



Welsh Pétanque Association

2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 8th February 2025

Time: 05:00 pm

Venue: Monkstone Petanque Club, Penylan Club, Marlborough Road, Cardiff.

Present:

President -Tony Smith (TSS), Treasurer - Jean-Yves Robic (JYR) and Secretary – Sean Smith (SS)

Representatives from the following clubs:

Brecon RFC PC, Caerleon RFC PC, Llysfaen PC, Harlequins PC, Monkstone PC, Pontyclun PC, Tywn-y-Ffwrdd PC, Vale PC & Ystradgyniad PC.

Represented by:

Full Members (FM): 9 No.

League Members (LM): 13 No.

Associate Members (AM): 0 No.

Observers 3 No.

Preamble:

The President welcomed all members present at the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the WPA to review the Association's 2024 activities.

Before the AGM began, the President confirmed receipt of a correctly completed nomination form from Robert Glaves (Harlequins PC) for the position of Director of Public Relations.

The President also asked the members present if there were any other items for item 11. Derek Jones, Pontyclun PC, confirmed he had several points for discussion.

Members present were reminded that Affiliated Members are unable to vote and that members who have not paid their membership fees are observers of the proceedings.

1. Confirmation of Date of Notice of Meeting:

This was issued in accordance with the Constitution on Thursday, 21st December 2024.

2. Apologies for Absence:

The following members gave their apologies:

R Harris, J Dunn, C Howard, D Caunt, plus 3 other members, the names of whom were not recorded.

3. Previous Minutes:

The President stated that the 2024 AGM minutes were published on the WPA website and made available to the membership before this AGM.

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From the floor, Derek Jones raised the issue of the lack of Ordinary General Meetings (OGMs), and a discussion ensued in which it was restated that at least 3 OGMs should be held each year, a position not disputed by the President. However, the President felt that the Executive's lines of communication were sufficient to keep the membership informed. However, if something significant occurred, an OGM would be called. The President asked the members present whether they felt they had missed anything by not having OGMs; the general response was no.

No amendments to the text were required.

Proposed By: David Long (Caerleon RFC PC)

Seconded By: Judith Smith (Monkstone PC)

The 2024 AGM Minutes were adopted.

Minutes of the OGM held on 19/05/2024.

No amendments to the text were required.

Proposed By: Pat McCarthy (Vale PC)

Seconded By: Christine Parry (Llysfaen PC)

The OGM Minutes were adopted.

4. President's Report:

The President gave a report covering the following topics for 2024:

- CEP Congress
- FIPJP Congress
- National League
- Welsh Cup for Clubs
- Petanque England's Challenge Cup
- Junior Award Scheme
- Disability Sport Wales
- Coaching
- Wenvoe Playing Field
- Constitutuion

See Appendix 1 for a copy of the President's Report.

5. Finance:

a. Audit Reports

An audit report for the 2023 Accounts was not available to present to the membership at the 2024 AGM. However, the 2023 report was presented by Bernard Adshead (Monkstone PC).

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The audit report for the 2024 accounts was carried out by Phil Freegard and Pauline Tyrell on 5th February 2025 and presented by Phil Freegard (Harlequins PC).

b. Treasurer's Reports

Due to the absence of the 2023 audit report, a vote on the accounts presented at the AGM could not be held following the Treasurer's financial report. A vote was taken to accept the 2023 accounts as a true and accurate representation of the Association's finances upon completion of the Auditor's report.

Proposed By: Pat McCarthy (Vale PC)

Seconded By: Julie Bailey (Vale PC)

The 2023 Accounts were accepted unopposed.

The Treasurer provided a summary sheet for the members to review (Appendix 3).

The Treasurer presented the 2023 and 2024 accounts side by side so you can quickly review the changes between the two years. Overall income is relatively stable from one year to the next. We were just over £16,000 in 2023 and just under £16,000 in 2024. The WPA's primary revenue comes from membership fees and competition entries.

