

**WELSH CULINARY ASSOCIATION**

# **BATTLE FOR THE DRAGON TEAMS ANNOUNCED**

**Immediate: January 8, 2007**

The premier culinary competition in Wales will again have a truly international flavour next month.

The Welsh National Culinary Team will go head to head with Cyprus and Canada in the Battle for the Dragon contest at the Welsh International Culinary Championships at Coleg Llandrillo Cymru, Rhos-on-Sea from February 20-22. Canada currently lead the rankings while Wales are ninth and Cyprus 15<sup>th</sup>.

The three countries will do battle in a hot kitchen competition, each being allocated three hours to produce a mouthwatering three-course meal for 90 people under the supervision of a panel of international judges.

Run over three days, this year's Battle for the Dragon contest will see Wales lead the way on Tuesday, February 20 followed by Cyprus on Wednesday and Canada on Thursday. The team given the highest points will win a specially commissioned Dragon Trophy. The result will be announced at a gala dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno on Thursday, February 22.

The contest, which has been endorsed by the World Association of Chefs' Societies (WACS), was introduced for the first time this year and won by Germany, who held off a strong challenge from Wales and France.

The Welsh International Culinary Championships, which are organised by the Welsh Culinary Association (WCA), are sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government to promote the food and drink industry brand 'True Taste'.

Also being held during the championships is the prestigious Junior Chef of Wales Final on February 20.

WCA chairman Peter Jackson said he was delighted that Canada and Cyprus had agreed to send teams to the competition, which was helping to raise the profile of Wales, its food and culinary skills.

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The Welsh National Culinary Team goes into battle after claiming silver and bronze medals at the Culinary World Cup competition in Luxembourg last November. The team selected shows a nice blend of youth and experience, with Colin Gray, Capital Cuisine, Cardiff, as manager and Lee Jeynes co-owner of The Whitehouse Hotel, Bowness on Windermere, as captain. The other team members are: vice captain Nick Davies, Cambrian Training Company, Welshpool, Sajeela Siriwarden, Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Ben Morse, Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel and Spa, Usk and Max Osborne, freelance.

Local people are being given a chance to sample the chefs' culinary delights, as tickets are on sale for lunch over the three days at Coleg Llandrillo Cymru. Lunch costs £27.50 per person with a reduction to £25 when booking for all three lunches with Jane Cater, events manager at the college, on Tel: 01492 542 305 (office hours) or e-mail [j.cater@llandrillo.ac.uk](mailto:j.cater@llandrillo.ac.uk).

For more information about the Battle for the Dragon contest and the Welsh International Culinary Championships visit the Welsh Culinary Association's website at [www.welshculinaryassociation.com](http://www.welshculinaryassociation.com)

The Welsh team is sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government, C&C Catering Equipment Ltd, Brakes, Unilever Foodsolutions UK, Catering Engineers (N.W.) Ltd, Hybu Cig Cymru/ Meat Promotion Wales, Gourmet Classic Ltd, Villeroy and Boch, Friedr. Dick, Germany and Snowdonia Cheese Company.

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For more information please contact Peter Jackson, Welsh Culinary Association chairman, on 01766 780 200 or Duncan Foulkes, public relations consultant, on 01686 650818.