

Towards a National Future for Welsh Cricket – Jonathan Edwards MP

Introduction

It has been an issue of contention for supporters of cricket in Wales for many years that current arrangements mean that a Welsh national team is not allowed to compete in global International Cricket Council (ICC) one day and Twenty20 tournaments. Wales, a cricketing nation with a proud and venerable tradition, finds itself conspicuous in its absence on the global stage, whilst countries with arguably less of a tradition and a weaker player base have graced competitions in both formats of the game. A Welsh national team has not graced the global stage since the inaugural ICC tournament in 1979, although the Welsh Women's team has competed in international tournaments as recently as 2005.

The creation of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in 1997 to govern the game in both countries has had undoubted benefits, not least the historic staging of an Ashes Test match in 2009, and the remarkable development of Sophia Gardens into a World Class cricket centre.

However, the inclusion of Wales within the ECB structure has created an open sore in relation to the legitimate international ambitions of Welsh cricket supporters and players.

- Wales has twice as many clubs as Scotland and four to five times as many as Ireland.
- Wales has a cricketing grass roots equivalent to New Zealand and a total population similar to New Zealand, who is a full member of the ICC and test playing nation.
- Between 1993-2002, a Welsh team competed in the British Isles national Championship consisting of a Scottish, Irish, Welsh and England (amateur) team.
- Wales has a stronger population of club cricketers and fans far greater than any Associate ICC member, and greater than full members Zimbabwe and New Zealand.ⁱ

Reasons for a Welsh National Side

- Proper representation demands that Wales has its own national cricket side able to compete in world competitions. The England cricket team does not represent Wales. It does not amount to a GB team nor to something akin to the British and Irish Lions. Instead, it is an England team, exhibiting all the

symbolism of England, in which Welsh players compete on a very rare basis as if they themselves were English.

- There is demand for a Welsh team as demonstrated by a recent Wales Online poll in which over **80% of participants supported the creation of a Welsh side**. Both Ireland and Scotland have competed in recent World tournaments and even Jersey and Guernsey are associate ICC members. If Scotland, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and England are all able to support national sides there seems little doubt that Wales could do the same.
- A Welsh national side competing in showpiece events would be an incredible boost for the development of the game in Wales. Instead of very sporadic selection for ECB teams, a full squad of Welsh players, if qualification is secured, would participate - an incredible incentive for young cricketers.
- A Welsh team competing in a cricketing World Cup could be a key economic driver as a significant boost to brand Wales. The current England (and Wales) team in no way promotes Wales, which is disappointing because the potential reach of cricket dwarfs other major sports in Wales. India alone has a population of over one billion people and is earmarked as a key 21st century economic area for developing relations by the UK Government.

Bottom Lines

- Glamorgan's status as a first class county must be maintained - Glamorgan was formed in 1888 and since 1921 has been a participant in the English County Championship. As a result Glamorgan gets a share of the ECB's approximate £40m a year county allocation. Any negotiations on the creation of a Welsh national side would need to ensure that Glamorgan's position is suitably protected together with ECB domestic funding. However, it is disingenuous by those opposed to the creation of a Welsh national side to argue that Glamorgan's status would be endangered. David Collier, the Chief Executive of the ECB, has already stated that with a Welsh team Glamorgan would be welcome to continue in the English County system and as such would continue to receive the funding available to other counties. Furthermore, Holland, Ireland and Scotland, despite being national teams, compete in the English system in various competitions. In other sports Swansea is in the top tier of the football pyramid, playing in the English Premier League, and yet Wales has one of the oldest football associations in the world.
- Sophia Gardens status as Test venue cannot be jeopardised – Under both proposed models for the creation of a Welsh national one day team Welsh players would be eligible to play test cricket for England. Glamorgan would continue to play first class cricket. Therefore there is no reason why Sophia

Gardens couldn't continue to bid successfully for England games. There are no ICC rules barring test nations from playing home games in other ICC member countries. Abu Dhabi often hosts international games and Pakistan currently play home games on foreign soil.

Two possible avenues

1 - The ECB to be allowed to enter two teams for one day and Twenty20 ICC competitions – The ECB represents two distinct sporting nations and should be allowed to field a Welsh and English team with an England team automatically qualifying for global competitions and a Welsh team competing against other Associate and Affiliate members for qualification. This would require the ICC making special provision for the unique position Wales finds itself in. This is the simplest solution but may face hostility from other ICC members.

2 – For the Cricket Board of Wales to seek ICC status – This scenario has the advantage that support from the ECB and ICC is not necessary i.e. if the Welsh Government decides to set up a Welsh team the ECB and ICC would not prevent it. In this scenario it is highly likely that Wales, due to its strong player base and tradition, would be granted Associate Membership like Scotland and Ireland.

