







# INTRODUCTION

Cricket Wales have produced this document to facilitate the understanding of the new talent pathway that will commence from November 2018.

It has been the culmination of close consultation with the Welsh coaching community, Glamorgan CCC and a variety of academic and multi-disciplinary personnel embedded within athlete development.

As we look to the future, it is essential that we are taking the appropriate steps to cultivate outstanding experiences for our youngsters; providing the necessary structure for their potential to be realised.

Each section can be explained in this document to provide an insight into how the various elements of the pathway contribute to each other. Underpinning the development of the new structure are the following objectives:

- CLOSER ALIGNMENT OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS PATHWAYS
- CONGRUENCY BETWEEN THE STRUCTURE AND ECB / LONG TERM ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
- GREATER COHERENCY BETWEEN AND THROUGH EACH STAGE OF THE PATHWAY
- TRANSPARENCY THROUGHOUT THE PATHWAY

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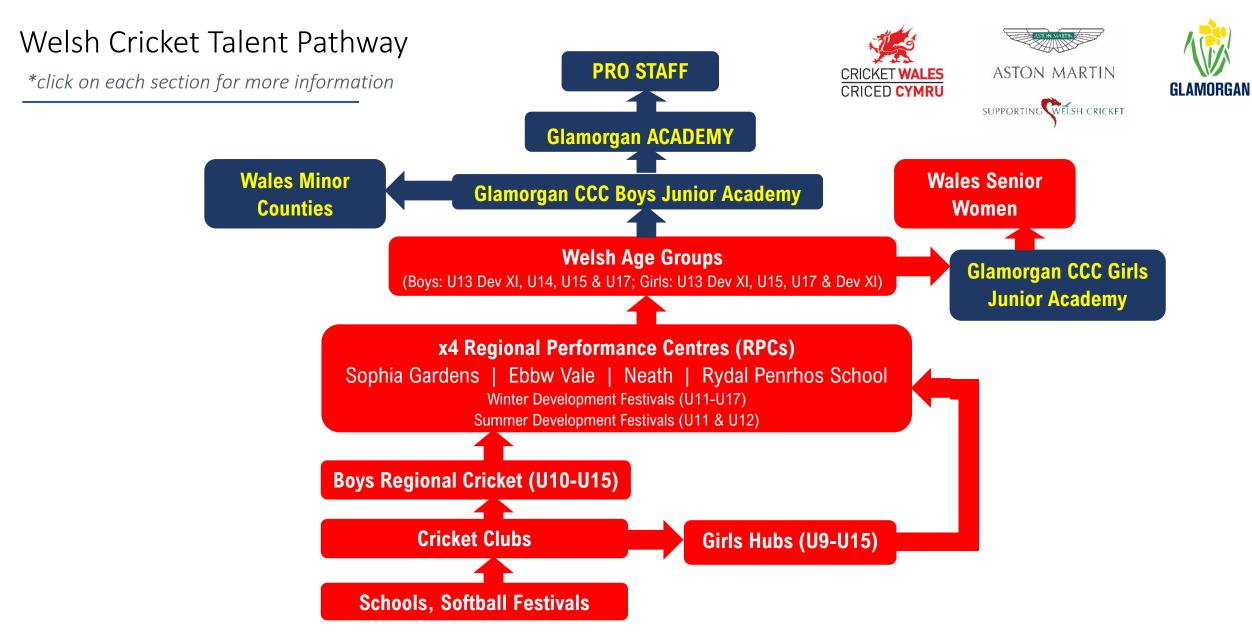
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## Changes from the current pathway

### **WELSH AGE GROUPS**

- U11 & U12 Age Groups (except King's Taunton festival at U12s) discontinued to allow for more focused skill development
- U13 for Boys & Girls to be a Development XI sides before ECB Competitions start at U14
- RPC sessions an opportunity to improve during summer + greater opportunity for fluidity between Age Group Squads and RPC players
- Age Group Squads to be selected per year from RPCs

