**CRICKET WALES NORTH**

**Leadership Group – December 2nd 2019**

Present: Robin Varley (RV); Sue Wells (SW): Ian Martin (IM); Tony Moss (TM); Richard Penney (RP); Bob Sugden (BS)

Apologies: Alistair Pearson (Hols); Sam Painter (Unwell)

1. **Pathway** – Sam Painter’s absence caused discussions to be limited but he sent an update – shown in full below

* **Player Recruitment**

Over 130 players have currently signed up for the Pathway for Cricket Wales North. SP is delighted with the response from the families the clubs. All clubs have received emails asking for new nominations for players to be sent to him by the 16th December.

* **Recruitment of Coaches**

CWN has over 20 coaches interested in being involved in the new Pathway. SP has provided players and parents with the names of the lead coaches for each age group at performance level. The *Development Days* for cricketers not in the performance teams will be supported by all the coaches on a roster. Some coaches do not wish to be linked to a team, but will offer support for games and training sessions in the winter and the summer.

* **Fixtures**

The fixture list is taking shape and will be available soon. There are some excellent fixtures already arranged; SP will begin work on the Welsh internal regional fixtures shortly. Both U10s teams are booked into Aberystwyth and the 11s at Shrewsbury.

* **Coaching sessions**

Numbers across the 3 satellite sessions are positive and there are coaching teams in place for the start in January. SP is working on a coaching plan for all 3 centres. He emphasises the importance of this: it is fair that all players receive similar sessions. In week 3 in Newtown if back foot play is the theme, it will be replicated across the other centres. How individual coaches choose to deliver might be different, but the theme and outcomes are consistent for all players. We have 2 invitational sessions at St Asaph Leisure centre booked for the 7th & 14th of December. SP is keen to stress that player invitations will change if he feels that players are performing above or below the standard of this group in the New Year.

* **Coaches on December 7th & 14th**

Jamie Griffiths & George Deniz 10-1pm under 11’s

Colin Grindey & Sam Painter 1pm-4pm under 13’s 4-7 under 15’s

Sean Riley will provide 40 minutes S&C support for each session

Aimee Rees will be in attendance on the 14th to monitor the progress of the girls

* **CWO**

SP is pleased to announce that Tony Moss has offered to handle all Child Welfare for the Pathway, and that offers much thanks. All the head coaches that are used will be compliant for safeguarding, first aid, DBS, level 2 minimum coaching qualification. The support coaches must have a DBS and be in the process of completing the other required compliances over the winter. I am pleased to have with us Owen Riley, Carwyn Johnson, Josh Massey and Mathew Jones who are all in their late teens and wanting to coach and share their recent playing experiences with the younger players. This adds a lot of value to the process and will be hugely beneficial. All the four mentioned are doing a level 1 or level 2 coaching course this winter.

**Outdoor sessions**

Cricket Wales North will offer 6 weeks of outdoor coaching for the pathway players in 2020. Four clubs have already offered use of their ground: Hawarden Park CC; St Asaph CC; Colwyn Bay CC & Dolgellau CC. Nights and timings to be confirmed. The above have offered use of the nets outfield and potentially an end wicket. These sessions will be split into two blocks of three weeks

Starting week of 4thMay 11th May 18th May. Starting again week of 29th June 6th July 13th July

Sam Painter Dec 2019

2.    **Junior League Cricket in North Wales in 2020**. TM explained that the changes in the status of the two former Junior Regions have provoked some ramifications for the two junior leagues in North Wales. It is proposed that the two leagues will continue as before but instead of operating under the umbrella of their respective Junior Regions, they now will have to operate differently. For day-to-day issues, they will be able to continue as before but now become the “responsibility” of Cricket Wales North. Any financial issues will be handled by the North Wales Cricket League.

Since CWN encompasses parts of Mid Wales, any new structure would need to include that region. After a brief discussion concerning structures and individuals, SW agreed to undertake a suggested way forward and would share her thoughts with the Group members.

3.    **CW Board Update** – RP referred to the recent appointment of Leshia Hawkins as the new CEO of Cricket Wales, following the departure of Peter Hybart at the end of December. Ms Hawkins will commence her duties in February 2020.

The Cricket Wales/Glamorgan CCC Joint Strategy for promoting the ECB’s “Inspiring Generations” concept is to be the subject of a Board meeting in the New Year and final results will be widely known by the Spring of 2020.

There has been no further news concerning the promised Safeguarding Database, expected to start functioning in 2020.

Anyone wishing to contribute to a leaving present is advised to send a cheque to Kerry Lloyd, made out to Cricket Wales.

4.    **Courses update** – Ian Martin commented on the list of courses that he had previously distributed. Of courses arranged during 2019, 22 had attended the two Safe Hands courses , 42 had attended the 3 All Stars training sessions, 28 had attended the 2 CSW courses (16 have completed), 37 attended the 3 First Aid courses and 6 attended courses for scorers. In addition, 20 had taken part in training for Young Ambassadors.

Of courses offered during 2020, the new Level 1 Coaching course to be heldin Newtown has received to date statements of interest from 13 so far (including 7 from Dolgellau CC).

5.     **Plans for 2020** (Sue Wells)

**Funding Updates & Joint Strategy:**

* Cricket Wales & Glamorgan Joint Strategy bid to go to the ECB by December and the process is likely to take until spring 2020.
* A number of changes coming within the new strategy.
* Chance to Shine budget to remain the same with the overall project budget being slightly less than 2019 (reduction to ECB Unleashed money).
* All of the funding is required to deliver against the core programmes (Chance to Shine, Women & Girls’, All Stars & Dynamos).
* Small flexible budget to be used for Club Support, Summer Festivals & Casual Coaching Cover.
* Partnership funding such as MCC hub funding remains and adds value.