Most of the other figures on the account are just cash movements: the WPA pays in advance for accommodation and/or food, for example, the European Championships and World Championships, and the players are invoiced.

This is why we received two major items of income and expenditure items for 2024: the PE Inter-Regional Championship and the Celtic Challenge.

When reviewing the £16,000 income, please note that the actual income is just over £10,500, generated by membership fees, competition entries, and the sale of a small amount of kit.

In 2023, the reported deficit was just over £3,500; in 2024, it was reduced to just over £1,000.

During the year, we had a £1,000 donation from a long-standing member who wished to remain anonymous; this was transferred to the reserve account.

The position of the accounts as of the first of January 2025 is:

Current Account: £4,999

Reserve Account: £11,323

Heading into 2025, the WPA is in a strong financial position.

In the 2024 Balance Sheet Reconciliation, we see a difference of £538 compared with 2023. Again, this has been achieved by reducing our expenditure.

Derek Jones asked about the WPA assets, which no longer appear in the financial report.

The Treasurer confirmed that the WPA maintains a register of current assets and read out several items from the list to the members present.

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It was confirmed that the Executive decided not to write off the purchases over a fixed period (e.g., 2 or 4 years), but to take the full cost in the financial year in which they were purchased. This makes the financial reporting simpler.

Proposed By: Bernard Adshead (Monkstone PC)

Seconded By: Peter Stahl (Caerleon RFC PC)

The 2024 Accounts were accepted unopposed.

6. Rate of Club Affiliation and Membership Fees:

The President confirmed that there are no proposed changes to the published Club Affiliation and Membership Fees for 2026.

7. Motions:

The President confirmed receipt of one formal motion from the WPA Executive to amend the Constitution and Rules.

The motion is to split the Constitution & Rules, Version 4.0, published January 2024, into two parts: Part 1: The Constitution and Part 2: Internal Rules.

The argument for splitting this document into two parts could focus on several practical and logical considerations:

- Length and Complexity.
- Distinct Purposes.
- Audience Accessibility.
- Legal and Administrative Clarity.
- Precedent in Organisational Governance.

The discussion was then open to the membership.

Derek Jones asked if the new Constitution could not be written "as a bit", adopting it together with the associated new internal rule without splitting the document into two.

The President responded negatively to the suggestion, and by splitting the document, we can concentrate on parallel writing, which will be easier.

The President provided background on the development of the current Constitution from 2017 to the present, explaining the rationale for the changes at the recent AGMs. The members were also reminded that the Constitution could be amended only at an AGM or an EGM called for that purpose. Any other document included with the constitution would also be subject to the same restriction.

A vote on the proposal was called, and the membership was reminded that only League and Full Members could vote. The President called for those against the motion first and then those abstaining.

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The results of the vote were:

Against: 0 votes
For: 22 votes
Abstentions: 0 votes

The motion was carried.

8. Election of Officers:

Nomination forms were received from:

- Tony Smith for the position of National President.
- Jean-Yves Robic for the position of National Treasurer
- Robert Glaves for the position of Director of Public Relations.

All three nominees were elected unopposed, each with a 2-year mandate.

The members present were reminded that the Director of Development position remains vacant and that any interested member should come forward.

9. Appointment of the Auditor:

Phil Freegard (Harlequins PC) was appointed as the Association's Auditor.

10. Arbitrators:

The President explained that, following the adoption of the new Complaints and Disciplinary Policies at the last AGM, the need for Arbitrators is redundant under the current constitution and will be resolved upon acceptance of the new Constitution, which will be brought before the membership in 2026.

The function of a Competition Jury was explained to the membership, and it was made clear that it would be established as required.

11. AoB:

Derek Jones raised questions about playing outside Wales, the selection squad, and the qualification process for competitions, including the over 55 Series and the Bath Open. Does the WPA have a preferred squad? Jean-Yves Robic responded to the point raised, stating that those competitions were included to determine which competitions the players had entered or intended to participate in.

