

WALES RUGBY LEAGUE

Annual Report

2015 - 2016



Covers Period 1/4/15 to 31/3/16

Welcome by WRL Chairman Brian Juliff

Hello and welcome to our summary of accounts and performance for Wales Rugby League during 2015/16.

This has proved to be a formative year for Wales Rugby League in the 'modern era'. As a National Governing Body we have made massive strides in terms of governance, management control and more importantly cultural behaviour. On that basis alone it has been hugely pleasing to experience the performance of our junior and elite athletes on the playing fields.



I am so grateful to be able to report on some of the positive aspects of Wales Rugby League as we emerge from our self-induced, though very necessary, austerity programme which commenced before the 2013 Rugby League World Cup.

It's always encouraging to be in a position to write a report that brings back some great memories about performance, player development and governance, which has been at the very core of our strategy over the last few years.

It feels good to be part of a Rugby League nation on the move UPWARDS and to be recognised in 2015/16 as the eighth best team in the International World Rankings is a step towards our vision of becoming a **'top four Rugby League nation on governance and performance.'**

After beating Ireland, France and Scotland with exceptional performances in the 2015 European Championship, scoring 11 tries over the three games played and conceding just four we can all take a real pride in our boys.

We won the competition and were crowned as UNBEATEN 2015 European Champions using just 19 players, with Wales coach John Kear naming the same starting 13 throughout the tournament and the same 17 in the final two games. That in itself says a lot about the new level of commitment and team bonding amongst this special group of young men.

Out of the 19 players that represented Wales Rugby League during the European Championship a remarkable 16 players had engaged with the WRL pathways before playing for the senior team and 12 were Welsh born. That level of 'home grown and developed talent' underpins the camaraderie, team spirit and excellent attitude of a squad of players that it has been a pleasure to be involved with.

The appointment of John Kear has been at the core of our success as he has completely overhauled our squad and effectively re-energised everything we are doing at this level.

Of course we are nothing without a willing group of players who have responded magnificently and everyone that took the field played with unsurpassed passion and pride in our famous Welsh shirt.

As a result of this balanced approach we can look forward to our World Cup 2017 qualifying challenges with absolute confidence.

I am thankful also to Team Manager Bob Wilson who is already well ahead with his impeccable planning to ensure the boys are given the best support and facilities to compete at their very best.

Whilst qualification for RLWC2017 is our key priority for 2016 the board of Wales Rugby League recognises the need for investment in the community game alongside further attention and support in the schools and youth development programme.

In addition to the full international side, Wales also played matches at Under 16, Under 18, Students, Community and Wheelchair levels.

There were four UK wide domestic trophies won, with North Wales Crusaders tasting victory in the League 1 Cup Final, Swansea University winning the double at the second level of student competition and ending the season as South Wales and West league and cup champions and gained promotion to the Premier League South.

At school level we tasted victory on the biggest stage possible after Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf were Year 7 Champion Schools winners at Wembley Stadium beating Wade Deacon from Widnes as a curtain raiser for the Challenge Cup Final.

Well done to all the teachers, support staff and to all the exceptional young players on another outstanding year for schools rugby league.

Schools playing Rugby League at this level lays the foundations for the future of the game in Wales and I am very grateful to all the schoolteachers for their interest in the sport and encouraging their young athletes to express themselves on the field of play.

There were also four near misses for our other representative teams with Wales Students (Four Nations), Valley Cougars (Conference South), North Wales Crusaders under 16s (North West Counties Cup) and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera (Year 8 Champion Schools) all gallant runners up in their respective competitions and Bridgend Blue Bulls were Welsh league champions,

We organised competitions at under 13, 14, 15 and 16 levels and the first full 80 minute girls game was played in North Wales plus the East v West origin series was revived at three different levels - East Wales beating West Wales in the under 14 and 15 games with West Wales winning at open age level.

A new Level 3 Academy was opened at Rhondda Cynon Taff based college, Coleg Y Cymoedd, who will work alongside the newly formed South Wales Scorpions under 20s side and this alongside our schools programme offers much optimism for the future.

