



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

17th April 2026

Wales Rugby League

Welcome and Apologies

Attendance

James Davies (Chair), Richard Hibbard, Adam Rowland, Adam Malcolm, Clive Griffiths, Marc Lovering, Matthew Thomas

Apologies

Andy Morgan, Robert Deeney.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes

The minutes from the January 2026 board meeting were circulated via email and approved with no objections.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Succession Planning

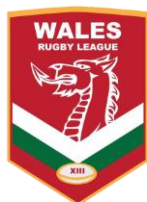
James Davies updated the board on his position as Chair. His current three-year term ends in October 2026, and he indicated he does not wish to continue for a further term given the increasing demands of the role alongside personal commitments.

James confirmed he is not walking away immediately and is committed to a structured handover over the next six months. He suggested working with Sport Wales to explore options and find a suitable new Chair. He is happy to support the board in a different capacity.

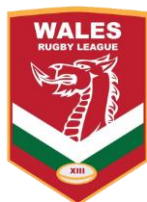
Current demand from Sport Wales, limited movement in terms of funding has turned the role into a chore. This is a common theme via all those who left the Board when i started. I will further escalate within Sport Wales and Welsh Assembly Government.



<p>People Updates</p>	<p>This was noted by the board and will be picked up as part of the succession planning discussion. James asked Adam to review all current terms of the Board and discussions required as to their intent to put into the Succession Planning over the new two quarters.</p>
	<p>The board was updated that both Matthew Porch and Joanna Thomas had recently resigned. This is a setback, particularly on the finance side, and will need to be addressed as a priority.</p>
	<p>Despite this, there is positive activity across the programmes – Origins have been running well, planning is progressing for the U16s, Students, U18s, U19s, Women's and Wheelchair teams ahead of the World Cup year.</p>
<p>Finance & Commercial Report</p>	
<p>Year-End Position (March 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRL exited December 2025 with a cash position of £68,181. • Income came from the Wales U19s (France 2026), U16s and Students (2026 Home Nations), commercial/self-funding activity, and Sport Wales/National Lottery. • Staff wages have been kept below £2,500 per month, providing approximately six months' reserve cover. • The minimum cash reserve policy was reduced from £30k to £15k during the year to allow more flexibility on spend. • Year-on-year improvement recorded in the net balance position. • Income during the year was close to £14k more than expenditure overall. • Two further payments remain for the France programme; kit (on and off field) has been ordered.
<p>Carry-Over / End of Year</p>	<p>A carry-over of approximately £30,898 is expected across three programmes (Students, U19s and U16s). These funds will be spent, with an approximate cash position of £10k at year end with a provision in place.</p> <p>Individual programme accounts are now being showcased separately via Lloyds, providing clearer visibility of each programme's finances.</p>



<p>Commercial Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equifax – Confirmed as main sponsors of the Women's and Wheelchair programmes at the World Cup (£45k + VAT). There is also a potential opportunity linked to a FTSE 250 Credit Dinner with Richard Hibbard's support. • Dunbia – Full Under 19s package (£5k) and Community Balls Programme (£3.5k). Total package £8.5k. • LiveIT – £11k partnership as ticket host. Previous arrangement with Ticket Pass is being exited; discussions with LiveIT are ongoing. • Misc – Student, Under 16s and Hull FC partnerships continuing (£6.5k). • Commercial opportunity discussed around a video streaming platform on a no-risk, no-fee basis – to be explored further.
<p>Forecasting & Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Wales Q1 income is due subject to the FY26/27 agreement being signed. • A new Financial NED will need to be appointed as a priority following the recent resignation, to oversee financial governance and review the account structure. • Lessons learned from this year's forecasting process to be discussed further, with the aim of improving planning cycles per programme for FY26/27. • Reserve Policy remains at 100% compliance.
<p>Performance</p>	
<p>Pathways & National Teams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull FC and WRL have made a joint commitment to deliver multiple coaching sessions across the pathways – a positive step for player development. • Clive Griffiths was recognised for his above-and-beyond, hands-on commitment to the programme. • Funding for U17s fixtures remains uncertain and needs to be resolved.
<p>Fixtures & Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's: Games planned against Canada and Jamaica. • Wheelchair: Played the Army as a warm-up for the Celtic Cup. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Men's: USA at home, Scotland at home, and Ireland at home planned for the Celtic Cup – awaiting confirmation from Ireland. ▪ Under 19's - Euro Championship (In France) ▪ Under 16's & Student – Double Headers in Home Nations



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under 17's Playing One of games. ▪ Dragon hearts – Planning to Start Post June/July <p>No board escalation of issues with programmes.</p>
Community	
Coach Education	<p>Formal Level 1 and Level 2 coaching accreditation via the RFL would cost approximately £20k. As a result, informal training was delivered instead. This remains a challenge to resolve longer-term.</p>
Origins & Competitions	<p>Origins have been well run. The cash flow plan for Origins will planning for forthcoming years – there's budget to now support – Kit, Facilities, Coach - Ed up front (L2 – RFL) – This will then allow next year's revenue to get ahead of costs annually.</p>
Governance	
Articles of Association	<p>Sport Wales has agreed to cover the cost of Hugh James (solicitors) to carry out the Articles of Association revision – a positive outcome.</p> <p>The key revision simplifies the language and specifies up to 3 elected members, reducing the risk of non-adherence. There were no objections from the board.</p> <p>An EGM will be set up to formally vote on and approve the new Articles of Association.</p>
Board Structure Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board discussed whether the current structure is fit for purpose and whether there are too many people on the board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal to simplify ops meetings could be led by Rob Deeney with updates fed into via meetings minutes and discussions with members of the board if required outside of a formal meeting. Quarterly Board meeting to review any escalation and milestones to Strategic Objectives. • Adam Rowland to review the board structure and simplify. • Adam Rowland to also review the succession planning register.

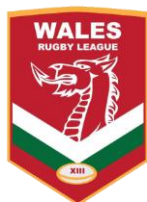


Any Other Business

Sport Wales	For awareness – Philippa Lang is to go maternity leave and a temporary Sport Wales representative will be appointed to cover her in the interim. Sport Wales Report shared with board.
Website	The website should be updated to ensure board members and policies reflect the latest versions.
Date of Next Meeting	5th June 2026.

Open Action Table

Action	Who	When	Update	Status
Finalise MCRS and scorecards	Matthew Thomas & Adam Rowland	13/12/24	New action to review board structure to inform future MCRS structure.	Paused
All board members to complete personal picture pen form	All	05/04/26	Non-priority at this time.	Paused
Respond to James Davies email re: NED WSA course	Adam Rowland	05/07/26	Assigned to Adam Rowland to support from James Davies.	Ongoing
Consolidation of programme inputs with focus on timelines, budgets and next steps	Matthew Thomas	05/04/26	Still to consolidate.	Ongoing



Action	Who	When	Update	Status
Confirm if 9 teams for Men's Seniors competition	Matthew Thomas	05/06/26	Reach out to Robert Deeney to confirm	New
Ensure website is up to date – board members and policies reflect latest versions	Matthew Thomas	05/06/26		New
Reach out to the bank to accept card payments	James Davies	05/06/26		New
Review board structure with James Davies	Adam Rowland	05/06/26		New
Review and update the succession planning register	Adam Rowland	05/06/26		New
Set up EGM to vote on new Articles of Association	Matthew Thomas	05/06/26		New