



Issue 12

December 2017

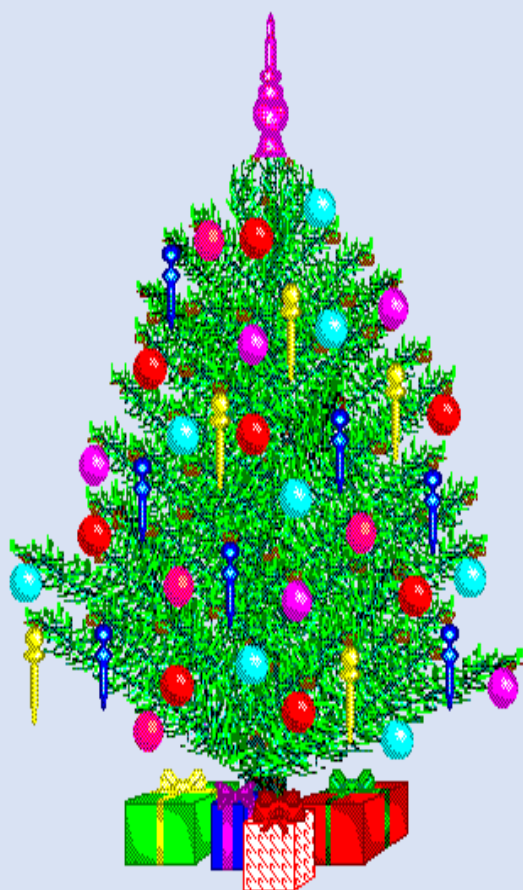
Welcome to the latest edition of Dragon Tales from HASSRA Wales. It's been a busy year but we're intending leave 2017 in style with a super Christmas Advent Draw for members. Our Facebook page continues to grow, keeping members across Wales up to date with what's going on in HASSRA Wales and allowing you the opportunity to comment on what's going on!

If you haven't liked us yet please visit us at

<https://www.facebook.com/hassra.wales>

And, as usual, don't forget to keep an eye out for offers events and competitions on the HASSRA website at

<http://www.hassra.org.uk/>



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## 1. HASSRA Wales Advent Draw



Be in with the chance to have yourself a little extra merriment this Christmas, courtesy of HASSRA Wales. From 1st to 24th December we will be giving away a daily prize of a £50 shopping voucher while on 25th December there will be a £500 voucher to give away!

To enter answer the following question & e-mail your answer, name, location & membership number to-  
[hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk)

Question: Which Country donates the Christmas Tree which stands each year in London's Trafalgar Square?

Only open to HASSRA Wales Full, Associate & Retired members.

Only one entry per member.

Entry deadline: 30 November

## 2. HASSRA Wales Carol Service 2017



The HASSRA Wales Carol Service will take place at St John the Baptist Church, The Hayes, Cardiff on

**Monday 11th December**  
between 1pm and 2pm.

All members, current and retired, are invited to join us. Surrounded by the annual Christmas Market, if you work in Cardiff or are just out for a spot of Christmas shopping please come in and start your Festive Season with a joyous, traditional Christmas Carol Service.

We look forward to seeing you there!



### 3. Facebook



HASSRA Wales Facebook page is up to 560 “Likes”. It’s fast becoming the fastest and most convenient way to keep yourself up to date with what’s going on in HASSRA Wales

One lucky “Liker”, when we reached the 500 likes milestone, was retired member Helen Williams, who won £50 cash!

If you haven’t already done so, check us out and don’t forget to “Like” us!

<https://www.facebook.com/hassra.wales>

There will be another cash prize for one of our likers when we reach the 750 likes milestone!

While you’re there don’t forget to check out our friends at CSSC Wales and “Like” them too!

<https://www.facebook.com/csscwailes/?fref=ts>

If you choose to comment on anything posted, do remember to follow the Department’s Social Media guidance to avoid causing any issues at work.

### 4. Doug Honey Sponsorship Scheme

The Doug Honey Sponsorship scheme was set up to provide financial assistance to individual members of HASSRA (not teams) based in Wales to pursue their chosen sport, pastime or recreational activity. So if you’ve a skill or a talent and just need that little bit of extra financial help to progress, check the scheme out and maybe HASSRA Wales can help.

For full details of the scheme, the qualifying criteria and how to apply contact

[hassra.wales@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hassra.wales@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

### 5. HASSRA Wales Quiz Night



The HASSRA Wales Pop Quiz, General Knowledge Quiz and Mini Sports Quiz took place on Friday 9th June at the Park Inn Cardiff. Winners of the General Knowledge Quiz were.

Winners of the Sports Quiz were HASSRA Wrexham

Winners of the General Knowledge were HASSRA Gabalfa

Winners of the Pop Quiz were made up of members from Gabalfa and Pembroke Dock



## 6. HASSRA Wales Karting Events

### South West Wales

A fantastic & exciting karting competition was held at Carew Karting near Tenby on 19<sup>th</sup> August, with some great high speed driving & overtaking on display.



Rob Garrington (Carmarthen) won the Super GP event with Nick Stavrinides (Pembroke Dock) finishing second & Derek Brown (Pembroke Dock) taking the final podium position.

