MINUTES OF THE 84th SPORT AND RECREATION ALLIANCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at St James's Palace, Marlborough Road, London SW1A 1BQ

Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 11:00

In the Chair	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT GCVO President of the Sport and Recreation Alliance
Alliance Chair	Dame Janet Beer CBE
Chief Executive	Lisa Wainwright MBE

Members and Guests:

Helen Rowbotham	Access Sport
Andy Taylor	Active Partnerships National Organisation
Adam Blaze	Activity Alliance
Stuart Sharp	Angling Trust
Kath Hipwell	Association for British Climbing Walls
Kate Thornton-Bousfield	Association for Physical Education
Diane Corbett	Association of Dance and Freestyle Professionals
Aled-Rhys Howell	Baseball/Softball UK
Will Evans	Boccia England
Stephen Billett	British Aikido Board
Thomas Cloke	British Association of Snowsport Instructors
Michael Gunston	British Balloon and Airship Club
Cllr Sallie Barker MBE	British Blind Sport
Jon Dutton OBE	British Cycling
Nicola Nordin	British Dance Council
Neil Harrison	British DanceSport Association
Helen Hewson	British Fencing
Diana King OBE	British Gliding Association
Mark Weston	British Horse Society
Sarah Finney	British Inline Puck Hockey Association
Andrew Scoular	British Judo
Jon Garside	British Mountaineering Council
James Burton	British Obstacle Sports
Kathy Morris	British Roller Sports Federation
Colin West	British Student Taekwondo Federation
Mary Tetley	British Sub Aqua Club
Lisa Smith	British Weightlifting
Justine Baynes	British Wheelchair Basketball
Jo Rutavicius	British Wheelchair Basketball

Craig Anthony	British Wrestling
David Bean	Countryside Alliance
Claudia Carrington King	Dallaglio RugbyWorks
Edwin Dean Straw	Development Through Challenge
Shelley Meyern	EMD UK
Hannah Bruce	England and Wales Cricket Board
Chris Jones	England Athletics
Jerome Pels	England Boxing
Martha Brass	England Golf
Mark Coups	England Lacrosse
Anthony Clipstone	English Amateur Dancesport Association
Nick Loftus	English Schools Football Association
Karen Tonge OBE	European Table Tennis Union
Margaret Peggie OBE	FLexercise / Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
John Court	Great Britain Outrigger
Jason Brisbane	Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby
Dr Christine Janes MBE	Guest
Susan Coveyduck	Guest
Edith Collins	Guild of Professional Teachers of Dancing
Hester Hearn	Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership
Margarita Sweeney-Baird BEM	Inclusive Skating
Dr Malcolm Plant	Institute of Clay Shooting Instructors
Joanne Kirkland	International Dance Teachers Association
Gilda Chambers	Keep Fit Association
Marguerite Killingbeck	Laban Guild International
Eve Knights	Language of Dance Trust
Jack Baker	Lawn Tennis Association / Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Mark Ormerod	Leap
Andrew Sutch	London Federation of Sport and Recreation
Gabriella Shirley	Lord's Taverners
Tracy Levy	Margaret Morris Movement International
Ann-Marie Weathers	Medau Teachers Association
Annette Hufton	National Association of Teachers of Dancing
Simon McGrath	National Caravan Council
Pam Burrage	National Council for School Sport
John Turkentine	National Council for School Sport
Polly Martin	National Trails UK
David Joy	NGB CEO Forum
Abbi Blakey	NICAS
Catriona Lewis	Nine Lives Media
Anne Thompson	Northern Counties Dance Teachers Association
Ben Seal [Proxy]	Paddle UK
Alan Spelling	Panathlon
Lynda Williams	Panathlon
Samuel Bradley	Parkour UK
Natalie Justice-Dearn	Rounders England
Susi Pink	Royal Academy of Dance

