

Design: Hatty Morsley & Sarah McGovern

Cover Image: BIG Weekend, Plas Menai

Photography: Hester Walker, Plas Menai, Georgie Thomas, Nick Allsop, Ade Owens, Windswept Watersports, Sarah McGovern, RYA, Jonny McGovern, British Sailing

Team, RS Feva Class Association, Paul Wyeth, Pete Guilmore

RYA Cymru Wales

Plas Menai Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1UE

admin@ryacymruwales.org.uk www.ryacymruwales.org.uk

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Chair's Report

It is my pleasure to present this year's
Annual Report and to reflect on the
challenges faced and the new initiatives
that RYA Cymru Wales has taken to support
and develop sailing and boating in Wales.

Three years ago, Sport Wales changed the way in which its partners were going to be funded. The new funding model resulted in our offer being lower than in previous years and having a stepped, three year decline. We are now at the end of the three year transition period into the new funding model and have seen an overall reduction in our annual funding from Sport Wales and the National Lottery of £80,000 (i.e. a 23.5% reduction) from 2023/2024. The reduction in our annual funding has impacted development the most, with a 45% reduction in funding, while performance has seen a 16% reduction.

We faced the challenge head on and have been steadfast and consistent in driving forward with improved efficiencies throughout the whole organisation. We have focused on **best practice** and **good governance** to ensure that we have confidently entered the new norm well prepared and in a position to best serve our affiliates and members. This has also ensured that we now have the momentum necessary to campaign and influence policy, in order to protect our sport, community, and our waters.

Despite the downturn in funding, RYA Cymru Wales is now leading the way in several key areas and initiatives across the sporting landscape in Wales. Sport Wales has kindly supported us every step of the way, and in December 2024, our respected relationship manager at Sport Wales provided her reflections on the changes we have made:

"The team at RYA CW have approached a challenging task of managing a changing funding portfolio openly, with an appetite to learn and test new ways of working. They have made significant improvements to their governance processes over the last 18 months and demonstrate a proactive approach to improvement across all of their responsibilities.

The operational team's approach to developing different sport disciplines and the consideration they show to help more people to get, stay, and compete on the water demonstrates some best practice examples across the sporting sector this year."

At our last Annual General Meeting, we were pleased to appoint two pivotal positions to the Board:

- Independent Finance Director: This role brings vital oversight and a robust check and challenge approach to our financial matters, ensuring transparency and strategic stewardship.
- Chair of the Development Sub-Committee: Tasked with revitalising the Development Sub-Committee, this appointment marks a key milestone in our commitment to growth and innovation within our valued community.



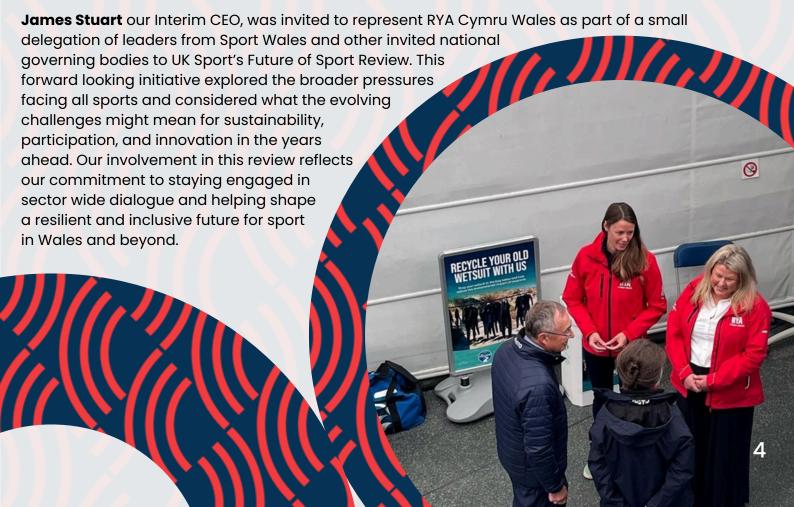
The revival of the **Development Sub-Committee** is a cornerstone initiative that will support the incredible work led by **Hester Walker**, our Club Development Officer, whose dedication continues to foster engagement, innovation, and invaluable support for our affiliated clubs and training centres across Wales.

We now have dedicated Board members leading in **Safeguarding, Anti-Doping, and Inclusion** ensuring these values are embedded into every part of our organisation and are actively considered and discussed at our Board meetings. To further strengthen our commitment and ensure continuity, Deputy Board members have also been appointed to the Safeguarding and Anti-Doping lead roles, adding an extra layer of resilience to these vital areas of work. Through regular review and continuous improvement, we remain committed to upholding the highest standards inside and outside of the Boardroom to ensure that we are creating and safeguarding, a welcoming space for everyone in our sailing and boating community.

The governance changes and our strive for excellence have also had a direct impact on our ability to secure the **largest capital grant ever** awarded to RYA Cymru Wales to purchase a new fleet of **18 ILCA** dinghies. This has enabled us to significantly increase our offer, of an accessible and inclusive training and racing pathway for Welsh youth sailors.

The momentum we have gathered, has also enabled us to respond to the Welsh Government's proposed **Tourism Levy** legislation and take a proactive role in shaping the conversation on behalf of our community. We worked in close partnership with the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine to ensure that we submitted a coordinated and robust set of submissions to the Senedd and that we effectively represented the collective voice of our sailing and boating community and also safeguarded the interests of our stakeholders.

We have also been able to launch the **Clean Water Sports Alliance** in Wales, with Welsh Triathlon, Canoe Wales, and Welsh Rowing uniting in a shared commitment to safeguard our country's incredible lakes, rivers, and coastal waters for people, wildlife, and the generations to come.



