

Welsh Fencing AGM
23 November 2025
Sport Wales National Centre, Sofia Gardens, Cardiff

1. Chair's opening remarks

MB apologies not being there in person due to broken down car but led the meeting via Teams.

Transitional year with multiple changes at Director level. In March MB became interim Chair, many only in place for a year. MB thanked the Board, learning together, going in the right direction, motivated to deliver more this year and regular transparent communication to the WF community.

2. Apologies for Absence

None – All Directors present

Marc Burkhalter (MB) Chair, Mike Evans-Jones (MEB) Vice Chair, Julian Nash (JN) Safeguarding lead, Rhian Martin (RM) Secretary, Aaron James (AJ) Treasurer, Mark Ridsdale (MR) Director, Elaine Corcoran (EIC) Director, Erin Corcoran (ErC) Director.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

Signed off

4. Adoption of the Company Accounts

Signed off

Thank you to Caroline for her work for WF over many years. She has been handing over to AR over the last 6 months

AR as new Treasurer gave short overview of accounts. Income was up £4,200 mainly thru increased competition fees. Support for ADP and coaches less than previous years but noted WF would like to increase this the coming year. WF has a surplus of £5,360. Balance sheet shows cash balance of £95,176 and assets of £14,578. This puts WF in a strong position going in to Commonwealth year and following years.

5. Chairman's Report - including update on WF strategy

RM presented new strategy document which has been uploaded to the WF website.

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 – full detail on website

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

Question raised on how to grow fencing numbers. This will be driven by unlocking more fencing capability by supporting coaches and reaching out to community outside of WF.

ACTION – to send the strategy out with the minutes. Regular tracking of our KPIs

6. Director Reports

Performance & Development Update

MEB presented update on what Welsh fencers have achieved over the last 12 months. The Full presentation will be attached to the same email as these minutes with full details on. It has been a busy Welsh calendar both with closed competitions, open competitions and Welsh fencers performing on the national and international stage.

It was highlighted how well a number of Welsh coaches had supported Wales and being recognised by British Fencing.

Also the ADP program had been restarted with WF at the Royal Welsh, Hay on Wye and Girl Guide Cymru.

ACTION – Board to work out an effective way of tracking conversion numbers from events. Suggestion made of leaflet with feedback provided via QR code.

ACTION – Board to follow up with discussion on how to engage clubs more, use internationals to inspire them and digital enablement to improve how we work.

Safeguarding Update

JN Takeover from Tania completed. There has been no safeguarding issues throughout the year. The safeguarding documents are up to date and on the WF website and will be reviewed every 12 months. There is a detailed document and a 1 page easy to follow guide. Directors to take basic safeguarding training in 2026.

7. Election of Directors

All approved and elected on to Board

- Chair – Marc Burkhalter
- Treasurer – Aaron James
- Director – Mike Evans-Jones
- Director – Mark Ridsdale

Thank you to Matt & MR on providing guidance and advice throughout 2025.

8. Any Other Business

- 2026 WF calendar was announced and will be published to WF community. Question raised from Whitchurch regarding events that are in Wales but not run by WF to be added. Board to discuss at next meeting
- Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2026
Information expected end of November/ early December with full details of timetable, accommodation, travel. Estimated costs c£2500 but tbc once got information. Confirmed will need Visa & immunisation. Concerns from AGM attendees re cost and not being able to leave School – but to be fully addressed when get full information
- Home International – proposal to renew competition for 2027
Wales to potentially host. Question raised should there also be a junior & cadet event. What other opportunities for Welsh junior & cadet fencers? ACTION to discuss at Board
- Sport Wales Capability Framework - Self Review on-going
- Inclusion – InSport panel in March 2026
- Board Training including inclusion and diversity, safeguarding, governance and team management
- WF Community training – first aid
- ADP planning 2026 – 2 sessions proposed in Q1 and Q3 date TBC

- Approached by BF to use Welsh Open to assess Level 3 coaches. All agreed great idea and need to formalise.
- Recognised gain the awards made to our coaches & athletes from British Fencing.

9. Date of the next AGM

Sunday 22 November 2026