



**MINUTES OF CRICKET WALES AGM HELD AT 7PM ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023
HYBRID MEETING**

Members and Directors Present: Tim Master (TM) (Chair); Leshia Hawkins (LH) (CEO); Colin John (CJ) Director, Jo Holley (JH) Director; Phil Harrington (PH) C&V JL; Meilyr Harries (MH) SWGA

Members and Directors/Board Members by teleconference: Samara Afzal (SA) Director; Sue Phelps (SP) Director; Huw Morgan (DHM) Director; Tony Moss (ATM) Director; Ben Davies (BD) SWJCL; Peter Williams (PW) ACO; Lucy Norman (LM) NWCL; John Williams (JW); Huw Gwyn Chambers (HGC); Alex Pitchford (AP); Gareth Rees (GR) Director.

In attendance Person: Mark Frost (MF) Glamorgan; Matt Dando Thompson (MDT) CW Pathways; Mark White (MW) Area Manager SEW; Victoria Jones (VC) Facilities Manager CW; Linda Medicott (LM) Safeguarding Lead CW;

In attendance by teleconference: Sue Wells (SW) Area Manager NW; Keri Chahal (KC) Area Manager SWW

Sandie Keane (SK) – minutes

Roger Morris (RM) – independent vote verifier (and former CW Chair)

1. Welcome from the Interim Chair – short video played for the AGM - Anna from Ukraine. Excellent example of how cricket can improve a person's life through a game we love.
2. Apologies for absence Martin Jones, Pembroke Junior Cricket League, Dave Brandon, Pembroke CCC, Steven Blowes, Pembroke CCC, Richard Penny, NWCGA, Fay Benningwood, Sports Wales, Andrew Palmer, Gwent Young Cricketers, Alex Pitchford, WWCCC; Paul Morgan (PM) SWPCL; Chris Last (CL) Director; Neil Pearson (NP) Director, Andy Fairbairn ECB.
3. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes – minutes approved.
4. In memoriam – minute silence was held in memory of those we have lost in cricket.
5. Chairs Verbal Report –
 - 5.1 Only seemed a short time ago the Previous Chair passed the baton on to Tim Masters to be interim. Thanks passed to Board and staff for all their support. TM played more cricket and hoped all clubs enjoyed their season.
 - 5.2 Thanks passed to volunteers/parents across all clubs throughout the season. Cricket has the power to do good and we will hear more about this later.
 - 5.3 ICEC report is a watershed moment for cricket with challenges for all of us to be as diverse and welcoming as possible. CW EDI is an exemplar of how sport can be inclusive and for all. TM passed thanks to MF, SA and SP for their support. There is still more to do, and CW will get there.

- 5.4 Ambitions for 2024 are to recruit a CEO – focus on EDI agenda, support more funding across cricket and developing a new strategy with funding from 2025.
 - 5.5 TM thanked VJ for her work as the new Facilities Manager and Linda Medlicott for her continued work on keeping everyone safe.
 - 5.6 2023 has seen a lot of change for the Board. Gareth Lanagan who stood down early this year was thanked for his continued work on the use of Welsh Language as well as cricket within a rural setting. Gethin Jenkins has also stood down due to emigrating to New Zealand. GJ has been in contact and wished the Board well. Jennifer Owen Adams has been promoted to Chair, Rec Game Committee at the ECB. TM passed thanks to her for her work during her time at CW. Board was also thanked for their contributions. Glamorgan have also seen changes as appointment of a New Chair Mr Mark Roberts, as their previous Chair also moved to the ECB. Hugh Morris has stepped down as CEO and regards passed to him. TM highlighted CEO leaving and has been appointed to ECB. She joined CW during a very difficult period with Covid. CW is now a leading sport organisation which is down to her diligence. Her new role will be exciting new challenge her legacy to Wales has definitely been Women and Girls Cricket.
 - 5.7 Finally TM sent well wishes for the 2024 season.
- 6 CEO's Verbal Report -
- 6.1 Grateful as ever for the support and commitment to the game throughout the year from everyone across cricket. LH highlighted our people are our greatest asset without whom the game could not be played whether that be staff or volunteers.
 - 6.2 Thanks go to VJ and LM who have made a phenomenal impact since joining CW. VJ has demonstrated a unique ability to access other forms of support for funding and is developing a long-term facilities strategy to follow, which will support the growth of cricket facilities. LM has refreshed key interventions to the benefit of our game and provided this in an ever-increasing intelligent way.
 - 6.3 This year we have had two Safeguarding audits one finance capability session we are due our annual appraisal with the ECB next month. CW have been ranked as leading organisation within Governance and EDI by the ECB. Delighted to inform the AGM that more affiliated clubs offer cricket to female participants. We had over 350 Girl Guides join us at Sophia Gardens for a 'have a go' event this year. This was picked up by a number of media companies.
 - 6.4 It would be remiss not to mention the EDI challenge and opportunity our sport has had to face up to with the ICEC report being published this year. It is a challenge that we will face up to for years to come. CW's holds an unwavering commitment to resolve any EDI issues and we have a zero-tolerance stance against discrimination in any form.
 - 6.5 In March 2023 CW launched a podcast with Jason Mohamed. The podcasts addressed 'what makes a welcoming environment within our clubs.' The Executive are currently working on a suite of webinars and in person engagement and support mechanisms for the off season with more details to be published shortly.
 - 6.6 CW have been accredited by Diverse Cymru and Culture Competence, CW also won the WSA inaugural award for EDI.
 - 6.7 Finally, thanks to Board and Chair for their support personally and professionally. This being my last AGM with CW, having been appointed to the ECB as Managing Director of the Rec Game. This can only be seen as a positive move as it will give the Rec Game a position at the table of governance. My time at CW has been the most enjoyable of my life and it has been an utter privilege to lead my outstanding team. Looking forward to watching and encouraging the outstanding work done across CW and thank you again for all your support.
- 7 To receive the Annual Audited Accounts (attached) for the year ended 31st March 2023, and the Finance Director's report (verbal).