In addition to the steps taken in our strive for excellence in governance, we have also continued to make intentional progress towards achieving our strategic objectives set out in our five year strategy Gyda'n Gilydd ar ein Dyfroedd: Together on our Waters, with the following initiatives:

- The Big Weekend.
- Introduction and tracking of the enhanced affiliate process.
- Come and Try sessions.
- Multi Activity Day.
- Regional Training Days.
- Welsh Sailing Pathway Clubs Programme.
- Merched y Môr / Women of the Sea programme, aimed at inspiring greater female participation in sailing and boating across Wales. The initiative celebrates women's involvement at all levels of the sport and community, with a particular focus on empowering volunteers and fostering inclusive opportunities throughout our sailing and boating community.
- Hwylio Cymru / Welsh Sailing.
- Delivering meaningful support at our events through our dedicated welfare boat CROESO and the Wishy Washy Station, reflecting our ongoing commitment to wellbeing, inclusion, and excellence.
- Lending our Hawk 20 keelboat to the Royal Welsh Yacht Club to be used as part of a Sailability initiative aimed at removing barriers to participation and enabling more people to experience the joy and freedom of being on the water.

Our Performance Manager, Sarah McGovern, has been transforming our approach to inclusion within Pathway and Performance activities and has also received a well deserved appointment to the RYA Female Futures Group reinforcing our joint commitment to driving positive change and influencing the future of sailing at both regional and national levels.

Hatty Morsley has joined the team as our Pathway and Events Officer and is focusing on supporting the connection between the development and performance programme.

Our **Impact Awards** continue to offer a meaningful opportunity for us to honour individuals who go above and beyond for our sport and community across Wales. These stories of dedication, guidance, and positive influence not only recognise outstanding contributions they also serve to inspire others by showcasing the difference one person or a single organisation can make in their club, community, and across the sailing landscape here in Wales, and how valued their contributions are.



I am immensely proud of the achievements set out in this year's Annual Report. They are, as ever, a testament to the incredible dedication and drive of our staff, coaches, volunteers, affiliated clubs, training centres, and Board. Whether you are enjoying our waters, teaching new skills, coaching the next generation, or volunteering, your valued contribution is at the core of everything we do and we are all incredibly proud to support you. I wholeheartedly know that what we are now collectively achieving is beyond remarkable and is **bendigedig**. I cannot thank our exceptional staff, inspirational coaches, committed and appreciated affiliated clubs, professional and excellent training centres, dedicated volunteers, and Board enough for all of your continued efforts and drive to ensure that our sport and community continues, with momentum, to thrive across Wales. Sailing and boating in Wales would not be the success it is without your invaluable contributions. Together, we are not only strengthening the sailing and boating community here in Wales, we are continuing a proud and lasting legacy that welcomes, empowers, and inspires. Diolch am fod yn rhan o'r daith hon gyda ni ac am eich cefnogaeth barhaus. Thank you for being part of this journey with us and for your continued support. Gweld chi ar y dŵr. See you on the water. Siân Reynolds (RYA Cymru Wales Chair)

Adroddiad y Cadeirydd

Mae'n bleser gennyf gyflwyno Adroddiad Blynyddol eleni ac adlewyrchu ar yr heriau a wynebwyd a'r mentrau newydd y mae RYA Cymru Wales wedi'u cymryd i gefnogi a datblygu hwylio a chychod yng Nghymru.

Dair blynedd yn ôl, newidiodd Chwaraeon
Cymru'r ffordd yr oedd ei bartneriaid yn mynd i
gael eu hariannu. Arweiniodd y model ariannu
newydd at i'n cynnig fod yn is nag yn y
blynyddoedd blaenorol ac at ostyngiad
graddol dros dair blynedd. Rydym bellach ar
ddiwedd y cyfnod pontio tair blynedd i'r model
ariannu newydd ac wedi gweld gostyngiad
cyffredinol yn ein cyllid blynyddol gan
Chwaraeon Cymru a'r Loteri Genedlaethol o
£80,000 (h.y. gostyngiad o 23.5%) o 2023/2024.
Y gostyngiad yn ein cyllid blynyddol sydd wedi
effeithio fwyaf ar ddatblygiad, gyda
gostyngiad o 45% mewn cyllid, tra bod
perfformiad wedi gweld gostyngiad o 16%.

Fe wnaethon ni wynebu'r her yn uniongyrchol ac rydym wedi bod yn gadarn ac yn gyson wrth symud ymlaen gyda gwell effeithlonrwydd ledled y sefydliad cyfan. Rydym wedi canolbwyntio ar **arfer gorau** a **llywodraethu da** i sicrhau ein bod wedi mynd i mewn i'r arfer newydd yn hyderus wedi'n paratoi'n dda ac mewn sefyllfa i wasanaethu ein cysylltiedigion a'n haelodau orau. Mae hyn hefyd wedi sicrhau bod gennym ni'r momentwm sydd ei angen i ymgyrchu a dylanwadu ar bolisi, er mwyn amddiffyn ein chwaraeon, ein cymuned, a'n dyfroedd.

Er gwaethaf y dirywiad mewn cyllid, Mae RYA Cymru Wales bellach yn arwain y ffordd mewn sawl maes a menter allweddol ar draws y dirwedd chwaraeon yng Nghymru. Mae Chwaraeon Cymru wedi ein cefnogi'n garedig trwy bob cam o'r ffordd, ac ym mis Rhagfyr 2024, rhoddodd ein rheolwr perthynas o Chwaraeon Cymru ei myfyrdodau ar y newidiadau rydym wedi'u gwneud:

"Mae'r tîm yn RYA CW wedi mynd ati i ymdrin â thasg heriol o reoli portffolio ariannu sy'n newid yn agored, gydag awydd i ddysgu a phrofi ffyrdd newydd o weithio. Maen nhw wedi gwneud gwelliant sylweddol i'w prosesau llywodraethu dros y 18 mis diwethaf ac yn dangos dull rhagweithiol o wella ar draws eu holl gyfrifoldebau.

Mae dull y tîm gweithredol o ddatblygu gwahanol ddisgyblaethau chwaraeon a'r ystyriaeth maen nhw'n ei dangos i helpu mwy o bobl i gyrraedd, aros a chystadlu ar y dŵr yn dangos rhai enghreifftiau o arfer gorau ar draws y sector chwaraeon eleni."

