

**North Wales Area Board Meeting – Held at St Asaph Cricket Club on 09/03/2017**

**Present**: Sue Wells (Area Manager), Ben Garnett Workforce administrator) , Robin Varley(Chairman) Tony Moss (CW Board member), Peter Hybart (CEO< Cricket Wales), Rod Jones (Chairman Cricket Wales), Keith Hughes (Groundsmen, Bob Sugden (Chairman NWCL), Darren Leach N Wales Coaches), Jane Foulkes (Sport Wales), Richard Penney (Cricket Wales Board Member), Dave Jones (Umpires), Gareth Ryan (ECB Liaison), Rhys Pritchard (Eryri Junior region/Bethesda CC).

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

All were welcomed to the Cricket North Wales Area Board by Chair (Robin Varley). Introductions of those present along with a brief introduction of the purpose of the Area Board.

1. **Apologies -** None
2. **Cricket Wales Current Board Current Thinking**

It was noted that the Leadership Team of the North Wales Area Board had already met twice prior to the Area Board meeting.

1. **Sports Wales Update**

Jane Foulkes gave a brief overview of the upcoming changes in Sports Wales with the impending restructure, with the Community Sport Programme on its way in the next 12-18 months.

 The changes will see Sports Wales operate in regions, implementing a Regional Investment Model, rather than Local Authority levels, with North Wales being one of the noted regions.

Open days to discuss additional details would be arranged for May & June.

1. **Cricket Wales North- Purpose, Roles & Responsibilities**

To achieve clarity and agreement on the two following aspects:

a] Aims & Objectives of Cricket Wales North – The Chairman reported that there are guidance notes that describe the objectives of all three of the Area Boards. It is simpler to summarise these objectives in a world of declining participation in cricket as being SURVIVAL – RECRUITMENT – RETENTION – GROWTH. He further reported that this Area Board may make recommendations to Cricket Wales and we can take action in our region if members consider that such action will benefit the game in our area. Further, he explained that all present, having seen the same trends and issues, might take different views and it is up to the Area Board to see what each of us as representatives of different components of the game in our area can do to contribute to plans that will benefit all.

The Chairman also commented that it will not always be clear how we should proceed nor how to involve every component but there will be opportunities to work together – each splinter-group has an interest in cricket in all its forms – girls’ cricket, disability cricket, children’s cricket, evening league cricket – relationships with our clients – parents, players, government (local and national) – communication – compliance and so on – they affect everybody in the game.

The Chairman explained to members that it is the responsibility of Sue Wells, Area Manager, to put any ideas into a form that can be acted upon. It is intended that there will be fully described Development Plan in place before the beginning of the 2018 season.

b] Cricket Wales Responsibilities (SW and PH)

* PH outlined the move to 3 area boards in line with the 3 Area Cricket Managers within the new staffing structure.
* The group will work with the Area Manager to ensure that the Cricket Network is fully represented.
* SW detailed the importance of the group being representative and that work was ongoing to find a representation from girls’ & women’s Cricket and disability Cricket.
* A few people had been approached to represent a female voice within Cricket but they could not commit.
* SW & BG also mentioned the importance of having a youth voice on the area board in the future.
1. **Area Manager Update & vision for the future**
* A discussion was held among those present on what *Cricket Wales North* should look like in 2020, with numerous different themes emerging, for example quality facilities, junior pathway, accessibility among others.
* A presentation was made by Sue Wells who mentioned issues such as areas of growth, geographic growth areas for cricket in North Wales, the current staffing structure, all stars cricket and other new initiatives.
* Sue Wells outlined the key funding partners and how this contributes to the staffing pictures due to the targets set.
* Progress to date by the new staffing team was outlined including the review of club cluster meetings and outline of key priorities for the remainder of the year.
* The allocation of the current delivery budget was discussed & Sue Wells outlined the additional funding received from the ECB for All Stars Cricket & Women’s Softball Festivals.
* A discussion was had on Youth Activators (14+) and the progress being made by the Cricket Wales Team around this priority area.
* A discussion was facilitated on the possible changes that could be introduced to address the drop-off of players.
* It was mentioned that Survey Monkey may be used to capture data and ideas in North Wales.

**See attached presentation which was discussed in an open forum**

1. **Cricket Wales North Plan**
* At present this falls in line with the Area Manager Staffing plan with Sue Wells & Senior Leadership Team of the Area Board aiming to produce a specific development plan for the area once resources for the 2018 season and details of the staffing review are known.
1. **Welfare & Compliance**

Significant work had been done on the administration side of coach education in recent months. Ben Garnett has been developing a database of coaches and their qualifications for North Wales.

It was mentioned that several coach education courses had been held recently – namely Activators, Coach Support Worker, Level 2 and so forth.

Tony Moss mentioned the increasing importance of Compliance among our cricket clubs. Ieuan Watkins working with the ECB on behalf of Cricket Wales on new compliance issues.

It was noted that the North Wales Cricket League had adopted the new Safeguarding protocol.

Tony Moss and Cricket Wales staff working with staff to collate Safeguarding information. It was stressed that all clubs must have a Cricket Welfare Officer (CWO).

Captains must have DBS and Coaches must have DBS Safeguarding and First Aid qualifications. It was noted that additional courses for coaches are required.

The importance of coaches joining the ECB Coaches Association (ECBCA) was noted.

1. **Any Other Business**

Richard Penney nominated Darren Leach to represent coaches on the North Wales Area Board, with a particular focus on ‘Coaching Pathways’. The nomination was accepted.

Robin Varley noted that the Board were looking for someone to do a Secretary role, if any of the clubs know of suitable candidates.

1. **Closure & Next Meeting**

Date of the next meeting to be confirmed, Aberystwyth mentioned as a possible venue during the summer. A Leadership Group meeting would be held prior to this.