Dave Strain	Royal Yachting Association / Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Sara Sutcliffe MBE	Royal Yachting Association
Kathryn Cole	Rugby Football Union
Mike Spinks	Schools Association Football International Board
James Hope-Gill	Skateboard GB
Alexander Jordan	Skateboard GB/ Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Amie Mills	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Theo Boggis	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Elen Young	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Harry Osborne	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Serena Mahandru	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Annie Azzopardi	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Richard Boardman	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Max Nicholls	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Karis Longden	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Alex Wilkinson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Toby Flannigan	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Martin Lindsey	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Benjamin Darby	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Deana Levy	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Leigh Thompson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Vijaya Panangipalli	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Dirk George	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Kate Lawrenson	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Gabriel Marin	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Rosemarie Breitenstein	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Richard Baldwin	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Andy Reed OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Mark Walker	Sport and Recreation Alliance
Rupinder Bains	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Katie Fawkner-Corbett	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Dame Sally Dicketts	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
Richard Gray	Sport and Recreation Alliance Director
John Ollard	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Charles Woodhouse CVO DL	Sport and Recreation Alliance Honorary Member
Robert Pettigrew MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Michael Power OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Brigid Simmonds OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Peter Thomas MBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Hilary Weedon BEM	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Howard Wells OBE	Sport and Recreation Alliance Vice President
Tracey McCillen	Sport Excel UK
Paul Owen OBE	Sport in Mind
Nick Humby	SRA Broadcast Committee Chair
Philip Brownlie	Swim England
Alison Carroll	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Jane Bateman	The Football Association

Vivien Mills	The Sabre Trust
Mark Gannon	UK Coaching
Simon Hill	UK Ultimate
Fowzia Mahmood	UK Ultimate
Isobel Carnwath	United Kingdom Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Association
Charlie Ford	Volleyball England
Lisa West	Women in Sport
Victoria Wells	Youth Sport Trust

1 President's Remarks

The President welcomed everyone to the 84th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the 90th anniversary celebrations. This anniversary celebrated not just 90 years of history, but the enduring spirit of collaboration and renewal that continued to define the Alliance and the communities it served.

[*There is not a full transcript of HRH's speech but the following points were made*:]

Additional member milestones worth noting:

- British Blind Sport, celebrating 50 years.
- Royal Yachting Association, celebrating 150 years.
- Volleyball England, celebrating 70 years.
- Rugby Football League, celebrating 130 years

This has been a year of evolution for the Alliance. While publishing a new five-year strategy which further strengthened its ability to deliver on members' needs, it had continued to advance the priorities of its members and the wider grassroots sport and recreation sector, of which more was reported during the meeting.

There was also reflection on the extraordinary year of women's sport, with record-breaking attendance, broadcast reach, and investment. To name a few statistics:

- Record viewing hours: Total viewing hours for women's sport in the UK reached a record 357 million hours between January and September 2025, a significant increase that highlighted deeper fan engagement. *Source: Women's Sport Trust*.

- Women's Rugby World Cup (RWC) dominance: The tournament, hosted in England, smashed records with the final at Twickenham becoming the most attended women's rugby match in history (an ~82,000 sell-out). *Source: RWC*.

- UEFA Women's EURO 2025 impact: The final peaked at 16.2 million viewers across the BBC and ITV, making it one of the most-watched TV moments of the year in the UK across all programming. *Source: ITV*.

The Alliance's ongoing commitment to representing the grassroots sport and recreation sector as a unified and independent voice could continue to build on this success, as it has done for 90 years, and demonstrated the power of sport and recreation.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 15 October 2024 were approved and signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

3 Annual Report

The Alliance Chair, Dame Janet Beer, commenced her report by placing on record the sincere thanks by the Membership and everyone present for not only joining the Meeting as President, but also for hosting everyone in the magnificent setting of St James's Palace.

This was her fourth AGM as Chair of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, and she stated that it was a real honour to serve in the role, especially this year, as the Alliance celebrated its 90th anniversary.

What made the Sport and Recreation Alliance so special was that it was much more than a collection of organisations. It was a vibrant network of CEOs, officials, athletes, volunteers, coaches, campaigners, and participants, representing every corner of the country.

