



The Cricket Board of Wales
Bwrdd Criced Cymru

Spring 2008

Tails 4 Wales

Cricket Board of Wales Newsletter

No. 56

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Welcome

The 2008 season is underway and lots of work will have gone on behind the scenes at clubs all over Wales to prepare the grounds, update facilities and recruit new players and volunteers. More and more clubs are now using NatWest CricketForce as a vehicle to galvanise their membership, attract new volunteers and spruce up their ground at the same time. Lisvane Cricket

Club's NatWest CricketForce project to bring cricket back to the YMCA ground in St Mellons after a gap of six years is covered below and was chosen by the England and Wales Cricket Board as one of its five showcase events. We hope you find the articles of interest and would encourage you to visit our website at www.cbw.org.uk for further up to date information.

NatWest CricketForce



David Collier, Chief Executive of The ECB makes a presentation to the Chairman of Lisvane, Gary Morgan in recognition of the clubs NatWest CricketForce project



Glamorgan players Mike Powell, Mark Wallace and Robert Croft help out painting the picket fence'



Work starts on the square

Lisvane have a thriving junior section but no ground of their own so the YMCA ground provided the club with a great opportunity. Giles Clarke, David Collier and Mike Gattling of the ECB and Glamorgan Cricketers Robert Croft, Mike Powell and Mark Wallace joined more than 200 volunteers at the ground on Saturday the 5th April to make a start on bringing the ground back to life. Already the existing clubhouse has been refurbished with new windows, kitchen and toilet facilities provided and fitted free of charge. The electric system has been re-wired, hedging cleared back to the perimeter of the ground ready for treating and re-turfing, fences

and security has been upgraded around the most vulnerable areas, a picket fence built and erected around most of the pitch, a patio has been created alongside the clubhouse, improved access from parking in the business park and a path created to the clubhouse. The club estimates the overall cost of the project will be approximately £250k however £200k of this will be met by donations and in kind contributions. NatWest CricketForce can be equally effective on much smaller club projects and anyone interested should contact their Cricket Development Officer. Further details are also available on www.ecb.co.uk

Stephens & George Print Group continue to Sponsor Welsh Cricket

We are delighted to have agreed another 2 year sponsorship deal with the Stephens and George Print Group. The sponsorship will continue to be used to subsidise the cost of representing Wales and we

would like to take this opportunity to thank Group Managing Director, Andrew Jones for his generous support of Welsh cricket. Full details of all age group fixtures and results can be found on our website.



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Kwik Cricket

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Clubmark Accreditation

We now have 31 Clubmark Accredited clubs and another 37 who have expressed an interest and are working towards accreditation. Accreditation is open to any club with a junior section and offers the following benefits

- **£1000 Junior Development Grant on achieving accreditation status**
- **Opportunity to apply for ECB facility Grant**
- **Opportunity to apply for ECB machinery Grant**
- **Opportunity to deliver a Chance to Shine scheme**
- **Priority on Coach Education Courses**

Anyone interested should contact their local Cricket Development Officer who will be happy to assist.

Chance to Shine



Mike Gatting visits Chance to Shine School in Neath

We are delighted that Clubs in Wales will be included in the Cricket Foundations 'Chance to Shine' scheme in 2008. In partnership with the Sports Council for Wales 16 clubs will receive funding to provide high-quality, sustainable cricket programmes through coaching and competition, coach and teacher training, resources and equipment and school-holiday activities.

By linking schools with a local club, the aim is to encourage youngsters at school to continue playing cricket within a club environment. This will embrace club development by offering the potential to increase club membership with additional opportunities to develop and enhance training for coaches and volunteers.

There is a minimum 2 year funding commitment so we would hope more clubs and schools will be involved in 2009.

ECB Facility Funding

Clubmark Accredited Clubs in Wales will be able to access the ECB's facility fund in 2008. This fund has previously only been available to clubs in England so this change is fantastic news. It follows on from our recent inclusion in the ECB's machinery grants scheme and the Cricket Foundations Chance to Shine which are covered in more detail above.

England and Wales Cricket Trust Machinery Fund

In 2007 Wales was allocated a machinery grant of £60k by the ECB and this was used to purchase £80k's worth of machinery. In 2008 our grant was increased to £100K and this has been used to purchase machinery including outfield and pitch mowers, scarifiers, seeders, aerators and heavy rollers to the value of £130k. Since the launch of the scheme last year we have processed 30 grant applications from individual clubs and 7 from our Groundsmans Associations to purchase more than £200k's worth of machinery and we are hopeful more funds will be available next year.

