



WHERE EVERYONE FEELS THEY ARE RESPECTED, BELONG AND ARE TREATED FAIRLY

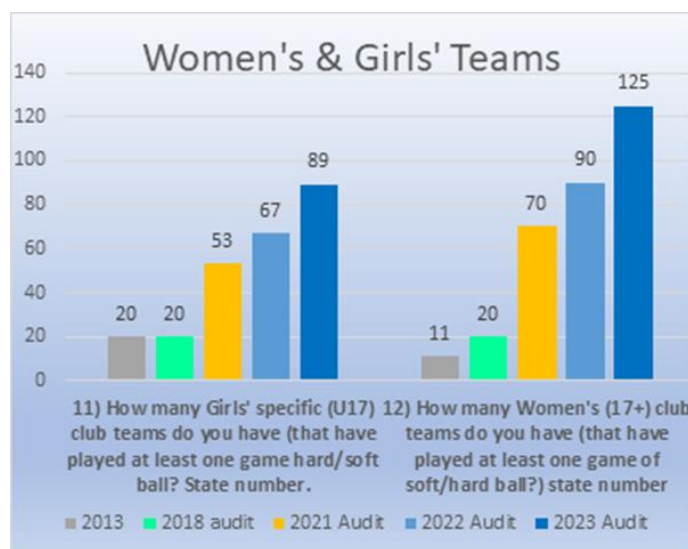
This is the first of a series of regular reports showing what Cricket Wales is doing to make **Cricket a game for everyone in Wales**. We know that Cricket powerfully connects all elements of our communities and improves lives. Cricket in Wales has set out to widen participation and this has been the plan for Cricket Wales for more than 10 years.

Who is driving this for Cricket Wales?

The Board has a range of groups ensuring that the governance of Cricket Wales is modern and efficient however, there is one group whose purpose is to scrutinise and add value to our work making the game more inclusive. It is chaired by Sue Phelps MBE an Independent Director and supported by other board members Dr Samara Afzal (former Warwicks player), Carl Alexis HR practitioner and Jo Holley who works in the Defence sector and immersed in club cricket. Mark Frost gives exec support.

One of the group's aims is to make sure that we are measuring the impact of work that is undertaken to grow the game to more diverse communities and participants. The 2023 hard hitting ICEC (Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket) report is one area the group is monitoring to check that we are meeting its recommendations.

Women's & Girls Cricket



In Wales we have 52 clubs (28%) with a girls' section and 91 clubs (48%) with a women's section. If we only look at clubs with a junior section, this rises to 32% and 57%, respectively. Effectively 50% of clubs have some sort of female offer and again this rises to 62% of clubs with a junior section. Since 2018, Girls sections have grown by 174% and Women by 600%.



Members: Girls club membership has grown since 2018 from 804 -3014 (274%) while women's membership has grown from 150 to 1794. (1096%).

National Programmes: All stars have grown from 529 – 973 girls and Dynamos 680 732 (highest in UK).

Ethnic Diversity of females in clubs: We have seen growth in diversity of Girls 6.75% – 10.43%: women 0% -8.43%.

Teams: Girls teams have increased from 20-89 since 2018 which is a growth of 345% whilst women's teams have grown in the same period 20-125 which is a 525% growth.

W&G Cricket in Southeast Wales

The administration and delivery of junior girls' cricket in SEW has been consolidated under the Southeast Wales Area Team. This move has allowed key volunteers to focus on managing established and large open cricket leagues. We have opportunities in U9, U12 Softball and 13/15 hardball. An initial meeting has taken place with interested clubs to establish set days and format. We hope to have entries in, and leagues established early March.

W&G Cricket in Southwest Wales

In Southwest Wales, a successful collaboration with CW has entered its third year. This partnership has led to the establishment of three age groups: Under 11s (softball), Under 13s (with a choice of incrediball or hardball), and Under 15s (hardball). This structured approach ensures that girls have opportunities to engage with cricket at different skill levels.

W&G Cricket in North Wales

North Wales has witnessed a significant increase in the number of entries into the Women's League this year. This growth has led to the partition of the league into two divisions, indicating a rise in interest and participation. Efforts are underway to collaborate with the North Wales Junior League to further promote girls' cricket. Notably, the introduction of festivals formally linked to the league in 2023 marks a promising step forward.

Why not have a look at Bronwydd CC ladies' team here <https://youtu.be/hRODzwiUxdY>

International Women's Day 2024:

Our team will be sharing stories from clubs for #IWD2024 #InspireInclusion.



Grants: We are supporting clubs with grants to make them more welcoming and specifically more equipped e.g. female toilets / changing areas etc.

Girl Guides: In Wales you can now get a cricket badge as a brownie or girl guide find out more here: <https://youtu.be/8IIDgJDFyvo>

Cricket for people with a disability

Additional Learning Needs: A substantial change for 2023 is that we will be aiming for 450+ hours to deliver in all 3 areas of Wales (300 school delivery hours & 8 festivals). This includes Table Cricket & Softball Cricket delivery- sessions, festivals & young leader training.



Super 1s: Supported by the Lord taverners are running 3 x centres in Pembrokeshire, Conwy & Cardiff with Wrexham due to start in spring 2024. Have a look here <https://youtu.be/IUssyvt3iW4>

Greencaps & Super 1s: Formerly known as the 'Greencaps', this group of learning-disabled adults and young people (16+) have been training at Sophia Gardens for over 10 years – supported by sponsorship from Glamorgan Cricket and MiPost. In coordination with Glamorgan Cricket and Andrew Williams (Hub Lead), Cricket Wales & Lord Taverner's have funded the transition of this weekly session at Sophia Gardens into a new Super 1's Hub. This means that the session, which is currently

running at a capacity of 20 participants (with a range of ages and learning disabilities), now has 5 lanes every Monday for an hour-long session. This session is being supported by Level 3 Glamorgan Coach – Brychan Tudor.