Qualifying for Global tournaments

The ICC is currently holding a review of its structures and is considering changes to the qualification systems for ICC global tournaments. It is likely that a new Welsh side would enter tournaments conducted by ICC Europe. As of October 2011, the principal competition structure for senior men is a three tier Twenty20 championship, leading to places in a global qualifying tournament and potentially to the World Twenty20 tournament itself. Rankings from this competition also determine access to the 50 over World Cricket League (WCL). There are currently nine European countries in various divisions of the WCL with Scotland, Ireland and Holland in Division 1.ⁱⁱ

A Welsh side would start at the beginning of the competitions and it is anticipated that it would take two to three years based on player availability to reach the higher divisions and be eligible for lucrative Higher Performance Programme (HPP) funding and a potential qualifying tournament for a World cup.ⁱⁱⁱ

Player Eligibility

The ICC has strict rules on who is allowed to play for any country, and there can be little doubt that separate Welsh membership would give rise to some issues that need to be noted. The main criteria are:

1. the *Player* was born in the relevant country;
2. the *Player* is able to demonstrate (by his/her possession of a valid passport issued by the relevant country) that he/she is a national of the relevant country; or
3. the *Player* is a *Resident* of the relevant country, in other words:
 - 3.1 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding two years (female *Players* only);
 - 3.2 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding four years (male *Players* only); or
 - 3.3 the *Player* has resided in the relevant country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the immediately preceding seven years (male *Players* only).

In addition to these criteria, there are some additional requirements for eligibility to play for an Associate or Affiliate member, with some global events being excepted. These 'development criteria' are:

4. the *Player* has played in a minimum of 50% of the domestic league matches that his club team was scheduled to play within the relevant domestic structure in any 3 of the preceding 5 domestic league seasons;
5. the *Player* has spent a cumulative total of at least 100 working days in the relevant country coaching cricket, playing cricket or working in the administration or development of cricket in that country in the immediately preceding 5 years; or
6. the *Player* has previously represented the relevant country at Under-19 level or above after satisfying the additional *Development Criteria* in these *Regulations* or similar requirements under predecessor eligibility regulations.

At least one of these must be satisfied for the player to be eligible to play for an Associate or Affiliate member, with the exception of the World Cup and World T20, other full ODIs, the Intercontinental Cup, and global qualifying tournaments.

There are further rules governing movement between one country and another: in summary, a male player seeking to transfer to an Associate or Affiliate member may not have played international cricket for any other member in the preceding four years, while there is no such restriction on a player moving from an Associate or Affiliate member to a Full member. **In other words, an Irish player could appear for Ireland and England on consecutive days, but would then have to wait for four years before requalifying to play for Ireland (as Ed Joyce of Ireland has recently done).**

In the particular circumstances pertaining to Wales, especially the existence of Glamorgan as an English first-class county, player eligibility would need careful definition, but in many respects the situation is little different from that in Ireland or Scotland – or, for that matter, in the Netherlands. Young Welsh cricketers could continue to aspire to play for England, if that is their wish, and playing for Wales in the meantime need be no barrier to that ambition; having once played for England, however, they would be barred for playing again for Wales for at least four years.^{IV}

Therefore there are no current eligibility barriers in the event of Welsh ICC membership for Welsh players being able to play test cricket for England if selected. If anything, the existence of a Welsh nation team gives Welsh players a choice that would be to their benefit, thus removing another argument by opponents of a Welsh team.

In the event of the creation of a Cricket Board of Wales sponsored Welsh team, in the interests of the game in Wales, there would need to be an agreement with the counties for the release of players to enable a significantly strong Welsh side to reach the higher echelons of the qualifying pyramid as soon as possible.

Funding

Welsh cricket, via grants and direct fee payments, is in receipt of £2.2m in funds from the ECB. Welsh cricket also receives £550,000 funding from Sport Wales. With Glamorgan continuing to be a part of the First Class scene and Welsh players eligible for ECB test selection there is a clear case for the continuation of current ECB sponsorship. Any move towards ICC status would require careful bridging arrangements either from the ECB or ICC until Wales would qualify for full ICC funding. The ECB currently funds Scotland, Ireland, Jersey and Guernsey so the same should apply to Wales.

The potential sums available if Wales were to gain High Performance status should be substantially more than current ECB and Sports Council for Wales funding.^V

Welsh international matches would also provide an income stream in gate receipts, merchandise, sponsorship and TV revenue.

