



**NOTES OF A CRICKET WALES SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 12 NOON ON SUNDAY 30th
SEPTEMBER 2018 AT THE ELAN VALLEY HOTEL, RHAYADER**

Present: Jeff Bird (Chair), Mark White (Area Manager East Wales) Richard Penney (NWCL), Paul Webb (PCCC), Neil Hobbs (SWCA, Chair Cricket Wales South West), Rod Jones (SEWCL), Steve Davies (Wales ACO) Ieuan Watkins (Child Welfare Director),

Apologies: Paul Morgan (SWPCL), Robin Varley (WWCCC, Chair Cricket Wales Area Board North) Bob Elson (WMC), David Harris (Chair Cricket Wales South East), Peter Hybart (CEO, attended JCC)

- 1 Jeff Bird welcomed all
- 2 The notes of the meeting held on 1st October 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

Sunday Smash (Sunday casual offer)

4.1 Mark White updated the group on "Sunday Smash" (Sunday casual offer) Initially, there was good interest from Cricket/Sport Clubs re Sunday Smash. The survey monkey broadcast over social media enabled two groups to be established within SE Wales, one within Cardiff and the other within Gwent. There was little interest in North and SW Wales due to the amount of cricket already being played.

One cluster remained within Gwent consisting of; Malpas CC, Blackwood CC, Talywain RFC, Fire Service, Croesyceiliog CC. Again, player commitment proved challenging with Blackwood CC and Croesyceiliog CC not fulfilling any official fixtures. Despite this though good progress was made across other teams. Pontypool FRS completed three fixtures, with 16 new players who had no to little previous experience. The side played out of Pontnewynydd CC, which was seen as a success in building a partnership between the club and FRS. Further, Talywain RFC completed two fixtures with 15 players, of which 12 were brand new to the game. Success was also achieved at Pentyrch Cricket Club. Led by member

Martyn Lewis the club played a number of in-house fixtures which brought a number of juniors, mums, dads etc into the game for the first time.

SENIOR LEAGUE HARMONISATION WORKING GROUP (RP)

Work in progress, needed to understand ramifications of Law 42, Group looking for a document for early season 2019

UPDATE FROM THE SENIOR LEAGUES

SWCA –

- Appointed new President after the late Mr, John Mclean who had served for 30 years,
- Appointed Mr Robert Croft (MBE)
- Format changed to Win / Lose
- Great season in all with weather
- Tata, Llanelli both relegated back into league from SWPL

PCCC –

- Very good season due to weather
- teams could have won the league going into the last day of the season
- Progress with Play Cricket for Div 1, only 1 team decided not to upload anything.
- All cup comps well supported by clubs
- Great Welsh Cup run with Nayland CC

SWPL –

- Win / Lose for the first time 2018 season
- Issues around ground availability at Swansea CC
- T20 comp winners Ammanford CC
- Port Talbot represented SWPL in the National comp as they were winners in 2017, lost in the first round.
- Newport CC have submitted a survey of players for coloured clothing, the results show players would like to explore this idea with a pink ball.

SEWCL –

- Newbridge CC win Div1 and will be promoted to SWPL
- No clubs relegated this year
- Div 1 currently has 12 teams in the league
- Single ladder approved, roll out 2019 season
- Welfare 100% compliant with all clubs across the league. thanks to the work of Clubs for working with LWO and taking this matter serious

CRICKET WALES WELSH CUP

This was the first year of the competition since the wholesale review of the Competition Rules, the main changes having been,

- A far better logical grouping of co-related rules

- A complete end-to-end process set of all-encompassing set of rules (entry info, Spirit Of Cricket, playing rules, disciplinary etc) runs to 13 pages!
- Far greater flexibility on 'due dates' for games (meant to reduce the numbers of conceded games)
- Open draw from Quarter Final onwards
- Match Day Managers appointed to all games from Qtr Finals onwards
- Leg Side Wides adopted
- DLS adopted from Qtr Finals onwards

The 2018 competition attracted a slightly increased participation of 69 Clubs, mainly seen from an additional Sth East entry requiring some Preliminary Rounds feeding into 4 Area Groups.

The Quarter Final line up threw up journeys North for Ynysygerwn to Brymbo, and South for Prestatyn to Cardiff.

The other two ties were Ammanford v Neath and Penarth v Neyland.

The Semi Final pairings were Neyland v Ynysygerwn and Ammanford v Cardiff

The Final was then contested between Ammanford & Neyland with Ammanford running out winners at a superb day at Sophia Gardens in front of a really good crowd!

It was a relief for the organising committee to note that the open draw meant that no Club had more than one North to South or vice versa trip, and, the final threw up two finalists from the same Zone – something that the previous format would never have allowed!

Wales ACO

A story of quite contrasting fortunes for the ACO in 2018 with some highs, but a far more worrying under-lying specific low which will need the combined help of all leagues/associations + clubs to reverse a trend which threatens to have a profound effect on recreational cricket in Wales!