I would like to recognise and thank Chris Thair and his small band of WRL employees. Jon Ellis, Allen Jones, Idris Evans and Ian Golden for the enormous amount of hard work they have contributed to our cause.

Finally, on a personal note I want to thank everyone of you magnificent volunteers, schoolteachers, coaches, mums, dads, brothers, sisters and of course grandparents for your unwavering support.

Without you all we would not be in such a positive place at this moment!

My Very Best Wishes....

Brian

**Brian Juliff,
Chairman
Wales Rugby League**

January 2016 marked the 10 year anniversary Wales Rugby League was officially recognised by the Welsh Sports Council as a National Governing Body.

Happy 10th Birthday Wales Rugby League

THANK TO EVERYONE INVOLVED THESE LAST 10 YEARS



WRL Wales Representative Teams and Results

Wales Senior Men

Danny Jones Memorial Game (Oct)
KEIGHLEY 20 WALES 36

2015 European Championships (Oct / Nov)
WALES 18 SCOTLAND 12
WALES 14 FRANCE 6
IRELAND 4 WALES 30...**Crowned Champions**



Wales Wheelchair

Friendly (Aug)
IRELAND 29 WALES 46

2015 European Championships (Sept)
SCOTLAND 26 WALES 25
ENGLAND 56 WALES 8
FRANCE 52 WALES 5
IRELAND 46 WALES 36



Wales U18s

WALES 14 ENGLAND 42 (Sept)



Wales U16s

WALES 12 ENGLAND 52 (August)



Wales Dragonhearts

ENGLAND LIONS 56
WALES DRAGONHEARTS 10 (Nov)



Wales Students

Friendlies
CARDIFF CITY RL 10 WALES STUDENTS 34
WALES 38 NORTH WALES SELECT 10
WALES 44 ABER VALLEY WOLVES 14

2015 Home Nation Championships, Ireland (June)
IRELAND 12 WALES 20
WALES 34 SCOTLAND 7
ENGLAND 42 WALES 26



Wales Rugby League ran six international teams in 2015 playing 18 games

WRL Regional Representative Teams and Results

2 Regional U14 Teams

EAST 32 WEST 18 (May)
WEST 30 EAST 38 (June)
EAST 8 WEST 30 (Feb)

2 Regional U15 Teams

EAST 20 WEST 8 (May)
WEST 10 EAST 18 (June)
EAST 32 WEST 12 (Feb)

4 Regional U16 Teams

EAST 44 WEST 28 (Feb)
SOUTH 34 PILL HARRIERS 46 (June)
SOUTH 30 HEMEL & LONDON 26
NORTH 10 SOUTH 30 (July)

2 Regional Open Age Teams

WEST 22 EAST 16 (Oct)



Wales Rugby League owned and ran South Wales Scorpions in the 2015 season in which the team played 25 games with two wins.

Ownership of the Scorpions, the only professional club in South Wales, was passed onto another party in September 2015.

We wish all the players, staff, management and fans of the Scorpions the very best for the future



WRL ran 17 rep' teams in 2015

6 National Teams

10 Regional Teams

1 Professional Club

Volunteers at the Heart of All

International

Wales Senior Men's

Wales were unbeaten in the 2015 European Championships winning the trophy for the seventh time.

- Wins against Scotland, France and Ireland.
- Risen one place in RLIF World Rankings released Dec 2015. Now 8th
- 1141 Average home attendance
- Same 13 players started all three games
- 19 Players used over three games
- 12 First generation Welsh

