



**MINUTES OF A CRICKET WALES AGM HELD AT 7-00pm ON THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER 2022
HYBRID MEETING**

Members and Directors Present: Jennifer Owen Adams (JOA) (Chair), Leshia Hawkins (LH) (CEO), Colin John Director CW(CJ), Sue Phelps Director CW (SP), Tim Masters Director CW (TM), Clive Franklin SWPCL (CF), Paul Morgan SWPCL (PM) Peter Williams SWCA & WACO (PW), Phil Harrington C&V JL (PH)

Members and Directors/Board Members by teleconference: Gareth Lanagan Director CW (GL), Tony Moss Director CW (TM), Samara Afzal Director CW (SA), Gareth Rees Glamorgan CC (GR), Lucy Norman NWCL (LN), Robin Varley WWCCC (RV), Ben Roberts SWJCL (BR), Huw Morgan Director CW (HM), Shana Thomas Director CW (ST)

In Attendance: Mark Frost Glamorgan (MF), Matt Dando Thompson CW Pathways (MDT), Mark White Area Manager South CW (MW); Keri Chahal Area Manager West CW (KC), Sue Wells Area Manager North CW (SW), Martin Jones Pem CCC (MJ) – via teleconference

Sandie Keane (SK) – minutes

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

1. **Welcome from Chair:** JOA welcomed all to the meeting; Her first as Chair.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Gethin Jenkins, Rebecca Rothwell. Andy Fairbairn, Richard Penney and Meilyr Harris.
3. **Approval of minutes Cricket Wales AGM held on 25th October 2021:** The minutes of the 25th October 2021 AGM meeting (distributed previously) were accepted as a true record and were signed accordingly by the chair.
4. **In memoriam *:** The Chair asked those present to stand and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for all members of the cricket family that we have lost this year. Names which had been specifically provided to the meeting were as follows:

Keith James – Penarth CC

Gerald Evans – Pontarddulais

*It was discovered subsequent to the AGM that the submission of one *In Memoriam* name was inaccurate, and likely done with nefarious intent. The Board of Cricket Wales

are deeply concerned by, and dismayed with this act, and will be investigating the circumstances surrounding it. They will also be reviewing the process for submitting notices to future meetings

5. **Chair's Report: verbal report.** JOA reflected on the last year.

5.1 JOA would like to thank previous Chairs for their work overseeing significant change in our game and would like it noted the respect and admiration for the work they have done. She also thanked the many clubs, officials, players, administrators and colleagues from the clubs and leagues across Wales for the warm welcome she received on her visits.

5.2 JOA noted the Board's thanks to all those involved in cricket over the last year and their dedication to the game. She understands the huge significance played by volunteers in the game who without them cricket would not be played.

5.3 JOA also passed on thanks to the Executive Team and the staff across Cricket Wales.

5.4 Final thanks were offered to all funders, especially Sport Wales and ECB for their support both financially and in an advisory capacity.

5.5 JOA mentioned the two departing Board members Richard Penney and Sian Webber and thanked them for their service.

5.6 JOA also highlighted Richard Thompson, ECB's new Chair, visit to Wales recently to meet with both CW and Glamorgan Cricket's Chairs and CEOs.

5.7 JOA shared the 3 points key points which will be the focus for the coming year.

- Increase diversity across every aspect of our game.
- Accelerate our ambitions for facility investment
- Shore up and grow more competitive opportunities in areas of Wales and the game where this is required

6. **Chief Executives Officer's Report:** Prior to the meeting LH distributed a copy of her CEO report. LH thanked the commitment of the Board and the executive for their support over the last year.

6.1 LH highlighted several particular points.

- People – executive team has been broadly consistent but there have been 2 significant departures in the year. Thanks were passed onto Kerry Lloyd who retired in May and Ieuan Watkins who has recently taken a role with the ECB.
- Policy/Partners and Performance – CW's CPA rankings as a Leading Organisation in 4 categories is the highest of any of ECB's funded partners and is, rightly, the envy of the cricket network. The game should be extremely proud of this performance.

