

Cowbridge - Today

LOCAL NEWS - [Vale of Glamorgan show pulls in the crowds from both town and country!](#) - LOCAL NEWS - [Marathon wo](#)

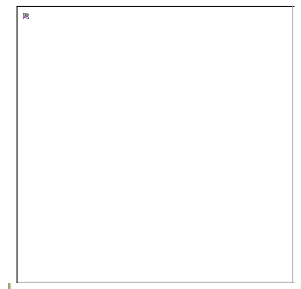
[Home](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Page Downloads](#)
[Today Online](#)
24 August 2006
Search Archive

About...
[Advertising Rates](#)
[Contact](#)
[Advertising](#)
News
[Local News](#)
[Sports News](#)
[Your Letters](#)
[Home](#)
Local Area
[Local Area](#)
[Property](#)
[Whats On](#)
[Local Services](#)
[Where to Stay](#)
[Wine and Dine](#)
[Local Diary](#)
Classifieds
[General](#)
Today Sites
[Site Locator](#)
[Links](#)
Your Account
[Sign Up](#)

Young dragons hunt out Springboks on tour

Lewys Steward

After two years of hard saving, 21 rugby players from Pencoed Comprehensive will finally leave for a 10-day tour of South Africa, today, August 24. The boys, aged 16-18, are part of the successful runner-up squad from the Welsh National Cup Final, which lost to Swansea College at the Gnoll in Neath, but we are hoping to put that behind us and will be looking forward to a successful tour. We will be setting off on Pencoed's fifth tour to South Africa and for year-11 boys like Jason Jones, Wesley McCann and Matthew Harris it will be their first. For some of the boys, including myself, it will also be a time to relax as they were getting their all important GCSE results before departure! After the success of some of the older boys at AS and A-Level, the younger boys will be hoping to repeat the success with our GCSE results. As part of the tour, we will visit places like Pretoria, Cape Town and Rustenburg. Also we will be able, for the first time, to watch two Tri-Nation matches between South Africa and New Zealand, first at Pretoria and then later at Rustenburg. Also, we will be playing not just for our school, but for our country – as we play a South African school at Hamilton Rugby Club. Not only will the rugby boys be able to enjoy this experience, but 14 adults, including teachers David Owen, Simon King, who is also first team coach at Pontypridd RFC, and Ian Poley, a first team member for Pontypridd RFC, will be able to enjoy this magnificent experience. A great deal of money has been raised by the boys for pocket money and to help purchase kit. The years 12-13 boys had a very successful tuck shop, where they sold sweets to pupils at Pencoed Comprehensive during break and lunch times. The starting 15 also served Christmas dinner to younger pupils and staff, and they also set up discos for the younger pupils to enjoy. This will be an experience the boys will never forget and for some it may never come round again. Jason Jones of year-11 said this about the lead-up to the tour and his expectations: "I'm obviously excited, I cannot wait to see what it is like. It is going to be a once in a lifetime experience because of the physicality of the South Africans. They are obviously going to be bigger than us. I have put a lot of effort into it by training throughout the summer, because the South Africans aren't looking at this as a joke. For both teams it is a mini-international match." Another year-11 player, Wesley McCann said: "I am quite nervous because it is so close now. I'm also nervous because we are playing for our school team." He too said that playing on tour in South Africa was an honour as he would be representing Wales. "I won't be able to sleep on Wednesday night because I will be too excited; it is going to be a huge trip. I would like to thank everyone who has organised it and good luck to all the boys going on tour." I, too, am excited about the trip as I am part of the senior first team; but I am feeling nervous because I am in year-11 and I will be hoping to get good results in my GCSE on the morning of departure. I am really looking forward to being able to play in one of the countries that has done so well in rugby over the years. I am also looking forward to meeting new people and seeing new scenery. Enroute, we will be thinking about making our school and nation proud and if we manage to beat the South Africans, it will be a bonus. So, as we set off we hope to see smiles

[Want to know more ?](#)

Advertising:
[Contact Advertising](#)
Editorial:
[Send Letter to Editor](#)
Internet:
[Send mail to Web Team](#)


all the way there and all the way back due to good results in exams and hopefully a victory on South African soil. Matthew Harris, who plays on the wing and is another year-11 pupil, said: "It will be a great experience and one that I will thoroughly enjoy. I think during the time we are out there it will be a great team building exercise as we are together night and day for 10 days." This article was written by Lewys Steward, a student at Pencoed Comprehensive, who will also be going on the tour.

Copyright Tindle Newspapers Ltd 23 August 06

For other news stories from the Cowbridge Gem, the last 10 stories submitted in the last 30 days, choose from this list. The most recent are at the top.

- For sports news, click [here](#).
- For letters, click [here](#).
- For all news stories posted in the last 30 days click [here](#).
- For older stories, search the archive by clicking [here](#)

- [Vale of Glamorgan show pulls in the crowds from both town and country! \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Marathon woman Carol's fan club prepares for Dublin! \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [S-MAX BRINGS SEVEN HEAVEN \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Young dragons hunt out Springboks on tour \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Quarry rescue drama \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Vale Show is under fire over BNP's 'shameful' presence \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Residents rally round to save the fire station \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Ninety-minute wait for 999 ambulance in Cowbridge \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Adult care costs rapped as Vale slips down 'table' \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)
- [Vale planning applications \(dated 23 August 06\)](#)

Or search our entire archive: click [here](#) to start