



Abigail Phillips
Clerk of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1 NA

3/2/2012

Dear Abigail

Please find enclosed a copy of the England and Wales Cricket Board's submission to the Petitions Committee for the forthcoming meeting on the 13th March 2012.

I hope the enclosed submission will help inform the discussion and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information.

Regards

Philip French
Director of Public Policy and International Relations

England and Wales Cricket Board



From Playground to Test Arena

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

ECB response to Petition P-04-335; the Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

The England and Wales Cricket Board is the governing body for all cricket in England and Wales. Our responsibility is to promote and develop the game's growth and success at all levels, far beyond the boundaries of just International and domestic First Class Cricket.

1. Process required for Wales to establish a national cricket team and join the International Cricket Council

Should Cricket Wales (the Welsh Cricket Board) wish to establish a national team they would firstly need to apply to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for membership. Initially this means applying to join as an Affiliate member and then subsequently looking to progress to Associate membership.

Wales would then join more than 100 other countries in having Affiliate membership of the ICC enabling them to participate in the ICC World Cricket League which has seven divisions in all.

More information about the ICC World Cricket League can be found at the following link http://icc-cricket.yahoo.net/events_and_awards/wcl/index.php (included with this submission is the latest ICC World League bulletin).

The ICC World Cricket League culminates with competition between its members for places in the ICC's World Events. This is likely to lead to Wales competing with the other 100 Associate and Affiliate Nations for two to four places (dependent on format) for a place at the ICC Cricket World Cup which is held on a four year cycle.

Should this approach be taken then Cricket Wales would need to separate itself from the ECB and join the ICC in its own right as a member nation. It would not be possible to mix and match membership based on different levels of international competition.

Once Wales secured ICC Affiliate status it could then apply for Associate status once a track record of achievement at Affiliate level had been demonstrated to ICC. This process involves inspections of its cricket infrastructure (categories such as the state of its international venues, the professional administration it has in place and its domestic league infrastructure as well as playing performance). Schools and cricket clubs in Wales would need to compete in competitions operated by the Wales Cricket Board. We would see no reason why Wales should not achieve this status over a period of time.

2. Wales relationship with the International Cricket Council (instead of the ECB) – funding and fixtures

Should Wales join the ICC as a member it would change in many ways how cricket in Wales is operated. Direct funding to Wales would likely be in the region of \$50,000 to \$1million per annum through the ICC's grants to member nations arising from the funding generated by ICC Global Events rather than from ECB. In a similar vein to Scotland and Ireland, there would be no funding from England to Cricket Wales as all relationships would have to be with ICC and Wales would in effect become a competitor nation to England.

Wales would compete directly in the ICC World Cricket League and it is realistic to envisage a fixture list that would initially include matches against the nations who currently compete in the Affiliate competitions which include Papua New Guinea, Germany, Argentina and Nepal.

The SWALEC could host these matches but would no longer stage international Test matches. It is unlikely that there will be an expansion in Test playing nations in the foreseeable future indeed the Future Tours programme is now set by ICC until 2019.

Should Glamorgan continue to operate as a County in the way they do now then they would be able to apply to play in ECB competitions. While this is feasible, it is not straightforward, as the issue would arise of whether players representing Glamorgan were 'qualified' to play for England or Wales and the wider competition regulations that are applied. Glamorgan would need to demonstrate the wherewithal to fund and sustain a professional playing staff and that an application to compete in ECB competitions would not conflict with Wales requirements for players to play in the ICC Affiliate or Associate competitions.

3. Existing funding arrangements from the ECB to Wales

The ECB currently provides funding into Wales in several different ways including (i) award of International matches to the SWALEC, (ii) payments to Glamorgan CCC and (iii) investment in grassroots cricket in Wales.

In 2010, Cricket Wales and Glamorgan County Cricket Club received direct fee payments and grants of £2,197,492 from a total circa of £35million

awarded to County members. In addition, there is indirect support through both centralised County and community programmes and Sport Wales contributes a further £550,000 per annum.

Overall funding in 2011 increased to approximately £2,416,020 to Cricket Wales and Glamorgan County Cricket Club. Of the funding to Cricket Wales, the national governing body contributed approximately £277,200 in revenue funding towards clubs and community programmes plus a further £479,552 in capital funding to build and renovate facilities. The capital contribution included £100,000 which was paid by Sport Wales as part of their match funding scheme. There was some additional partnership funding of around £40,000 via the Cricket Foundation and Chance to Shine as well some indirect support through centralised County and community initiatives.

The ECB awards revenue funding according to a transparent formula that aligns funding to the size and scope of the game in each County. Cricket Wales reside over one of the largest cricketing counties in England and Wales and therefore receives one of the highest per capita shares of funding. Cricket Wales has 220 Affiliated Clubs, 84 Focus clubs, 720 primary schools entering ECB competitions. There are 625 senior club teams and 580 junior clubs teams in Wales.

The ECB also provides a significant amount of professional support to the Board in terms of expertise, resources to help improve delivery and help raise standards as well access to partnership funding.

4. Position of key stakeholders in the Game

The ECB is proud of the status of Wales within its structure and the rich and varied contribution Wales has made to cricket over many years. In recent years certain significant developments have included David Morgan being Chair of the ECB and ICC, Test Matches being staged at the wonderful SWALEC cricket ground, The ECB's Team Managing Director Hugh Morris and players from Wales representing the England and Wales Cricket team with distinction.

Ultimately the decision for its continued involvement in the ECB structure by Wales is one for the key stakeholders of the game in Wales to make.

The ECB is aware that Glamorgan CCC, Wales Cricket and Sport Wales are all strong supporters of Wales remaining as a member of the ECB and we are certain that the Committee will take evidence directly from these bodies and note the ICC regulations concerning membership. The ECB will of course continue to support the democratic decision

and preferences expressed by cricketers in Wales concerning the future for cricket as a member of ICC or ECB .