



I am delighted to have been invited to take over from the previous Chair of Welsh Rowing Chris Jenkins. My first duty is to thank Chris on behalf of all members of the Welsh Rowing community for his hard work and dedication in moving Welsh Rowing forward over the last few years. I am sure that you will join me in wishing our outgoing Chair well as he engages with new areas of work. I would also like to thank Caroline Spanton for her work as interim chair ensuring that Welsh Rowing has maintained its momentum. I am pleased that Caroline will remain on the board as we move forward.

As your Chair, my overarching goal is to continue to build Welsh Rowing into a strong, robust and sustainable organisation that represents the needs of the rowing community in Wales. Our community of coastal, inland and emerging indoor rowing members provides a vibrant and passionate core to rowing in Wales. Having worked in the sport and leisure industry in Wales for over 18 years at the front line, coaching, volunteering, and working with a wide variety of clubs and services as a senior sports development professional, I have seen many changes in how sports have had to adapt to ensure safe, modern and successful delivery. My current role as a University lecturer in sports and leisure management is primarily focused on producing the next wave of sports and leisure professionals but it has also allowed me to engage and be involved in the next generation of sport organisations such as leisure trusts and private sector organisations.

The constantly changing sporting landscape provides the Welsh Rowing community some challenges but many more opportunities to grow. Reinforcing the core values of rowing and outlining a strong vision for our community will be a priority over the next 12 months. I intend to listen to our members; juniors, masters and our army of committed volunteers and supporters in developing this vision. These needs have to be balanced with the aspirations and priorities of our key partners to ensure that the Welsh Rowing community is able to build on its recent success and continues to support the ambitions of Welsh and British sport.

On behalf of the current Board of directors and officers of Welsh Rowing I would like to thank our community of clubs and members for their ongoing support. Together, we can ensure that rowing in Wales continues to deliver successful elite performers whilst also contributing to the life and health of thousands of enthusiasts.

With my very best wishes  
Steven Osborne