## **REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRES (RPCs)**

- Replaces existing National Development Centre (NDCs) provision
- Wider pool of players across each age group
- x4 Regional Performance Managers (RPMs) overseeing each centre
- Indoor sessions once per week per age group from **NOVEMBER APRIL** (20 weeks)
- Welsh Age Group girls to train alongside boys as much as possible

(e.g. U11B+U12G; U12B+U13G; U13B; U14B+U15G+U17G; U15B+U17B)

- x4 Winter Festivals to bring all 4 centres together in a controlled environment
- Athletic development to embedded, and prominently featured in the programme and physiotherapy support when necessary
- Basic cricketing principles circulated and driven by Glamorgan CCC Head of Talent Development and Cricket Wales Talent Programme Manager to be delivered across RPCs, Regional + Club Cricket.

### REGIONAL CRICKET

- Regional Performance Managers to work closely with respective regions as much as possible.
- Structure more relaxed, allowing games to be geographically easier and more accessible.
- Welsh Age Group player restrictions (to be confirmed for start of winter 2018/19).
- U10 & U11 years to mirror ECB recommendations e.g. shorter pitches and dimensions and formats.











## **Overall Mission**

More youngsters hitting more balls, bowling more balls, catching more balls and throwing more balls earlier and for longer in their formative years. Giving players the platform to improve rather than making decisions on players at too early an age.

## Boys Regional Cricket (U10-U15)











Regional Cricket is an important stage in the pathway. Its primary purpose, along with preparing players for national representation, is to provide youngsters with opportunities to learn, make mistakes and develop in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Competition and pressure are two natural by-products of regional cricket which contribute positively to our youngster's experience. They do not however, fall into regional cricket's primary priorities. Ultimately it about facilitating a positive cricketing experience!



### U10 & U11

Changes to formats and pitch dimensions in line with ECB research/recommendations will be finalised and circulated to Regional Chairs before 2019.

### Guidance

The 2019 Regional Guidance Document which outlines fixtures, player restrictions, formats will be circulated to Regional Chairs before 2019.

























# Girls Hubs (U9-U15)

Whilst all girls who are in a Welsh Squad will attend their closest Regional Performance Centre, the Girls Hubs are designed for those girls who do not currently represent Wales, but wish to continue enjoying and improving their cricket. Each Hub will be managed by a Women & Girls Coordinator who communicates closely with the Cricket Wales National Coaches and Talent Development Manager to feed girls into the Wales Girls Squads & RPCs if and when appropriate.

## **Locations**

**CARDIFF** 

LLANDARCY

**CARMARTHEN** 

**PEMBROKE** 

**BUILTH WELLS** 

MCC HUBS NORTH WALES



## Regional Performance Centres

In replacing the existing NDC provision, the aim of the four RPCs is simply to provide a wider pool of players across each age group the opportunity to maximise and develop a stronger foundation to their game.

This includes technical cricketing development as well as athletic development which is of fundamental importance.

RPCs run from U11-U17 for Boys, with the Welsh Age Group squad from the previous year obtaining automatic selection. Places will also be accepted via nominations from, and through close consultation with Regional Coaches at each age group. All Girls in Welsh squads from the previous year will have access to the RPCs with localised Girls Hubs available for those that haven't previously been in a squad.

Each RPC's organisation and delivery will be managed by a Regional Performance Manager (RPM) who will be directly responsible to the Cricket Wales Talent Programme Manager. The winter timetables of the respective centres can be found by clicking on their respective locations (below). The summer timetables will be released in early 2019.

### **SOPHIA GARDENS**

**EBBW VALE** 

**RYDAL PENRHOS SCHOOL** 

**NEATH** 

## Winter Development Festival **Dates: Sophia Gardens** (unless stated)

30th October – U11B/U12G

31st October - U15G/U17G

1st November – U12B/U13G

2<sup>nd</sup> November – U13B/U14B

3<sup>rd</sup> November – U15B/U17B (St Teilo's School)

2<sup>nd</sup> January – U11B/U12G

3<sup>rd</sup> January – U12B/U13G

4<sup>th</sup> January – U13B/U14B

5th January - U15G/U17G

6<sup>th</sup> January – U15B/U17B

26th February – U11B/U12G (Merthyr College)