- 7.1 Financial Statement to 31 March 2023. Papers circulated to members prior to the meeting. Similar format to that circulated previously.
- 7.2 CJ highlighted the key figures for the members.
- 7.3 There was a financial system change to Xero from Sage which has highlighted some areas for improvements. New income headings and departments were added which allows CW to report specifically to our funders.
- 7.4 Income profit and loss account is difficult to compare to previous financial year due to the change in the system.
- 7.5 Increased interest rates have improved our income. PH queried the differentiation in interest rates. CJ confirmed they only change in line with current interest rates. Accounts accepted.
- 7.6 To appoint new Audit firm – Azets confirmed a conflict of interest as auditors. CJ stated that a new firm had been appointed as CW auditors. Evans and Co based in W Wales undertook the audit for this year. Reappoint Evans and Co. Accepted

Nominations Committee Report for all Cricket Wales-appointed roles (items 8, 9, 10) attached:

- 8 Ratification of Chair Appointment - handed over to the CEO for this item only.
Just under 99% have voted RM independent vote counter verified the votes. Carried with acclamation. CEO offered thanks to new Chair Dr Tim Masters. Thanks to everyone for their effective governance.
- 9 Ratification of Independent Director Appointments (x2) HM unanimously, KA unanimously
- 10 Ratification of Recreational Game Director Appointment NP unanimously
- 11 Ratification of Glamorgan-Appointed Director GR unanimously
- 12 To receive Cricket Reports from the Cricket Wales Executive (verbal)
 - 12.1 MF – audit carried out for all affiliated Cricket Clubs and presentation highlighted a summary for members. There is a positive buoyant picture with senior membership showing an increase of over 11% increase, but Junior participation has plateaued. Over 401 schools have had cricket programmes during the 2023 season. There were 160 clubs with a junior section but on average only 1 U9s team in each club. Diversity within the game is improving with the introduction of 17 Street Hubs, Dynamos, Super 1s, Summer camps, period dignity and MCC Hubs. These initiatives underpin work in the community where cricket is not traditionally played. W&G have seen an increase across the board. 1/3 of clubs have a dedicated girl's section and a women's team with more clubs starting in 2024. Safeguarding work has increased knowledge of Safe Hands Management. There has been an increase in the use of Welsh in social media. A revamped Umpires and Scorers' course will start in the new year. Paly Cricket captures data overall more matches are being recorded to evidence impact on what we do within cricket. Thanks to everyone at AGM for their continued support.
 - 12.2 MDT – WNC is a flagship pathway programme which has had a positive impact across the season. Ben Kellaway came through the pathway system and made an explosive entry to the professional game. Will Smale was awarded a rookie contract along with Henry Hurle. Head Coach, Darren Thomas' contract has come to an end and CW pass thanks to him for all his efforts. Brad Wadlan has stepped into the position of Head Coach. Richard Edwards went on to represent England. NCCA11 have won competitions over the last few years. Sihar Jaspal, S Asian Cricket Association was also recognised. N Wales representation has continued to make strong progress. The Disability Team season culminated in winning their division and winning their play-off game. Dan Quick, as captain and Les and Jenny Randall deserve credit for all their hard work. It was pleasing to see the regional programme led by

Glamorgan having a strong summer for both boys and girls. It was exciting to be involved in the Aberystwyth festival with the first girl's participation. Thanks go to Glamorgan for their partnership moving forward, all the Regional and Pathway teams across the whole of Wales and to all the volunteers/sponsors who provide great support throughout the season. MDT extended his thanks to CEO and Board for their continued support with the Pathway Programme. Chair expressed thanks to both MDT and MF

- 13 Discussion regarding proposed review of Cricket Wales Articles of Association – (paper attached for information)

13.1 Board composition and appoints process. Paper distributed to members prior to the meeting. TM stated that there will be a full review of articles carried out. Plan is to have Initial revised articles in early 2024 for Board to approve Feb 24 and members to approve on completion. Further information to follow for membership.

- 14 Questions & Comments from Members – PH stated a general observation from a junior sections point of view what can be done to reduce wastage from boys in their mid-teens. There is also a limiting factor to how many games can be run with current facilities. Indoor facilities are a particular concern and girl's cricket should mirror boys' cricket in the future which will be hard to reach with the current facilities. TM highlighted the fact that most teenagers want to play sport with friends and creating opportunity is always hard. Facilities comes back to places to play, facilities Manager in place and will be doing everything possible to increase facilities. PH stated regional pathway finishes at 15 which does have an impact, could this be extended beyond 15. MF stated some clubs have increased their participation and it is good to see cricket flourishing in Cardiff. MDT current school of thought is the development of hard ball cricket played on a Saturday. Regional cricket could get in the way to help senior teams get their teams out. Welsh set up do run 17/18 age group.

- 15 AOB –TM stated that another Rec Game Director needs to be recruited due to Chairs appointment. Process will be started in the new year. It is important Rec game representation comes from across all areas of Wales – Applications will be encouraged from rural areas and where representatives are not yet appointed.

Meeting closed 20.28.

Signed: T.E. Masters Dr Tim Masters, Chair

Date: 6th Nov 2024