Yn ein Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol diwethaf, roeddem yn falch o benodi dwy swydd allweddol i'r Bwrdd:

- Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid Annibynnol: Mae'r rôl hon yn dod â goruchwyliaeth hanfodol a dull gwirio a herio cadarn i'n materion ariannol, gan sicrhau tryloywder a stiwardiaeth strategol.
- Cadeirydd yr Is-bwyllgor Datblygu: Wedi'i thasgu i adfywio'r Is-bwyllgor Datblygu, mae'r penodiad hwn yn nodi carreg filltir allweddol yn ein hymrwymiad i dwf ac arloesedd o fewn ein cymuned werthfawr.



Mae adfywiad yr **Is-bwyllgor Datblygu** yn fenter gonglfaen a fydd yn cefnogi'r gwaith anhygoel dan arweiniad **Hester Walker**, ein Swyddog Datblygu Clwb, y mae eu hymroddiad yn parhau i feithrin ymgysylltiad, arloesedd a chefnogaeth amhrisiadwy i'n clybiau a'n canolfannau hyfforddi cysylltiedig ledled Cymru.

Nawr mae gennym ni aelodau Bwrdd ymroddedig bellach sy'n arwain ym maes **Diogelu**, **Gwrthgyffuriau**, **a Chynhwysiant**— sicrhau bod y gwerthoedd hyn wedi'u hymgorffori ym mhob rhan o'n sefydliad a'u bod yn cael eu hystyried a'u trafod yn weithredol yng nghyfarfodydd ein Bwrdd. Er mwyn cryfhau ein hymrwymiad ymhellach a sicrhau parhad, mae Dirprwy aelodau'r Bwrdd hefyd wedi cael eu penodi i rolau arweiniol Diogelu a Gwrthgyffuriau, ychwanegu haen ychwanegol o wydnwch i'r meysydd gwaith hanfodol hyn. Drwy adolygu'n rheolaidd a gwella'n barhaus, rydym yn parhau i fod wedi ymrwymo i gynnal y safonau uchaf y tu mewn a'r tu allan i'r Ystafell Fwrdd er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn creu ac yn diogelu lle croesawgar i bawb yn ein cymuned hwylio a chychod.

Mae'r newidiadau llywodraethu a'n hymdrech am ragoriaeth hefyd wedi cael effaith uniongyrchol ar ein gallu i sicrhau'r ein **grant cyfalaf mwyaf** a ddyfarnwyd erioed i RYA Cymru Wales i brynu fflyd newydd o **18 cwch ILCA**. Mae hyn wedi ein galluogi i gynyddu'n sylweddol ein cynnig o lwybr hyfforddi a rasio hygyrch a chynhwysol ar gyfer morwyr ifanc Cymru.

Mae'r momentwm rydym wedi'i gasglu hefyd wedi ein galluogi i ymateb i ddeddfwriaeth **Ardoll Twristiaeth** arfaethedig Llywodraeth Cymru a chymryd rhan ragweithiol wrth lunio'r sgwrs ar ran ein cymuned. Fe wnaethon ni weithio mewn partneriaeth agos â'r Gymdeithas Hwylio Frenhinol a'r Morol Prydeinig i sicrhau ein bod ni'n cyflwyno set gydlynol a chadarn o gyflwyniadau i'r Senedd a'n bod ni'n cynrychioli llais cyfunol ein cymuned hwylio a chychod yn effeithiol a hefyd yn diogelu buddiannau ein rhandaliad.

Rydym hefyd wedi gallu lansio'r **Gynghrair Chwaraeon Dŵr Glân** yng Nghymru, gyda Thriathlon Cymru, Paddle Cymru, a Rhwyfo Cymru yn uno mewn ymrwymiad cyffredin i ddiogelu llynnoedd, afonydd a dyfroedd arfordirol anhygoel ein gwlad ar gyfer pobl, bywyd gwyllt, a'r cenedlaethau i ddod.



Yn ogystal â'r camau a gymerwyd yn ein hymdrech am ragoriaeth mewn llywodraethu, rydym hefyd wedi parhau i wneud cynnydd bwriadol tuag at gyflawni ein hamcanion strategol a nodir yn ein strategaeth pum mlynedd Gyda'n Gilydd ar ein Dyfroedd: Together on our Waters, gyda'r mentrau canlynol:

- Y Penwythnos Mawr.
- Cyflwyniad ac olrhain y broses gysylltiedig well.
- Sesiynau Dewch i Roi Cynnig Arnynt.
- Diwrnod Aml-weithgaredd.
- Diwrnodau Hyfforddi Rhanbarthol.
- Rhaglen Clybiau Llwybr Hwylio Cymru.
- Rhaglen Merched y Môr / Women of the Sea, gyda'r nod o ysbrydoli mwy o gyfranogiad menywod mewn hwylio a chychod ledled Cymru. Mae'r fenter yn dathlu cyfranogiad menywod ar bob lefel o'r gamp a'r gymuned, gyda ffocws penodol ar rymuso gwirfoddolwyr a meithrin cyfleoedd cynhwysol ledled ein hwylio a chychod.
- Hwylio Cymru / Welsh Sailing.
- Darparu cefnogaeth ystyrlon yn ein digwyddiadau drwy ein cwch lles pwrpasol CROESO a Gorsaf Wishy Washy, gan adlewyrchu ein hymrwymiad parhaus i lesiant, cynhwysiant a rhagoriaeth.
- Yn benthyca ein cilfach **Hawk 20** i Glwb Hwylio Brenhinol Cymru i'w ddefnyddio fel rhan o fenter Hwyladwyedd sydd â'r nod o gael gwared ar rwystrau i gyfranogiad a galluogi mwy o bobl i brofi llawenydd a rhyddid bod ar y dŵr.

