
Team Wales - Scotland 2018

Scottish Open Grade 2 & Edinburgh TE/ITF

June 29th - July 13th



Team Wales travelled up to sunny Edinburgh for two weeks as part of the Tennis Wales tournament trip calendar for 2018. Seven Welsh players were part of the trip over the two week period, some playing both the domestic and international events. All the players are pictured above with lead captain, Chris Lewis and assistant captain, Emily Watson.

The word 'sunny' is not associated with this trip historically but the weather was glorious this time around as it was across the whole of the UK. The two week trip coincided with the two weeks of Wimbledon and so there was plenty of tennis to watch on tv when the players weren't on court themselves.

Craiglockhart tennis centre was the main venue for the tournaments but as the outdoor courts are currently being re-developed, a nearby club was used in addition to the indoor courts at the main site. The U14 events were played indoors while the U16 and U18 age groups were outdoors on

artificial clay. Logistically more difficult but the plus side was more courts available for matches and training around the matches than in previous years.

The big success of the domestic event in the first week was Danny Flynn who won the U16 singles and doubles events. This was Danny's first national level title after a number close misses in 2018. It was an excellent achievement for him and he backed it up with a run to the SF of the U18 singles event too. Danny is pictured below with his trophy in the sunshine:



It is also worth mentioning that there was an U12 event but that this was held two hours away in Prestwick and so couldn't be part of the Team Wales trip. Iris Plane reached the QF of the singles and the SF of the doubles and Mimi Xu reached the last 16 of the singles and the QF of the doubles. Well done to both of them.

The team were able to do a few days of training in between the two events and a number of players flew in over the weekend to increase the size of the team. With good weather and plenty of court space we were able to get the players on court a lot and it's great when this happens as development within competition is a big part of why the trips are run for the players.



Wales was well represented in the international events of week two. Danny Flynn, Henry Muxworthy and Elinor Beazley competed in the main draw of the U18 ITF while Aditi Chezian, Lili Harvey-Hemming, Elina Pickerd-Barua, Nicole Kells, Sofia Chivers, Iris Plane, Shay Ryan and Rufus Plane all competed in the U14 TE event.

There were some notable achievements with five players registering their first international ranking points. On top of that Sofia, Aditi and Shay all reached the QF of the TE singles, Nicole Kells reached the SF of the TE doubles and Shay and Rufus combined to win the TE doubles event. The boys capped off a really successful trip in style by beating the top seeds 76(1) 64 to collect their maiden international junior title.



The trip will be remembered for lots of international success, excellent team spirit, fantastic weather, flappy golf and a few appearances of the four-legged kind as the fire exits to the indoor courts were left open to combat the hot weather. Better than the rain getting in I suppose!



The next Team Wales trips will be to GB Junior Nationals in August and the Junior Home Nations event in Belfast in September.

Chris Lewis
Team Wales Manager