- Play – We continue to grow participation in National Programmes, bucking the trend in England. Over half affiliated clubs are welcoming female players. Wales has also trained and certificated just under 9% of all female coaches in England & Wales since November 2021.
- Places - 104 clubs have attained 'gold standard' Clubmark accreditation this year. We are also interviewing for a brand-new role - Facilities Investment Manager. The successful candidate will take lead role ensuring facilities move forward in the coming years. Safeguarding remains a strategic priority with this in mind we are in the process of interviewing 8 candidates for our vacant Designated Safeguarding Lead position and expect to appoint an outstanding candidate by end of the month.
- Performance – We are proud of progress made by Wales National County. Players, it appears, are extremely proud to represent the team. A North Wales NC side was also launched this year, which has received good feedback. MDT should take the lion's share of credit for this success.
- We are yet to be informed of the final funding cut from Sport Wales from 2023/24 – Full details still to be received but the initial School Sports Survey results are encouraging. The Board remains concerned that cricket has not been treated equitably by the investment model, especially in relation to the definition of 'Performance'.
- In the additional context of the current cost of living crisis, there will likely be difficult decisions to be made on how to invest in the future.

6.2 September's Volunteer Awards was a proud day to be part of. LH reiterated that without volunteers, we have no sport.

6.3 LH also expressed particular thanks to the Board and Chair for their support over the last year.

Questions:

6.4 PM queried whether The Hundred had generated increased income and when this would be seen. LH confirmed the ECB had already received increased revenues on back of the broadcast deals done which include rights to The Hundred but the question was potentially more whether the Recreational Game receives a proportionate share of ECB's investments, JOA added she was looking to push for more funds and work continues to secure increased funding.

6.5 CF queried how Facilities funding can improve in the context of potential under-funding of the recreational game. LH confirmed that ECB was the primary but not sole funder for cricket facilities in Wales but part of the new Facilities Investment Manager's job would be to identify and influence other agencies who may invest in the future.

7. **Finance and Accounts:** Prior to the meeting CJ had distributed a copy of the audited accounts for year ending 31st March 2022

7.1 Most activity returned but still not to normal levels by the end of the FY meaning a shortfall in intended expenditure. In April 2021 we welcomed Wales National County under the auspices of CW which brought a ringfenced reserve.

7.2 CJ stated it was not CW's intention to generate surplus. However, there are known funding challenges in the future so reserves are needed but we will be actively seeking to reduce these levels

7.3 Azets have been auditors in recent years but as a separate part of the business has this year been appointed as an outsourced bookkeeping function, Azets are not looking to be re-elected as auditors. CW will ensure competitive tenders are sought for this position.

7.4 Questions

CF queried whether the detailed P&L could be distributed in advance of future AGMs. LH stated that while there was no obligation on companies to present any additional information other than the statutory accounts to the membership, with the AGM notice, this would be considered in the future.

7.5 CJ placed on record his thanks to Kerry Lloyd for his support over 10 years.

8. Ratification of appointment of new Board Directors for Cricket Wales:

8.1. JOA highlighted the process of the Nominations Committee (NomCo) for recruiting new Directors; An interview panel was set up with representation from Sport Wales and ECB on the panel as well as NomCo Directors. NomCo made their recommendation to the Board and those are then brought forward to AGM. 6 eligible applications were received and all were interviewed resulting in 2 candidates being proposed. Unsuccessful candidates were contacted by the Chair and given feedback.

8.2 JOA asked RM to confirm results of the votes cast for new Board Directors

Christopher Last – Carried by a 'healthy' majority

Joanne Holley – Carried by a 'healthy' majority

9. Ratification of Glamorgan – Appointed Director

9.2 Gareth Rees was then confirmed to have been ratified by a 'healthy majority'

10. EDI

10.1 LH gave verbal presentation which gave an insight into EDI in CW

10.2 The game has seen and suffered from the fall out of allegations and scandals in Scotland and Yorkshire especially. The game is also awaiting a report from the ICEC (Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket), now pushed back and due to be published in 2023.

