



WALES RUGBY LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 17



Covers Period 1/4/16 to 31/3/17

Welcome by WRL Chairman Brian Juliff

Another very exciting year and behalf of the WRL Board we'd like to thank everyone involved in helping to continue to move the sport forward in Wales. We are truly blessed with some wonderful volunteers and players in Wales, and by working together we will become stronger.



Amongst an array of activity that will be touched upon in this Annual Report, some of the main highlights for me personally were Wales Wheelchair lifting the Celtic Cup, Wales U16s beating Catalan Dragons, Wales men qualifying in Italy for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup in Australia, Wales Dragonhearts touring Germany and launching the WRL Hall of Fame.

Inducting two all-time greats Billy Boston and Gus Risman as inaugural inductees into the WRL Hall of Fame was a privilege. Our fantastic heritage is something we have to use to ensure a brighter and more high profile future for the sport in Wales. Who should we induct next from our plethora of stars?

We thank our main strategic partners Sport Wales and the Rugby Football League, who continue to believe in our operation and where it wishes to go, by making the required investment. This is absolutely imperative to our success.

My Club Betting and Raging Bull, our main two commercial partners, have now invested more into Wales Rugby League than any other commercial sponsors in our history. We are both grateful and thankful to both, and it is fantastic to see how their businesses are starting to flourish since joining us.

Different people over the years will jump on and off the bus that is Wales Rugby League as it continues along its journey. Whilst the route towards our four main aims may deviate at times, the aims will remain the same: Increasing participation, progressing Welsh players into professional clubs, gaining success on the international stage and all of this activity underpinned by progressive good governance and commercial activity. We continue to improve this bus and get more people on board however equally important to all of this, is the way in which this journey is undertaken. Our actions must befit our values and we must ensure people enjoy themselves, feel valued and progress along the way.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this wonderful twelve months for Wales Rugby League, you should feel very proud. Let's continue to build our sporting family here in Wales and I challenge everyone in 2017 to get one new person on the bus!

My Very Best Wishes....

Brian

**Brian Juliff,
Chairman
Wales Rugby League**

WRL Wales Representative Teams and Results

Wales Men

World Cup Qualifiers (Oct)

WALES 50 SERBIA 0

ITALY 14 WALES 20...Qualified Group Winners

Full International (Oct)

WALES 16 JAMAICA 16



Wales Wheelchair

Celtic Cup (April)

IRELAND 26 WALES 76

SCOTLAND 22 WALES 92...Cup Winners



Four Nations (2 Days - Sept)

WALES 42 EXILES 18

WALES 41 SCOTLAND 28

ENGLAND 56 WALES 14

WALES 26 ENGLAND 52...Cup Runners Up



Wales U18s

ENGLAND COLLEGES 70 WALES 0 (July)

ENGLAND LIONS 74 WALES 6 (Sept)



Wales U16s

WALES SELECT 36 RABBITOHS 22 (June)

WALES 34 CATALAN DRAGONS* 6 (July)

WEST HULL 38 WALES 16 (Aug)

WALES 12 NW LIONHEARTS U17s 22 (Aug)

IRELAND 0 WALES 56 (Aug)



Wales Students

SCOTLAND 12 WALES 56 (June)

WALES 20 IRELAND 42 (June)

WALES 14 ENGLAND 34 (June)

Wales Dragonhearts

WALES D'HEARTS 54 DEVON COUNTY 6

GERMANY 32 WALES D'HEARTS 40



Wales Presidents XIII

WALES PRESIDENTS XIII 52 WEST OF ENGLAND LIONHEARTS 14 (Sept)

WRL Regional Representative Teams and Results

2 Regional U14 Teams

EAST 8 WEST 30 (Feb)
WEST 36 EAST 4 (May)

2 Regional U15 Teams

EAST 32 WEST 12 (Feb)
WEST 20 EAST 58 (May)