2015 European Champions

WELSH & PROUD

No.	Used Players	Current Club	Welsh Born	Through WRL Pathways*
1	Elliot Kear	London Broncos		
2	Rhys Williams	London Broncos		
3	Michael Channing	Castleford Tigers		
4	Christiaan Roets	North Wales Crusaders		
5	Dalton Grant	Dewsbury Rams		
7	Ollie Olds	Souths Logan Magpies		
24	Courtney Davies	Gloucestershire All Golds		
17	Anthony Walker	Wakefield Trinity Wildcats		
18	Steve Parry	Gloucestershire All Golds		
10	Craig Kopczak	Huddersfield Giants		
11	Rhodri Lloyd	Wigan Warriors		
14	Lewis Reece	Gloucestershire All Golds		
13	Phil Joseph	Widnes Vikings		
	Subs:			
8	Morgan Evans	Coventry Bears		
12	Morgan Knowles	St Helens		
19	Connor Farrer	South Wales Scorpions		
20	Joe Burke	North Wales Crusaders		
21	Matty Barron	Newcastle Thunder		
22	Regan Grace	St Helens		
	19 Players	14 Clubs	12	16

* Through WRL defined as having played for a WRL rep team or one of the Welsh professional clubs.

All 15 WRL representative teams are led by highly dedicated and experienced staff. They volunteer their time for the nation, the sport and the players. WRL would be nothing without these selfless people and we give great thanks to them all.

Staff of the 2015 European Champions Wales Men's Team



Wales head coach John Kear (left) awarding **Craig Kopczak** with the 2015 **WRL Player of the Year** award.



Former WRL star **Jonathan Davies** awarded **OBE** in June for voluntary and charitable work for people with cancer.



In August 2015 two legendary Welshmen, **Gus Risman** and **Billy Boston** were unveiled as part of the new Rugby League statue at Wembley Stadium.

Immortalised in bronze forever these Welshmen will be seen by millions every year.

Wales Wheelchair

Wales Wheelchair played Scotland, England, France and Ireland in the European Championships scoring a total of 74 points.



Wales Wheelchair **head coach Alana Sargent** has been outstanding at developing the players and team.



Wales Wheelchair **team manager Mark Jones** is at the heart of fantastic culture within the squad of staff and players.

Junior Pathway

Wales U16s and U18s both played their annual junior international against England

“The power of the Welsh jersey is phenomenal. I love it and that goes for all my family and friends. They all wanted a picture with me after the game!”

Wales U16 captain Tom Devine



500 people attended the WRL cap presentation night at the Principality Stadium in January 2016



WRL Establish a new Rugby League BTEC Course

A brand new rugby league academy started at Coleg Y Cymoedd in Sept 2015 building upon a long partnership with WRL.

20 players will train every day and play regular matches whilst receiving an invaluable education.

This will significantly improve the post 16 provision for players and be of great benefit to the South Wales Scorpions professional team in years to come.



Coleg Y Cymoedd Rugby League team pictured after winning the South West 9s Plate Final

WRL Establish New Origin Programme

West Wales and East Wales origin games were played at U14, U15, U16 and Open Age level.

The regional teams were introduced to bridge the gap between club and international level.

Green v Blue....new shirts, new caps, new opportunities!



The 2 Professional Clubs in Wales

The two clubs in Wales played 51 Professional Games in 2015

North Wales Crusaders RLFC

27 professional games in 2015

iPro Sport Cup Winners

Highest attendance of 905

35 players used

Two 2015 Welsh Internationals
Christiaan Roets and Joe Burke

A driving force behind the game's
growth in North Wales



Crusaders Win iPro Cup in May 2015

South Wales Scorpions RLFC

24 Professional Games

Highest Attendance 1,025
(New club attendance record)

Third longest running pro Welsh club ever

Big Welsh Derby televised on S4C

37 players used, predominantly Welsh

One 2015 Welsh international Connor Farrer

WRL owned and ran the club during 2015
and handed it over to new owners in
September

New owners established U20s team to
further develop the clubs pathway, playing matches
and announcing a tour to Canada for October 2016



Scorps International Connor Farrer



The two Professional Clubs Remain Strategically Important to WRL as they:

- Improve depth and quality of players for the Wales international squad
- Build the sport's profile
- Assist recruitment and retention of players in community game
- Act as an integral tier in the pathway system for Welsh players and coaches
- Help drive the commercial success of the sport

Community

2015 Welsh Conference



Men's Champions

Bridgend Blue Bulls RLFC

Men's Grand Final

Bridgend Blue Bulls 34
Aber Valley Wolves 30

The Bulls went on to compete in the 2016 Challenge Cup for the first time in the clubs history.