Derek Jones also asked whether there was reasonable support for discarding qualification and favouring selection for the Celtic Challenge, Home Nations and Inter-Regionals. How many responded to the survey, and how many supported selection over qualification? Sean Smith discussed the results of the player's survey to address the issue raised, and he would respond directly.

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Derek Jones also raised an issue regarding the 'New' jackets issued to players in 2024. Some members asked whether they could buy the top, and this was agreed. Unfortunately, after handing the jackets back, they could not be associated with a player, and they were sold before they were properly checked, for which we apologise. Therefore, they were not new. However, the cost of replacing them needed to be considered, which is why the charge was what it was.

The final question from Derek Jones concerned the absence of financial support (bursary) for players representing Wales at the Celtic Challenge and Inter-Regional Championship. Jean-Yves Robic responded, stating that there were insufficient entries for the qualifying events to justify financial support and that all players were provided with new playing kit, including tops, trousers and jackets (returnable).

Jean-Yves Robic confirmed that no kit sponsorship had been received from the Welsh Sports Association (WSA). The WPA paid 100% of the cost at the discount rate arranged by the WSA.

Peter Stahl (Caerleon RFC PC) also asked a question concerning the new playing tops, to which Jean-Yves Robic again responded. It was agreed to continue this discussion outside the meeting.

Peter Stahl also raised the issue of transferring his designated club from Unaffiliated to an affiliated club. He asked why a fee was required; the fee was not to transfer, but to pay for the reissue of his licence with his new club. The discussion continued to focus on his inability to represent his new club in the European Cup. It was agreed that the procedure for transferring between WPA Clubs would be reviewed, and amendments would be made to clarify the issue raised.

Roger Green (Monkstone PC) raised concerns about the timing of qualifiers and the impact on players' ability to participate in those events. He asked if they could not be scheduled for earlier in the playing season. Jean-Yves Robic responded to the question, stating that it was better to have them later so players had played sufficiently to build the strongest squad. Included in the discussion was the need for teams to establish and play together earlier to become stronger, rather than leaving it until the qualifier itself.

The meeting closed at 6:20 pm.

WPA Executive
January 2025

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12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – President's Report

I want to welcome you all to this AGM.

I will try not to repeat any information I reported to you in the new year report, which was sent to all members.

I want to start with my usual thanks to my fellow executive members for their continued support over the past 12 months. Firstly, Jean-Yves, as Treasurer and National Coach and Sean, for his work as Secretary, especially for communicating all the essential information to our members.

Also, Bernard, for his continued work as Membership Secretary, ensuring the efficient renewal of membership fees and club affiliations.

CEP Congress:

The congress took place in early April in Luxembourg; this was my last official duty as the treasurer of the CEP, or so I thought.

Two motions were set before Congress; the first was from the CEP Board regarding membership fees for 2025 and beyond, and the second was from Sweden concerning the Junior European Championships.

Membership Fees: The proposal was carried, which means our membership fee will increase this year from 250€ to 350€.

Junior EC: Currently, there are separate championships for Boys and girls. Sweden proposed re-establishing a Junior EC with mixed teams—this suits smaller Federations (like us), where junior membership is much lower than in others.

This proposal was carried.

FIPJP Congress:

The FIPJP Congress took place before the start of the Men's World Championship in Dijon in December.

As always, it was a somewhat chaotic affair, especially as it is French, hence the need for Jean-Yves to accompany me and be my independent interpreter.

However, what was discussed and affects our representation at the World Championships was the qualification process.

Without going into too much detail, primarily as the FIPJP does not fully understand the details, the teams finishing in the top 16 automatically qualify for the next World Championship. The remaining places will be allocated between the Confederations and those who have paid their fees by 1st April 2025.

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At this stage, we are waiting to see the details.

While at the championship, we arranged to meet with the President and Secretary General of the FIPJP to propose a format to establish the eligibility for Non-National participation in the WC.