4 Regional U16 Teams

EAST 44 WEST 28 (Feb)
WEST 24 EAST 54 (May)
East and West combined becoming South
NORTH 44 SOUTH 44 (June)

2 Regional Open Age Teams

WEST 24 EAST 38 (June)
EAST 36 WEST 18 (Sept)



3 Quality Facilities for 3 Origin Days:

February Origin Day @ Ystrad Mynach: College home of the only Rugby League BTEC course

May Origin Day @ Stebonheath, Llanelli, Home of West Wales Raiders

Sept Origin Day @ Cardiff Met University

**WRL ran 17 Rep' Teams in 2016
Playing 31 Games**

**7 National Wales Teams
Played 22 games against 8 Nations:
England, Ireland, Scotland, France*, Italy,
Germany, Serbia and Jamaica**

**10 Regional Teams
Played 9 Games**

International

Wales Senior Men

Wales qualified for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup, making it though the qualifiers for the first time in Wales' history

- Unbeaten against Serbia, Jamaica and Italy
- Now two years and six games unbeaten
- Current European Champions
- RLIF World Ranking 9 (Nov 2016)
- 1140 Average Home Attendance

For the first time in 21 years, S4C the Welsh Language Broadcaster, screened a live Wales Rugby League game: Wales v Serbia Oct 2016



Of the 21 Players Used to Qualify for the World Cup:

- 62% had come through the WRL pathway system.



- Their club that season played in the following competitions:
 - 6 x Super League
 - 1 x Queensland Cup
 - 7 x Championship
 - 5 x League One
 - 2 x Super League Academy

WELSH & PROUD

WALES SENIOR TEAM



SUPPORTED BY FANTASTIC PARTNERS

My Club **BETTING**
Supporting Grassroots Sport



THANK YOU

Wales Wheelchair

2016 Celtic Cup Winners:



4 Nations Finalists



Representing Wales with Pride

Wales Will Play in the 2017 Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup

Wales Wheelchair is tremendously supported by Wales' only rugby league wheelchair club.

Thank you North Wales Crusaders Wheelchair Club!

Junior Pathway

The WRL Pathway programme must:

- Progress Players onto Professional Clubs
- Retain and Develop People at all levels of the game



Wales U16s

Beat Catalan Dragons and Ireland

Seen by Pro Club Scouts

Toured Hull FC and 4 Invited to Join Academy

Many Progressed to Ironmen U17s (Professional Club)

16-19 College BTEC Programme at Coleg y Cymoedd

BTEC set up in 2015 by Wales Rugby League.

Remains the only Rugby League BTEC in Wales



WRL Passed the Coleg y Cymoedd Category 3 Academy onto South Wales Ironmen in April 2016.

The Academy remains a key aspect of the WRL Pathway for 16-19 year olds and Wales U16s Trials and Training held at College

The team plays in the RFL College Premier League

Wales U18s

Played England Twice

Team Linked to Coleg y Cymoedd Rugby League BTEC Programme, WRL Community Game and both Welsh Professional Clubs



Local youngster Blake Turner Signs for North Wales

Players to Leaders Pilot for 14-16 year olds

A newly conceived development programme called “Players to Leaders” piloted in 2016 with aim of creating “prepared, skilful and smart” players who develop a passion for the sport.

This was a broad educational and training programme covering all aspects of being a rugby player however the idea was born out of the need for Welsh players to become more game savvy, particularly when playing more experienced opposition. An array of resources for the player to have as homework and coaching sessions for the coach were put together by experts for this pilot.

Photo: North Wales Crusaders RLFC U14s



Origin Representative Rugby

Both the East and West Wales junior origin teams piloted the Players to Leaders programme involving 3 x 8 week session with a game at the end of each block.

These games took place on Ystrad Mynach Centre of Excellence in February and Parc Stebonheath, Llanelli in May.

U14s

East 8 - 30 West
East 4 - 36 West

U15s

East 32 - 12 West
East 58 - 20 West

U16s

East 44 - 28 West
East 54 - 24 West



Senior origin games were also played as a vehicle for Dragonhearts selection.