U16s Champions

Pill Harriers RLFC

U16s Grand Final

Pill Harriers 38
Rhondda Outlaws 22



U15s Champions

Torfaen Tigers RLFC

U15s Grand Final

Torfaen Tigers 24
Cardiff City 20



U14s Champions

South Wales Rabbitohs

U14s Grand Final

South Wales Rabbitohs 48
Aber Valley Wolves 10



U13's Champions

Bridgend Blue Bulls

U13s Grand Final

Bridgend Blue Bulls 20
Aber Valley Wolves 16



Men's Conference League South



Three Welsh clubs entered the RFL's Conference League South competing against clubs from England.

Valley Cougars

Winners of the League Leaders Shield
Grand Final Runners Up

West Wales Raiders

Third in the League
Play Off Semi Finalists

Torfaen Tigers

Seventh in the League
Matt Cummins CLS Top Points Scorer (198)

North Wales



U18s

Flintshire Falcons U18s

Competed in North West Counties League



U16s

North Wales Crusaders U16s

Competed in North West Counties League
Runners-up in NWC Plate Final



U11s Flintshire Falcons U11s (left)

No Structured league in North Wales however lots of friendlies being played from U8s through to U16s. More teams are now joining the North West Counties

North Wales U8s Club Festival



Girls

Two North Wales Schools played the first ever game of Girls Touch Rugby League in Wales: Elfed High and St Joseph's High.



Club Wheelchair

North Wales Crusaders Wheelchair club continue to be a shining beacon of inclusivity. Selected from 620 nominated projects the club were one of seven selected finalists in the 2015 National Lottery Awards.



Crusaders Wheelchair

Finalist



Club Participation Is Up!

Players	2014	2015
Men	774	624
Boys	672	844
Girls	4	14
Total Players	1450	1482

Teams	2014	2015
Men's Teams	28	24
Junior Teams	34	41
Total Teams	62	65

Club
Participation rose
by 2% in 2015

WRL Engaged another 7000 Players in Schools

Universities

Swansea University achieved the double by winning the league and cup.

SWANSEA UNI 48 EXETER UNI 18 – Western Conference Cup Final

SWANSEA UNI 52 OXFORD UNI 12 – Promotion Final



WRL Launches New Partnership with Cardiff Met

New WRL national development manager Idris Evans now has office space within the Student's Union at Cardiff Met and will work closely with students and staff at the university including Cardiff Met head coach Andy Lindley.



Wales Students: second in the 2015 Home Nations



Swansea, Aberystwyth, Cardiff Met and Bangor University continue to represent Wales in University Competition.

Schools

WRL Make Dreams Come True

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf win the Year 7 UK Champion Schools final at Wembley Stadium by beating Wade Deacon from Widnes 40-6.



Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera were finalists in the Year 8 UK final and here they are celebrating their semi-final victory:



“Schools playing Rugby League at this level lays the foundations for the future of the game in Wales and I am very grateful to all the school teachers for their interest in the sport and encouraging their young athletes to express themselves on the field of play”

WRL chairman, Brian Juliff

South Wales Secondary Schools in Champion Schools Competition

Year	No. Teams	Welsh Schools Final 8 th May 2015	Furthest Champion Schools Progress
7	13	Glantaf 30 Strade 12	UK Final Winners Glantaf 40 Wade Deacon 6
8	12	Ystalyfera 0 Cwm Rhymni 24	UK Final Runners Up Ystlafera 0 St Peters (Wigan) 46
9	10	Pencoed 20 Cwm Rhymni 16	UK Quarter Finals Ryburn 24 Strade 0
10	7	Glantaf 40 Strade 28	UK Quarter Finals Sirius Academy 29 Strade 12
11	9	Pencoed 40 Monmouth 28	UK Semi Finals Glantaf 26 St Edmund Arrowsmith(Wigan) 34
Total	51	Total 64 games played in WRL Cup across 44 organised events	Welsh Schools played 16 games in the final stages of RFL's Champion Schools Cup Comp.

