
Rhagfyr 2009 December

Auckland Welsh Club Newsletter

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Dai Vinci

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**Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd
dda ...**

From the Auckland Welsh club

**Please note the clubs contact details have changed to
the below, If your details have changed please email
the club.**

<http://www.aucklandwelshclub.com>
Email: aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com
PO Box 19555, Avondale, Auckland

(09) 524 7767

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SANTA

The jolly chap that many of us refer to as Santa has been known to the world as many things. The first of these was (all Odin arguments aside) was St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was a Bishop in an area that is now in Turkey. He was famous for his generosity and kindness, one story says that he gave a dowry to the daughters of a poor worker so that they could get married and not be forced into prostitution. This character of St. Nicholas then merged over time with the British Father Christmas. The earliest portraits of Father Christmas depict him as a man with a long flowing white beard, generally dressed in green trim (occasionally red) with white fur. (Seen in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as the second spirit who visits Scrooge)

Connection with Odin

Odin the Norse God has been shown to have quite a strong connection with modern day depictions of the legend of Santa Claus. In Germanic Pagan tradition Odin was said to lead a great hunting party across the sky at Yuletide with Odin riding himself riding an eight-legged horse named Sleipnir. This could be considered the forerunner of the Santa Reindeer tradition. Odin is generally depicted as a man with a long white beard. Further to this it also appears that the placing of food for Santa's Reindeer and the hanging of Christmas Stockings is also derived from Odin tradition. Children used to place their boots and fill them with carrots, straw or sugar for Sleipnir to eat, this generosity towards Sleipnir was then rewarded by Odin with the boots being filled with gifts and sweets.

Companions of Santa

Many traditions around the world give Santa a companion, some of these are well known to us today, such as the seen in every shopping mall Christmas Elf. But some have become less seen and quite possibly will never make a Christmas card image in our politically correct Western society.

Krampus

The Krampus is a reflection of the dual nature of Santa, whilst the jolly one rewards the good, the Krampus punished the evil children. The Krampus is generally depicted as a demon, and often carries rusty chains and bells. Krampus also birched young children, showing a predilection for young girls. He is generally shown with a basket on his back so that he can pick up the naughty young children and take them back to hell.

Zwarte Piet

In Belgian and Dutch traditions "Black Pete" is a young boy who comes down the Chimney and leaves gifts in Young Children's shoes. Later legends say that Black Pete was a young Ethiopian boy who was rescued by Santa and to show his gratitude Black Pete decided to accompany and aid Santa. Black Pete is often shown as a Black man in brightly coloured pantaloons and a feathered cap often carrying a whip and a sack. The whip was to punish the bad children while the sack was to take the really naughty children to Spain. In the Netherlands people some people dress in blackface and wear bright red lipstick with an afro wig, consequently this has led to significant debate about the place of Black Pete in modern day Netherlands.

Le Pere Fouettard

The Whipping Father was an Inn Keeper (or in some versions a butcher) who captured three boys who appear to be wealthy as they are on their way to enroll in a religious boarding school. Along with his wife, he kills the children in order to rob them (the more gruesome accounts say that he and his wife drug the children, slit their throats, cut them into pieces, and his stew and barrel). St. Nicholas discovers the crime and resurrects the children. After this, Le Père Fouettard repents and becomes St. Nick's partner. He is also considered to be the dark reflection of Santa, punishing those who have done ill.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Dear Members of the Auckland Welsh Club,

It is hard to believe we are at another December has been a tremendously difficult year, with significant difficulties in the family, like a lot of people, making me rather pleased to almost be seeing the back of 2009.

The beginning of the New Year is always a good time to look forward and over the holiday period take time out for yourself to plan goals for the future, relax and take steps to follow your bliss. The next year for the Auckland Welsh Club looks very promising indeed, we have entered major negotiations with Waikato Stadium. Watch this space for further notice.

Christmas is a hard time of year for many, especially for those of us in the Southern Hemisphere who are away from our families, surrounded by alien weather and for some it just does not seem like any Christmas they remember. Christmas is a time of joy, a time when generosity of spirit and love comes to the foremost of our thoughts, a time when we want to be with those who we care about. Christmas is about more than weather and a snowy covered landscape, the devastation being wrought in the Northern Hemisphere at present should be easing some of our dreams of a White Christmas. I wish all members of the Auckland Welsh Club, their friends and family a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. I hope to see you all at some of our events and should you have any ideas of events that you would like us to put on please do not hesitate to contact a member of your committee.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OF AUCKLAND WELSH CLUB NOW DUE .

The fees this year will remain the same as last, because we are very aware of the economy today.

Single \$25, Family \$35 all new members will pay this amount. If you paid after June 2009 you are paid up.