Mens

East 38 – 24 West @ Stebonheath in May

East 36 – 18 West @ Cardiff Met in September



Community

2016 Welsh Conference: 27 Teams from 10 Clubs

Following 5 Clubs ran 4 or more teams



Men's Champions

Bridgend Blue Bulls RLFC

Men's Grand Final
Bridgend Blue Bulls 32
Aber Valley Wolves 28



U17s Champions

Cardiff City RLFC

U17s Grand Final
Cardiff City 30
Torfaen Tigers 22



U15s Champions

**South Wales
Rabbitohs RLFC**

U15s Grand Final
Rabbitohs 86
Torfaen Tigers 12



U13's Champions

Aber Valley Wolves

U13s Grand Final

Aber Valley Wolves 52

Torfaen Tigers 20



Men's Conference League South



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

Masters Rugby League

New for 2016, Masters Rugby League, a modified game especially for players aged 35 and over, came to Wales. South Wales played a game in Caerphilly against Lancashire. All games in Masters end as a 0-0 draw, however many points are actually scored.



The over 35s get their boots back on

Wales Dragonhearts Tour Germany

Wales Dragonhearts are the representative team for Welsh domestic community players.

The Dragonhearts warmed up against Devon before embarking on a historic tour to Germany.



Wales Dragonhearts 54
Devon County 6

Played in Merthyr Tydfil.



Germany 32 Wales Dragonhearts 40
Played in Germany

2016 Welsh Schools Finals Day

Yr 7 Champions

Ystalyfera

Final

Ystalyfera 34

Glantaf 16



Yr 8 Champions

Glantaf

Final

Ysgol Glantaf 46

Ysgol Y Strade 12



Yr 9 Champions

St John Baptist

Final

St John Baptist 54

Ysgol Y Strade 14



Yr 10 Champions

St Joseph's

Final

St Josephs 54

Aberdare 34



Yr 11 Champions

Ysgol y Strade

Final

Ysgol Y Strade 44

Monmouth Comp 22



Champion Schools - Welsh Schools Progress in the UK Rounds

Glantaf Year 11 – Beat Howard of Effingham 62 - 6 in last 16 game however lost at home to Manor Croft from Kirklees in the quarter final 24-34.

Cwm Rhymni Year 10 – Lost 42 – 0 away to Howard of Effingham in last 16 however were given a bye to quarter finals and lost again 60 – 14 to St John Fisher from Wigan.

Cwm Rhymni Year 9 lost in the last 16 stage 28 - 22 to All Saints and 20- 16 to Saddleworth, Oldham in the quarter finals.

Glantaf's Year 8 Last 16 beat Hinchley Wood 42 - 10, Quarter Final beat St Bernard's 26-4, semi final beat Saddleworth and then lost to Wade Deacon from Widnes in the final 14 – 16.



University Rugby League

Varsity Series 2016-17

A new initiative to support Welsh Student Trials was held in December 2016 at The Wern, Merthyr Tydfil.

This involved 4 of the 5 universities in Wales that play rugby league, with Bangor unable to attend.

Varsity Results and Photos:

USW 40 - 10 Aberystwyth

Cardiff Met 24 - 16 Swansea



Wales Students

Led by Head Coach Latham Tawhai and Team Manager Mark Jones, Wales played three internationals in the Student 4 Nations held in Edinburgh, June 2016.

Wales 56 Scotland 12

Wales 20 Ireland 42

Wales 14 England 34



North Wales

There are no structured leagues in North Wales however lots of friendlies are being played from U8s through to U16s.

The professional club North Wales Crusaders set up a number of community junior teams under the same name and in the neighbouring borough Flintshire Falcons continue to be the shining community club for the sport.



