

Wales Senior Women's Basketball Summary

Interim Head Coach, CJ Lee

- The 2018/19 season was a frustrating one for those involved in senior women's basketball.
- The appointment of Karen Burton in the summer of 2018 was welcomed by all and re-energised a flagging programme
- Karen's departure in November was unfortunate and left the programme without leadership or clear direction for a number of months
- The delay in appointing a replacement, further undermined any confidence in the perceived value of the senior women's programme in Wales
- My appointment in February was welcomed by some, however, for many it was too little too late for this year's programme
- We held a joint senior/U18s practice in March, but the turn-out by senior players was poor (from recollection we had five senior players and six U18s)
- I attempted to organise a fixture in August, combined with the men's programme, but attempts to get enough senior players together for training camps [in May and June] proved difficult.
- Azeb Smiley has performed admirably, trying to keep the squad updated of progress and developments.

Future of the Women's programme

- There needs to be a clear pathway from juniors to senior basketball in Wales, which includes a focus and priority around the senior programme leading to representation at GB level.
- Playing/Coaching for Wales at a senior level should be seen as the pinnacle of representation on a national level, much like those who represent their sport in Football, Netball and Rugby. For many, representing Wales will be their highest of honours.
- This requires a clear strategy from the board to promote, support and drive the senior programme. It's not just about funding or staffing, but creating opportunities for the senior national teams to be an attractive 'shop window' to inspire junior participation and performance.
- Without some clear competitive milestones for the senior programme it's difficult to develop an attractive programme that has measurable value to the senior players, junior players/parents and Basketball Wales as a whole.
- The Board does not have to be responsible for doing the work, but must be responsible for setting the standards and benchmarks against which all performance and representative teams should be measured.
- These standards may include: -
 - Playing/coaching level/experience required to be part of the programme
 - Expressing and developing a 'Wales style of play', which is clear for all to see at all competitions, promotional events and camps
 - Number of international and domestic appearances for teams on a yearly/bi-yearly calendar
 - Make-up/performance staff and support staff to support each programme e.g. physios, TMs, coaches etc.
 - Number of coaching interventions to take place over the course of the calendar
 - Performance measures for players, staff and the team as a whole
 - Responsibilities and duties to be adhered under the banner of a title sponsor
 - Responsibilities and duties to be adhered on behalf of Basketball Wales e.g. growing the game, inspiring performance, representing the national team
 - Contributing to regular press releases in line with Basketball Wales Marketing & Communications Strategy
 - Abiding by Basketball Wales' codes of conduct and behavioural guidelines

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