I am happy to report that our eligibility criteria were accepted, which means that members who do not have a UK Passport but have leave to stay in the UK can now represent Wales at the World Championships. Unfortunately, we are still working on the European Championships stipulation that only players holding a passport of the country they are representing can take part.

League:

I want to thank Vicki for efficiently running the League, League Cup, and Plate competitions for another season. I am happy to report that Vicki has agreed to continue for the 2025 season.

Welsh Cup for Clubs:

As our Welsh Club Champions, Caerleon RFC PC accepted the invitation to represent Wales at the 26th European Championship in Sin-le-Noble, France, at the end of 2024.

A team of eight players and a coach travelled to compete against club champions from all over Europe; they were:

Barbara Vaughan, Tansy Mayfield, Gareth Coombes, Richard Harris, Jack Harris, David Languerand, David Long and Kon Tomczyk.

The club was drawn into a group with Belgium, Germany, and Denmark, which was a tough call. In the first knock-out round of the Federation Cup, the club was drawn against Ireland, who overcame them and continued to the next round.

I am sure they would agree that it was a great weekend of petanque to experience.

Petanque England's Challenge Cup:

Four teams represent the WPA and are captained by Jean-Yves Robic (Wales 1), Cara Bestow (Wales 2), Phil Freegard (Wales 3) and Jim Page (Wales 4). What a difference a year makes; in 2023, the squad finished towards the bottom of Division 1, and this year, they took the title, beating the Chiltern Region on points difference.

Congratulations go to Wales 1, finishing as top team with 10 out of 12 wins and a plus 70 points difference. Also, to Wales 2, who finished in 4th place with 9 wins.

Congratulations to the squad on their achievement, especially Michelle Spencer, who travelled as Team Manager.

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Junior Award Scheme

Congratulations to Jack Harris from Caerleon RFC PC, who has completed the White Dragon Award (Parts 1 and 2) and is now focusing on the Green Dragon Award.

I hope Jack will be the catalyst and encourage more juniors to start their award journey.

Disability Sport

I would encourage all clubs to register for the Insport program with Disability Sport Wales, who have confirmed that Llysfaen Pétanque Club, Monkstone Pétanque Club and Pontyclun Pétanque Club have registered and are working towards the entry-level award.

Coaching

I congratulate Jayne Dunn and Roger Green for achieving their WPA Club Coaching Qualification in late 2024, and they are now eager to put their skills to the test.

We would encourage all clubs to have a qualified Club Coach. An application form is available for download from the WPA website.

Wenvoe Playing Field

Our discussions with the Vale of Glamorgan concluded at the end of 2024 with an agreement to utilise the 14 existing lanes.

From the beginning, we aimed to have a three-tier approach:

1. To develop a WPA centre of excellence.
2. To establish a viable club and
3. To have positive community links with the village.

The initial agreement between the Vale of Glamorgan and the WPA is for 12 months, after which the agreement will be reviewed. This agreement provides the WPA access to the carpark and toilets in the pavilion. We can hire the club room with a kitchen at the agreed-upon specified rates when required.

The cost to the WPA is £240 per annum.

Due to the continued difficulties, SWBRC-PS had with the Indoor Bowles Centre and the Social Club, they offered to move their club to the playing fields. This move would tick item 2 above.

The club also agreed to sign an agreement with the WPA and pay £120 per annum on the same basis previously stated. The club also agreed to pay for the refurbishment of the playing area, which I can report has been started.

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This venue is a partnership between the Vale of Glamorgan, the WPA and the Club and is a positive investment for the future development of our sport in Wales.

Constitution

As discussed in my New Year Report, I asked Mike Pegg to review our constitution; he has provided preliminary comments. He has concluded that:

- the current constitution has inconsistencies between Part 1 and Part 2;
- change the committee's name from Executive to Management, and make the difference between elected and appointed officers more straightforward. Which is more in line with the governance of a sport;
- writing a new Constitution for adoption at the 2026 AGM rather than continuing with this lengthy, detailed review and amendments.