Mae ein Rheolwr Perfformiad, Sarah McGovern, wedi bod yn trawsnewid ein dull o gynhwysiant o fewn gweithgareddau'r Llwybr a Pherfformiad ac mae hefyd wedi derbyn penodiad haeddiannol i Grŵp Dyfodol Benywaidd RYA, gan atgyfnerthu ein hymrwymiad ar y cyd i ysgogi newid cadarnhaol a dylanwadu ar ddyfodol hwylio ar lefel ranbarthol a chenedlaethol.

Mae Hatty Morsley wedi ymuno â'r tîm fel ein Swyddog Llwybrau a Digwyddiadau ac mae'n canolbwyntio ar gefnogi'r cysylltiad rhwng y rhaglen datblygu a pherfformio.

Mae ein Gwobrau Effaith yn parhau i gynnig cyfle ystyrlon i ni anrhydeddu unigolion sy'n mynd yr ail filltir dros ein chwaraeon a'n cymuned ledled Cymru. Nid yn unig y mae'r straeon hyn o ymroddiad, arweiniad a dylanwad cadarnhaol yn cydnabod cyfraniadau rhagorol, maent hefyd yn ysbrydoli eraill trwy ddangos y gwahaniaeth y gall un person neu sefydliad unigol ei wneud yn eu clwb, eu cymuned ac ar draws y dirwedd hwylio yma yng Nghymru, a pha mor werthfawrogol yw eu cyfraniadau.



Rwy'n hynod falch o'r cyflawniadau a nodir yn Adroddiad Blynyddol eleni. Maent, fel bob amser, yn dyst i **ymroddiad** ac **ymdrech** anhygoel ein **staff, hyfforddwyr, gwirfoddolwyr, clybiau cysylltiedig, canolfannau hyfforddi,** a'r Bwrdd.

P'un a ydych chi'n mwynhau ein dyfroedd, yn dysgu sgiliau newydd, yn hyfforddi'r genhedlaeth nesaf, neu'n gwirfoddoli, mae eich cyfraniad gwerthfawr wrth wraidd popeth a wnawn ac rydym i gyd yn hynod falch o'ch cefnogi.

Rwy'n gwybod **o waelod calon** fod yr hyn rydym yn ei gyflawni ar y cyd nawr yn rhyfeddol ac yn **fendigedig**. Ni allaf ddiolch digon i'n staff eithriadol, ein hyfforddwyr ysbrydoledig, ein clybiau cysylltiedig ymroddedig a gwerthfawr, ein canolfannau hyfforddi proffesiynol a rhagorol, ein gwirfoddolwyr ymroddedig, a'n Bwrdd am eich holl ymdrechion a'ch brwdfrydedd parhaus i sicrhau bod ein chwaraeon a'n cymuned yn parhau, gyda momentwm, i ffynnu ledled Cymru.

Ni fyddai hwylio a chychod yng Nghymru mor llwyddiannus ag ydyw heb eich cyfraniadau amhrisiadwy. **Gyda'n gilydd**, nid yn unig yr ydym yn cryfhau'r gymuned hwylio a chychod yma yng Nghymru, rydym yn parhau â gwaddol balch a pharhaol sy'n **croesawu, yn grymuso ac yn ysbrydoli.**

Diolch am fod yn rhan o'r daith hon gyda ni ac am eich cefnogaeth barhaus.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us and for your continued support.

Gweld chi ar y dŵr. See you on the water.

Siân Reynolds (Cadeirydd RYA Cymru Wales)



Chief Executive Report

This is our first full period reporting against the new strategy vision and framework. Our new vision is the focal point for all of our work:

Gyda'n Gilydd ar ein Dyfroedd – Together on our Waters A connected, inspire and inclusive Welsh sailing and boating community

All our activities are intended to lead towards the realisation of this vision. To focus and align our work we developed two complimentary frameworks covering our wider operations and one focusing in on performance.





Operational Framework



Performance Framework

To ensure delivery against our strategy, we develop an annual operational plan which involves work focusing on each of the elements of the framework. In addition to these elements, our operational plan also highlights two further areas of focus – Croeso and Excellence in Governance. These areas of work are summarised on the next page:



What: We will work with partners, clubs and centres to build a safe and welcoming environment, to address barriers to entry or longer-term engagement and to promote sailing and boating as sports for all.

How: This will include work to improve inclusion and access, advocacy for our sport and to promote safeguarding, welfare and wellbeing as everyone's business.

What: We will work with athletes and partners to build a high- performance environment that welcomes new athletes, engenders a performance mindset and looks after their health and wellbeing so they thrive in life before during and after their sporting career.

How: This work will include sport science, health and injury management, safeguarding and antidoping education.

Mynd ar y dwr

Get on the water

What: We will work with partners, clubs and training centres to support and encourage more people from more diverse backgrounds to get on the water.

How: This will include work with key gateway activities, including swimming and stand up paddleboarding (SUP), work to engage wider communities and work to improve water safety.

Aros ar y dwr

Stay on the water

What: We will work with partners, clubs and training centres to encourage and support people to stay on the water, to take part regularly and connect to nature and their community.

How: This will include work to explore activities for days when the waves are too big and when there is too much, or too little, wind.

Rhoi'n ol Give back

What: We will work with partners, clubs and training centres to encourage more people to give back more often. That could be introducing a friend to our sport, volunteering at an event or becoming an instructor – there are endless ways to give back.

How: This will include work to support, reward and recognise the workforce across our sports and to nurture our environment

What: We will work with former competitors, partners, clubs and training centres to encourage more people to give back to the performance system more often. That could be as a coach, an official or as a mentor and role model.

How: This will include work to develop coaches, officials and volunteers across our clubs, classes, squads and major event hubs.

Compete on the water

What: We will work with partners, clubs, classes and training centres to develop an accessible and vibrant competition and racing scene and to get more people to compete on the water. **How:** This will include deeper work with regional Hubs, OnBoard Clubs, the Dragon Series and regional championships, Ffin a Ffoil and major events.

