Badminton Cymru | Wales

WELSH INTERNATIONAL OPEN

PLAYER & COACH INFORMATION PACK



BADMINTON EUROPE | ELITE CIRCUIT

YONEX

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WELCOME

BADMINTON WALES WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE
WELSH INTERNATIONAL OPEN 2026

Dear Player,

On behalf of Badminton Wales, I would like to welcome you to Cardiff for the Welsh International Open 2026. Whether this is your first time playing at this event or you have attended in previous years we hope that you enjoy your time with us here in Wales.

I hope this document includes all the information you need to get the best out of your stay here in Wales.

Pob lwc a chwarae'n dda.

Kelly Aston MBE
CEO

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Entry Fees | Tournament entry fees must be paid before the commencement of a player's first match. Payment will be accepted by debit/credit card. Payment can be made at the Badminton Wales desk.

Tournament Schedule |
Wednesday - Team Managers Meeting - 19:00-20:00- Taff Suite 2
Thursday - Qualification rounds in all events
Friday - Rounds 1 & 2 of Main Draw
Saturday - Quarter Finals from 10am | Semi Finals from 3pm
Sunday - Finals from 10am

MEET THE TEAM

Championship Referee
Ross Blyth (ENG)

Deputy Referee
Stephen Temple (WALES)

Badminton Wales Staff Team
CEO - Kelly Aston
Major Events Officer - Beth Chamberlain-Carter
National Events Officer- Harriett Johnson
Head of Performance - Graham Hurrell
Digital Lead - Shuvro Ghoshal
Head of Development- Curtis Grant

Regional Community Managers
North Wales - Joshua Hart
South-West Wales - Dave Bendle
South-East Wales - Donal O'Halloran

Badminton Wales Official Volunteers
Umpire Control - David Bayliss
Match Control - Ieuan Williams & Gary Clarke
Player Liaison - Ian Care
Manager of Umpires - Simon Ewins

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VENUE

Sport Wales National Centre, Sophia Close, Cardiff, CF11 9SW
The Sport Wales National Centre (SWNC) is located within a ten minute walk of Cardiff's city centre.

Main Arena | The Welsh International Open will be played in the **Main Arena** on the ground floor.

Practice Courts | **Jubilee Hall** on the first floor.

Changing Rooms | There are changing rooms available in SWNC with lockers and showers for players & officials to use. A £1 coin is needed to use the lockers to secure clothing and valuables

- Male changing rooms are located on the ground floor, via the corridor to the left of reception.
- Female changing rooms are located on the ground floor, via the corridor to the left of reception.

Physiotherapy Room | Physios will be present at all times, the physio desk is located in the main arena. Treatments are also available in changing room 4 - located in the corridor left of reception.

Water Fountain | A water fountain is located in the reception area of SWNC

VIP & Officials Area | Glass Room on the right hand side of the balcony. Take the stairs to the right hand side of reception, 2nd floor, through the double doors & straight ahead you will see signs for VIP & Officials area.

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FOOD & DRINK

HWB Cafe | On the second floor of SWNC, you will find the HWB Café where hot and cold food and drink can be purchased daily.
Monday - Sunday opening at 08:00 - 19:00.
However, hot food is only available between the following times:
Breakfast: 08:00 - 10:00 | Lunch: 12:00 - 14:00 | Dinner: 17:00 - 18:30

Coffee Shop | There is also a coffee shop in the reception area of the SWNC.
Monday - Thursday, 08:00 - 19:00 & Weekends, 08:00 - 16:00.

Vending Machines | There are vending machines with snacks and cold drinks in Reception and outside the HWB Café.

Local Shop | A small convenience shop is located in the Rontec Esso petrol station five minutes' walk from SWNC, where food and drink can be purchased.

Restaurants & Bars | There are several restaurants & bars located in Cardiff City Centre, a 10 minute walk away from SWNC. If you would like more information on where to find a certain restaurant, please speak to a member of the support team.

LOCAL PUBS

Brew House & Kitchen | Located opposite the main entrance to SWNC. Serves Food & Drinks, 12:00pm - 9:00pm Sunday - Thursday & 12:00pm - 10:00pm Friday & Saturday.

Pontcanna Inn | Located 2 minutes from SWNC, on Cathedral Road. Serves Food & Drinks, 12:00pm - 9:00pm Monday - Friday & 10:00am - 9:00pm Friday & Saturday.

