



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEETING MINUTES 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 18:30 via Teams Video Conferencing

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

*Roll call and confirmation of quorum and apologies for absence*

- Attendance: James Davies, Matthew Thomas, Stephen Jones, Adam Rowland, Richard Hibbard, Joanna Thomas, Matthew Porch, Robert Deeney, Helen Treherne, Mark Jones, Rhiann Fleming, Ian Newbury, Scott O’Kelly, John O’Callaghan.
- Apologies: Formal apologies – Adam Malcom, Clive Griffiths, Mark Lovering & Brain Juliff. It was noted that Ian Newbury was unable to re-join the session after the initial delay which was due to traffic.

## 2. Minutes of Previous General Meeting

- N/A – It as noted that the 2023 minutes were recorded prior to this boards tenure.

## 3. Receive the reports of the Chair and the Directors’ Report

- The Board presented the Annual AGM Report covering 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. Please refer Annual Report Doc.
- **International Performance:** Highlights included first-ever World Cup qualifications for the Women’s and Wheelchair teams. The senior Men's team reached the final qualification stage, defeating Serbia but ultimately losing to France.
- **Pathway and Youth:** The Under 16s retained the Home Nations Championship by defeating England Community Lions 32-10. Participation reached a record 4,362 players across all formats in 2024.
- **Community Game:** The Aberavon Fighting Irish were congratulated on their JES Group Grand Final win (21-18). Junior titles were also awarded to Swansea Rams (U16), Cynon Valley Cavaliers (U14/U13), and South Wales Jets (U12).
- **Governance:** New leadership appointments included Richard Hibbard (CEO) Adam Malcom (Commercial) and Clive Griffiths (Director of Performance) and Adam Rowlands (Director of Governance & Strategy) The Board has navigated a "demanding" relationship with Sport Wales, completing further reviews to ensure transparency in sign-offs. We believe this has improved as a level of Trust has been regained.

## 4. Consider, and if thought fit, approve the accounts of both companies for the most recently concluded accounting period

- James Davies presented the financial statements for the period ending 31st March 2025.



- **Turnover:** Decreased from approx. £254,789 to 178,840. The prior year was when we hosted the Student Home nations. This would have resulted in £15k income from each of the Home Nations which were then expenditure.
- **Profitability:** Despite lower turnover, **profit increased from £1,200 to £3,500.**
- **Cost Management:** Monthly running costs were reduced from £5,000 to **£1,500.** Wages and salaries dropped from £30,000+ to **£5,000** due to the Q1 Staffing costs incurred. This then moved to Zero in the following months. It was noted that both Chairman and CEO claimed zero expenses since appointment to the role.
- **Financial Structure:** The Board has moved to **15 separate bank accounts** for individual programmes to ensure all incoming funds are "cleansed" and traceable. There is still a separate account which holds the reverse policy figures.
- The Chair confirmed that WRL utilises a third-party firm (Stats) to review bank transfers, file with Companies House, and ensure independent financial oversight.

#### **5. Appoint or approve the reappointment of the auditors of the companies in line with the voting process**

- The Chair noted that despite the approach for voted members, it received zero nominations.

#### **6. To accept notification of the Directors appointed in place of those retiring and of independent Directors appointed in accordance with the Articles**

- **Reappointments:** No directors were up for reappointment in the current three-year cycle within this AGM.
- **Vacancies:** The Board noted with concern that **no nominations** were received from the community game for vacant volunteer roles. The Board plans to visit clubs to understand why engagement for these positions is low.

#### **7. Consider, where necessary, any applications recommended by the Board**

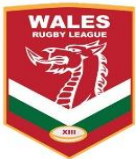
- No specific external applications or member recommendations were put forward for a vote during this session

#### **8. Transact any other business specified**

- **Political Advocacy:** John O'Callaghan queried if funding issues could be escalated politically. The Chair confirmed meetings have taken place at Westminster and the Welsh Assembly to lobby for capital investment in a dedicated WRL facility.
- **Collegiate Pathways:** Mark Jones (Ystrad) enquired about college academies. The Board confirmed active discussions with Hull and Wigan regarding East and West academy structures. Scott O'Kelly noted that a solution for the West is currently being shaped.
- **Chair's Closing Remarks**  
In closing the meeting, the Chair, James Davies, issued a heartfelt thank you to the community clubs and their volunteers, whom he described as the true drivers of Wales Rugby League.



- **Community Impact:** The Chair praised the clubs for providing a vital "out" and a positive environment for young people, particularly in deprived areas where sport offers a unique way for individuals to express themselves and build lifelong memories.
- **Strategic Alignment:** The Chair reiterated that the grassroots are the foundation of all WRL activity. He noted that while the Board provides strategic direction, it is the effort at the club level that allows players to "dream about representing Wales"
- **WRL Identity:** The Chair concluded by stating that the dedication of local volunteers is what truly defines Wales Rugby League and making our great sport one for everyone.



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