

CHAIR'S STATEMENT



The Basketball Wales 2020 Annual Report would normally cover the 2019–20 basketball season within the financial year to 31 March 2020. However, the calendar year 2020 has been dominated by the global Covid-19 pandemic and, since March, severely restricted organised sport and especially indoor team sports such as basketball. We offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to those of you who have lost loved ones, and/or suffered personal distress, as a result of the pandemic, and sincerely hope that the recent introduction of a vaccine will see an end to the issue during the first half of 2021.

Throughout 2020, the members of your Basketball Wales Board have made significant contributions to keep our organisation functioning and looking ahead to the future. In particular, we thank Gavin Williams, our Chief Executive Officer, for the leadership and direction he has provided throughout this stressful year. Gavin is a multi-talented and exceptionally busy person, who somehow manages to keep us all going in the right direction.

At the same time, we have relied heavily upon the skills of our part-time Administrator, Helen Pearce, and we thank Helen for her work and liaison with the Welsh Government's agencies. This has been vital in guiding and advising Basketball Wales and its member clubs through the constantly evolving Covid-19 situation.

Recent months have seen the resignation, due to increased work commitments, of Mike Thomas, our Finance Director for several years. Mike's astute and conservative financial estimates and reporting have been very much appreciated and he leaves Basketball Wales in a sound financial state, well equipped for the current set back in activities and prepared for the future. To continue Mike's role, we thank Helen and Gavin for their work administering and supervising the Association's finances.

The resignation of Safeguarding Director, Melanie Hellerman, was also received during the past year and we thank her for her efforts while updating our resources and taking Basketball Wales to the next level regarding Safeguarding resources. On the plus side, Kate Gordos joined the Board this year, in the position of Commercial Director. Kate made an immediate positive impact with her initiatives and expertise, and these will be illustrated throughout this Annual Report. We are always looking for volunteers for the Basketball Wales Board and can accommodate anyone with the appropriate skills or experience, and a genuine interest in assisting us to grow, develop and administer basketball in Wales.

Your Board members have also been active with their support of the British Basketball Federation (BBF). Stef Collins is now a coach (formerly a player) with the highly successful British Women's team, while Cameron Seeley and Simon Fisher contribute as members of the Performance Management Group and Gavin Williams is our representative (Director) on the BBF Board. After serving a two-year term, to assist in providing stability to the BBF Board, the three home country Chairs have now stood down, though I continue to be a member of the BBF Finance Committee. With the recent resignation, due to ill health, of BBF Chairman, Maurice Watkins, there has been a move, led by Basketball England, to review the BBF structure. We will keep members informed of developments.

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Meanwhile, on the international front, after the disruption of activity for the current 2020 year, FIBA have transferred our ability to participate in the U16 European Small Countries Tournaments to 2021. While this is excellent news, we will continue to lobby and apply, through the BBF and directly with FIBA, for permission to participate in all European Small Countries Tournaments in the future, and particularly for U18 participation in 2021. For the next year a priority must be the development of senior 3x3 basketball teams, as qualification and preparation for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games gathers pace.

The support and continued funding from Sport Wales is again appreciated, and we thank Richard Lawrence, Sports Wales Senior Investments and Support Officer, for his ongoing assistance. The efforts of all within Welsh basketball have been recognised and we understand that the sport may well benefit further from Sport Wales investment, especially if we can demonstrate sustainably increasing participation and good governance.

Finally, thank you all for your efforts during this difficult year. Your support for the efforts of the Directors is greatly appreciated, whether it be for the Volunteer Awards, online quizzes, or anything else to do with Welsh basketball. You have a wonderful group of volunteer Board members and I thank every one of them for their contributions and wish you all the best for a new era of Welsh basketball, beginning in 2021.

Keith Mair

Independent Chair

Basketball Wales

9 December 2020

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