This year for a short period there will be discount for prompt payment for existing members \$20 Single, Family \$30. Please send your cheque to our P.O.Box or if you wish pay direct into bank account: ASB 123039- 0725387- 00 ref no **YOUR Name**

THE DAI VINCI COLUMN

As I left the shelter of the Millennium Stadium after the Wales v Australia game, outside it was damp, dismal and pouring with rain. Somehow this summed up the disastrous Welsh performance on the field earlier that evening when we were totally outplayed and lost the game.

Yes we did lose 3 players to injury in the first half. Yes we did miss the inspiration of captain and player in form Ryan Jones. Yes the Australian team played extremely well. However what I found disturbing was the collective failure of the whole Welsh team.

Other than the goal kicking we were outplayed in every part of the game. We were outscrumaged, outthought, our running, skills, kicking, kick chase and defensive organisation were all inferior. In the contact area we were totally mugged conceding many turnovers and regularly having our ball slowed down.

It was hard to believe this team had spent the previous 5 weeks training together and 8 of the players were British Lions in South Africa in the summer. The WRU have recently opened a modern £4million indoor and outdoor training facility for the team, they play in front of a sell-out 74,500 crowd in the best rugby stadium in the world, yet let everybody down.

The Welsh players must take their share of the blame but questions are being asked about the effectiveness of the coaching team. Gatland spent 3 to 4 months away in the summer being with the Lions and at home in New Zealand. Shaun Edwards was with the Lions and is also the full time coach of English team Wasps and also coaches Cambridge University. Have they lost their enthusiasm for Welsh rugby? The results and performances in the Six Nations Championship starting in February will be very interesting.

I hear a rumour that Penny Bont is over in Wales looking for Gavin Henson to sort him out and get him playing again. Here is a clue. He has been spotted on his yacht in Swansea Marina and also running in the sand dunes at Merthyr Mawr. He has now faded from the scene and been replaced by the new golden boy of Welsh rugby, centre Jamie Roberts of Cardiff Blues, Wales and the Lions.

Jamie is one of these people who are successful at whatever they do. This guitar playing, Welsh speaking medical student will qualify as a doctor in 2 years time at the age of 25. He was voted man-of-the-series in the recent Springbok v Lions series and has now been given a new title – sexiest man in Wales. He is very media friendly and sponsors are lining up to offer him commercial contracts. Oh yes, he still plays rugby but his form has been inconsistent so far this season.

How is this for an availability crisis? For their recent game against Bath in the Anglo-Welsh Cup, Welsh region the Ospreys had 13 players unavailable on international duty and 19 players out injured. They lost, but only narrowly.

The Ospreys play at the Liberty Stadium Swansea, sharing the ground with Swansea City soccer team. The stadium has just won an award for having the best playing service in the UK, beating all the mega rich English soccer teams like Arsenal who came second.

For all you soccer fans and the Red Dragons soccer team out in Auckland there is one Welshman you should be very proud of. In the English Premiership League, arguably the strongest in the world, one player has a staggering record of winning 11 Premier Championship titles, 2 European Cups, played a record number of over 800 games for his club Manchester United and is the current Professional Footballers' player-of-the-year. He is not English but Welsh. His name is Ryan Giggs. Incredibly at the age of 36 he is still playing as well as ever. Ryan has captained Wales playing over 50 games for his country but has now retired from international soccer.

Not surprisingly, Ryan Giggs was just voted the Welsh Sports Personality Of The Year for 2009. The runner up was World Champion cyclist and Olympic gold medal winner Geraint Thomas and in third place Jamie Roberts.

Maybe Wales will have a soccer team in the English Premier League next season owing to the success of our 2 top soccer teams? As I write, in the league below, Cardiff City are third and Swansea City are fifth. The top 2 teams get automatic promotion and the next 4 teams play off with the winner getting promoted to the Premier League.

What is the third most popular TV sporting event in the world after the Olympics and the Soccer World Cup? As it is topical in New Zealand right now, no doubt you will think it's the Rugby World Cup. You would be wrong. Its golf's Ryder Cup played every 2 years between Europe and the USA and its coming to Wales in the first week of October 2010. The venue is the Celtic Manor Newport and its wealthy owner Sir Terry Mathews has spent a small fortune ensuring the course and facilities are the very best.

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At present, rugby in Wales is following an unpredictable pattern, not just with the Welsh team but also with our 4 regions Scarlets, Ospreys, Blues and Dragons. However, the same is not true of our Celtic cousins in Ireland where rugby is absolutely booming and attendances are soaring. It is now challenging the traditional Irish sports of gaelic football and hurling for popularity. Ireland are now ranked 4th in the world and were unbeaten in the year 2009. They are the present Six Nations champions and coach Declan Kidney was voted the International Coach of the Year. Disappointedly, captain Brian O'Driscoll was not voted International Player of the Year.