Square Improvements Scheme

The best possible preparation of cricket squares is vital to the development of the game of cricket and we work closely with our Groundsman's Associations and Pitch Advisers to support Cricket Groundsmen in all parts of Wales. We have 3 ECB approved Pitch Advisers - Len Smith (South East), Wayne Duggan (South West) and Gareth Phillips (North) with a wealth of knowledge and experience on pitch preparation who provide an invaluable support service to our Clubs. Since 2001 they have assessed over 120 squares in Wales and each assessment is followed up with another visit after 12 months. This has been a hugely successful programme which we will continue again next winter.

England and Wales Cricket Trust - Interest Free Loan Scheme

The scheme is open to affiliated clubs with a junior section who are working towards clubmark accreditation. Whether it is a sightscreen or a changing room the England and Wales Cricket Trust will consider interest-free loans of up to £50,000 over a repayment period of up to five years to clubs that meet set criteria. Clubs would need to contribute a minimum 25 per cent of the total cost through partnership funding or from their own funds. Full details are available on www.ecb.co.uk

NatWest OSCAS

The OSCAs (Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards) are aimed at recognising those volunteers who give so much of their time to the game of cricket.

It's fair to say that cricket could not survive without its huge army of unsung heroes, and to this effect we in Wales are looking for candidates to be nominated through your club, up to regional and national level, with the chance of being invited as a nominee to the National Awards ceremony in Lords during October 2008.

To find out more about this initiative please log onto:

www.ecb.co.uk.

Mark Dixon your Regional Support Officer will also be contacting all affiliated WCA clubs shortly with more details. If you wish, you can contact him direct by email him on: iamdixon@hotmail.com.



U13 & U15 National Knock out Cups

We have over 40 entries for both competitions so have introduced a 4th zone to ease the pressure on clubs to complete fixtures. To do this we needed a club with 2 grounds to host the finals and we owe a big thank you to Newport who have agreed to host the U13 final on Sunday 6th July and the U15 on Sunday 29th June. The winners will go on to represent Wales in the UK finals.

Inter Cricket

Over 60 secondary schools around Wales took part in this year's Nat West 6 a side indoor Inter Cricket Competition final at the National Cricket Centre on Friday 7th March. Coed Cae, Llanelli were the eventual winners after an exciting final against Duffryn Taf of Whitland. Many thanks to all of the schools who took part.



South Wales Inter Cricket final at the National Cricket Centre

Kwik Cricket

There will be kwik cricket events for primary schools in all areas during June. Last year 700 schools and 7000 boys and girls took part. Our finals days will be at Aberystwyth on the 4th July for the North and Mid Wales schools and the SWALEC stadium Cardiff on the 1st July for the South and West schools. The winners of the two Welsh finals are invited to the UK finals at Grace Road Leicester on Monday 14th July.

Women's and Girls' News



The exciting new Glamorgan Girls academy

The 2008 season has already seen a major change for women's cricket in Wales- the senior Women's team (formerly run by the Welsh Women's Cricket Association) has now become part of the Cricket Board of Wales. This has many advantages, particularly in terms of communication and match planning; as many of our age group girls continue to earn their places in the full senior side.

The women's team currently play in the County Challenge Cup, a qualifying competition for the full ECB Women's County Championships,

and we all hope that this season will see a long-awaited promotion to the main competition. To qualify, we need to finish top of a group including Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Shropshire. The team will also play a number of friendly matches, the most notable against the MCC Women, to be held at Radyr CC, Cardiff on Friday 13th June.



Wales u13 Girls - 2007 ECB finalists

The Wales age group teams, at U13, U15 and U17 level (who have been part of the Cricket Board of Wales for two seasons now) are also competing in the ECB championships this season. Last year saw the U13 girls reach the final, and the U15 girls narrowly lose out to the eventual winners, Warwickshire in a closely fought semi final. Let's hope that 2008 season is even more successful!

In addition to their ECB games, the U13s will be attending the Malvern Festival, and the U17s compete in the prestigious Taunton festival. Congratulations are extended to Gwenan Davies (Clydach CC) and Lauren Parfitt (Croesyceiliog and St Fagans CC) who were selected for England U19 regional training sessions throughout the winter. The girls are now waiting to hear whether they have been selected for the junior Super 4s for this summer.