Leanne Kiley-Smith (Swansea) was the best placed female driver, finishing in sixth position.



### South East Wales

The second HASSRA Wales Karting competition took place on 20<sup>th</sup> August at South Wales Karting Centre near Cowbridge with a fantastic turnout of 16 drivers racing to the max.



Shane Bates (Cardiff) triumphed in the Grand Prix Final with James Williams (Merthyr) taking second place & Ben Coombes (Cwmbran) taking third place.



### North Wales

Our third & final Karting Competition of 2017 took place at Apex Kart: The Circuit Raceway in Deeside.

Twelve drivers from offices based in Bangor & Wrexham took part in an adrenaline fuelled 20 minute qualification session to determine the grid order before taking to the track again for a 35 lap Grand Prix Final.



Ben James (Wrexham) took the chequered flag to win the event, with Daniel Hibberd (Wrexham) taking the runner-up position & Eryl Jones (Organiser) finishing in the final podium position.



Three very successful days of Karting events. We Hope all the members that took part enjoyed the experience and HASSRA Wales look forward to being able to offer these events again!

## 7. HASSRA Festivals 2017

This summer saw HASSRA host another 2 fantastic festivals, thank you to everyone who took part either as a competitor or a volunteer. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement about next year's festival and how to get involved...

As you know the festival is all about taking part and enjoying yourself but it's always nice to have something to celebrate. The following results deserved a mention.

### July Festival



**Men's 5-a-side** Winners – Liam Mortimer - Wrexham, Timothy Evans, Dylan Williams, Grady Walding, Huw Shaw, Joshua Roberts and Michael Williams – Bangor CC

**Archery** Men's Runner up – Neil Gouldingay - Pembroke Dock



### September Festival

**Mens Table Tennis Plate** Winner – Andrew Roy Gibson - Retired

**Golf Ladies Handicap** Runner up – Amanda Owen - Llanelli

**Netball** Runners up – Nicola Davies, Laura Davies, Dorothy Brookfield, Catherine Marland, Gemma Gerken – Wrexham, Ellen Jones - Bangor

You can view full Festival results here <http://www.hassra.org.uk/championships/index.asp>

2018 Festivals will take place in Warwick on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

## 8. Regional Sports Reports

### Pool:

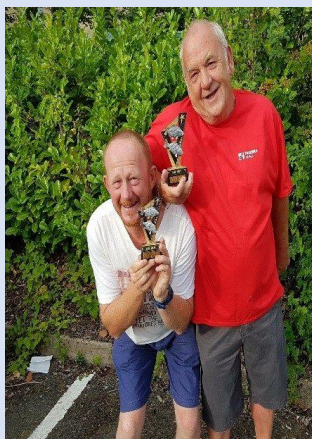


The HASSRA Wales Pool competition took place on 15<sup>th</sup> July at Shooters Pool Hall, Neath.

Congratulations to the overall winner, Kevin Isaac



## Coarse Angling:



Coarse fishing to the uninitiated, is basically the catching of 'Coarse Eating Fish' (which our ancestors would rather not eat if they could help it) and then throwing them back into the pond or river(alive), having weighed them to see who's caught the most..

Taking part this year hoping to qualify to represent Wales at the HASSRA Festival in Warwick were Dave Gough, Phil Williams and Graham Horton from Fraud & Error, Richard Brown from Bangor Contact Centre and Arfon Williams, retired.



The winner was Arfon Williams with a winning weight of 58lb 4oz, runner-up was Dave Gough with 41lb 8oz and Richard Brown came in third with 21lb 12oz.

If there are more coarse anglers out there, or anyone interested in giving the sport a go, we'd love to see you next year for our annual bash.

## Fly Fishing

This year's competition was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at Llyn Brenig

The winner was Bob Jones, who caught 6 fish weighing 10 lbs.

In second place was Ronnie Lewis, with 3 fish weighing 7 lbs 4 ozs.

Albert Rodrigues, the event organiser, reported that the hot, sunny & dry conditions with blustery winds made for a difficult day of fishing from the boats but that all the competitors enjoyed the event.



## Darts:

This year's competition was held on Friday 9th June at the Rhydyfelin Non Pol Club.

The winner of the Ladies Singles was Donna Watkins.

The winner of the Men's Singles was Jason Ettridge.

The winners of the Team Event were Steve James, Ben Prosser & Gareth Edwards - pictured.

Well done to you all!



## 9. Regional Round Up

Members across Wales have been busy as usual with events and Charity Fundraising. Here's some of the highlights.

### Wrexham UC Shut Down Charity Event

Wrexham Service Centre held a number of activities to raise money for the victims of the Manchester terrorist attack.

The YELLOW command held a cycle to Manchester Challenge. Volunteers cycled the distance to Manchester 56.7 miles in two hours! Members of staff made donations to support them. As a treat, they had a tea party to celebrate.



The worker Bee is a symbol of Manchester. The RED Command offered Bee stamps for donations and also held a Cake sale.