It is normal to expect an AGM to receive and vote on proposals to amend a constitution. The internal rules, designed to assist the management committee in the day-to-day running of the association and which provide more detail than would usually appear in a constitution, such as how a ballot is conducted, should be left to the management committee to set and administer.

There is a motion before you to begin the process, which the executive strongly recommends you accept.

Thank you.

Any questions?

T S Smith
President
7th February 2025

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Appendix 2 – Audit Report – 2023 Financial Year

WELSH PÉTANQUE ASSOCIATION



AUDIT REPORT

I have carried out a detailed audit of the accounts of the Welsh Pétanque Association for the year 2023. The summary of the accounts can be represented as:

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2023

CURRENT ASSETS:	£
Balance at Bank (Current A/c)	31-Dec-23 4,999.60
Balance at Bank (Reserve A/c)	31-Dec-23 10,159.94
Balance at Bank (MoneyCorp)	31-Dec-23
Deferred 2024 Income	(579.00)
Debtors	
Value of Inventory	
	£ 14,580.54

REPRESENTED BY :

General Reserve Fund	£
Balances Brought Forward:	
Balance at Bank (Current A/c)	31-Dec-22 8,525.99
Balance at Bank (Reserve A/c)	31-Dec-22 10,064.12
Balance at Bank (MoneyCorp)	31-Dec-22 22.08
Deferred 2023 Income	(1,176.00)
Debtors	60.00
Value of Inventory	1,106.22
	18,602.41
Surplus / Shortfall of Income over Expenditure	(2,915.65)
Reduction in Value of Inventory (2023)	(1,106.22)
TOTAL ASSETS	14,580.54

On the basis of the documents presented to me, I confirm that the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet present a true statement of the financial activity for the year 2023 and the financial position as 31 December 2023.

Signed:

Bernard Adshead
Honorary Auditor
Monkstone Pétanque Club

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Appendix 3 – Audit Report – 2024 Financial Year



Audit Report for Welsh Pétanque Association (WPA)

We have completed the audit of the accounts for the Welsh Pétanque Association for the financial year ending 31st December 2024. This included reviewing income and expenditure records, verifying the calculations, and ensuring all figures aligned with the Association's bank statements.

There were a few invoices that we couldn't locate at the time of the audit.

Invoice 15 for £454.17
Invoice 19 for £15.50 Postage
Invoice 23 for £80.00 Presidents prize
Invoice 34 for £49.98 Argos
Invoice 81 for £115.00 Your storage
Invoice 84 for £100.00 Your storage
Invoice 86 for £65.95 Easily ltd
Invoice 93 for £100.00 Your storage

Recommendations

Invoices should be clearly marked or referenced to enable their association with specific transactions. ie hosting, web fees etc.

Summary

Based on the audit, I can confirm that the accounts have been maintained correctly, figures provided are accurate and that the accounts reflect a true and fair view of the Association's finances. I confirm that all transactions are consistent with the records available.

Audit carried out by Phil Freegard and Pauline Tyrell on 5th February 2025

Phil Freegard

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Appendix 4 – Treasurer's Report – 2024 Financial Year

INCOME 2023

CATEGORY	£s
MEMBERSHIP 2023	5,117
MEMBERSHIP 2024	579
INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER FEE	53
COMPETITIONS	2,228
SALES (PIS, KITS)	78
CELTIC (MEALS MEMBERS)	70
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS 2022	60
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS 2023	2,775
EUROPEAN C. ACCOMMODATIONS	4,609
SPONSORSHIP	500
OTHER INCOME	17
INCOME TOTAL	16,086

INCOME 2024

CATEGORY	£s
MEMBERSHIP 2024	7,237
MEMBERSHIP 2025	338
COMPETITIONS	2,444
SALES (PIS, KITS)	517
CELTIC (MEALS MEMBERS)	786
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS 2024	3,430
DONATIONS	1,000
OTHER INCOME	144
INCOME TOTAL	15,896

