

# ANNUAL REPORT

CPG ON SPORTS  
Opportunities For Sports In Wales



## 2024/25

# Chair's Foreword

It has once again been extremely encouraging to see the continued level of interest and engagement in the work of the Cross-Party Group on Sport. Building on our previous review into The State of Sporting Facilities in Wales, the Group has continued to provide a forum for constructive discussion on a wide range of issues affecting sport and physical activity across Wales.

As a Group, we remain grateful to all organisations and individuals who have contributed evidence, insight and expertise to our meetings over the course of the year. I would particularly like to thank the Welsh Sports Association (WSA) for continuing to provide Secretariat support, notably Matthew Williams, and for part of the year Poppy Riley, whose assistance has been greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank all Members of the Senedd who have participated in the Group's work this year. We now look ahead to commencing our next areas of inquiry, which will include a deeper examination of facility provision, women's sport, and the long-term legacy of major sporting events hosted in Wales.

**Laura Anne Jones MS**

Chair, Cross-Party Group on Sport



# Introduction

The Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Sport is established to provide a forum for discussion and exploration of key issues relating to sport and physical activity in Wales. The Group brings together Members of the Senedd and representatives from the sporting, leisure and physical activity sectors to examine policy challenges, opportunities for participation, and the sustainability of facilities across Wales.



# Members & Financial Statement

## Membership and Secretariat (2024–25)

### Members

- Laura Anne Jones MS (Chair)
- Samuel Kurtz MS
- Alun Davies MS
- Tom Giffard MS
- Heledd Fychan MS
- Mike Hedges MS
- Delyth Jewell MS

### Secretariat

Secretariat support was provided by Matthew Williams, Welsh Sports Association (WSA).

Additional support during part of the year was provided by Poppy Riley, Welsh Sports Association.

## Financial Statement – 2024/25

- The Group held three meetings during the year, all of which were conducted remotely.
- As a result, the Group incurred no expenses during the financial year.
- The Group received no donations or hospitality during the year.
- The Financial Statement was noted and adopted.





## Summary of Meetings and Key Evidence

Meeting: 24 October 2024

Held remotely via Microsoft Teams

Key Discussion

- The Chair noted that Jack Sargeant MS had been appointed Deputy Minister with responsibility for Sport and thanked him for his contribution to the Group.

Members discussed potential topics for future work, including:

- Leisure centres and local leisure provision
- Community access to 21st Century Schools
- Women's sport and girls' professional pathways
- Availability of all-weather and artificial grass pitches
- The future of 3G pitches post-2030 in light of the EU ban on rubber crumb
- Funding for smaller sports not routinely supported by Sport Wales
- Sport, health and wellbeing (including vitamin D and sunlight exposure)
- Water quality for bathing and water sports
- Access to the outdoors and inclusion for disabled participants



**Meeting: 5 November 2024**

**Held remotely via Microsoft Teams**

**Key Discussion**

- Members continued discussions on future work priorities.

**Requests were made for:**

- A session on the development of local rugby and football grounds
- An update on 4G and all-weather pitch provision
- Consideration of water sports and water quality
- Further examination of snowsports facilities and coaching issues

**Meeting: 3 June 2025**

**Held remotely at 10:00am**

**Attendees**

Laura Anne Jones MS (Chair); Matthew Williams (WSA, Secretariat); Sam Kurtz MS; Mike Hedges MS; representatives from Wales Golf (Theo Baker, Dilwyn Griffiths, Caitlin Pugh)

**Key Presentation: Wales Golf**

- Wales Golf outlined preparations for the AIG Women's Open 2025, to be held at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, marking the first time the championship will be hosted in Wales.
- Golf participation in Wales has continued to grow post-pandemic.
- The Flexi-Club scheme has been successful in attracting younger players.

**Participation initiatives include:**

- "Unleash Your Drive" delivered in 91 schools across Wales
- Girls-only coaching sessions at clubs nationwide
- A Careers in Golf programme highlighting pathways from greenkeeping to governance



**Meeting: 22 December 2025**

**Held remotely via Microsoft Teams**

**Key Discussion**

- Group agreed the content of the Annual Report and Financial Statement, to be submitted to the Senedd Commission following the meeting.
- Office Holders until the end of the Senedd term were agreed – Laura Anne Jones MS to continue in post as Chair [nominated by Mike Hedges MS], Matthew Williams (WSA) as secretariat [nominated by Laura Anne Jones and seconded by Mike Hedges MS]. Mike Hedges MS was nominated as Deputy Chair by Laura Anne Jones.
- A proposal was made to prepare for the end of the Senedd term, and ensure that the CPG was in a position to be remade during the next Senedd.

**Attendees:**

- Laura Anne Jones MS, Mike Hedges MS, Matthew Williams (Welsh Sports Association (WSA)).

**Apologies:**

- Samuel Rowlands MS, Alun Davies MS, Andrew RT Davies MS, Tom Giffard MS, John Griffiths MS, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Carolyn Thomas MS.