27th February – U12B/U13G (Merthyr College)

28th February – U13B/U14B (Merthyr College)

1<sup>st</sup> March – U15G/U17G (Merthyr College)

2<sup>nd</sup> March – U15B/U17B (Merthyr College)

16<sup>th</sup> April – U11B/U12G

17<sup>th</sup> April – U12B/U13G

18<sup>th</sup> April – U13B/U14B

19th April - U15G/U17G

20<sup>th</sup> April – U15B/U17B







## **RPC Working Timeline**

### **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**

RPCs selected and notified – including all Welsh Age Group squad members + nominated regional players (\*U11 age group nominated from Aberystwyth Festival)

### 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK OF NOVEMBER

RPC programme starts including four Winter **Development Festivals between October & April** 

### **END OF FEBRUARY**

Welsh Age Group Squads announced - RPC remains accessible for all those not selected

### **APRIL - AUGUST**

Welsh Age Group Fixtures, Summer RPCs (U11-U17) + Summer Development Festivals @ U11, U12 & U13s



## Athletic Development











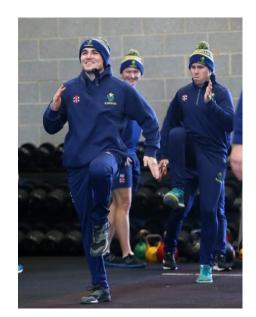
"I can't help but think we are onto something very novel and industry-leading in junior cricket."

Rhodri Lloyd, Senior Lecturer in Strength & Conditioning at Cardiff Metropolitan University

A key strand of Long Term Athletic Development revolves around developing the body as well as sport specific skills. We want our youngsters to:

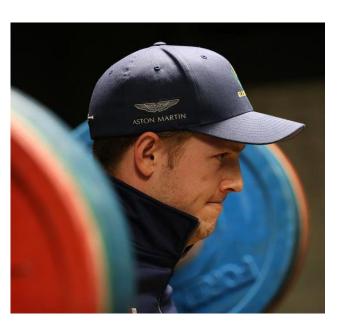
- Be more physically robust to cope with the rigours of a multi-sport lifestyle.
- Develop greater movement competency at an earlier age to maximise performance and withstand injury. That means being stronger, being able to move quicker, being more agile and being more flexible.
- Increase their understanding of their own physical capabilities to promote an active, balanced and healthy lifestyle.

Cricket Wales & Glamorgan's strong links with Cardiff Metropolitan University, and the University of South Wales allows our RPC players to benefit from a whole winter of Athletic Development, underpinned by the latest academic research which has major life, as well as cricket specific benefits.



























# Welsh Age Groups

Representing Wales, and receiving the Welsh cap is the pinnacle of representative cricket for our youngsters prior to the Glamorgan Academy.

Boys and Girls both have Development sides that run at U13 level designed to expose more players to the rigours of competitive county cricket. Boys compete in ECB competitions at U14, U15 and U17 level and Girls at U15 and U17 level.

Each age group, overseen by their Head and Assistant Coaches, can expect a challenging fixture list throughout the summer with squads being selected from the four RPCs at the end of February.

\*Coaching Teams for 2019 will be finalised shortly.















# Glamorgan CCC Boys Junior Academy

The Glamorgan Boys EPP is an opportunity for identified young cricketers to benefit from high quality, discipline specific coaching from the professional staff during the winter.

Wales Age Group coaches will nominate to the Cricket Wales Talent Programme Manager and Glamorgan CCC Head of Talent Development players who have particularly excelled from the over the last year across the winter and summer. Those players who successfully obtain a place on the programme for the EPP will have access to two sessions per week at a variety of locations across the country, instead of accessing their nearest Regional Performance Centre.



Head of Talent Development:
Richard Almond
(richardvalmond@gmail.com)

All players involved in the EPP will have specific correspondence from the Head of Talent Development throughout their programme, prior to joining back up with the National Age Group Squads in the summer.









# Glamorgan CCC Girls Junior Academy



Head Coach: Mark Walton (aimee.rees@cricketwales.org.uk)





Where our most promising boys access the EPP programme, our most promising girls can further develop their cricket through the girls equivalent.