The Orange command held a number of games and activities, including, 'pin the wing on the bee' and a teddy tombola.



Thank you to everyone who took part and donated!  
The total raised is -  
£372.82  
All funds raised will go to [www.welovemcrcharity.org](http://www.welovemcrcharity.org)

## Swansea Pension Centre

Staff at Swansea Pension Centre had some fun raising £1115.40 for Children in Need 2017.





## 10. HASSRA Wales London Trip

The HASSRA Wales sightseeing and shopping weekend to London took place on Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th November! Members from across Wales travelled to London by coach to spend a weekend in the big smoke. In spite of a longer than expected journey because of travel conditions everyone was impressed by the location of the hotel, right alongside Tower Bridge and the Tower of London and it would seem a fabulous time was had by all!

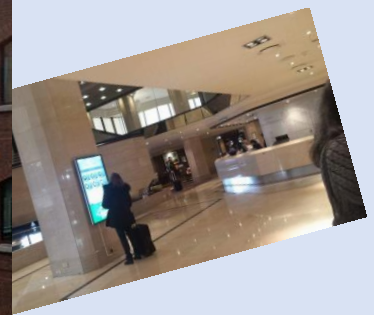
Here's some of the feedback from members

*"Coach, driver & hotel brilliant."*

*"Great hotel choice, really central. Big Thank You to Eryl"*

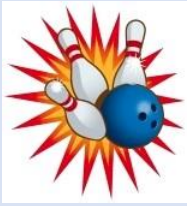
*"We really enjoyed and I'd love this to become an annual event."*

*"Thoroughly enjoyed our trip to London, very busy and done lots of walking. Celebrated a 50th birthday and was lovely for others to join in."*



Photos: Clockwise from top left – Fun on the coach, the Hotel Forecourt, Out on the Town, the Hotel Lobby, Tower view, Gherkin view.  
(Thanks to Helen Boyce, Gill Hanratty-Russell and Liz Morse)

## 11. HASSRA Wales Ten Pin Bowling 2018



HASSRA Wales 10 Pin Bowling Tournament is scheduled to take place in early (February/March) 2018. Venue is likely to be Parc Tawe, Swansea. Anyone interested in participating please register your interest with Eryl Jones [eryl.jones@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eryl.jones@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) so that he can keep you posted once the details are confirmed.

## 12. HASSRA Wales Sports Day 2018

HASSRA Wales Sports Day is a fantastic way for members across Wales to meet up, put faces to names and forge stronger working relationships across DWP.

The HASSRA Wales 2018 Sports day will take place at Swansea University on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018.  
The following events are to be included.



Athletics  
Badminton  
Five a Side Football  
Flat Green Bowls  
Mixed Rounders  
Netball  
Petanque  
Table Tennis  
Walking Football - Taster event

Some of the events will be qualifiers for the HASSRA Festivals in July and September 2018.



There will be decisions made nearer the time on the inclusion of events such as Jenga, Poker, Static Cycling and Foot Golf, dependant on the Festival Fun events being confirmed.

Entry packs will go out with details of events early next year. Keep an eye out.



## 12. Dates for your Diary

The calendar of events on the Regional page at [www.hassra.org.uk](http://www.hassra.org.uk) has been subject to the same constraints on publishing across the intranet since the Cyber-attacks earlier in 2017. As a result the best place to obtain up to date and reliable information about what is going on in HASSRA Wales is our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hassra.wales>

Some events to look out for are:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017** – HASSRA Wales Carol Service.  
St Johns Church, The Hayes,  
Cardiff. 1pm.

**February/March 2018** – HASSRA Wales 10 Pin Bowling. TBC

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2018** – HASSRA Wales Sports Day.  
Swansea University



**Calling all HASSRA Wales activity organisers** – If you have events planned please remember to let us know at one of the following

[hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/hassra.wales/>

[eryl.jones@dwg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eryl.jones@dwg.gsi.gov.uk)

so that we can advertise the event on our Facebook page.

### 13. And Finally.....

Well that's all for now. Hopefully something has caught your eye and inspired you to get involved.

Don't forget, if you, or your club, or members of your club are doing anything that you think other HASSRA members might like to hear about get in touch and let us know at [hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk) or <https://www.facebook.com/hassra.wales/> or [rjbhassra@sky.com](mailto:rjbhassra@sky.com)



And it's that time of year again.....try not to groan too loudly!

How do you know Santa's been in your garden shed?

You've got 3 extra Hoes

Why are Christmas trees very bad at knitting?  
Because they always drop their needles

What does Father Christmas do when his elves misbehave?  
He gives them the sack



The HASSRA Wales team wish all our members across Wales a very peaceful but merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2018.

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*If you have any comments about this issue of Dragon Tales or, if you want to contribute to future issues please e-mail [hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hassra.wales@dwg.gsi.gov.uk)  
Or the Dragon Tales editor [rjbhassra@sky.com](mailto:rjbhassra@sky.com)*

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**++++++It's time to start thinking about the HASSRA Wales awards. Is there anyone in your club you think goes over and above for HASSRA? Details of the award categories will be circulated in the New Year++++**