



**MINUTES OF A CRICKET WALES BOARD MEETING HELD AT 3-30pm ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> July 2018**

**AT THE SOPHIA GARDENS CARDIFF STADIUM**

**Present: Rod Jones(RJ) (Chair); Tony Moss(AM); Ann-Marie Smale(AMS); Jennifer Owen Adams(JOA); Peter Hybart(PH) (CEO); Colin John(CJ); Huw Morgan(DHM); Kerry Lloyd(KL); Mark Frost(MF); Tim Masters(TM)(ECB); Maxine Rhodes(MR)(Sport Wales); Ieuan Watkins (IW): Matt Thompson (MT); Keri Chahal (KC)**

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence:** Rod Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting including Keri Chahal, Area Manager South West Wales. Apologies for absence were received from Tariq Awan, Richard Penney, Hugh Morris and Jeff Bird (JRB).
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the May 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 Board meeting (distributed previously) were accepted as a true record and were signed accordingly by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising:**
  - 4.1 **Joint Cricket Wales/Glamorgan Strategy:** PH confirmed receipt of input from the Cricket Wales Area Managers and the draft paper has now gone to the Area Boards for comment. The working group might meet again in August with the intention of presenting the revised draft to the September Board meeting. There may be a delay in the elements being led by Glamorgan e.g. the “Inspired Fans” section. RJ requested that should there be such a delay, PH should present Cricket Wales’s part of the strategy to the next meeting for discussion.
  - 4.2 **Financial Hardship Cases:** JOA advised the meeting that she would be presenting her findings on providing help for financial hardship cases within the Welsh Pathway to MT, which would coincide with the launch of the new pathway structure.

**Action: JOA to present findings of potential financial assistance for hardship cases within the Welsh Pathway to MT**
  - 4.3 **Mid Wales Funding:** PH said he was monitoring the progress being made in Powys and Ceredigion and, once the current busy period is over, he and Sue Wells intend to arrange a meeting with the clubs and Region in the area to discuss the way forward.

**Action: PH to progress Mid Wales support**
5. **Season 2018 Cricket Update Presentation:**
  - 5.1. MF presented a power point presentation outlining the progress made on various initiatives:
    - The great success of the All Stars programme throughout Wales

- The number of clubs having new junior sections as a result of the All Stars programme
- Significant growth Women and Girls game throughout Wales
- Progress on increasing club membership
- Developing All Star centres in non-club and deprived areas
- EDI initiatives
- Development of 6 MCC Hubs in Wales
- Progress of the Clubmark project which currently has 73 successful clubs and another 43 in the process of achieving Clubmark status.
- The success of the Chance to Shine Schools initiative
- The success of staging key events in partnership with Glamorgan CCC

**5.2.** MT presented an update on the performance of all the Welsh playing squads to date.

- He was pleased to report that the Senior Women T20 squad had won promotion to the Premier league for 2019 and achieved third position in the league in the fifty over game.
- He advised the meeting that Darren Thomas, current Boys U15 Coach, had been accepted onto the ECB Specialist Coaching Programme.
- As regards recent Welfare issues, MT thanked IW for his assistance in these matters.

RJ commented that the growth rate in All Stars Cricket was excellent and also commended the work being carried out in deprived areas. KC said that it was important to recognise the success of the All Stars programme and the subsequent growth of junior sections within clubs. TM agreed, confirming that Wales was one of the top performers in the All Star programme throughout England and Wales. RJ said that it was important that all these success stories are communicated to the wider audience using the various media tools at our disposal.

AMS said that she had received excellent feedback on the success of the Women & Girls festivals as well as appreciation of the difference MT is making in his role. She requested that the Board write to those involved in the Women's T20 success offering the Board's congratulations.

On behalf of the Board, RJ congratulated the Senior Women on their promotion, and thanked everybody involved in the Community Programme for their continued success in all aspects of that programme.

**Action: RJ to write re Women's T20 success**

## **6. Impact of Summer Rugby:**

A paper was distributed outlining the current risks/opportunities involved in a WRU initiative to trial and roll out U11 rugby within the summer cricket season.

KC commented that this was a huge issue for Welsh cricket, because it would appear that, irrespective of the views issued by the WRU, rugby clubs are prepared to arrange these sessions at times to suit themselves rather than ensuring they do not clash with existing cricket sessions in their area.

AMS said that the public views she had recently experienced was that Cricket Wales was 'bending' to the demands of the WRU. IW agreed, stating that the WRU was expressing the view that Cricket Wales

was 'on board' with the project, which was extremely damaging to our reputation amongst the cricket fraternity.