10.3 LH stated that while CW should be proud of its own plans and performance in EDI – its Action Plan can be found on our website, we must not rest on our laurels.

10.4 We have recently elected to proactively self-assess ourselves against the Plan4Sport criteria that Cricket Scotland was measured against. We were green in 22 of 31 measures and amber on 9, where we were primarily unsure if we were assessing ourselves, or able to assess – or ‘insure’ cricket that was played outside of our direct auspices. LH stated that CW was committed to continuing to be transparent on all reporting of our progress against our own plans and other bodies’ standards/criteria.

10.4 LH made CW’s position clear; CW is an Anti-racist organisation and will call out and deal with inappropriate behaviour when we see or are informed of it. We will also continue to lobby ECB for more support and training for volunteers, our casual pathway coaches e.g. Unconscious bias.

10.6 LH also reiterated that EDI was a matter that extends way beyond just race and especially thanked MF for his work in this area.

10.5 JOA added thanks to SP as Chair of the EDI subcommittee.

10.6 Questions - PW raised the need for cultural awareness training in many areas of Wales and additional support needed around discipline; LH agreed.

PM made an observation about the challenge SWPL’s own management committee had faced in trying to increase the diversity of its Board, and restated its ambition to continue to do so notwithstanding those challenges.

10.7 MF and SP hosting event later this month.

11. Cricket Reports (verbal)

11.1 MF delivered a presentation on some of the successes in clubs and in communities this year and future focus on social inclusion, highlighting a number of areas:

Just under 7000 children have accessed national programmes

Women’s and girls’ participation growth - 15% of all club committees are now women and 57% have female offer.

Cricket clubs are stronger for being diverse. Anti-discrimination policy has been shared with clubs and hope that they adopt.

Chance to Shine Street has launched in Wales

Another Diverse Communities Officer role has been advertised, this time for South West Wales – the hope is to extend this work into North Wales in the future.

Importance of Play-Cricket adoption to help CW assess the health of the game.

Floor opened to questions

11.2 CF asked if there was an expectation for U9s to be on play cricket? MF stated eventually that is what we are working towards. Some ECB funding is allocated on that data.

LH added that ECB will provide training should anyone need it.

MDT Performance Cricket report

11.8 MDT was in April 2022 honoured to lead/organise a Wales team to Lord's to play against the MCC

11.9 A positive summer of regional cricket with some learnings, as always

11.10 Girls' cricket more than doubled in terms of teams this summer. Aimee Rees is now full time in this area in a new role, split between Glamorgan and CW. Tentative plans are being made to set up an Aberystwyth style festival for the girls.

11.12 Fantastic to see the Aberystwyth Festival return for a 29th year

11.13 Bursary scheme 67 players 10% of our intake

11.14 MDT dedicated thanks to his team and commercial partners and to clubs who host regional cricket.

11.15 WNC made back-to-back NCCA quarter finals in the last 2 years – their best performance for 25 years. In addition to playing in North and mid-Wales this year, there are plans to go further West next year. NC is a vital part of pathway for journey of players; we have 2 players involved in England NCCA team at the T10 tournament currently.

11.16 Disability Cricket performance team has had a difficult time this year against very strong opposition, but it was great to see Premier League Disability Cricket on Sky this summer which increases visibility of the game and gives players an aspiration point. Thanks to Les and Jenny Randall for their ongoing commitment to Wales Disability Cricket.

11.17 MDT also advised of a change of policy with regards to Welsh cap issue.

12. Questions & comments from Members - none

13. AOB

None

JOA thanked all for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 20.44

SIGNED:

T.E. Masters

Date:

20th Nov 2023

Chair Cricket Wales