The girls are selected form the girls age group squads dependant on ability, performances, attitude and commitment. The programme is led by the very experience and knowledgeable Mark Walton.

The programme looks to develop the girls technically, tactically, mentally, physically and socially. The girls have specialist coaching dependant on their disciplines, along with strength & conditioning programmes and access to psychological support. The EPP gives the girls every opportunity to develop as people as well as cricketers, and looks to equip them for the rigours of Senior Women's cricket.

















# Wales Senior Women

Head Coach: Aimee Rees (aimee.rees@cricketwales.org.uk)





@cricketwales\_wg





The women currently compete in Division 2 of the Royal London County One-Day Championship (narrowly missing out on promotion to Division 1 this year), and will compete in Division 1 of the Vitality Women's County T20 after sealing promotion during the 2018 campaign. Competition is extremely strong with England senior players often featuring across both formats.





With the assistance of Keri Chahal, Aimee continues to ensure the women enjoy a fantastic cricketing experience, including a by-annual tour overseas with Sri Lanka being the next destination in the winter of 2019.

















Whilst not falling directly under Cricket Wales,

the Wales Minor Counties side remains an

integral stage of the pathway; providing players

with an opportunity to compete against the

other 19 strong minor counties across

All Minor Counties compete in the Unicorns

Championship (3 Day), Unicorns KO Trophy

(50 Over) and Unicorns T20 competitions with

the best players across the sides collectively

coming together to represent the Minor

Counties Cricket Association in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

Trophy and against the MCC.

# **Wales Minor Counties**

**Head Coach: Darren Thomas** (darrenthomas77@icloud.com)

Home Page: <a href="https://walesmc.play-cricket.com/">https://walesmc.play-cricket.com/</a>







The make up of the Welsh side generally consists of Glamorgan CCC Academy players and a number of well established, well performing club and age group cricketers.

Former Glamorgan and England A cricketer Darren Thomas has overseen the side for a number of years with Brad Wadlan (former Unicorns, Cardiff MCCU and Glamorgan 2<sup>nd</sup> XI) assuming captaincy duties for the 2018 campaign.

For more information, news and scores follow the link to the Minor Counties website on Play Cricket (above).



England.

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PATHWAY CONTACT MATT THOMPSON (CRICKET WALES TALENT PROGRAMME MANAGER): matt.thompson@cricketwales.org.uk

## The 'Glamorgan Way'

\*found on the Cricket Wales website 'Pathway' section

CRICKET WALES
CRICED CYMRU





The 'Glamorgan Way' document has been produced to:

- Provide all those invested in coaching a common language for the development of players throughout Wales.
- Facilitate a shared understanding to influence player and person development.
- Empower coaches to make good practice become common practice.

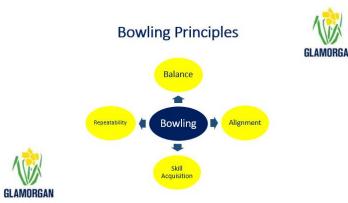
Cricket Wales and Glamorgan Cricket recognise that the coaching workforce at club, regional and age group level is pivotal to the continued success and development of our young players.

Whilst not an exhaustive document, the 'Glamorgan Way' aims to provide a framework for coaches to base their content around, as well as providing some clarity for coaches at varying age levels around basic, discipline-specific skills and technical expectations.



















Sophia Gardens, home of Glamorgan CCC, is the focal cricket centre in South Wales where our youngsters can develop their skills. With strong links to Cardiff Metropolitan University, we strongly encourage our players to take advantage of the further athletic development provision available for them at Cyncoed Campus. This supplements the existing provision within the RPC sessions.



# **RPC: Sophia Gardens**

**Regional Performance Manager: Michael Clayden** 



WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE VIA THE 'REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE' PAGE AFTER CLICKING ON 'PATHWAY'.