EXPENDITURE 2023

CATEGORY	£s
ADMINISTRATION	3,129
MARKETING	597
DEVELOPMENT	630
COMPETITIONS ENTRY FEE	149
COMPETITION EQUIPMENT	75
PLAYING KIT	1,421
COMPETITION PRIZES	783
TROPHIES, PINS & GIFTS	1,050
INTERNATIONAL REPRES. BURSARY	2,218
EC BURSARY	1,679
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS 2023	2,775
EUROPEAN C. ACCOMMODATIONS	4,660
EUROPEAN C. COACHES TRAVEL	447
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	19,612
INTERNAL ACCOUNT TRANSFER	
TO RESERVE ACCOUNT	-

EXPENDITURE 2024

CATEGORY	£s
ADMINISTRATION	3,815
MARKETING	346
CLUB - MEMBERSHIP REFUND	72
DBS	228
CEP - FIPJP MEMBERSHIP	455
COMPETITIONS ENTRY FEE	4
DEVELOPMENT EVENT (WD)	134
DEVELOPMENT GRANT	500
PLAYING KIT	4,373
COMPETITION PRIZES	595
TROPHIES, PINS & GIFTS	1,275
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS 2024	3,430
CC MEAL	860
CC TRAVEL EXP	131
WC EXEC TRAVEL/ACCOM	723
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	16,942
INTERNAL ACCOUNT TRANSFER	
TO RESERVE ACCOUNT	1,000

2024 BANK RECONCILIATION

Bank	
Income	£ 15,895.70
Expenditure	£ 16,942.41
Income over Expenditure:	-£ 1,046.71
Account Reconciliation	£ -
As at 01/01/2024:	£ 4,999.60
Income over Expenditure:	-£ 1,046.71
Transfer to Reserve Acc:	-£ 1,000.00
Total Ledger:	£ 2,952.89
At bank on 31/12/2024	£ 2,952.89
Difference:	£ -
Liquidity	£ -
Bank:	£ 2,952.89
Savings Account:	£ 11,322.72
Petty Cash:	£ -
Liquidity:	£ 14,275.61
Outstanding Invoices	£ 104.50
Less Liabilities	£ -

Balance Sheet Reconciliation 2024

Net Assets 2024: 31/12/2024	£ 14,042.11
Less Net Assets 2023: 31/12/2023	£ 14,580.54
Difference	-£ 538.43
 Represented by:	
Income to Bank:	£ 16,058.48
Less Expenditure from Bank:	-£ 16,942.41
Plus Deferred Income (2023):	£ 579.00
Less Deferred Income (2025):	-£ 338.00
Plus new debtors:	£ 104.50
Less debtors settled:	£ -
 Sum total	 -£ 538.43

PROVISIONAL BUDGET 2025

INCOME 2025

CATEGORY	£s
MEMBERSHIP	7,600
COMPETITIONS	2,600
COACHING	300
SPONSORSHIP	500
SALE OF PINS, KIT	500
OTHER INCOME	150
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS	4,500
EUROPEAN C. ACCOMMODATIONS	3,900
INCOME TOTAL	20,050

EXPENDITURE 2025

CATEGORY	£s
ADMINISTRATION	3,000
MARKETING / PUBLICITY	1,000
DEVELOPMENT/COACHING EQUIP	200
DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	1,000
PLAYING KIT	1,500
COMPETITIONS (E CUP)	170
INTER-REG. ACCOMMODATIONS	4,500
INTERNATIONAL REPRES. BURSARY H	500
EUROPEAN C. ACCOMMODATIONS	3,900
EUROPEAN C. COACHES TRAVEL	600
WC. ACCOMMODATIONS	1,500
WC COACHES TRAVEL	600
INTERNATIONAL REPRES. BURSARY	1,600
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	20,070