Outside of Champion Schools, WRL engage with many more Primary and Secondary schools through helping host school festivals at local clubs. WRL helped 7,000 school children in 2015 play rugby league

Picture of West Wales Raiders' chairman Andy Thorne whose club engages with 13 Secondary Schools in their area.



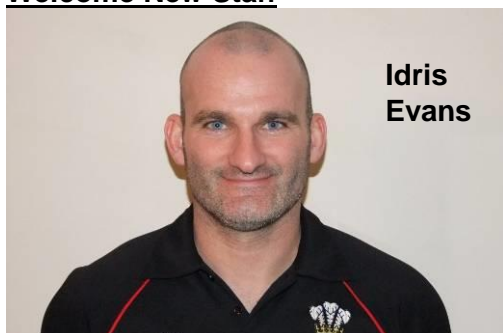
Central Services

WRL Executives

Chris Thair	CEO	Part-time (three days)
John Kear	Head Coach	Part-time (tournaments)
Idris Evans	National Development Manager	Full-time
Jon Ellis	Coaching and Performance DM	Full-time
Allen Jones*	North Wales Development Officer	Full-time
Ian Golden	Communications & Profile Manager	Part-time (one and a half days)

* WRL have built upon previous year staffing levels by adding a new full-time community post in North Wales.

Welcome New Staff



Good Luck



WRL give thanks to long serving national development manager Mark Jones who left in September to take up the new full-time rugby league post at Coleg y Cymoedd.

Wales Rugby League recognise the sport would be nothing without the invaluable contribution of volunteers who make up 99% of the workforce.

People volunteering their time, energy and skills is essential to the ongoing success of the sport.

You truly make a difference! Thank you one and all.

Commercial

Partner, My Club Betting, remain committed and gained fantastic exposure as principle kit sponsor.



Raging Bull Sportswear, the longest commercial partner of Wales Rugby league and pictured below celebrating the continued kit deal personified the family ethos of the sport and what fantastic partners we have by helping to raise thousands of pounds for the children of Danny Jones and the RFL Benevolent Fund. Raging Bull donated a bespoke playing strip for the Wales v Keighley game and other items which were all auctioned off afterwards.



Raging Bull Sportswear and Wales Rugby League



New Appointment



Craig Poskitt was appointed WRL commercial director in Sept 2015 and immediately brought in new sponsors



Key Strategic Partners



The RFL, rugby league's UK National Governing Body, provide annual financial support for the development of WRL's junior pathways, accredited learning qualifications and policies and procedures.



Sport Wales, the Welsh Sports Council, which distributes lottery and exchequer funding to sports, continues to be the largest financial contributor to WRL's community work.

Other Wonderful Partners of Wales Rugby League



Thank You Mountain Ash RFC



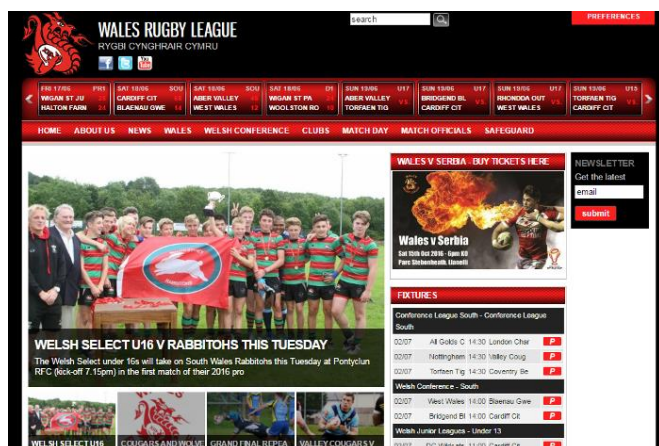
Thank you Mountain Ash RFC and the local community for being fantastic partners to the sport of rugby league by hosting junior internationals, the South Wales Scorpions RLFC and other WRL events. What wonderful hosts!

Thank You to Our Family of Partners

Communications

WRL continue to run their website, have over 6000 twitter followers and around 4000 likes on Facebook.

