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# Home Nations 2018

## Belfast

7th - 9th September

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Team Wales won the overall title at this year's Home Nations event in Belfast. The U18 team finished 1st, the U14 team finished 2nd and the U12 team finished 2nd which was enough to top the group and win the event for the first time since 2015.

The team prepared for the event for two days immediately beforehand at David Lloyd Cardiff on artificial grass. Ireland is a challenging place to play due to the court surface and it was important that the players gained as much time on it as possible after a summer of clay and hard court tournaments.

The training camp brought the team together for two more days than usual and this really helped in terms of building the team spirit and allowing the players to get used to working with their captains on and off the court. A big thank you to David Lloyd Cardiff for hosting the team and to all the players and captains for putting the time in to making this work.



The whole team at the final training session in Cardiff before leaving for Ireland

### **U12 Team**



U12s team was made up of Conor, Viktor, Gracie and Mimi and captained by Becca Strelzyn

The U12s had a tough start to the weekend as they played England first who ran out as eventual winners. The team lost 4-2 but the matches they lost were all lost on match tie-breaks showing just how close the team came to getting the win that day. All four players responded brilliantly over the next two days beating Ireland 5-1 and Scotland 4-2 to finish second in the group and contribute a valuable three points to the team's overall total.

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## U14 Team



**U14s team was made up of Aditi, Elina, Hugo and Jethro and captained by Claire Powell**

In a very similar fashion to the U12 team, the U14 team also played the winning team on the first day. The Irish players proved too strong in their home country and beat our team 6-0 on day one. Some very close matches and certainly enough positives to take into the next two matches. This age group went from strength to strength as the weekend progressed and recored a 4-2 win over England and a 5-1 win over Scotland. This secured second place in the group and a further three points to Wales' overall score.

## U18 Team



**U18s team was made up of Morgan, Elinor, James and Finn and captained by Chris Lewis**

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The U18 performed fantastically well all weekend winning 16/18 matches to beat Scotland 6-0, Ireland 5-1 and England 5-1. It was clear from the first match that this team had the highest level of players but that they would need to compete hard and concentrate well in challenging conditions. The players were all tested at times but did a great job and special mention must go to James, Finn and Morgan who remained undefeated. The team topped the group in style to gain four points towards the team's final overall total of ten.

In the final standings Wales beat England into second place by one point while Ireland finished third and Scotland in last place. Ireland is not an easy place to go and win and the record books would need to be checked to see if Wales have ever won the event in Ireland before. Either way it was an amazing effort by all involved.

The players were highly motivated and passionate and competed with a great deal of quality and thoroughly deserved their victory. A big thank you to all of the players, captains and parents who all played their part in this achievement.

Chris Lewis  
Team Wales Manager