

## ITF WALES EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

ITF Wales took six competitors to the European Championships in Greece this year (2006) and were pleased to come away with a bronze from patterns and a silver medal in sparring. The adult competitors Mr Richard Taylor, Miss Victoria Phillips, Mr Tom Harris, and the junior competitors Miss Sophie Collins, Miss Cassie Lund and Mr Lee Burrige, all competed well and gained valuable experiences from the Championships, as well as the two medals between them which meant they finished 14th of all the countries who competed.

In the patterns events, despite all competitors performing well through their initial rounds only Lee Burrige was able to make it beyond the 1/4 finals and into the semi final, where he came up against a very strong Czech opponent who was on his form on the day and this meant Lee had to bow out at the semi final stage but was more than happy to pick up a bronze medal in his first ever European Championships.

In sparring all competitors put in strong bouts through their early rounds and learnt from the strong opponents drawn from Easter European nations but it was Cassie Lund who made it to a 1/4 final against a Scottish opponent but was unable to lift it that extra level to get the points necessary to advance further and Richard Taylor put in some great performances to make it to the final in his group, where he came up against a fast strong Russian opponent and despite a good effort was unable to win the bout and had to settle for silver.

ITF Wales would like to say well done to all who competed and that they are proud of their representative's achievements and look forward to seeing them improve and go on to even more success in next years major championships.

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