Excel on the water

What: We will work with partners to build a process of deliberate practice and a performance environment which nurtures our most promising and committed athletes to excel on the water and achieve leading national and international performance. **How:** This will include class specific squad training, strength and conditioning training, event support and mentoring.

Excellence in Governance

On going assurance across all reviews including; Sport Wales Governance Framework, InSport, Moving to Inclusion Framework and CPSU, NSPCC and Ann Craft Trusts Safeguarding Frameworks.





Each of these areas of work has a series of actions which the team works on throughout the year. The actions are tracked and reported to the Board and Sport Wales. A summary of that work with a few highlights is shared below.

Action **Highlights** Area of work General: 4/4 actions Successful full reassessment of Croeso complete **CUPSU (Safeguarding)** Welcome • Safeguarding (10 standards. complete – 4 delayed Introduction of "croeso" into 25-26 period) wellness RIB at all our major Diversity and **Inclusion Action Plan** Work with Sport Wales to (8 complete – 6 span into 25-26 period) develop our approach to Clean Sport Action engaging and developing Plan (11 complete – 2 female volunteers and coaches. delayed into 25-26 period) Work with the RYA to support affiliate 5 actions Get on and review and roll out of key complete, 2 stay on the recommendations. delayed into the Get Inspired, get on the water events to link water 25-26 period with the Olympics. Further development of the SwimSafe programme with RYA/Canoe Wales. 5 actions First full year of the Impact Awards complete, 1 partial, Further development of the Big **Give Back** and 2 delayed into Weekend with a wider offering across the 25-26 period different communities. Connected events and CPD for club officials, coaches, and instructors 2 Olympians • 14 actions Growth of the Dragon Series with 87 Compete and complete, 1 sailors and all BYS Clubs taking part **Excel on the** partially complete, • 2 BST Sailors, 2 Transition Programme and 2 delayed in water sailors, 9 British Youth Squad Sailors. the 25-26 period 41 Sailors at the Eric Twiname • 2 teams at the U19 Keelboat **Championships** Preparation for Pathway Club Programme roll out. 4 actions Governance review complete complete, 1 under **Appointment of volunteer Financial Excellence in** review. Governance Improved inspection allocation and

support system.

The Sport Development and Performance bring some of these highlights to life more fully. I'd like to draw further on two greas.

The first is the **Affiliation Review** and Recommendations. This work is being led in Wales by **Hester Walker** and links to work across the whole Affiliate community being led by the RYA. The ambition behind this work is to help to support clubs to have all the tools in place to run safe and welcoming activity. For many this is about codifying and tuning existing practice. For others this highlights a gap to be worked on. The focus on this to help make sure risks linked to safety and safeguarding are well managed by clubs and affiliates, to help the committees themselves should an issue arise and perhaps most importantly to help to support clubs to improve the experience of members which should drive better retention of members. For us this is the beginning of a multiyear process and we will keep seeking ways to support clubs and affiliates across Wales to get the most out of the process.

The other is work being led by **Sarah McGovern** looking at welfare across our events. This is important to us as our events are not only one of our main ways to engage with our community but also as they give us a chance to model the sort of adjustments and improvement, we hope activity across Wales can copy. And of course, by testing and developing those ideas at our events we hope to make sure they are good in practice as well as in theory. This is a strand of work we will continue to explore as we keep considering how to make our events easier to access, safer and more fun. Do look at what we are working on and see if you think it would work for your event.

This period also saw further changes in our team, with **Sam Thomas** leaving us in Summer 2024 and **Ceri Yeomans** leaving in Spring 2025. Sam was our Events Officer and worked across Wales to improve our events and the link to our wider pathway. Ceri was part of the Welsh Yachting Association and RYA Cymru Wales for over twenty years. Ceri was our Office Manager, with a wider role supporting the team with finance and administration. She was a wonderful colleague and always went the extra mile to make sure every detail was considered.

Hatty Morsley joined our team in the Spring in a new role as **Pathway and Events Officer**. This role expands the Events Officer role we had and focuses on forging a tighter link between our sport development work and activities that lead to racing and our squads including all of our events.

In closing my report, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped to deliver our work and ambitions through this period. The list is long and includes our small staff team, the amazing contractors and coaches work with, the National Centre and National Sailing Academy as well as the work an army of volunteers do across the length and breadth of Wales. I am hugely grateful for all the work and support that have been given to us and to our sport.

In all of this we are directly supported by our volunteer Board and Committees. Led by our Chair, **Sian Reynolds**, they listen, challenge, support, probe and contribute to our work right across the year, giving generously of their time and talents. I am enormously grateful. **Diolch**

James Stuart (RYA Cymru Wales Interim Chief Executive Officer)



Financial Review

The 2024-25 financial year saw a turnover of £639,460, an increase on the 2023-2024 figure of £510,181 and largely attributable to a Sport Wales £131,325 Capital grant.

Sport Wales core grant received (attributable to 2024-2025) amounted to £317,739 a slight drop from the £323,634 received in 2023-2024, but in line with the anticipated gradual decrease in funding over the next few financial years.

The year produced an overall operating deficit of £10,525. This was in keeping with budgeting for the year and included costs associated with adjustments to the organisational structure.

The level of the company's financial reserves, used to indemnify against potential financial risk, is equivalent to the value of its net current assets, and as of 31 March 2025 this amounted to £256,902.

The "Fleet Replacement Fund" is a repository for the purpose of purchasing capital items - principally boats - to facilitate the Association's sail-training and other sailing events, and its carry-over value from the previous period is £42,456. The monies utilised to enhance the balance of this fund are derived from the proceeds from the sale of Boat Provision dinghies used in the Performance programme, and from the sale of RIBs. For the 2024/2025 financial year, the fund was use to cover a 10% contribution for the purchase of the ILCA fleet of boats. The agreed contribution was £13,133. As at 31 March 2025 the value of the Fleet Replacement Fund therefore stands at £29,823, and this is shown in the accounts on the balance sheet as "Other Reserves".