Role of ECB

Any movements towards the creation of a Welsh team would require the consent of the ECB. In the event of a dispute between the CBW and ECB the ICC would support the current governing body unless the Welsh Government was to announce that it did not recognise the ECB. This should not be an issue as David Collier has

already stated that setting up a Welsh team is a matter for Wales, meaning the ECB would not stand in its way. The future direction of the game in Wales should be a matter for cricket people in Wales and the ECB should and will respect those wishes.

Conclusion

Sport is for players and supporters, both of whom strongly support the creation of a Welsh cricket team. There are some issues that must be negotiated to establish a Welsh team but there are no reasons strong enough to prevent such a move. A Welsh team can exist whilst securing Glamorgan's first class status and Sophia Gardens' test status and given our passion for cricket and the depth of our club scene it is likely that Wales will quickly move up the world rankings to become a team that qualifies for international competitions. At present Welsh people are the only people in the British Isles who play no international cricket and this must change. This paper is, therefore, aimed as a starting point in a debate about the future of Wales as a cricketing nation.

ⁱ Michael Blumberg, former editor Cricket World

ⁱⁱ Professor Rod Lyall

ⁱⁱⁱ Professor Rod Lyall

^{iv} Professor Rod Lyall

^v Richard Holdsworth, ICC Development Manager Europe

Questions you may wish to consider in responding

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

I believe the action is both reasonable and feasible. The Cricket Board of Wales (CBW) must take the lead, I believe the ECB would struggle to partition to the ICC to have two representative sides.

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?

I don't believe the Welsh cricketers are disadvantaged when seeking to play International cricket. It may be easier for Irish or Scottish cricketers but Welsh cricketers, if good enough, can still go on and represent England.

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

The biggest barrier for me and a barrier that needs to be crossed carefully is the subject of Glamorgan Cricket. If the ECB is supportive of CBW's development into a National team then that would be the way to go, as Glamorgan would still retain its status and funding.

4. Should the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) team play home games in Wales? What are the arguments for and against this?

I can see no reason for the ECB not to play matches in Wales, unless a Welsh National side is accepted. They have had Welsh players playing for them in the past and I'm sure there will be more Welsh players playing for England in a few years. As Robert Croft always says "when I play for England, for me it's like playing for the British Lions" England have had captains from England, Scotland, Wales and most recently Ireland.

Matthew Maynard

Former Glamorgan Captain, Coach & Player.

Former England Cricket Assistant Coach, Player & Captain of the England 6's Team.

Currently Head Coach of the Nashua Titans Cricket Franchise in South Africa

16/11/11

National Assembly for Wales

Submission to Petitions Committee

Application Of Wales for Independent ICC Membership

1 The application is desirable, feasible and should be an imperative.

2 Welsh cricketers have the same opportunity to play Test cricket as Scots and Irish by playing for England. However Scots and Irish cricketers have a much greater opportunity to play International Limited Over Cricket and possibly to compete in World Cups. Should Ireland and Scotland achieve Test status one day then their advantage over Welsh cricketers will be much greater.

3 The barriers to establishing a Welsh International team are largely illusory except that they remain entrenched in the minds of several leading officials of Glamorgan CCC and Welsh Cricket Board. There is a financial adjustment to be made as a result of the Welsh Cricket Board and Glamorgan CCC separating which will not be made up by ICC until such time as Wales achieves senior Associate status and or reaches a World Cup. Sponsorship and Sport Wales may fill this hole. It may be that a phased reduction in the Glamorgan CCC/ECB support of Cricket Wales could be negotiated rather than a straight cut off.

4 If there is a good sport business reason for ECB to stage a Test match at Cardiff then surely they will wish to pursue this option. There are plenty of precedents of neutral locations staging both Test matches and ODIs eg Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Nairobi, Toronto, Tangiers. and recently England hosted a Series between Australia and Pakistan.

5 Wales has a much stronger and numerous recreational cricket sector than Scotland and Ireland combined. Indeed its recreational and youth cricket is comparable in terms of numbers with New Zealand and West Indies and not

far short of Sri Lanka. It is many times bigger than Test playing Zimbabwe. It has a well established coaching structure.

6 Wales has better facilities and infrastructure than any Senior Associate member of ICC. It already has one Test ground, several others that have staged 1st Class and Limited Over County Cricket. It has several hundred good club grounds as well independent school, some company and private cricket grounds as well as an MCCU.

7 Wales competed for a decade in the Triple Crown Competition with Ireland and Scotland and an England Club Cricket XI (sometimes called NCA, ECB, Amateur etc) . This side did not win the competition but performed creditably enough. This was in effect Wales 2nd XI as no Glamorgan Staff cricketer played.

8 Wales has already competed (without Glamorgan CCC players) in the 1979 ICC Trophy when Argentina was refused visas. Wales with Glamorgan players has defeated England in an ODI in recent years.

