

**Welsh Sports Association**  
**Annual General Meeting 2023**  
**4.00pm – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of October**  
**Online via Microsoft Teams**

**Attendance**

[WSA AGM - Attendance](#)

**1.0 Chairs Welcome**

Lynn Pamment introduced herself as Chair and thanked everybody for attending. The Chair commented that it was great to see so many in attendance.

Members were reminded that if there were any questions, as usual, please raise your hand or enter the question via the 'chat box'.

**1.1 Apologies for Absence**

Andrew Howard CEO of the WSA shared that Noel Mooney (FAW), Simon Johnson (Tennis Wales), Fergus Feeney (Swim Wales) and Colin Metson (Welsh Boxing) were unable to attend and sent their apologies, but all sent colleagues in their absence.

**2.0 Address to Members: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Chair of Sport Wales**

The Baroness shared that she really appreciated being invited to the WSA AGM, because the connection and being able to listen in to the discussion points is helpful.

The Baroness continued to talk about the significant challenges facing our sector now, with sport and leisure's impact also never being more important than right now.

The Baroness added that although there are challenges, there are also exciting times ahead and communicated that the Collaboration between Sport Wales, National Governing Bodies, and the WSA is crucial and, for her, that's a big priority.

Finally, the Baroness shared her contact details with the Members in the meeting chat, which was welcomed by the Chair on behalf of the membership.

**3.0 AGM Held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**3.1 Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes were unanimously approved by those present at the WSA AGM 2022.

**3.2 Matters Arising**

No matters arising from members at the AGM.

## **4.0 Financial Matters**

### **4.1 Presentation of WSA Annual Accounts**

The CEO presented the report on the WSA's annual accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, which were shared in the AGM papers. Members were reminded that the WSA's accounts (and historical accounts) are always available for download on the WSA Website.

Members were advised that the headline is that we made a small surplus for the financial year of £6,638. The overall surplus being positive against the deficit budget that had been agreed at the start of the year.

Members were advised that the Association's activities are funded through a core grant of £147,000 from Sport Wales, which represents 48% of our income and our commercial income now represents around 50% of our total income.

The CEO highlighted that the WSA funds all its advocacy work through our commercial operations and not from the Sport Wales grant.

In conclusion, the CEO added that the directors believe the WSA are well placed to manage its business risks successfully and they have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Finally, it was noted that during the reporting period, the directors reviewed and amended its reserve policy, agreeing more robust procedures and implemented a reserve level range between a minimum comfort level and a maximum comfort level, with a target in between and we have now achieved that target.

### **4.2 Re-appointment of auditors for 2023/24: Proposed - Arthur Gait & Company**

Arthur Gait & Company were unanimously approved as auditors by the members for the coming year.

## **5.0 WSA Annual Report 2023: Andrew Howard, Chief Executive**

The WSA CEO presented the Annual Report, displaying the WSA's three strategic goals to Collaborate, to Develop, and to Promote. Andrew showcased the memorable inaugural WSA Sports Industry Awards, where we celebrated and recognised the fantastic off-field work throughout the WSA membership base.

The Annual Report also highlights a strong 89%-member satisfaction rate, based on an independent survey carried out by the Pollen Shop, as well as a retained membership rate of 95%.

The CEO added that as the independent voice of the sector, the WSA has given evidence at four inquiries of the Senedd and Parliament and over the last 12 months continued to advocate on key issues such as energy costs.

The CEO detailed the growth of services over the year prior, within which he highlighted the impact of the newly launched Membership Plus service, consisting of three bolt-on, tailored packages offering members cost-effective support to maximise organisational capacity.

Members were also updated on Training and development, which continues to be another important service area for the WSA. Over the last 12 months, the WSA have delivered or organised training on topics such as safeguarding, NED training, legal structures, GDPR compliance and governance and have launched a first aid for sport course. Additionally, the DBS service continues to flourish with a 12%

increase in the number of checks compared to the previous year, hitting a record 17,662 DBS checks and the WSA are proud to boast of the only bilingual offer.

Members were advised that the WSA has introduced an Accountability Report this year, which starts with the Directors acknowledging their fiscal responsibilities. The meeting responsibilities of our volunteer Board are also confirmed, which includes the annual away day. The Report reaffirms the WSA's commitment to the highest standards of Governance and during the reporting period, we underwent a Sport Wales Financial Capability Review and a Sport Wales Governance Capability Review and there were no non-conformities and we have implemented all recommendations.

The CEO concluded by thanking the WSA membership base and our newly enrolled members, as well as our growing network of partners and advised that the Annual Report, which has been produced in both the Welsh and English languages, will be shared with all members following the meeting and available on the WSA Website. Finally, the CEO thanked the hardworking team of the WSA for all of their hard work and dedication.

#### **6.0 Member Services:** Matthew Williams, Head of Advocacy & Comms & Tom Sharp, Commercial Manager

Commercial Manager, Tom Sharp highlighted the WSA's service offering to members, focusing on our array of partnerships before welcoming a selection of members to express their experiences of Membership Plus, which were very positive.

Matthew Williams, Head of Policy and Communications, discussed the WSA's public affairs strategy and what the organisation is working on regarding its whole-sector advocacy over the next couple of years.

#### **7.0 Resolution to amend the Articles of Association:** Andrew Howard, Chief Executive

The WSA was subject to a Sport Wales Governance Capability Review in December 2022. The Review report made the following recommendation.

*Adding an item to the Articles around having the ability to conduct a "hybrid" AGM (mix of in person and virtual), clearly outlining the voting processes to be used in those instances.*

A soft review of the Articles of Association was then conducted and presented to the WSA Board in July 2023. The Board had unanimously approved the proposed amendments which now proceed to the Members at the AGM.

The CEO discussed the Resolution (which had been shared with Members in advance). The Resolution to amend the Articles of Association was unanimously approved by the Members.

#### **8.0 Questions from Members**

No questions were raised prior to the meeting and no questions were tabled at the AGM.

#### **9.0 Any other Business and Close Meeting: Lynn Pamment, WSA Chair**

Lynn Pamment brought the WSA AGM 2023 to a close, by thanking all for attending and reiterating that the role of the WSA is to provide a service to our members and any feedback is welcome.

Lynn went on to also express the importance of collaboration, adding that the WSA is always keen to communicate with members about what their needs are and members were reminded not to hesitate in contacting the team if needed. **Meeting Closed**