The Board continues to monitor and assess the investment of resources into RYA Cymru Wales's activities to ensure we attain our strategic objectives.

To strengthen our oversight we appointed **Jon Frost** to the Board as **Financial Director** in June 2024.





Our Impact Awards aim to recognise more people. more widely and more often, celebrating and acknowledging commitment, hard work and exceptional achievement within our community and sport.

The awards focus on the impact the person, group or club has had and how they stand out from their peers. That could be how an instructor has gone above and beyond in a professional setting, how a volunteer in a club has made a huge impact or a remarkable achievement on the racecourse.

Nominations are open all year around. Nominate here



Impact Award Winners

Approved by the RYA Cymru Wales Board between April 2024- April 2025



Andrew & Amanda Williams
Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club



Sarah Bagley Windswept Watersports



Keira Edwards Neyland Yacht Club



Mick Flemming Bala Sailing Club



Paul Welsh Bala Sailing Club



Aston Grindod Swansea Watersports



Kate & Dan Stevens
Dovey Yacht Club



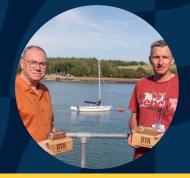
Lorina Walden Llangorse Sailing Club



Miyah Periam Windswept Watersports



Petrina Blomeley
All Afloat



Richard Horowitz & Jon Gammon SEAS Sailability

Sports Development Report

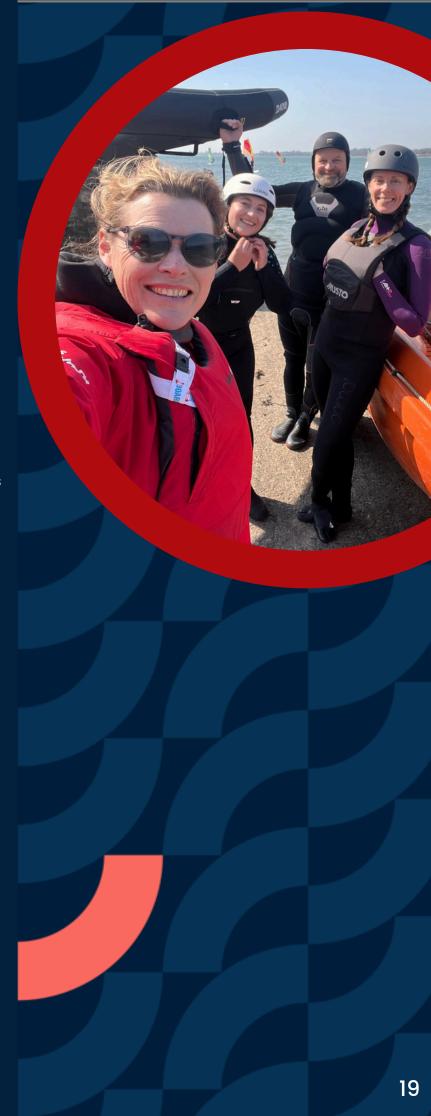
Our sport is so unique, and reflecting on my role and the friendships I have developed over the years within the organisation, I realize they are from our community, renewed almost every summer over decades. We each have a magical location where we often build friendships for life through participating in our wonderful sport. Pressures are increasing from all areas, but we know the value and the gift our sport gives to an individual. My role is rewarding but is not possible without the support of these professionals and fantastic volunteers whom I meet along the way, freely giving their time and commitment to others. And that means people volunteering their time, often for free. That's the real challenge. Today's fast-paced world doesn't allow for the same level of time commitment.

Launch of the RYA CW WhatsApp Community

In a bid to improve communication and knowledge-sharing across our network of clubs and centres, we launched the RYA CW "Together on Our Waters" WhatsApp community. This platform, I hope, has proven valuable in connecting individuals and clubs, providing support, fostering collaboration, and creating a space for sharing best practices and promoting your activities. As a result, this helps us promote the diverse activities we have here in Wales.

Investment into Club Projects

Sport Wales has made a huge investment into club projects this year, which has had a significant impact on engagement and skills development within the community.



Community Impact and Achievements

During the Olympic period, we celebrated the support of Mickey Beckett with a series of "Come and Try" sessions. These events provided opportunities for both children and adults to experience a variety of watersports, including sailing, windsurfing, and stand-up paddleboarding (SUP). These sessions were particularly successful in engaging the community, providing fun and accessible activities for people of all skill levels.







Ongoing Club Support and Training

During Winter 24/25, we continued our support for clubs across Wales by offering several online sessions for club development, some in collaboration with RYA Northern Ireland. These were on a range of topics, focusing on Sailwave beginner and intermediate training, Principal, and safety management systems.

We've seen an increase in the number of applications to become Onboard-accredited clubs and centres. Many of these establishments are the heart of grassroots activity.

Role Models

Bringing a spotlight to young ambassadors of our sport, Impact Awards winners, and those with a social media presence who hail from Wales and perhaps have come through our programmes themselves. This year I know of:

- Freya Terry Sailing around the British Isles and Ireland
- Miyah Periam Transatlantic rower.

Resilience and Club Affiliation

While the affiliation process remains a daunting task for some, we are pleased with the resilience shown by our community as clubs work through the process. We are committed to providing support and ensuring that all affiliated clubs feel confident and connected.

Looking Ahead: Planning for 2025

As we look toward 2025, we're excited to continue offering motivation, support, and confidence to our community members, ensuring that everyone is ready for the season ahead. We aim to build on the successes of this year, ride the momentum of our ongoing initiatives, and make even greater strides in developing our watersport community to meet the challenges and new opportunities that lie ahead. The past year has been a period of growth, innovation, and engagement within our community. From high-profile opportunities celebrating Mickey Beckett's presence at the Olympics to supporting the huge training opportunities, we've made significant strides in fostering a vibrant, connected, and resilient community. As we move forward, we are committed to building on these successes and ensuring that our clubs, centres, and participants continue to thrive and find joy on the water!



