

Welsh Fencing
Annual General Meeting
24th November 2024,
10:00am
via Teams and In person

Minutes

1. Chair's opening remarks

The Chairman opened the AGM, and explained that this is a formal event required through our Articles, and through Company Law. It's also important from the perspective of Sport Wales to ensure we are adhering to our governance expectations. This is also an opportunity for questions and answers.

The Chair apologised for not sending out the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from members:

Caroline Wheeler.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

Matt Russell proposed that the 2023 Minutes be accepted as a true & accurate record of the event.

The question of missing information was raised, The question of coaching days had been raised and was not recorded. This is to be rectified.

This was seconded by Mike Evans-Jones and unanimously agreed.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman delivered his report. A copy of the PowerPoint slides is available on the website. It broadly covered:

- Priorities and achievements for 2024
- Upcoming Events
- Further working with clubs and coaches with wheelchair fencing

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5. Adoption of the Company Accounts

Michael Clemitson proposed that 2023/2024 accounts Be adopted. This was seconded by Marc Burkhalter and duly approved

6. Director Reports

The following Directors provided updates:

- A report on the Accounts was delivered on behalf of Caroline; a copy is available on the website.
- A report on the ADP and a year of Welsh achievements was delivered by Mike Evans-Jones.
- The Safeguarding and Accreditation report was delivered by Tania Craig.

7. Election of Directors

The Chairman explained that we have a scheduled tenures for each of our Directors. The Chairman and Treasurer position which adopts a four-year tenure. The remaining Directors positions are two years.

This year the tenure expires for

- Matt Russell (Chairman)
- Tania Graig (Welfare Office)
- John Rees (Director)
- Mark Burkhalter (Director)

Mark Burkhalter stood unopposed for re-election.

Matt, Tania and John are all standing down from their positions.

As a board we would like to thank them for all their dedication and hard work.

As August 2024 - AGM process with no nominations for the directors positions, an email was sent out asking for people to put themselves forward to join the board. From this email we had 5 willing people who put their names forward.

It was proposed to elect all nominees to the board making a total of 9 directors

It was raised that we are in a disjointed position, and we were asked of some information on the appointees. This was given verbally by the board at the meeting. A skills audit will also be done and from this the Chair and Welfare officer will be selected.

These will be selected by the end of 2024. This will be communicated to the membership by email and on the Welsh Fencing website.

All 5 applicants were selected to the board.

The Chairman welcomed the new appointees to the board

8. Any Other Business

a. EGM was called last year regarding the veterans not approving to the changes made to the selection criteria ongoing discussions have been had throughout the year. Proposal to dismiss this as it has moved on significantly.

b. Veterans representative to continue to be Marc Burkhalter as this has been very positive, although this is not a formal role . Marc has work hard, and communications with the veterans are improved

c. Marc proposed the veteran's selection policy is adopted and is used from this point on forward. And for selection to be made at the year end would be best

d. Veterans National championships would like to move them to September for more people to be able to attend and so it does not conflict with other events.

e. Coaching days – in the past twice yearly and under a senior coach where coaches can brush up on there on the skills. there have been British fencing coaching events and level 1 coaching days. The board will try and find someone who is willing to run these sort of development days.

f. Marc has had some communication with the university groups, and they would like to engage more openly with the Welsh Fencing Board.

g. Work towards trying to de-conflict the Welsh championships for the BUCS weekend, looking ahead to the 2025-2026 session.

9. Date of the next AGM

23rd November 2025.