At regional level, festival-style competitions will be held throughout the summer at U13 and U17 age groups, and work is currently underway in many regions to develop girls' sides at U11 level for the 2009 season.

One very significant development has been the formation of the Glamorgan U11 Girls Cricket Academy in the Cardiff and Vale area- thanks to a lot of hard work by Pete Edwards, the Glamorgan Cricket in the Community Officer, and the 8 ECB Accredited female coaches who help plan and run training sessions and intra-academy matches. The Academy has been very successful so far, with over 40 members, and the team are very positive that summer coaching and the schools ASDA Kwik Cricket competitions will increase the membership even more. This is currently a pilot scheme, supported by the Chance 2 Shine coaching initiative, and it is hoped that, if successful, it will be rolled out nationwide in the near future.

At primary school level, more regions than ever before will be running a girls-only ASDA Kwik Cricket festival this summer; and Wales will be represented at the National Finals of the event in July. At secondary school level, plans are in place to run an U13 8-a-side indoor schools tournament next Spring term, a competition run nationally by the Lady Taverners. Wales will then send a winner to the National Finals in Lords in April 2009.

Lastly, congratulations to Stephanie Davies of Aberdare, who helped England Women retain the Ashes in Australia earlier this year. Steph is currently studying at UWIC, and is also assisting with coaching sessions for the Girls Academy- it certainly gives the girls something to aim for!

Sarah Ginn

Sarah Ginn who has been actively involved in the Women and Girls game in Wales for a number of years has recently been appointed as our Women and Girls Cricket Development officer. Sarah will be working with our Cricket Development Officers and key volunteers to create more opportunities for Girls to play cricket.



2008 REGIONAL CRICKET



U15 regional final will be under floodlights at the new SWALEC stadium Cardiff

U11 & U15 Competitions

These two age groups will continue to be played under the same zonal format as last season with both finals at the SWALEC Stadium Cardiff on Monday 18th August. The U15's will be in coloured clothing and under floodlights.

Residential Festivals and Competitions 2008

Swansea U12: Mon 21st – Thurs 24th July

Cardiff U14: Mon 28th – Thurs 31st July

Wrexham U13: Mon 4th – Thurs 7th Aug

U10 Aberystwyth: Mon 18th – Wed 20th Aug

Girls

Festival days are planned on the 30th May (U13's only), 25th July and 10th August (U13 & U17)

ECBACO

The Association of Cricket Umpires (ACU&S) and England and Wales Cricket Board Officials Association (ECBOA) have merged to form the England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials (ECBACO). Officials play a vital role in the game and we are in the process of formalising the Wales ECBACO to coordinate the training, support and recruitment of umpires and scorers.

COACH EDUCATION

We have run 14 level 1, 4 level 2, 5 young leaders and 7 coach development workshops throughout the winter months of 2007/8 to expand and improve our existing coaching base. We recognise that Coach Education plays a pivotal role in the overall development of cricket within the country and in addition to another comprehensive programme of Level 1 and Level 2 courses will also run a Level 3 course during the autumn. This represents a significant financial commitment and would not be possible without the tremendous support we have received from the SCW.

Details of course dates should be on the CBW website www.cbw.org.uk in June.

Additional Cricket Development Support for North Wales

In partnership with the six local authorities in North Wales, we have appointed 2 additional part time development officers to support our full time officer John Huband. Gerallt Jones and Roger Bellis will cover the Eryri and North East Wales regions and their contact details have been included below.

Cricket Development Officers Contact Details

Cardiff&Vale Peter Edwards; 02920419340/ peter@glamorgancricket.co.uk

North Wales; John Huband; 01492 575555/07802450661/ John.huband@conwy.gov.uk

Eryri – Gerallt Jones; 07841235469/ Gerallt.Jones2@gwynedd.gov.uk

NEW- Roger Bellis; 07835518218/ roger.bellis@wrexham.gov.uk

Mid Wales: Powys & Ceredigion, Peter Brett; 01597 811139, 07768 552615/ pbrett@powys.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire Ben Field; 01437 776379/ ben.field@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

South East Wales: Stephen Watkins; 01633 644553/ 07788 710188/ SteveWatkins@monmouthshire.gov.uk

South West Wales Jeremy Cartwright; 01267 676797/ 07974 647007

Women and Girls – Sarah Ginn; 07977674832/ Sarah.Ginn@ecb.co.uk

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