**Staffing:**

* Sam Painter, Rob Ward & Jamie Griffiths will remain as Community Coaches.

Advert currently out for Community Coach Vacancy & we are actively recruiting for more seasonal casual coaches.

Staff team meeting monthly to plan out programmes.

* Sam will be on reduced hours due to his new Pathway role.
* Chris Strange, Jenny Pitchford, Tyler Ibbotson (Shropshire), Paul Roberts, Sean Reilly & others to be used casually in certain areas if they still want casual work.

**Chance to Shine Programme:**

* Full Programmes, Roadshows & Competitions. Countdown Cricket- replacing Kwik Cricket Festivals. Targets to remain the same for the area in 2020.
* Work Programmes will be planned based on transition data from the last 2 years with the Community Coaches.
* Key focus of the work will be on Key Stage 1 and All Stars across Wales but we have flexibility to work with Key Stage 2 around certain clubs.

**All Stars:**

**2019:**

* 36 centres (35 clubs) 822 participants (219 girls’ = 27% 603 boys = 73%)
* 493 children transitioned from Cricket Wales school sessions (60%)
* 222 children returned in 2019 (27%)
* 597 children were year 1 (likely first time All Stars) (439 male & 158 female)

**Dynamo’s Cricket:**

**There is a PDF presentation now available**

Main features**:**

* Aimed at 8-11s
* ECB retain £15 – Clubs are expected to charge more and will receive the balance using ClubSpark
* Clubs receive kit – children receive tops but no kit
* 8 sessions – each one to include a warm-up, a skill-coaching element; a game

**Girls’ & Women’s Cricket:**

* Women’s Softball Cricket Festivals again a success in 2019 with 11 festivals, 21 teams & 274 participants. 1 Hardball Taster festival for ladies also took place.
* Plans to implement a league in 2020 and Laura has taken on feedback from players.
* Cluster Clubs focus from the ECB and Laura has been working with key clubs.
* Women & Girls’ Cricket forum held in St Asaph in November & Laura is planning 2020 programmes with a focus on girls’ schools programmes and progressing women’s cricket.
* Increase in the take up of secondary school girls’ Lady Taverners & Chance to Compete.

**Disability Cricket:**

* 3 x Hubs (Dolgellau, Wrexham & Colwyn Bay) & school sessions in Wrexham, Conwy & Gwynedd to support these.

**Clubmark:**

* 12 clubs reaccredited (Chirk, Brymbo, Mold, Pontblyddyn, Northop, Buckley, Conwy, Mochdre, Bangor, Bethesda, Menai Bridge & Llandudno)
* Welshpool CC also reaccredited & all clubs completed the annual health check.
* Holyhead & Marchwiel & Wrexham did not go through the process and will lapse.
* Llanrwst CC are being supported to meet the criteria by the end of Feb 2020.
* New ECB Online Safeguarding System for 2020
* The staff team of CSO’s (Ian, Sam, Colin & Sue) all spent a lot of time working with clubs on compliance during 2019.

**Facility Projects- ongoing and new funding:**

* Hawarden Park & Pontblyddyn completed. Carmel ongoing & committed. Potential for a project at Brymbo depending on underspend funding
* County Grants Scheme- due for March 2020 to replace Small Grants with full details to follow from the ECB.

**Other Updates:**

* Welsh Rugby Union– seasonal repositioning Block 4. Discussions to try to avoid any clashes with junior cricket. Some of these events currently scheduled for Sunday’s.
* We are actively looking to improve our communication- Facebook live, podcasts, What’sApp, video links etc

6.    **Leagues Update**

Robin Varley reported that the West Wales Conference managed to avoid the wet weather that affected our northern neighbours: of 45 scheduled league matches, 43 were completed, with one abandoned, following a thunderstorm and one was conceded. Given the problems experienced in recent times with shrinking participation rates, this was indeed a blessing. Aberystwyth University Commoners won the Championship convincingly, with the 2018 runners-up, Aberaeron, coming second. Talybont Rachels CC won the T20 competition for the first time.

Bob Sugden, commenting on the NWCL season, confirmed that 32 clubs and 59 teams competed each Saturday during the season: 98 games were cancelled (48 in 2018), with a further 23 abandoned (3 in 2018). Concessions (22) were down considerably on 2018 (57). There were 22 concessions in the 3XI Sunday league (3 in 2018).

Alan Senior has taken over from Bob as Chairman of the NWCL and Lucy Norman has become the Vice Chair, with responsibility for disciplinary matters.

Bob further remarked that there is a growing demand for the League to move to coloured clothing and pink or orange cricket balls (described as “essential” by Captains.

Caernarfon had been refused permission to take their place in a higher division, following their success on winning their divisional title, because they use an artificial pitch. Dolgellau 2nd XI were due to be promoted instead but Caernarfon raised sufficient money to allow them to install two turf pitches, thus convincing the League executive that they should take their place in Division

7. AOB

* Regional Premier League Meeting in Wigan – Richard Penney

Richard had attended a meeting, held by the ECB in Wigan, of Premier Leagues in the North-West of England and in North Wales. Richard reported that the current financial arrangements are going to change by 2021. The new arrangements will have financial implications for clubs in the NW Premier League; they will also affect those clubs from other Premier Leagues but who are affiliated to Cricket Wales and, therefore to CWN. Discussions have started within the NWCL and further information will be provided at a later date.