WRL also produced a monthly rugby league magazine for South Wales which also acted as the Scorpions matchday programme.



All Wales Rugby League publications including their 32 page monthly magazine and international matchday programmes have a dedicated **Welsh language** page

Remembered



Welsh international Danny Jones passed away aged 29 after suffering a heart attack during a club game due to an undiagnosed heart condition.



Courageous wife Lizzie Jones raised the profile of hereditary heart disease through many public appearances and set up the Danny Jones Defibrillator Fund.



Wales played Keighley as part of the fundraising efforts



Paul Morgan, who played for Wales in 2005, shown left in action for Celtic Crusaders, died aged 40 following a short illness.

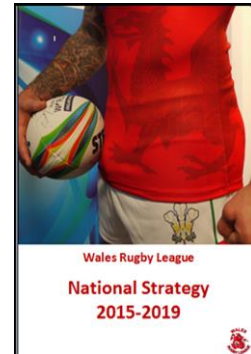
Alex Kersey-Brown, aged 73, played for Wales 1968-69 season
Terry Robbins, aged 81. Welsh cap in 1963
Terry Cook, aged 88. Four Welsh caps from 1951-53.

Governance & Leadership

Wales Rugby League is on track!

WRL met some key milestones from their National Strategy 2015-19 launched over 12 months ago.

- WRL became a limited company
- Robust financial management procedures in place delivering continued annual profit
- Participation targets were met
- New Rugby League BTEC at a College
- Global pool of Welsh professional players increased
- Clubs in Tiers 1, 2 and 3 were supported
- Wales won the European Championships



Wales Rugby League, for the third consecutive year, has achieved the top green self-assurance grading by Sport Wales due to the standard of their governance as a National Governing Body. This highest grading of green further highlights the good work of the WRL Board and its CEO Chris Thair.



Wales Rugby League attended the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) AGM in November.

WRL CEO Chris Thair (stood right of the pic) can be seen with other delegates in Paris including RLIF Board Member Graeme Thompson (centre), NRL's Andrew Hill (left) and New Zealand's John Bishop (back).

2015/16 was the last year operating under the old constitution as Wales Rugby League moved to become a limited company with a new articles of association accepted at the March 2015 AGM.

WALES RUGBY LEAGUE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME – Note 1	£ 336,965
EXPENSES – Note 2	336,511
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	454

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 INCOME

	£
Community Courses	200
Community Gate Income	1187
Community Wales Students fees	12371
Community Wales Wheelchair	1716
Sport Wales	52388
<u>Breakdown</u>	
£44,888 Exchequer funding for Community Work	
£7500 Lottery funding for Elite Sport / National Coaching	
International Cap Charges	2560
Junior Pathway Kit Orders	16974
RFL	70000
RLEF	34750
RLIF	16604
Interest	50
Sponsorship	23805
Internationals	9814
Other Revenue	13264
South Wales Scorpions RLFC	81282
	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	336965

2. EXPENSES

	£
Community Delivery	26,979
Community Staff	54547
U14 to U18 Junior Pathway Delivery	22576
Community International Cap Costs	2860
Bank Charges, Audits and Accountancy	863
Meetings, IT, Post and General Expenses	7046
Travel	2988
Performance Men's International Team	73735
Staff & Consultants Central & Media Services	49642
Governance and Services	9025
South Wales Scorpions RLFC	86250
TOTAL EXPENSES	336511
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	445

WALES RUGBY LEAGUE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

FIXED ASSETS

Office equipment 534

CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors	4123	
Stock	1581	
Cash at Bank	79094	84798
		85332

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors	6455	
		6455

NET ASSETS 78877

REPRESENTED BY:

CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Balance brought forward	78422
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Excess of Income over Expenditure in the year (Profit in Year) 455

Carried Forward **78877**

Accounts prepared by Hansford Business Services

3 Year Analysis

	WRL Accounts Year End		
	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016
Turnover	456,558	470,499	336,965
Brought Forward from Previous Year	7134	7943	78422
Profit in the Year	809	70479	455
Carried Forward	7943	78422	78877

CEO Commentary to the Accounts

The 2015/16 financial year has been good and continues the recent trend. Making a small profit of £455 in the year meant the financial reserves brought forward from the previous year remained and a large contribution could be passed to the new WRL Ltd company.