MR said that Sport Wales was disappointed with the feedback from the WRU and, following this meeting, will convey the views of the Cricket Wales Board back to senior personnel at Sport Wales. However, she stressed the point that the threat is there and Cricket Wales must prepare itself for this type of competition. DHM agreed, adding that in his opinion, the long term aim of this initiative is to play rugby in the summer months to satisfy the demands of the broadcasting giants. He felt that we should not stand on ceremony and wait for the outcome of any further discussions with WRU; we should issue a statement constructively expressing our concerns and plan that senior personnel from all parties ( Cricket Wales, WRU, Sport Wales and Glamorgan CC ) meet to ensure high level commitment from all sides. CJ stressed the need for the WRU to issue a directive to its clubs to avoid clashes with times and dates on the cricket calendar, which have existed for a significant number of years. MR said that such a statement should emphasise that children should not have to make a choice of sport at such a young age.

RJ concluded the discussion by saying that Cricket Wales would issue a statement prior to any further discussions with the WRU.

**Action: RJ and PH to prepare and issue statement on the potential impact of summer rugby.**

## **7. Child Welfare Update:**

**7.1. DBS issues** : the switch to online DBS checks has seen a significant rise in compliance rates across Wales. Applicants who ignore requests for further information have been suspended by the ECB while potential risks can be managed. The operational network has received advice to try and minimise such instances.

**7.2. ECB Review of historical allegations/suspensions/restrictions**: the ECB have appointed a staff member to monitor and investigate individuals with past history of concern, Ieuan has been working with the ECB to manage relevant individuals and this is on-going.

**7.3. Aberystwyth Festival** : new festival guidance is significant and requires substantially more information/processes to provide a safe environment for our children. Preparation for the August festival is progressing well.

**7.4. Case management** : Ieuan gave an anonymised overview of a current case. The Board remarked that this was a reminder of the issues within our game that required skilled management, thanking Ieuan for his leadership of this issue.

**7.5. Board training**: it was agreed that Ieuan would prepare a one-hour input for Board members regarding safeguarding processes and expectations.

**7.6. Minimum Standards**: Ieuan applauded the systems in place in the SEWCL and the NWCL where clear sanctions have been imposed for non-compliance with basic safeguarding principles. The Board agreed that all leagues should adopt this approach as improvements were required. The Chair will write to senior League's expressing the expectations for similar processes throughout the game. It was emphasised that sanctions are always a last resort and every club will have the opportunity to

become complaint with basic safeguarding. However, every club must do what is required of them to ensure our children play cricket in a safe environment.

**Action: RJ to write to senior leagues**

**8. Governance:**

**8.1. Report of the Chair of the Nominations Panel:** A report by Jim Wood was circulated for discussion. RJ advised the meeting that, himself and Tony Moss had put themselves forward for reappointment. AMS was ineligible for reappointment as an Independent Director following her appointment to the new Glamorgan CCC Board. The Panel recommended the appointment of Sue Phelps, Welsh Director of the Alzheimer's Society as the new Independent Director, together with Rod Jones and Tony Moss.

The meeting agreed that all three nominations should be put before the AGM in September for approval.

IW said that, at some time in the future, he would like AMS to re-apply to join the Board in another capacity.

**8.2. Cricket Wales Board Evaluation and Skills Audit;** Amanda Bennett issued a report outlining the headline findings of the recent Board Evaluation exercise. RJ thanked the Board members for their participation and, on behalf of the Board will do likewise to Amanda Bennett. Following a request by RJ for volunteers to form a sub-committee to look at the report's recommendations, MR, PH and AM agreed to form the sub-committee. RJ would ask JRB whether he would chair it given his link to governance.

**9. Financial Report:**

**9.1.** CJ advised the meeting that the draft final statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 indicated a loss of £36k as per the budget. This will be subject to change pending the results of the audit scheduled to commence on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**9.2.** CJ distributed a copy of the Profit & Loss Statement for the first quarter of financial year 2018-2019. Income and expenditure were largely in line with budget.

**10. Dates of 2018 Meetings:**

- a. 10.30am Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> September
- b. AGM etc Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September
- c. 10.30am Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> December

**11. Any Other Business:**

**11.1.** JOA advised the meeting of her involvement, in an advisory capacity, in a complaint by a staff member against members of the Cricket Wales staff, which was currently on-going.

**11.2.** TM advised the meeting of ECB's official launch of its World Cup marketing campaign whose legacy is to inspire over one million children to take up cricket.

**The meeting closed at 6-10pm**

SIGNED: ..... Date:.....