



Wales Deaf Rugby Union
Undeb Rygbi Byddar Cymru

Statement

International Deaf Rugby Test Series, England v New Zealand 2017

The Management of Wales Deaf Rugby are issuing this statement to players, supporters and stakeholders in response to the announcement on Friday 11 November 2016 that England Deaf Rugby are to host New Zealand Deaf Rugby in a three test series during Autumn 2017.

The announcement is unexpected, not least as in recent months, our efforts had been focussed on organising the 2017 World Deaf Rugby Championships in Cardiff.

Both England Deaf and New Zealand Deaf, along with other nations had been invited to participate in the tournament. It was always a possibility that the nations who indicated they wished to take part may find it difficult to raise the funds required for travel and accommodation.

It was recognised that the Championships could not proceed unless a minimum of six teams participated and should this occur, an alternative plan should be available for all nations to consider. Reluctantly, the Championships have been postponed due to a insufficient number of teams.

At no time during recent discussions regarding the World Championships have we been aware of proposals for next Autumn's Test Series between England and New Zealand.

We will continue to support the formation of World Deaf Rugby - a body to oversee, co-ordinate and develop deaf rugby across the globe.

To maintain our status as World Deaf Champions, we will continue to work with our stakeholders to promote deaf rugby in communities across Wales via our succesful 'Community Project'. The project forms part of our strategy to support young deaf rugby players and provide a clear development pathway towards the senior international team.

I am confident that this, along with the commitment of both players, management and sponsors, will ensure a bright future for deaf rugby in Wales.

Gwynne Griffiths
Chair, Wales Deaf Rugby

No Barriers! Dim Rhwystrau!