Hester Walker (RYACW Club Development Officer)

Regional Events

Regional Training Day – Bala April 2024

In April, we hosted a successful event in Bala, where 16 people booked, and 14 attended from five Welsh clubs and one English club. The event saw a diverse range of activities, including the RYA Safety Boat course, skill development for asymmetric sailing, and an introduction to winging and paddleboarding. Notably, over half of the attendees had never participated in an RYA training day before, which shows the increasing reach and engagement of our programs and the publicity of the activity. For the first time, I noticed a club treated the training day as a team away day, with everyone participating in the sessions that appealed to them and coming together for lunch.

Together on Our Waters - Multi-Activity Day

Linked to the OB Festivals in North and West Wales, we offered a Multi-Activity Day, allowing participants to try out sailing, winging, and SUPing. This event engaged both children and adults, introducing them to a potential new sport with the relatively recent launch of the RYA winging programme.



BIG Weekend

The weekend event hosted at Plas Menai in October was a major success, with 76 delegates representing 16 clubs and affiliates, including 13 Welsh clubs, 10 training centers, and two schools. We were fortunate to have access to Plas Menai's world-class facilities, which played a huge part in the success of the weekend. We had novices through to professionals. The event offered a range of qualifications, including:

- 11 RYA First Aid certificates
- 6 who completed the RYA Safety Boat course
- 4 attendees who completed their RYA Dinghy Instructor Pre-Entry
- 4 who revalidated their RYA Dinghy/Senior Instructor qualifications
- 8 new Regional Mark Layers who were qualified

The balance shifted with the number of individuals under 25 years old we've seen for quite a while, and I hope this shows a strong future for the sport in Wales, with young people eager to engage in and contribute to the community. For the first time, we also offered youth-specific sessions to those over 8 years old to help cater to a family group wishing to attend.

Be Active Wales Fund

Be Active Wales Fund support for Welsh Clubs and Centres

Total £41,428

See what projects the clubs and centres have been up to



Dovey Yacht Club

Dyfi Yacht Club has recently received some fantastic new kit. We have branched out into wing foil instruction, and it's been great to introduce people to a brand new sport. Some people transfer skills from other sports, while others see it as an opportunity for a more accessible sport for themselves. We can't wait for the summer holidays to get out even more. We have a wing foil event planned for August 2/3, which should be really exciting with taster sessions and our own King/Queen of the Dyfi competition planned.

The Quest has joined our fleet of club boats and changed the dynamic of club training incredibly. From an instructor's point of view, it's lighter up and down the beach, it's more comfortable with space under the boom, and it's just good fun for teaching with the spinnaker setup. Our young people at the club have massively benefited from using it, being taught rudderless and with spinnaker work, and one particular new member who is preparing for the ARC Plus has enjoyed having tuition in it.

Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club

Winning the Sport Wales grant has been transformational for Merthyr Tydfil Sailing Club. It has enabled us to launch an innovative pilot project Winging in Wales designed to introduce young people and others in our community to an exciting new watersport. This initiative provides a fresh pathway into physical activity, particularly for those from areas of deprivation, where such opportunities are often limited.

The project is already helping to inspire a new generation of sailors and potential performance athletes, while encouraging healthier lifestyles, outdoor adventure, and community connection. It marks the beginning of a broader vision to make watersports more inclusive, accessible, and rooted in the heart of Merthyr Tydfil.



Tenby Sailing Club

TSC's 2024 BAWF grant mostly funded three new RS Tera dinghies and the associated equipment to bring our Tera fleet back up to six after the previous dinghies became unserviceable. The new Teras have been in high demand this season, with a lot of the junior sailors' size and ability fitting a Tera well. The BAWF grant also funded essential safety boat equipment and volunteer training courses, including qualifying three new Dinghy Instructors, allowing us to increase our capacity this year so more young people could get afloat. A selection of photos is attached.

Our junior training sessions run every Wednesday (excluding 6 and 27 August due to National Championships being held at the club) from 17:00, and you are welcome to attend anytime.



Red Wharf Bay Sailing Club

Purchased a new RS Quest with the aim of getting more youngsters and families out on the water.

Their project is to further increase membership and participation, focusing significantly on the local community. They want to become more sustainable as a venue, with local members better positioned to participate regularly and to support the running of their volunteer club. The funding received will increase the number of instructors and qualified volunteers, and together with a new Quest, this means they can introduce more adults to sailing, with members organising taster sessions, sail-away days, and try-sailing days.







2024 was the year of the Paris Olympic Games, with two Welsh sailors among those selected to represent GBR. Micky Beckett from Solva Sailing Club in Pembrokeshire competed in the ILCA7 and Chris Grube from Bala Sailing Club in North Wales competed in the 470 class with Vita Heathcote. It was a challenging week in Marseille with up to 40 degrees of heat and very little wind. Both Micky and Chris did us proud and a result on paper doesn't always show all the grit, determination and hard work that it takes to compete at an Olympic Games. Micky finished up in 6th and Chris in 11th.

In Barcelona, **Hannah Mills** helmed the Athena Pathway boat at the first ever **PUIG Women's America's Cup** - a fantastic milestone for female sailing. **Bleddyn Mon** meanwhile crewed on the I**NEOS Britannia Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup** boat as trimmer/pilot, with the British team finishing runners up to Emirates Team New Zealand after reaching the country's first America's Cup Match final since 1964.

Back on Welsh waters, 73 sailors took part in **Welsh National Sailing Team** squad training across 6 classes, while open training offered regional training for youngsters to get on the water with national level coaches. The **Regional Junior Championships** took place in Dale in June with just over 70 youngsters; the **OnBoard Festivals** in late August saw over 80 sailors competing in Bala and Dale; and the grand finale of the **Welsh**



The **Dragon Series** was in full swing for its second year at venues in North, South and West Wales, with 87 sailors taking part across all 11 events. A **huge thank you** to all the host clubs and volunteers for running these awesome regional events, which are the first stepping stones for many young racers competing outside their club.