For the last 2 years the Irish provinces Munster and Leinster have both won the Heineken European Cup and the Magners League where the leading Scottish and Welsh regions also play. Munster and Leinster met in the Heineken European Cup semi final in April before a sell-out crowd of 82,000.

A happy and prosperous new year to you all from Dai Vinci in Wales.



Wales Tour of NZ 2010

June 19th Dunedin

June 26th Hamilton



The club will be organising buses and hotels for these games for the weekend and in Hamilton also a bus for the day .

We will probably be able to arrange the Match tickets also.

It will be first in gets first choice and even though five months away you would be wise to book your place **NOW**.

**MYSTERY WINE TRAIL ON ANNIVERSARY DAY
31ST JANUARY .TICKETS ARE LIMITED
APPROX COST \$40- \$45 DEPOSIT NEEDED
PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH
SECRETARY OR PHONE CLUB PHONE**

VIEW FROM THE NEST



It's hard to believe that we are entering the year 2010. A decade from the Millennium which seems to me to be only yesterday.

The All Blacks Northern hemisphere tour ended up on a flat note with them playing the best team ever put together in Rugby Union. If there ever was a Dream Team that would be it. Considering they only had a week to play together and the All Blacks had been together for two and a half months it didn't justify the hammering they had. It makes me wonder can the All Blacks play without the mighty MaCaw and Dan the Man. That will no doubt be revealed in the fullness of time. The AB's are only two injuries away from being an average team.

Wales performance in 2009 was average. After showing a lot of promise in the six nations, losing the championship by three points. Perhaps Gatland and Co were side-tracked by the Lions. Who Knows? Only them?

Ireland has to be the team of 2009 and they were undefeated, and the AB's can thank their lucky stars that they didn't play them at Croke Park this year. I have to mention briefly the Manchester United Stalwart of many years, Ryan Giggs, who won the BBC Sports Personalities of the Year this year. .

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2010, please take care of yourselves and the people you love.

Catch you next year: **Barrie P.**

**Training will start at 17th of January
2010 we will have six friendly fixtures in
February and March League Starts in
April.**

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email: bjpartridge@pl.net

FUTURE EVENTS

31st January 2010

Mystery Wine Trail.

Approximate cost \$40.

Tickets very limited.

Book now to avoid disappointment.

50% deposit required.

28th February 2010 (St. David's Celebrations)

We would like input as to how you want to celebrate St. David's Day. Perhaps all day outdoor celebration is more your cup of tea.

All suggestions welcome as it is your day.

PLEASE SEND YOUR IDEAS IN A.S.A.P

Wales Rugby Tour 2010

19th June (Dunedin)

26th June (Hamilton)

AWC will be organizing bus trips and events surrounding the two test match dates. Tickets will be extremely limited for these events, so be advised to register your interest.

FEES ARE NOW DUE SEE PAGE THREE FOR DETAILS OF PAYMENT.

Committee Contact Details

(all correspondence to be directed to Secretary)

Pres.	B-J Partridge	021 2941078
V-P	Barrie Partridge	021 1086937
Treas	Melanie Peet	912 3613
Sec	Ami Taylor	021 02905731

Committee

Rob Addy	021 2118272
George Parry	09 420 2177
Meredydd Barrar	836 6389
Adam Taylor	021 646864
Jamie Bartlett	021 2176125
Nick Hale	021 0565090
Frankie Roberts	021 1272078

Next Committee Meeting: 7:00pm 7th December 2009, Galbraiths Alehouse,

Please Note: The Clubs new contact details are as follows.

Postal: PO Box 19555, Avondale, Auckland

Email: aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com

Website: www.aucklandwelshclub.com

The Gentry
Barbers

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



Ask about our Welsh Club Member Discount

Opening Hours
M-F: 6AM - 6PM
Sat: 6AM - 2PM
MOB: 021 071 1191

39 Point Chevalier Road
(Next to "Domino's Pizza")
Point Chevalier

If you are in need of assistance at any time, or know of any member who may need a bit of help or support, can you please contact a committee member. We cannot help you if we don't know where help is needed

Sponsors of the Red Dragon's

B-J Partridge - Barrister	377 9434
Barrie Partridge	
Auckland Welsh Club	524 7767
ScoreSportswear Flora	828 7430

Thanks to the contributors to this newsletter who included: Barrie Partridge, B-J Partridge, John Dowden If you wish to have an article or opinion to place in the next newsletter please forward it to the club email address: aucklandwelshclub@gmail.com