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Championships put Rhayader on the map

RHAYADER this week played host to around 90 foreign competitors and spectators for the 20th Annual International Table-Top Ice Hockey World Championships.

Among the group is the game's Inventor Peter Linden from Germany. The organisers asked to return to Rhayader after the success of the 10th Annual Championship in 1988, which was the subject of an HTV documentary "But Will It Replace Dominoes"?

The main reason given for their return to Rhayader was the warm welcome they received in 1988. The visitors are staying in local accommodation and at the Elan Valley Hotel, where the administration is based.

On Sunday morning, a civic reception was held at the Rugby Club, when the Mayor, Cllr David Jones officially welcomed the group back to Rhayader.

On Monday, the preliminary rounds were played between 4pm and 8pm at seven pubs and at the Rugby Club. Local people were encouraged to watch the games and to cheer on local competitors Ruby Short, Laurence Dowden, John Bufton and Pip Short, along with their



The week in Rhayader

supporters Mandy Bufton, Maggie Llewelyn and Nicky Davies.

The main event is scheduled to take place tonight (Friday) when the final heats will be played. The Grand Final and awards ceremony takes place this evening in the leisure Centre, followed by a disco.

The whole evening is open to the public but there will be a charge of £3 for admission to the dance and the bar after 9pm.

During the week, the visitors have had free time to explore the town and surrounding area. Events and excursions were also arranged for them, including a day trip to Cader Idris and the Celtica exhibition at Machynlleth.

The mysteries of the games of soccer and rugby were revealed to competitors and supporters involved in the championships this week.

On Wednesday, they took part in an

international soccer match with Rhayader Football Club followed by a buffet.

The next evening, Rhayader Rugby Club introduced the foreign competitors to the noble art of rugby, followed by a disco.

The world championship game was first introduced by German sports journalist Peter Linden and now there are more than 10,000 people worldwide involved in the game.

Next year, the championship, which first came to Rhayader in 1988, will be held in Italy and in Norway in the year 2000.



Some of the local competitors in the world championships included Philip Woolley and Clive Lewis who are pictured with Nikki Davies, Laurence Dowden and Pip Short