This year, as always, it was through this network that the organisation had made a real impact on grassroots sport and recreation. To highlight just one outcome - a record £197.9 million of television revenue had been invested in grassroots sport as part of the voluntary code on sports broadcasting, which the Alliance proudly administered.

Alongside Angela Rippon CBE, we helped launch Let's Dance! — a national campaign encouraging people to get moving. More than 20,000 people took part on the 2nd of March to celebrate the first National Dance Day.

The Chair was particularly proud of the work the Alliance had undertook to update the evidence base with Reconomics 3.0. This new research, conducted in partnership with Leeds Beckett University and Alliance members, confirmed the vital and expanding role of outdoor recreation.

The Alliance research and governance teams continued to provide valuable support to members through a range of projects. This included working with EMD UK on their groundbreaking report, *The Social Value of Group Exercise*, delivering expert governance advice, and hosting a series of equality, diversity, and inclusion roundtables throughout the year.

As the independent voice of grassroots sport and recreation to government, the Alliance continued to work closely with ministers, parliamentarians, and policymakers. Earlier this year, our CEO, Lisa Wainwright MBE, gave oral evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, highlighting not only the challenges facing the sector, but also the enormous opportunities to use sport and recreation as a force for positive change in policy and society.

As the Alliance celebrated this landmark year in the Alliance's history, it was also laying the foundations for the next chapter through its new strategy: *A United Voice for Sport and Recreation*.

This strategy was the product of extensive work to ensure the Alliance remained well placed to meet the current and future needs of the members. In the 18 months leading up to its publication, the Alliance carried out a comprehensive member review and held a series of roadshow events — SRA On the Move — across the country. These conversations provided invaluable feedback that had shaped its plans for the future.

The new strategy focused on three core objectives:

- First, to protect sport and recreation by working with key decision makers.
- Second, to provide services, solutions, and connections that make members' lives easier, allowing them to focus on what they do best.
- And third, to promote the positive power of sport and recreation, creating the conditions for success.

The Alliance believed that these objectives build on its proud history whilst ensuring it remained modern, relevant, and responsive to the ever-changing needs of its members and the communities it served.

The Alliance looked forward to supporting its members as it delivered this new strategy and as we move together toward our centenary as the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

However, as the Alliance looked to the future, it was right that the Meeting paused to remember those who, sadly, were no longer with us.

- The Meeting paid tribute to Philip Lewis MBE, an honorary member of the Alliance and a pioneer of Paralympic sport,
- and to Sir Menzies Campbell, a giant of both sport and politics, also an honorary member.

The Alliance was deeply grateful for their service to the sector and extended warmest wishes to their loved ones.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Kenny Baillie for his unwavering support, professionalism, and commitment; Kenny left the Board in October 2025 for new pastures.

This departure left the Board with one casual vacancy, and we were pleased to welcome Chris Jones, CEO of England Athletics, to join us. He formally started his term on the Board with effect from today's Annual General Meeting.

The Chair was also pleased to announce the appointment of Kath Hipwell, CEO of the Association of British Climbing Walls and the re-appointment of Dave Strain of the Royal Yachting Association.

Lastly, the Sport and Recreation alliance would not be what it is, without the fantastic team working tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver its work and support all the members and partners.

The Alliance's staff had been central to the success seen over the past year and their achievements over the past 12 months had been especially impressive. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the Team, for their continued work, dedication and enduring spirit

At this stage of the meeting, members were delighted to hear from the elected divisional Chairs: for Movement & Dance, Annette Hufton, the new Chair of the Partners division, Paul Owen OBE, and Ben Seal, the Chair of the Outdoor Recreation Division, who each provided some brief reflections on their vision for the next few years and how the Alliance could continue to support them.

The Chair then handed the meeting to Dave Strain for the financial accounts.

4 Annual Accounts

Dave Strain, Independent Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee presented the statement of Accounts.

Dave confirmed that he was an Appointed Director of the Alliance and had been Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee for the past three years. His role was to present the statutory accounts for the year ended March 2025 on which the auditors, UHY Hacker Young, had issued a clean, unqualified report.