# RPC TIMINGS & ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT @ Cardiff Met Cyncoed

### MONDAYS

U12 Boys (Silver Group) & U13 Girls: 6.00-8.00pm

U15 Boys & Girls: 7.00-8.00pm

U17 Boys & Girls: 8.00-9.00pm

#### **TUESDAYS**

U13 Boys: 6.00-8.00pm

U14 Boys: 7.00-8.00pm

Senior Women: *6.00-8.00pm* 

### **WEDNESDAYS**

U11 Boys: 7.00-8.00pm

### **THURSDAYS**

U15 Boys & U17 Boys: 6.00-8.00pm

U12 Boys & Girls: 7.00-8.00pm

U13 Boys & Girls: 8.00-9.00pm

#### **FRIDAYS**

U14 Boys & U15 Girls + U17 Girls: 6.00-8.00pm

### **SUNDAYS**

U11 Boys (Silver Group) & U12 Girls: 2.00-4.00pm

U11 Boys & U12 Boys (Gold Groups): 4.00-6.00pm













**Regional Performance Manager: Alistair Waldron** 



A recently modernised indoor centre, Ebbw Vale is an outstanding facility which Cricket Wales are able to utilise for one of our RPCs. The Girls Emerging Player Programme also runs out of here and gives the youngsters in the area the best possible environment to hone their skills.

WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE VIA THE 'REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE' PAGE AFTER CLICKING ON 'PATHWAY'.



#### **PRE-CHRISTMAS**

#### **THURSDAYS**

U11 Boys (Silver Group) & U12 Girls: 5.00-7.00pm

U13 Boys: 7.00-9.00pm

### **FRIDAYS**

U12 Boys (Silver Group) & U13 Girls: 5.00-7.00pm

U14 Boys & U15 Girls + U17 Girls: 7.00-9.00pm

### **SUNDAYS**

U11 Boys & U12 Boys (Gold Group): 5.00-7.00pm

U15 Boys & U17 Boys: 7.00-9.00pm

#### **POST-CHRISTMAS**

#### **MONDAYS**

U11 Boys (Silver Group) & U12 Girls: 5.00-7.00pm

U13 Boys: 7.00-9.00pm

### **THURSDAY**

U12 Boys (Silver Group) & U13 Girls: 5.00-7.00pm

U14 Boys & U15 Girls + U17 Girls: 7.00-9.00pm

### **FRIDAYS**

U11 Boys & U12 Boys (Gold Group): 5.00-7.00pm

U15 Boys & U17 Boys: 7.00-9.00pm













**Regional Performance Manager: Darren Thomas** 





U11 Boys (Silver Group) & U12 + U13 Girls: 5.00-7.00pm

U13 Boys: 7.00-9.00pm

### **TUESDAYS**

U12 Boys (Silver Group): 5.00-7.00pm

U14 Boys & U15 Girls + U17 Girls: 7.00-9.00pm

### **SUNDAYS**

U11 Boys & U12 Boys (Gold Group) : 5.00-7.00pm

U15 Boys & U17 Boys: 7.00-9.00pm

WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE VIA THE 'REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE' PAGE AFTER CLICKING ON 'PATHWAY'.



Neath Cricket Club remains one the very best in terms of facilities on offer at club level. As well as boasting 6 grass net lanes for summer use, in addition to hosting many Glamorgan 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fixtures, Neath's indoor facility offers a bespoke cricketing surface that allows youngsters from Swansea and further West of Wales to enhance their skills.

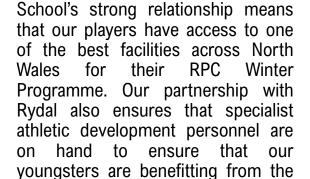












same programme that is being

delivered across the South and West.

Cricket Wales and Rydal Penrhos

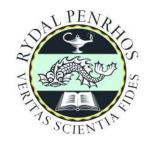
We are delighted to be forging an official partnership with Cricket Wales. Like Rydal Penrhos School they have a rich history in developing top sportsmen and women. When combined with outstanding facilities and coaching I am sure it will be a great partnership and one which will hugely benefit cricket in North Wales and

Allen Boyd, Director of Sport at Rydal School

# **RPC: Rydal Penrhos School**

**Regional Performance Manager: Colin Grindey** 





### **FRIDAYS**

Girls (U12-U17): 6.00-8.00pm

Boys (U13 & U14): 7.00-9.00pm

### SUNDAYS

Boys (U11 & U12) 4.00-6.00pm

Boys (U15 & U17): 6.00-8.00pm

WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE VIA THE 'REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE' PAGE AFTER CLICKING ON 'PATHWAY'.











