

WELSH CUP - 2026

The draw for the group stage of the Welsh Cup has now taken place.

Teams in group A are those captained by David Stevenson, Chris Pope, Tim Rees, Richard Stevenson and Steve Jarvis.

Teams in group B are those captained by Paul Cunningham, Chris Moseley, Tony Haworth, Paddy Murphy and Julian Pottage.

In the group stage you need to arrange to **play each other team in your group**, four matches in total.

You will need to complete these **four matches by Monday 20th July**.

In the group stage, scoring will be by total IMPs and matches will be 32 boards in length (in stanzas of 8 boards). Make sure that at the conclusion of each match you agree the IMP score with the other captain and enter this on the 'Results Submission' form.

In the group stage and the semi-finals, the default is playing online on RealBridge. Individuals cannot set up matches on RealBridge. You will need to ask either Ceri Pierce (ceri@wbu.org.uk) or myself (julianbridge@hotmail.com) to do that. Captains can agree to play on BBO or face to face.

Ensure you **enter the IMP score in the comments** section of the submission form. Remember, both captains need to submit the result, not just the winning captain.

In the semi-finals, the winner of group A will play the runner up in group B while the winner of group B will play the runner up in group A. The semi-final matches will be of 48 boards and take place by Sunday 20th September.

The final (64 boards) will take place on Saturday 20th November. If both finalists are from South Wales then the final will take place in South Wales; if both finalists are from North Wales then the final will take place in North Wales; otherwise the final will take place in mid Wales.

In the event of a tie for first or second place in a group, the result of the match between the tied teams will determine which finishes higher. If that match was a tie, the number of stanzas won in their tied match will determine which finishes higher. If that too is a tie, the total number of stanzas won across the four matches will be the determining factor.

NB As you have over 5 months in which to play 4 matches, there is unlikely to be sympathy for any group matches un-played by that date (you should assume they will be scored as average minus for both teams). I recommend therefore that you schedule all your matches by mid-June so as to leave some wiggle room in the case of an emergency.