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TRANSPORT

Cardiff Airport | Transport to and from Cardiff Airport will be provided by Badminton Wales via Flightlink. If you require this service, please complete the form/s below:
Inbound (Arrival) Airport Transfer Booking Form-
https://flightlinkwales.com/badminton/
Outbound (Departure) Airport Transfer Booking Form-
https://flightlinkwales.com/badminton-return/

Please note Flightlink are based at Cardiff Airport so will require at least 30 minutes to get to Sport Wales National Centre. Details of any changes to travel arrangements must be done by contacting | info@flightlink.com

National Express Bus Station | The National Express bus station is located adjacent to SWNC. For information regarding bus timetables and routes visit the National Express website: https://www.nationalexpress.com/en

Cardiff Central Train Station | Is a twenty-minute walk from SWNC or a ten-minute drive. SWNC is located straight down Westgate Street (via the front of the station), over the bridge, take a left through Bute park and follow the walkway along until you reach Sport Wales National Centre. (If you reach the cricket ground you have gone slightly to far!)

Taxi Services | There are a number of taxi companies operating in Cardiff including: Veezu Taxis https://www.veezu.co.uk/cardiff
Capital Cabs http://www.capitalcabs.co.uk/
Uber also operates in Cardiff.

Parking | There is free parking available at the SWNC.

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CARDIFF CITY CENTRE

Cardiff Castle | Cardiff Castle is in the heart of the City Centre & surrounded by Bute Park, the castle can be easily visited from SWNC, as it is just a 5 minute walk through the park.

The Principality Stadium | Cardiff's National Rugby Stadium is again with in a 5 - 10 minute walk from SWNC, located on West Gate Street straight through Bute Park, as you exit the park the stadium will be visible.

St Davids Shopping Centre | Here you will find all the high street shops. If you fancy a spot of shopping this is the place to go! St Davids also has a food hall.

Cardiff Bay | Cardiff Bay is located slightly further outside Cardiff, but if you have the time is well worth a visit. It has many restaurants and bars that surround the water's edge, but is also beautiful for a walk along the front and a coffee shop break.

Bute Park | Is the largest park area in Cardiff. It surrounds the back end of SWNC, the park houses Cardiff Castle and many other beautiful walks & flower beds. The park can be accessed by heading out of Main Reception, taking a left and following the path up onto the walk way- follow the path for 100m before crossing over the white bridge into Bute park.

Restaurants & Bars | A lovely selection of Restaurants, Bars & Clubs can be found on St Marys Street, a 5 - 10 minute walk from SWNC.
Recommendations | Barkers Tea Rooms, Gin & Juice.

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CHRISTMAS IN CARDIFF

Cardiff Christmas Market | The market will be in place from 12th November 2026. Located on The Hayes, it offers traditional food and drink along with little market stalls in traditional market huts.

Cardiff Winter Wonderland | Winter Wonderland will open on the 12th November 2026, it is located outside the National History Museum in the heart of Cardiff City Centre, just a 5 - 10 minute walk from SWNC. Winter Wonderland includes an ice skating rink, festive food and drink stalls along with rides and festive treats.

SHORT 'FRESH AIR' WALKS

If you have a 5 minute break & would like to get some fresh air, here are a few little walks you can take!

1 | Exit SWNC & head left, join the gravel path way and follow it for about 100m before joining a large white bridge into Bute Park.

2 | Exit SWNC & head left, join the gravel path way and follow it past the white bridge towards Cardiff City Centre, once the path ends at the bridge on the edge of the city, take a right and follow the wall till you reach traffic lights at the top of Cathedral Road, take a right down cathedral road and follow it back down to SWNC, (Once you get to the next set of lights- take a right into SWNC Car park) - if you reach the Pontcanna Inn you've missed the turning!

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3| Pontcanna- If you head directly out of the front of SWNC - Cross the road as if you are heading towards the Brew House & Kitchen, walk past this and join Cathedral Road, take a right and wonder down Cathedral Road, towards the bottom you will reach a set of traffic lights near Coffee #1- if you look to head up the street to the left of Coffee #1 you will see Pontcanna Highstreet; a very small but lovely set of shops & Cafe's.

OTHER

Cash Point | The nearest cash point is in the Rontec Esso petrol station located on Cathedral Road a five-minute walk from SWNC.

WIFI | There is free Wi-Fi available in SWNC.

Supermarkets | Tesco Extra & Aldi - Both are located a 10 minute drive from SWNC or a 30 minute walk. Located down Cathedral Road, towards Llandaff, take a right at the lights, follow the road to the next major junction - take a right at those lights & you will see Tesco appear on your right hand side, Aldi is located directly behind Tesco.

Photographs | There will be an official photographer attending the event**.** Selected photographs from the event will be available after the event via: Badminton Wales flickr