



CRICKET WALES CRICED CYMRU

Abigail Phillips
Clerk to the Petitions Committee
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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c/o Glamorgan Cricket
SWALEC Stadium
Cardiff
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11th November 2011

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Dear Ms Phillips

RE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WELSH INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

Cricket Wales is the national governing body for junior and senior recreational cricket in Wales and is recognised as such by Sport Wales and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). 230 clubs, leagues and associations from across the length and breadth of Wales are affiliated to Cricket Wales.

The following views are provided by Cricket Wales in response to the questions raised in the petition relating to the establishment of a Welsh International Cricket Team.

1 Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?

The action called for is neither reasonable nor feasible. Cricket Wales chooses to affiliate to the ECB rather than the International Cricket Council (ICC), for very good reasons. These include:

- It provides the opportunity for eleven Welsh age group teams (from U11 boys to a senior Welsh women's team), to play over 150 games of representative cricket of an excellent standard against English County Boards, each summer (see fixtures attached). This programme develops our most talented young cricketers. If we were in membership of the ICC rather than the ECB then we would only be able to play a limited number of fixtures against the likes of Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands who are not as strong as teams like Yorkshire, Lancashire and Warwickshire. Women's and girls' fixtures would be even more adversely affected.
- The ECB provides Cricket Wales with funding to play the above games and to undertake many other initiatives that enable the sport to develop in Wales. This funding is used to strengthen cricket within communities throughout Wales including projects for seniors, juniors, boys, girls and those with a disability. Through this funding over many years (and that provided by Sport Wales), cricket plays an important role in Welsh communities.
- Recently Cricket Wales has secured enhanced funding from the ECB's Cricket Foundation and Chance to Shine programme, which will enable a part-time Community Coach to be appointed in every Local Authority in Wales. This funding has been matched by Sport Wales with the long term target being to double the number of junior club teams by 2020. This initiative would not be possible if Cricket Wales were part of the ICC.
- Cricket Wales is part of the ECB's coach education programme which is world-leading amongst cricket nations. The ICC coach education programme is at a more developmental stage.
- Being part of an England and Wales body provides Cricket Wales with the opportunity to gain expertise and support in other specialist areas which would be far more difficult to

deliver if we were a stand-alone cricket nation. Complex areas such as the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and facility development fall into this category.

- 2 Is there evidence to support the assertion that the current arrangements mean that Welsh cricketers do not have access to the same opportunities as cricketers from other UK nations?

No. In fact, Welsh cricketers have the opportunity to play professional cricket week-in-week-out for Glamorgan County Cricket Club and to play Test, One-Day-International and Twenty20 cricket for England. If cricketers from Ireland/Scotland are good enough to play for England then they are not allowed to play for Ireland/Scotland at the same time. Recent examples include Ed Joyce and Eoin Morgan.

Most Scottish and Irish players are semi-professional cricketers who week-in-week out, play at a lower standard than county cricketers such as those who play for Glamorgan County Cricket Club. The high-profile ICC Cricket World Cup only takes place every four years.

If Cricket Wales was to join the ICC instead of the ECB then the most talented Welsh cricketers would seek to join English Counties so as to be eligible for England. It would therefore be extremely difficult for Wales to develop a strong team.

- 3 What are the barriers to establishing a Welsh international cricket team?

The formation of a Welsh international cricket team would require Cricket Wales to affiliate to the ICC rather than the ECB. All of the benefits outlined in response to question 1 would be lost to a greater or lesser extent.

Even if funding was available from the ICC (instead of the ECB), that funding would not go very far as most age-group and senior fixtures would involve international travel.

A Welsh international cricket team would lead to the demise of Glamorgan County Cricket Club since over time they would almost certainly lose funding from the ECB, not be allowed to enter ECB County events and not be given the opportunity to host England international matches at the SWALEC Stadium. All young Welsh cricketers represent Wales at age-group level with the goal of one day playing for Glamorgan and England. The loss of Wales' professional cricket team (Glamorgan) would have a devastating effect on the health of the game in Wales.

- 4 Should the ECB team play home games in Wales? What are the arguments for and against this?

Yes, the ECB should play home games in the new SWALEC Stadium since it provides great profile for cricket in Wales and also vital income to Glamorgan County Cricket Club and the local economy. Everyone involved in cricket in Wales has the opportunity to be inspired by live cricket of the highest possible standard.

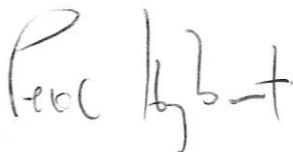
Cricket Wales played an important role in helping Glamorgan Cricket secure a 2015 England Ashes test match at the SWALEC Stadium, through the joint development of an ambitious plan for the future of the game in Wales.

England should play home games in Cardiff because it is an 'England and Wales' team. The Welsh flag was flown at the last Ashes Test Match in Cardiff. It is perhaps a case for the England and Wales Cricket Board to be renamed 'Cricket England and Wales' with the acronym changing from the ECB to CEW.

It is understandable that there will be calls for a Welsh international cricket team but the creation of such a team would have an enormously detrimental impact on the sport in Wales.

Should representation from Cricket Wales be required to further explain the above points, then I will gladly make myself available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hybart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter Hybart
Director of Cricket