- **Cricketeens**
 - o Ynystawe Pilot, 20 kids aged 14-16 attended a day's course to receive umpiring and scoring tuition
 - o Huge success, findings fed back to ECB who have now agreed to a national roll out
 - o Planning at least 2 if not 4 courses for March/April time
 - o Standardised course content. Free entry, goodies handed out
 - o Long term solution, no immediate benefits likely
- **WTU**
 - o 1,350 games appointed in 2018 on WTU
 - o Loss of John Sneyd in Nth Wales but replaced by Alistair Dodd who is keen to learn the system
 - o Can't see any likelihood of Pems adopting WTU in the short term
- **Lev 3 qualified**
 - o 12 SWPCL Umpire panel completed their Lev 3 course last Sunday

- **Education Courses**
 - Previous suite of courses (Intro, Lev 1, 1a, 2, 3) replaced with Stage 1, 2, 3 & 4
 - First round of Stage 1 & 2 courses at Aberdare with reasonable take up
 - Ynystawe, Pembs and Nth Wales dates agreed and planning in train

- **Wales ACO Review Meeting (partial – for South West area)**
 - Very pleasing to announce that (subject to AGM ratification) the following have volunteered to become Officers within WACO
 - Hon Sec – Phil Haines
 - Appointments – Bob Szpadt
 - Performance – Wyn Morgan
 - Performance SEWACO – Jonathan Kinsey

Major Concern

– continued falling numbers of active umpires and an ageing cohort!

- **Current penetration (League matches with appointed umpires)**
 - SWPCL – 100% (20% of cohort of 30 over 70 year old, does anyone want to become a PL umpire?) – 30 umpires
 - SWCA – 21% (in August just 1 umpire allocated to Divn 1 & 2 games) – 20 umpires
 - SEWCL – 22% (lowest ever number of available umpires) - 20 umpires
 - PEMBS – 30% (possibly the oldest cohort and most worrying!) - 15 umpires
 - NWCL – 25% (same story here!) – 20 umpires

If we do not do something RADICAL & SOON then all recreational cricket in Wales below Premier League standard will be umpired by PLAYERS

WALES MINOR COUNTY UPDATE

- The 50 over competition became a true knockout competition (we lost in the first round).
- A T20 competition replaced the 50 over competition as the prominent one day competition. Four groups of Five teams, with the winners of each group going forward to a Finals Day. Counties play each other twice on the same day to justify the travelling.
- Both the above competitions were white ball and coloured clothing.
- The 3 day Championship remained unchanged.

CRICKET WALES COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (CAT) (MW)

- Tim Nichols has been appointed for a further 12 months to support the work of CAT with Area Managers
- Currently supporting 5 clubs
- Working closely with WRU/FAW facilities team around shared sites

- MW commended the work TN is carrying out, very important to have someone with Tim's knowledge and expertise in this field.
- Currently in conversations with several clubs
- Currently in conversation with LA's to discuss Asset strategy's and future proposals.

CHILD WELFARE UPDATE (IW)

- **Welfare Team** The role of Child Welfare lead has been advertised as I cannot continue in a voluntary capacity. A new remunerated role has been created and interviews will take place on Tuesday.
- **DBS** The switch to online DBS checks has been revolutionary, since its launch just over a year ago, we have seen over 1000 DBS applications and 250 verifiers authorised in Wales. This is fantastic progress.
- **Issues** A busy year operationally with a number of matters requiring safeguarding/child protection management including a number of suspensions, some of which remain ongoing.
- **Training** The Cricket Wales devised combined Safe Hands and Safeguarding Course has been run successfully throughout Wales and will continue at its subsidised rate. Cricket Wales maintains its commitment that every club will have the opportunity to become compliant with basic standards – the message is clear, ask for training and you will receive it.
- **Strategically** The ECB are conducting a review of safeguarding procedures, this is a root and branch review of safeguarding structures. We should expect much closer scrutiny at operational level with greater expectations for compliance. We would be naïve to believe that compliance will not be linked to financial investment in Welsh cricket in future, this will include Glamorgan, league, region and club compliance.

The Child Welfare Council met and agreed targets for welfare compliance in Wales which have been agreed by the Board...

- Club Welfare Officers – 95% of clubs to have a fully qualified CWO in place
 - Captains – 10% DBS improvement within 12 months
 - ACO – 95% of Association of Cricket Officials to have an ECB vetted DBS Certificate
 - Coaches – 95% to have ECB vetted DBS Certificate in place
- 10% improvement on safeguarding and First Aid compliance required

An audit in April identified that only two of our senior leagues, the South East Wales Cricket League and the North Wales Cricket league are within these guidelines – this is not good enough. All leagues are encouraged to follow the models demonstrated by these leagues and to create safer environments for our children – support is there, ask for it.

- **Festivals/Regional Safeguarding Compliance** Following high profile issues with two venues, the ECB have created new guidelines for overnight festival attendance. We are fortunate to have two seats on the national project looking at the development of festival guidance. Following the Aberystwyth U10 Festival in August, an audit of regional coaches identified gaps in compliance which is a concern. A full audit of all regional safeguarding compliance is to follow, the results will be communicated back to regions. Future festivals will not take place without 100% safeguarding compliance – regions will be supported but need to improve.
- **NSPCC CPSU** Review of our safeguarding structures completed in April by the CPSU. They are pleased with our progress which is an endorsement that we are working in the right

direction – but there is a clear recognition that there is still a lot to do. Thank you to clubs, regions, leagues and officials throughout our structure but with the caveat that further scrutiny is coming from Cricket Wales as well as the NSPCC, Sport Wales, the ECB.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JB – carried out some research on CASC for Cowbridge CC after the WRU recommenced CRFC became CASC Ltd, JB to share his thoughts via email with the group.

RJ – WRU proposals for shift to summer sessions for Mini Rugby, meeting with WRU CEO, Glamorgan CEO, Cricket Wales planned for October 2018 to discuss impacts on cricket and other summer sports

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