



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

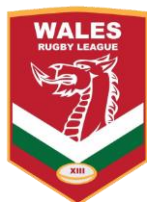
The Chairperson provided an update on ongoing engagement with Sport Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government regarding future funding and strategic support.

This was noted by the board and will be picked up as part of the succession planning discussion. The board 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.

People Updates

The board was updated that the recently instated board members have resigned. This is a setback, particularly on the finance side, and will need to be addressed as a priority.

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.

Finance & Commercial Report

<p>Year-End Position (March 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRL maintained a positive cash position at year-end, with operating costs managed within the agreed budget to ensure six months of reserve cover. • 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 low, providing approximately six months' reserve cover. • The minimum cash reserve policy was reduced during the year to allow more flexibility on spend. • Year-on-year improvement recorded in the net balance position. • Income during the year was 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 funding is expected across three programmes (Students, U19s and U16s). These funds will be spent, with an approximate positive cash position 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"> ▪ The board confirmed major partnerships close to being signed for Wheel chair World Cup and Community programmes. • Misc – Student, Under 16s and Hull FC partnerships continuing. • 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.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Performance	
Pathways & National Teams	<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.
Fixtures & Planning	<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 ▪ 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 is high cost. 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	



<p>Articles of Association</p>	<p>Sport Wales has agreed to cover the cost of 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>
<p>Board Structure Review</p>	<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. • The board to review the board structure and simplify. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The board discussed a proposal to simplify operational meetings and align the board structure with long-term strategic objectives ▪ Advertise for NED's to join the board in a varied of Skills to ensure we open up opportunities.
<p>Any Other Business</p>	
<p>Sport Wales</p>	<p>For awareness – Sports Wales representative 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.</p>
<p>Website</p>	<p>The website should be updated to ensure board members and policies reflect the latest versions.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>5th July 2026.</p>