**Key Presentation: Wales Golf**

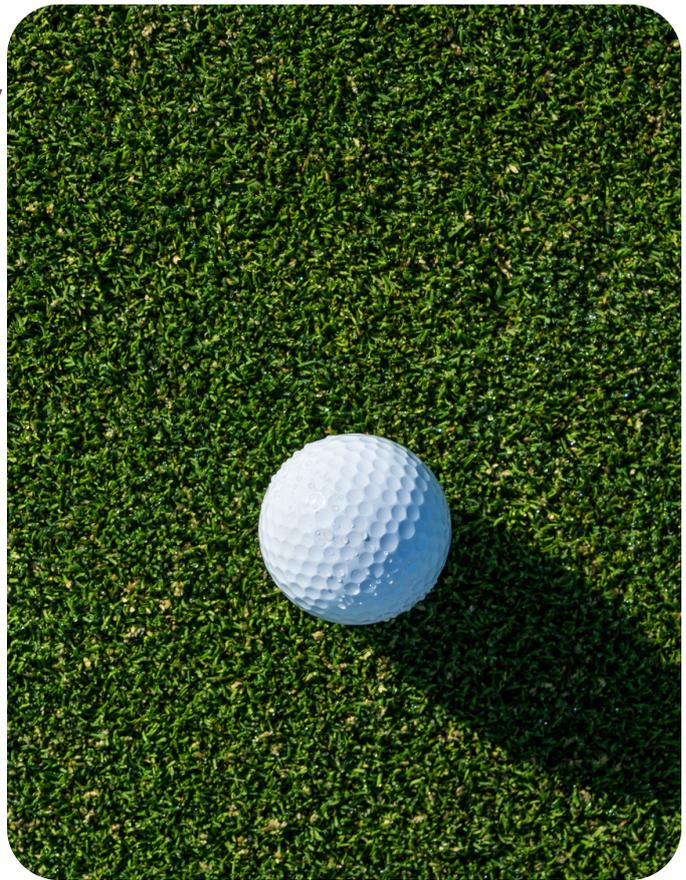
- Wales Golf outlined preparations for the AIG Women's Open 2025, to be held at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, marking the first time the championship will be hosted in Wales.
- Golf participation in Wales has continued to grow post-pandemic.
- The Flexi-Club scheme has been successful in attracting younger players.

**Participation initiatives include:**

- "Unleash Your Drive" delivered in 91 schools across Wales
- Girls-only coaching sessions at clubs nationwide
- A Careers in Golf programme highlighting pathways from greenkeeping to governance

**The £1 million Women's Golf Legacy Fund, supported by Welsh Government, has:**

- Funded 74 projects across 49 clubs
- Prioritised modernisation of facilities for women and girls
- Improved on-course toilet provision and accessibility
- Wales Golf highlighted sustainability initiatives linked to the championship and a communications strategy designed to deliver a long-term participation legacy.



**Meetings with External Organisations (2024–25)**

During the year, the Group met representatives from:

- **Wales Golf** – to discuss the AIG Women's Open 2025, participation growth, facilities investment and legacy funding.
- **Snowsport Wales** – to discuss the development of new snowsports facilities, modernisation of existing infrastructure, and long-term growth of the sport in Wales.

**Emerging Themes and Areas for Future Review**

Based on evidence received across the year, Members identified several areas for potential future inquiry:

- Artificial grass and all-weather pitches: availability, cost, maintenance and long-term sustainability
- The future legacy of major sporting events hosted in Wales
- Women's sport and inclusive facility design
- Community access to education-based sporting facilities
- Support for emerging and smaller sports
- Environmental sustainability, water quality and decarbonisation of facilities

# Conclusion

The work of the Cross-Party Group on Sport during 2024–25 has reinforced the importance of long-term planning, sustainable investment and inclusive access to sport and physical activity across Wales. The Group remains committed to supporting the sector through evidence-led discussion and cross-party collaboration and looks forward to developing its next programme of work.

This is not an official publication of the Senedd. It has not been approved by either the Senedd or any of its committees.

Cross Party Groups are informal groups in the Senedd which provide an opportunity for Members of all parties, outside organisations and members of the public to meet and discuss a shared interest in a particular cause or subject. The views expressed in this document are those of the Group.



# Financial Statement

## Financial Statement – 2024/25

- The Group held three meetings during the year, all of which were conducted remotely.
- As a result, the Group incurred no expenses during the financial year.
- The Group received no donations or hospitality during the year.
- The Financial Statement was noted and adopted.

This is not an official publication of the Senedd. It has not been approved by either the Senedd or any of its committees.

Cross Party Groups are informal groups in the Senedd which provide an opportunity for Members of all parties, outside organisations and members of the public to meet and discuss a shared interest in a particular cause or subject. The views expressed in this document are those of the Group.

