



MINUTES OF THE JUNIOR COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 12noon ON SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2018

AT THE ELAN VALLEY HOTEL RHYADER

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence:** Peter Hybart (PH) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Malcolm Price, Harry Lazarus, Tony Duffy, Ben Roberts, Mark Frost and Paul Miller. PH informed the meeting that the current Chair, Malcolm Price (MP) would liked to have attended today's meeting to advise that, due to ill health and after being involved in cricket in Wales in various capacities since 1951, this would have been his last meeting. PH said that, on behalf of cricket in Wales, he would like to record our sincere gratitude to Malcolm for his fantastic service. PH also informed the meeting that Tony Moss (AM) had agreed to chair the meeting.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 1st October 2017 meeting (distributed previously) were accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Child Welfare Update:** Presented by Ieuan Watkins (IW)
 - 4.1. **Welfare Team:** The role of Child Welfare lead has been advertised as IW is no longer able to continue in a voluntary capacity. A new remunerated role has been created and interviews will take place on Tuesday 2nd October.
 - 4.2. **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.
 - 4.3. **Issues:** A busy year operationally with a number of matters requiring safeguarding/child protection management including a number of suspensions, some of which remain on-going.
 - 4.4. **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.
 - 4.5. **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 and a 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.

4.6. 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.

4.7. 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 the 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.

AM said that, on behalf of Junior Council, he would like to offer sincere thanks to IW for coordinating Child Welfare over the past seven years for Cricket Wales in a voluntary capacity.

5. Proposed Pathway Changes: Talent Programme Manager Matt Thompson (MT) delivered a presentation on the proposed changes to the Pathway during the period October 2018 – September 2019. The main issues were:

5.1. Wales U11s & Wales U12s (not including Taunton and Malvern festivals) to be immediately discontinued. This is because it is felt that the current balance between competition and coaching is weighted too heavily in favour of competition. It is intended that the new strategy will utilise these early years better to improve and strengthen foundations and athletic movement in more youngsters.

5.2. Four Regional Performance Centres (RPCs), which includes Boys & Girls, replaces previous NDC provision. RPC coaching is expected to take precedent over regional coaching but boys who only attend RPC should still be selected for their region in the summer. Each RPC centre will have a Manager who will oversee:

- 20 week winter programme across every centre.
- NEW 10-18 week summer programme across every centre.
- 2018 Welsh Squad Girls co-exist within Boys sessions.
- Specialist Athletic Development Coach per centre.

5.3. Tweaks to Regional Cricket for 2018/19.

- There will be a maximum of 3 Welsh Squad players per Regional team for all inter regional U13 – U15 fixtures.
- Revised fixture requirements consisting of a minimum of 7 games, including 5 inter-regional fixtures for SOUTH & WEST regions and 3 for NORTH regions. Regions cannot play the same region more than twice.

- Coaches to Umpire (U10-U12) fixtures.
- Format Changes (U10 & U11).

- 17 yd pitch lengths (19 yds for U12s).
- 40m boundaries from batsmen's stumps.
- Bowlers to bowl from one end.
- Playing Format Flexibility (T20, x2 T20s, 25 overs).
- As regards Child Protection & Welfare Compliance teams must be compliant by the start of the first fixture; appropriate sanctions applied if not. Evidence will be asked for at Xmas 2018.
- It is strongly recommended that match fees do not exceed £10 per game.
- In future, sending match reports to National Managers & MT is not required. Play Cricket records far more important!
- RPC Winter Programme Structure to be mirrored across Regional Cricket.

6. ECB Junior Cricket Format Recommendations: Tim Masters (TM), ECB Head of Participation and Growth South West and Wales, outlined the ECB's recommendations for Junior Cricket format in 2019 for ages 5 – 11 years. The objective of these recommendations was to produce a "child centred approach" where **all** participants play the **same** game. The recommendations are:

- Reduced number of players per team
- Shorter pitch length
- Smaller boundaries
- Reduced game length

6.1. PH said that the next steps would involve the Area Managers discussing with their various leagues how these recommendations can be implemented in that particular area. There needs to be a buy-in from the Junior Leagues.

7. 2018 Summer Junior Rugby Pilot: PH advised that a meeting has been arranged for 24th October to be attended by Cricket Wales, Glamorgan CCC and the WRU to discuss the impact on cricket in Wales of the recent WRU initiative of piloting junior rugby during the summer months.

8. ECB CA REBATE: PH informed the meeting that the rebate will be retained as a central fund to help finance the development of our coaches. TM re-iterated that this was the expectation from the ECB and the ECB CA.

9. Any Other Business:

9.1. Umpires: Peter Williams (PW) said that if coaches are being required to umpire junior matches, the ACO will offer help and advice if required. He also requested that, youngsters currently involved in the Cricketeens programme for young Umpires and Scorers be allowed to officiate in Junior fixtures to assist in their development.