Dave drew attention briefly to a few notable points from the Accounts.

The Alliance's largest source of funding continued to be contractual income from Sport England. As many of the members knew, this contract between the Alliance and Sport England was signed in 1972. In return for transferring ownership of some sporting properties, Sport England agreed to fund the reasonable costs of the Alliance in perpetuity. In the year to March 2025, the funding under that contract remained the same as the previous year at £1.25 million. The Alliance's level of Sport England funding had also been confirmed, in principle, at the same rate of £1.25 million per year for the next two years.

In terms of other income, the organisation was successful in securing £812,000 of project and event income during the year which included:

- Hosting of the Sport for Development Coalition and the International Working Group on Women & Sport.
- Event support, and

- Governance and Research consultancy projects.

The Alliance continued to keep a tight control on other costs during the year, and overall, finished with an operating loss for the year of £148,000 (after interest) but this did include the notional pension interest, service and administration costs of £69,000. The organisation closed the year with a healthy cash position of £1.3 million.

The other point to raise was concerning the pension fund. The Alliance was obliged by accounting rules to present this in a particular way, which typically created a negative net asset position on the balance sheet. However, after a successful challenge to the risk categorisation in 2022/23 and an improvement in market conditions, this year the actuarial calculation of the pension liability was a surplus of £2.1 million compared to a surplus of £1.1 million last year. As the pension surplus was notional this has been recorded as nil in our accounts leaving our balance sheet with net assets of £1.3 million. The triennial valuation completed in 2022 by the fund's managers showed the pension fund in a healthy position, carrying a surplus of £1.8 million.

Looking forward, the Board had approved a break-even budget for 2025-26 and we would continue to actively monitor the risk that a flat level of funding might have over the coming years.

There were no questions and Dave handed the Meeting back to His Royal Highness for the next agenda item.

5 Voting by the Membership

5.1 Special Resolution to change the Articles of Association

The Chair reported that details of this Special Resolution with the proposed new Articles of Association had been on our website since the middle of October and reference was included in the official Notice of the Annual General Meeting circulated on 22 October.

The Chair hoped that everyone had taken the opportunity to review the document which included tracked changes for ease of reference and the summary paper which highlighted the main changes to be made. She believed these to be self-explanatory and without further comment, asked the members of the Alliance *to consider, and if thought fit, approve the Special Resolution to change the Articles of Association of the Sport and Recreation Alliance as circulated with the Notice of the Meeting dated 22 October 2025*.

The members were asked to vote using the voting cards provided with their lanyards. Results were noted as follows:

53 voting representatives in the room.
75% required of votes to pass the Special Resolution = 40
No abstentions
No voting against

Special Resolution passed.

5.2 Ordinary Resolution to Re-Appoint Auditors

The President read out the Ordinary Resolution, "To consider and, if thought fit, resolve by ordinary resolution that UHY Hacker Young LLP be re-appointed auditors of the company to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the company, at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors".

There was no indication that anyone wished to vote against the resolution and, with a show of hands that indicated a majority of those voting members were in favour, the resolution was passed.

6 Board of Directors – Notification of re-Election/Appointments

To note the outcome of the election process of **Kath Hipwell**, by the Membership by electronic voting process during the period 2 May – 16 May 2025, in accordance with Article 25 of the Articles of Association, for the four-year period 2025–2029.

To note the re-appointment of **Dave Strain** in accordance with Article 26.3 of the Articles of Association, for the four-year period 2025-2029; this will be Dave's second term of office.

To note the appointment of **Sally Dicketts** in accordance with Article 26.1 of the Articles of Association, for the four-year period 2025-2029; this will be Sally's first term of office, having previously served two years as a casual vacancy.

The above Directors will join those already in place on the Board:

Jack Baker
Dame Janet Beer
Katie Fawkner-Corbett
Richard Gray
Ruth Hall
Alex Jordan
Hamid Vaghefian
Lisa Wainwright MBE

The President thanked the Members for their attendance which concluded this year's Meeting. The presentation of the annual awards took place as part of the 90th anniversary celebrations.