The WRL board's decision to establish a reserves policy and continued strong financial management resulted in the 2015/16 financial year being the first for many, that Wales Rugby League had no cash-flow issues for the entire period. Whilst the profits from the previous financial year were strong, it was another extremely difficult year in terms of cash-flow. The previous year accounts were masked somewhat by the large amount of income coming in during the last quarter.

As envisaged the turnover dropped considerably by £133,534 compared to the previous year, mainly due to lower income levels in the following three areas:

	2014/15 Income	2015/16 Income	Difference	Reason
AASE	66,836	0	-66,836	Dropped AASE in favour of BTEC programme
RFL	141,350	70,000	-71,350	Drop in Grant Funding
Scorpions	109,147	81,282	-27,865	Did not own club for full year in 2015/16
Total	317,333	151,282	-166,051	

Change management is a difficult and time consuming process that unfortunately Wales Rugby League continues to deal in. The passing on of the professional club South Wales Scorpions to new owners will assist in bringing some much needed stability to operations however many variables remain. Especially regarding the junior pathway structures and fixtures, that makes planning and therefore financial management a more difficult process. WRL plan to work with the RFL and other partners over the next 12 months to establish a more stable and effective delivery structure that will enable WRL to capitalise upon the 2017 Rugby League World Cup and embark on a new planning cycle with renewed vigour and confidence.

£81.5k is spent on community delivery and staff, £22.6k on junior pathway delivery and £50k on central staffing costs including media, finance and CEO. This represents good value on the £52.4k investment by Sport Wales for such matters.

The £6,455 of creditors listed under the liabilities are kit order invoices that were being processed at the financial year end. These will all be cleared in the first quarter of 2016/17 and WRL will continue to operate with no long term debt and making payments within the quarter.

The £4,123 of debtors is North Wales Crusaders. The previous year's accounts for WRL listed the club as £35k debtors meaning they have repaid over £30k of this debt. The remaining funds is significantly lower than the original £98k loaned in 2014 and whilst unwanted this payment and long term repayment plan has ensured the survival of the club.

Central sponsorship was up from £12.5k last year to £24k however is lower than expected. A sponsor's inability to pay invoices led to the WRL changing budgets after the first quarter and removing this expected income. This meant expected growth areas envisaged in 2015/16 including a new community person in South Wales and a new commercial person didn't materialise. This prudence of not spending until payments were made has proven to be the correct decision as the debt is still outstanding and is still being chased at year end. The WRL Board deem there is considerable risk attached to this debt and whilst recognising the debt is owed in the annual report has taken the decision to remove it from the accounts.

The £74k expenditure on the national team was offset against the following income streams: RLEF £35k, sponsorship £24k, international gate receipts £10k (total £69k) and part of the £17k from the RLIF. The match account was much tighter this year as the RFL didn't cover any of the player match payments as they did the year before. This £74k expenditure provided a much needed boost to the sport in Wales as we went unbeaten and won the European Championships.

£74k on the national team was up £18k on the previous year's spend of £56k. The additional £18k is mainly due to winning pay for players instead of losing and hosting two home games instead of one with Cardiff representing a much higher cost.

The support provided to the two professional clubs in Wales since the beginning of 2014 was necessary and the main objectives to ensure their survival have been met. It must be recognised however that these interventions have severely hampered the rate of progression of the National Governing Body. It is hoped with the current pro' club management, some stability ensues that will ensure everyone benefits.

The financial plan going forward is to have another breakeven year in 2016/17 and therefore maintain the £70k of reserves. These will be used to provide a marketing budget on international games (which will hopefully provide a better return), maintain a steady cash-flow position helping overcome any short term challenges and allow us to be in a position to capitalise upon any new facility opportunities that may arise. As per the 2015-19 WRL Strategy, we are seeking to establish a permanent home for the sport in Wales.