North Wales Crusaders U17s





WALES RUGBY LEAGUE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

	£
INCOME – Note 1	344,723
EXPENSES – Note 2	266,873
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>77,850</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 INCOME

	£
Community Courses	55
Community Dragonheart Fees and Orders	6268
Community Gate income	741
Community Students Fees and Orders	42,731

Community Wheelchair Fees and Orders	589
Events	2005
Grants RFL Distribution	70,000
Grant Sports Wales	51,041
International Cap charges	3964
International Gate and Hospitality	14,551
Junior Pathway fees and Orders	7343
Other revenue	6705
RLEF	11,520
RLIF	11,314
Sponsorship	37,019
Donation from WRL Association	78,877
TOTAL INCOME	344,723

2. EXPENSES

	£
Audit and Accountancy	791
Bank Fees	456
Community Course costs	124
Community Delivery	4336
Community Dragonhearts	9667
Community match officials	1552
Community students	42683
Community wheelchair	4558
Event delivery	2476
Governance and services	4600
International cap costs	3100
IT Costs	301
Junior pathway delivery	7600
Junior pathway kit	5860
Meetings	2123
Mens international team	69500
Postage and freight	7
Scorpions other	75
Staff and consultants central servs	37495
Staff and consultants Community	67913
Travel	1403
Vehicles	254
TOTAL EXPENSES	266,873
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>77,850</u>

WALES RUGBY LEAGUE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

FIXED ASSETS

Office equipment	4427
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CURRENT ASSETS

Stock	1081	
Debtors	27,320	
Owed by WRL Association	1176	
Cash at Bank	44,196	<u>73,773</u>
		78,200

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors and Accruals	-350
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NET ASSETS	77,850
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REPRESENTED BY:

CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Share Capital	0
Excess of Income over Expenditure in the year (Profit in Year)	77,850
Carried Forward	77,850

Confirmation of Directors and Further Commentary to Finances by CEO

These accounts were signed and submitted to Companies House on time for Wales Rugby League Ltd with no matters arising.

The accounts were prepared by Hansford Business Services, a company run by Nigel Hansford who attends WRL Ltd Board meetings however is not listed as a company director. WRL President Mike Nicholas is also invited to Board meetings however is not a company director and again has no official vote.

WRL Ltd Directors are the following 3 individuals, two of whom are independent:

Brian Juliff, Chairman (Voluntary position)

Chris Thair, part time CEO and therefore a non-independent director

Richard Greenwood

The 2016/17 financial accounts are the first set of accounts for the WRL Limited Company, previously the accounts were produced for the WRL Association, which was not a limited company.

The £78,877 monetary donation from the WRL Association is shown in the income column of these accounts instead of on the balance sheet as 'carried forward' (which effectively it was) because the association and limited company are two separate legal entities. It is actually worth noting that without this money then the accounts would show a small loss for these 12 months.

These accounts therefore show the financial reserves are still in place and business remains in a relatively healthy financial position.

Further analysis of the income and expenditure lines did provide some minor variables to the original budget:

Paid contracted staff and consultants in 2016 were CEO Chris Thair (3 days), Head Coach John Kear (tournaments), Media Manager Ian Golden (1.3 days a week) and the fulltime staff of National Development Manager Idris Evans, North Wales DO Allen Jones and National Performance Manager Jon Ellis. Funding cuts meant the excellent and long serving staff in the latter two posts were made redundant in December, resulting in £10k lower staff costs than expected.

WRL had lower than expected income from the RLEF funding, £15k lower than budget, however this was attributed to the wrong assumption that the grant provided by the RLEF for World Cup qualifying games would be the same as that provided for European Championship games. Sadly it was lower and this was unknown at the time of putting the budget together.

Each Wales Students player was tasked with raising £3k for their World Cup in 2017 Australia. The high level of income for Wales Students is due to many having started to submit their funds however it is balanced with the same level as expenditure as WRL paid for flights, insurance and camps in advance of the team travelling.

**Thank You to all the
Volunteers who help Rugby
League in Wales.**

**Volunteers are the lifeblood of
the sport in Wales**

**Let's Keep on Growing the
Family**

