V Day Division 1	Roy Parker Division 2	Glyn Lockett Division 3	H McCormack Division 4	Alan Greetham Division 5	Ernie Smith Pairs	Emlyn Wright Singles
2016	Gresford Coll	Coed Talon B	Gresford Vill B	Nercwys	Bersham	Mike Parry/Graham James	Kevin Nicholas
2015	Gresford Coll	Garden Village	Gresford Vill B	Johnstown B	Hawkesbury C	Sue Tidman/Ken Parry	Graham Bennett
2014	Coed Talon A	Gate HH B	Nercwys	Johnstown B		Shirley Hughes/Ron West	Colin Seale
2013	Coed Talon A	Bradley	Coed Talon C	Gresford Vill D		Archie Lamb/Martin Jones	Peter Lacey
2012	Coed Talon	Penyffordd A	Esclusham	Mancot		Trevor Waters/Barry Gittins	Bryan Formstone
2011	Hawkesbury A	Coedpoeth A	Coed Talon C	Esclusham		Selwyn Davies & Pat Cronin	Frank Nicholas
2010	Hawkesbury A	Gresford Coll	Penyffordd A	Royston B		Stuart Thomas & Bernard Martin	Bryan Formstone
2009	Aston	Gate HH B	Gresford Coll	Penyffordd		Mandy Nicholas & Shirley Hughes	Peter Lacey
2008	Hawkesbury A	Garden Village	Treuddyn	Gresford Coll		Tom Roberts & Frank Nicholas	Tom Roberts
2007	Hawkesbury A	Aston A	New Broughton	Cunliffe C		Merwyn Williams & Geraint Evans	Peter Lacey
Year	PV Day Cup						
2006	Coed Talon A					Graham Prydden & Granville Rogers	Graham Prydden
2005	Coed Talon A					B Jones & D Hughes	Geraint Evans
2004	Llay A					G Hammond & F Salisbury	Alun Gilpin
2003	Coed Talon A					Peter Kyffin & Edwin Jones	Graham Prydden
2002	Rhos					Gwenda & Des Wynne	Derek Williams
2001	Rhos					Mike Jones & John Drew	Phil Mansley
2000	Rhos					Gwenda & Des Wynne	John V Smith
1999	Gate A					Brian Linden & Tom Owen	Ron Bellis
1998	Flexsys C					Ron Bellis & Ray Parry	Des Wynne
1997	Rhos					Betty Young & Ceinwen Thomas	Des Wynne
1996	Rhos					Ron Cooke & Hughie Clutton	Ron Cooke
1995	Rhos					Ken Rowlands & Emrys Jones	Colin Jones
1994	Llay A					Ron Cooke & Des Turner	Colin Jones
1993	Gresford A					Ken Rowlands & Emrys Jones	Harold Davies
1992	Esclusham					G Cappiello & Alan Rose	Dennis Turner
1991	Esclusham					E Edwards & R T Lewis	Joe Roberts
1990	Esclusham					E B Jones & Gwilym Bennett	Gwilym Mears
1989	Llay					Ken Rowlands & Emrys Jones	Joe Roberts
1988	Esclusham					Gwilym Mears & Gwilym Bennett	Gwilym Mears
1987	Esclusham					R Davies & W Potts	J Massey
1986	Ruabon					Jack Read & J Charles	Jack Pilkinton
1985	Rhos					Don Butters & Cliff Jarvis	Ken Rowlands
1984	Llay					Jack Read & J Charles	
1983	Gresford Vill					J H Pary & H P Hughes	
1982	Gresford Vill						
1981	Ruabon						
1980	Llay						
1979	Llay						

## Consolation Cup

<b>2015</b>	<b>Aston A beat Aston B 159 - 154</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Treuddyn beat Aston B 162 - 161</b>

