AGM – Strategy Overview

The current board reviewed the existing strategy document and we used this as a guideline to draw up our strategy document for the next 2 years. We also cross referenced with British Fencing and other Welsh sporting National Governing bodies.

One of the key changes we made was adding SMART goals. Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound goals so we can track and measure our success or development areas more easily.

Our main goal and focus is our commitment as a board to our fencers, coaches and wider community creating a sustainable, inclusive and thriving fencing environment we can continue to be proud of.

To enable us to do this we have developed 4 strategic pillars

1. Developing our coaches
2. Developing our fencers
3. Managing our organisation
4. Delivering our events

The full detail of each pillar is on the WF website under which we have outlined our strategic goal, the key outcomes, metrics of success and key activities to make this happen.

To give you an insight and overview now I will dive a little deeper in to each

1. Development our coaches

   We would like to continue to grow and upskill our coaches – our goal is to increase number of coaches in Wales by 2% and enhance the knowledge of existing coaches. To target this we will be working with BF to promote coaching courses, be sending a survey to Welsh Clubs to understand what you think we can do to help and using Welsh Sporting Association resources to upskill existing coaches.

2. Developing our fencers

   Our strategic goal is to increase the participation and performance of our fencers – some of the actions to do this is to offer Athlete Development Program with coaching days, promoting in schools and supporting pathway to GB selection

3. Managing our organisation

   We aim to operate effectively, sustainably & transparently by this we mean good governance, strong financial health, meeting compliance standards Equality, Diversity &Inclusion policy working with Insport, Regularly reviewed safeguarding policies – Julien will be talking more about this later in the meeting.

4. Delivering our events

   We are aiming to deliver enjoyable, accessible and high quality events. We have set ourselves the goal to increase participation 1% each year – in the Welsh Open recently we were up far more than this going from 354 in 2024 to 446 this year.

   One change we have recently made is renaming the Welsh Cadet and BYC qualifier to the Welsh Youth Championships to make it more inclusive and encourage more to enter. We will publish our national events calender which Marc will talk about later and after the AGM will circulate so fencers have clear view on when the key events are.

Across all of these pillars we have cross cutting themes including EDI, Digital enablement, sustainability, community development and partnerships & funding.

The Board will review this annually and we will be tracking key performance indicators year on year including event numbers, number of coaches, number of clubs and number of fencers spilt in gender and age.

We are excited to try and implement these goals for Welsh Fencing over the coming 12 months.