- Yes. The RPC programme begins in November, whereas most Regions begin in January. They can attend both programmes throughout the winter and summer although if they are selected for Wales they may be restrictions on what inter-regional games they play.
- Can my son/daughter still attend an RPC once/if they haven't been selected for the Welsh Age Group Squads when they get announced at the end of February?
- Yes. The RPCs are designed to be accessible so we can continue to coach and monitor those who may not have kicked on as quickly as others have just yet.
- How do the Silver & Gold Groups at U11 & U12 Boys level work?
- The groups are designed to facilitate an environment that caters for your child's standard. U11 Gold Group consists of the top 3 players in each region as nominated by their coaches.
   Anyone part of a Welsh Squad at U11 the previous year automatically enrols onto the U12 Gold group, whereas players nominated from elsewhere automatically enrol onto the Silver group. There are opportunities for players to move in and out and of both groups at the discretion of the Regional Performance Manager.
- How does my son/daughter get into an RPC?
- If your son/daughter was part of a Welsh squad last year, they automatically qualify for it. If they weren't, the process shifts to Regional coaches nominations at each age group.
- What happens to the RPCs in the summer?
- RPCs continue into the summer which is a new strand to previous provision. U11s & U12s will most likely have an 18 week programme, U13s a 12 week programme and U14s, U15s & U17s a 10 week programme as their fixtures gradually increase as they get older.
- Why is there Girls U12 provision in the RPCs when the Wales Girls U12 team has been discontinued?
- We want the girls to have a winter of contact time during the RPCs before they enter the summer as U13. The jump from club cricket to Wales cricket can be large so the more we can prepare them the better!
- Why have we been allocated to Ebbw Vale when we live in Cardiff?
- Cardiff is naturally the most popular venue due to people's geography. We do not want to flood sessions with excessive numbers to the detriment of your son/daughter's development. Ebbw Vale is an outstanding facility and it allows smaller numbers in sessions to maximise their time and skill development.
- Do we need to purchase specific clothing for the RPCs? What should they arrive in?
- No you do not need to purchase any additional clothing for the RPC. Regional clothing or club clothing is absolutely fine whites are not necessary.



## Pathway Evenings







Pathway evenings offer an opportunity for the cricketing network in respective areas to come together and understand the rationales behind the changes to the Welsh Pathway for 2018/19.

The evenings, led by the Cricket Wales Talent Development Manager, aim to provide an insight into the direction of youth cricket in Wales and are accessible for anyone invested in local cricket be it parents, coaches, players and others.

All the evenings (to the right) are before the pathway kicks off in earnest from November, although the intention is for more evenings to be run during the New Year to obtain feedback on the winter implementation of the programme.

Cricket Wales are committed to providing an inclusive pathway, that provides clarity and welcomes the views from its membership base moving forward.

### **SCHEDULE**

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Oct North Wales Gwersyllt Cricket Club (7pm)
   Gwesyllt, Wrexham, LL11 4DX
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct North Wales Bethesda Cricket Club (7pm)
   Parc Villa, Lon Newydd, Bethesda LL57 3DT
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct Newport Cricket Club (7pm)
   Newport International Sports Village, Spytty Park, Newport, NP19 4PT
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct Ebbw Vale Cricket Club (7pm)

Eugene Cross Park, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5AA

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct St Fagans Cricket Club (7pm)
   Crofft-Y-Genau Road, St Fagans, Cardiff, CF5 6DU
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct Ynystawe Cricket Club (7pm)

  Park Rd, Ynysforgan, Swansea SA6 5AP
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct Llanelli Cricket Club (7pm)
   Stradey Park, New Clubhouse, Llanelli,, SA15 4BT
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct Haverfordwest Cricket Club (7pm)

Dale Road, Haverfordwest, SA61 1HZ