Welsh sailors dominated the racing scene internationally. Ben Greenhalgh & Tom Sinfield won the RS Feva World Championships for the second year running. Micky Beckett won Princess Sofia Regatta for the third year running followed by a win at the Semaine Olympic Francais Regatta and 3rd place at the ILCA7 World Championships. Zac Blomeley finished 3rd at the foiling 69F Cup GP4 European Championship and Kai Wolgram finished 9th at the ILCA7 U21 World Championships.

Arwen Fflur & Matthew Rayner and Sabine Potter & Merle Nieuwland were selected to represent GBR in the 420 class at World Sailing's Youth World Championship in Lake Garda, an event many sailors aspire to race at. Arwen & Matthew also won the UK 420 National Championship, and Ben Greenhalgh & Tom Sinfield won the RS Feva Nationals.

Liam and Harley Franz won the Pembrokeshire Spotlight Award for 2024, Tom Sinfield won the Conwy Junior Sportsman 2024 and Neyland Yacht Club won the Junior U16 Team of the Year.

Team Wales attended the **Eric Twiname Championships** in Rutland with 41 sailors across the classes. In February Team Wales made their way over to Northern Ireland for the **Celtic Cup** finishing in 2nd place.

There have been many awesome results this year and the above only highlight a few of the successes from Welsh sailors. As always a very big thank you to the coaches, parents, clubs/centres and volunteers for all your help and support. We look forward to what the coming year brings!

Sarah McGovern (RYACW Performance Manager)









Performance Highlights



Elite Level

Micky Beckett from Solva Sailing Club & Chris Grube from Bala Sailing Club represented GBR at the 2024 Olympic Games. Hannah Mills and Bleddyn Mon competed in the Americ's Cup.







World & European Championships

Ben Greenhalgh & Tom Sinfield - RS Feva Worlds - 1st Micky Beckett - ILCA7 Worlds- 3rd Zac Blomeley -69F Europeans - 3rd

Kai Wolgram

• U21 ILCA7 Europeans - 9th

04



Squads & Open Training

RYA Cymru Wales ran 12 Training groups in the 2024-2025 training period. Classes - Optimist, RS

Tera, Topper, RS Feva, ILCA4,6,7, 29er, 420, Windsurfing 60 training camps





Events

Welsh Regional Junior Championships - 77 Welsh Youth & Junior Championships - 94 sailors North OnBoard Festival - 35

South & West OnBoard Festival - 51 sailors

257



Coaches

18 coaches engaged through the Squad and Open Training Programmes

18





Grants

5 sailors received Sports Aid Wales grants of £1,800.
22 sailors benefited from RYA Cymru Wales
Equipment Provision support of £10,000.
RYA Cymru Wales received a Sport Wales Capital Funding Grant of £131,325.

£143,125







Boat Provision Scheme

In October 2024, we were successful in a Sport Wales Capital Funding pitch to purchase 18 ILCA dinghies with 3 six-stacker trailers to store and transport them.

The boats will support:

- · the running of the Euro Games in 2027 in Cardiff
- · rock up and train/race activity so that sailors do not need to transport boats
- · charter potential to generate some income
- · the opportunity to train abroad





'Merched Y Mor,' which means Women of the Sea, is aimed at supporting female sailors, volunteers, and coaches with education, mentoring, and a safe space to develop. The aim is to try to develop more females within Welsh Sailing and then retain them in the sport no matter what pathway they decide to pursue.

What have we done so far?

So far, we have run some focus groups with female sailors, female coaches (past, current, and next generation), and female volunteers with the aim of finding out what they enjoy about the sport/role and what any of the barriers might be.

What have we implemented?

We have been running some menstrual cycle education with our Welsh National Sailing Team sailors and coaches (both female and male), looking at education on products, protocols, and toileting/hydration.

We have introduced 'CROESO,' a wellness boat at our events that offers on-water support to sailors and volunteers with toileting and period products onboard.

We have included FREE period products in the toilets at events along with some educational posters.

We have introduced a wetsuit washing station at events, which is for washing your wetsuit after a long day on the water, hopefully breaking down the barrier that it is okay to wee in your wetsuit.

What are our goals?

Some targets include:

- · An all-female committee boat team at the Welsh Youth & Junior Championships 2025
- · An increase in female coaches—at least 1 extra by 2026
- · More confident female sailors
- · An increase in female volunteers at events
- · An increase in female sailors in Welsh Sailing and retention in the pathway

We are excited about the new brand and will have some merchandise coming soon to help spread the support and make Welsh Sailing females fierce again.





In September we launched - Welsh Sailing / Hwylio Cymru

The Brand

The purpose of the brand is to make Sailing in Wales more visible and inclusive.

Who is it aimed at?

All sailors in Wales -

- Sailors in the Welsh National Sailing Team
- Sailors who are members of Welsh Clubs
- Events hosted in Wales
- Sailors competing away representing their Club and Wales

What are we trying to achieve?

- Passionate sailors championing Wales locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Thriving environments for sailors to develop and feel supported.
- A visible brand to attract support from partners.
- Retention of participants in the sport with a love of sailing for life.
- Enabling individuals to get on the water, stay on the water, and give back.
- Welsh role models for future generations to inspire to be like.

Mission

To inspire and empower all ages and backgrounds to connect with Sailing in Wales.

Values and Behaviours



Adventurous & Brave

Sailors who try new things and reach outside of their comfort zones



Inclusive & Relevant

Environments where everyone supports each other, that same support system when the sailors compete away from the club



Excellence

Striving to be the best we can be by learning new skills, being curious, professional, and having a positive mindset



Proud

The Dragon says it all... been part of a support network that is proud to be Welsh. Sailors who play by the rules show sportsmanship.

Our Supporters



















Thank You / Diolch





RIA CYMRU·WALES



sportwales chwaraeoncymru