Under their new identity as a Super 1's Hub, Andrew will be looking for opportunities to arrange friendly fixtures against other Hub's from around the UK as the year progresses.

InSport: this is a UK wide accreditation scheme for the provision of sport for people with a disability. Cricket Wales is aiming for the silver standard this Spring.



Champion Clubs: these are clubs that set out to provide cricket for people with a disability. Currently we have seven in Wales at Sudbrook CC; Port Talbot Town CC; Haverfordwest CC; Colwyn Bay CC; Lisvane CC; Llechryd CC & Gwersyllt Park CC. Have a look at Port Talbot's hub here <https://youtu.be/XircF082ylo>

Disability Coach development funding will be issued to the Champion club network this year.



Super 9s: Graeme Winterburn (Head Coach of the North Wales MACS Super 9s) explains how Super 9s fits within Disability cricket's pathway. The side is one of two available in Wales (one based in West Wales, one in the North).

Have a look at this film https://youtu.be/drVQy_I1LKA

Wales Squads: The Cricket Wales Disability Squad engage in a multitude of high-quality cricketing experiences, competing in the strong first division of the ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board) D40 National League, after obtaining promotion back up in 2023 at the first attempt. In 2023, we ran two teams in the Super 9s softball competition which involved a challenging fixture list against opposition counties. One of these teams is based in South Wales, and one in North Wales.



Have a look at our performance squad in this film <https://youtu.be/nVEotH-FPqU>

WALES NATIONAL COUNTY

Earlier this year we administered our first ever open trials process to further breakdown barriers to participation. Anyone meeting the entry criteria was able to apply to be considered for trial which resulted in over 20 players attending a session in January. Since then, the team have registered two players from this process with a view to playing involvement in 2024. A further 4 have been invited to continually trial over the winter with the team.

TACKLING PERCEIVED 'ELITISM' IN CRICKET



State Schools Cricket: in Wales we have one of the biggest programmes of outreach into state schools which are in lower socio-economic areas / communities. Supported by Chance to Shine our area teams are busy every school term week teaching children to play cricket who are unlikely to have received it in their communities. With support from the Chance to Shine Youth Strategy we have been able to target over 50 schools with 40% or more pupils on free school meals. We have a large programme of schools' cricket (350) schools where we inspire children in state schools to play.

Wicketz: We are running five hubs for communities in significant economically deprived communities. To see a notable example of the impact of Wicketz cricket on young people have a look at this brilliant short [film](#) in Ely Cardiff.



All Stars & Dynamos: We will be offering 1400 free places this year. TO find out more contact [here](#)

Street Cricket is now all over Wales. Currently we have 15 centres and growing. These are weekly centres often in inner city locations giving opportunities for

kids who would not normally get to a club.

Talent Pathway: Our system continues to evolve to ensure that it can be as inclusive and equitable in terms of opportunity as it can be. We will shortly be sharing changes to our nomination process at key ages of the pathway which will enable more players from more corners and avenues of cricketing involvement (i.e. Street cricket) to apply.



We recognise that we need to conduct further research into possible poor trends of ethnically diverse players in the pathway from state schools. The pathway will also evolve based on the ECB's response to the ICEC report over the coming 12-18 months in time for the winter of 2025/26 when the new County Partnership Agreement comes into effect.

Moving to Inclusion: This is a standard for sports as to how they are developing equity. CW will be using it as a benchmark to progress.

REACHING MORE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Data: we know that we have much higher than the national population average of our membership from ethnically diverse communities 11% juniors 15% seniors.

Talent Pathway Ethnic Minority Data	2023 (NB 6.2% of Wales population were in the high-level ethnic group category ¹)
Regional players	17% on pathway
Glamorgan Academy (for info)	14% boys' academy 11% girls' academy
Glamorgan Professionals (for info)	15%
Clubs	
U18 membership	11%
Over 18 Membership	15%

¹ Welsh Government: <https://www.gov.wales/ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion-wales-census-2021.html#:~:text=90.6%25%20of%20the%20population%20identified,to%202.3%25%20in%202011>).

Cultural events

We will bring regular reports about how Cricket has supported migrant groups. To see one really moving story about a family fleeing Ukraine and settling in Llandudno CC, have a look at this (and be prepared!) <https://youtu.be/3Zc2NK8YmP4>

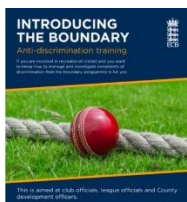


Have a look at the Tawe League in the Swansea area, this story shows how local South Asian communities ended up playing a 14-week league programme> <https://cricketwales.org.uk/news/swansea-mosques-cricket-supports-race-equality-week>



In 2023 we created three podcasts looking at how cricket can become more welcoming and more diverse. Have a look here <https://podfollow.com/cricketwales/view> and on our YouTube channel.

EDUCATION



A series of workshops called the 'Boundary' will be rolled out across 5 venues in March and April for all clubs in Wales. Find out more [here](#) and sign up [here](#)

Welsh Language



Grŵp Cymru – advisory group is offering advice to clubs that want to do a bit more in their use of the language in their club's activities. To find out more [email here](#)

Welsh Speaking Street Project – Chane to Shine visited the Penlan project to find out how the Welsh language is incorporated in to everyday practice.

LGBTQ+

Funding will be helping in North Wales from Actif North Wales in 2024 for pilot sessions with LGBTQ+ young people. This project will be developed in 2024 working with GOGA & Pride and we will be supporting coaches going on Foundation 1 courses from the community.

To find out more contact us [here](#) or more generally about diversity & inclusion [here](#)