9 Wales already has a substantial cricket fan base in terms of spectators and TV viewers and Radio listeners far exceeding any Associate and probably matching New Zealand and West Indies. This provides a realistic basis for sponsorship and revenue leading to a potential sustainable full time professional set up to complement Glamorgan CCC.

10 The position of Glamorgan CCC remains unchanged whether or not Wales achieves independent ICC status. Glamorgan CCC is a member of and guarantor of ECB. It receives funding from ECB primarily for competing in ECB competitions. There is some funding supposedly for development which may be lost if Wales achieves cricket independence. Likewise Cricket Wales Minor County competes in the ECB Minor County Competitions and presumably will continue to receive a share of MCA's funding.

11 The status of the Cardiff MCCU may need to be reviewed but since its funding comes from MCC and not ECB not much need change here. There

may be an opportunity for expanding the facility under ICC and ECC auspices as it will be unique for an Associate to have such an institution and there could be a European Cricket element here.

12 There will need to be some agreement between Glamorgan CCC and an independent Cricket Wales/Welsh Cricket Association of which it will be a member to release Welsh players for ICC competitions. As the vast majority of ICC international competition takes place in the Northern Hemisphere Winter, independent Wales will add to the opportunities to play for Glamorgan players.

13 Local Glamorgan players will need to make known whether they aspire to play for England or Wales. Unless Wales was to achieve test status quickly England would continue to poach or 'borrow' any outstanding Welsh cricketers just as they have Scots and Irish.

14 This writer believes passionately that local cricket clubs whether just cricket clubs or multiple sports clubs are a very positive social force in every community that has one or more. Welsh youngsters, good at sport, are much more likely to persevere with cricket if there is a Wales National team than if the only National Representative team is England and thus grow to love the game whether they make it to the top or settle into club cricket.

15 England and Wales Cricket Board has always been an anomaly from its outset and its decision to call itself ECB. From a calligraphy point of view eliminating the W is madness as it allows much more interesting logo design. It also sends a signal that Wales is unimportant to ECB. ECB has done precious little to promote the game throughout Wales. ECB is indifferent to Welsh national aspirations at a time of mounting Welsh self awareness and pride.

16 An independent Cricket Wales/Welsh Cricket Association/Wales Cricket Board has the opportunity of seizing the momentum of Welsh Nationalism together with strong existing cricket activity at all levels to fast develop an

independent International team which will be at the forefront of senior Associates challenging for Test status.

17 The propensity of the Welsh people to support their national team augurs well for an independent Cricket Wales irrespective of whether they play Papua New Guinea or India.

18 An independent Cricket Wales/WCA/WCB provides both ECC and ICC with an additional country in which to play international competitions on grounds of outstanding quality compared with most senior Affiliates.

I do urge the National Assembly For Wales to support the application for independent membership of the the International Cricket Council and to support the new independent Cricket Board For Wales.

Michael Blumberg November 16th 2011

Michael Blumberg is the former editor and founder of Club Cricket Weekly Newspaper and, Club Cricket Monthly and Cricket World Monthly magazines as well as the website Cricketworld.com. He has played club cricket for fifty years in UK and also in some thirty plus other cricket countries. He is a member of the Cricket Writers Club.

One of his editorial specialities was ICC affairs and new cricket countries. He had a hand in many a new country's application to ICC from Vanuatu to Greece. He reported extensively on the former Triple Crown Competition in which Wales competed. He also help set up and reported on a Welsh Club Cricket sponsorship with Welsh Brewers. Throughout his 17 year tenure with Club Cricket and Cricket World he wrote on Welsh Club Cricket, Welsh Leagues, Welsh Club Cricketers, Glamorgan CCC and Glamorgan cricketers.

Response to the Petitions Committee Call for Evidence on the Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

Sport Wales Consultation Response

Simon Jones, Public Affairs Manager, Sport Wales

11/16/2011

Sport Wales is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and physical activity in Wales. We are the main adviser on sporting matters to the Welsh Government and are responsible for distributing National Lottery funds to both elite and grassroots sport in Wales. We aim to not only improve the level of sports participation at grassroots level but also provide our aspiring athletes with the support required to compete successfully on the world stage

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

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the establishment of a Wales cricket team and the decision to take membership of the ICC rather than the ECB is a matter for the governing body of cricket, Cricket Wales, and we would be supportive of their decision on this matter. Any discussion around this issue would need to be framed by what is best for cricket in Wales on both a participation and elite level.

Recently the Cricket Board of Wales and the Welsh Cricket Association merged to form a single governing body that oversees both the junior and adult recreational game in Wales. We welcomed this decision to provide more joined up governance for the game in Wales and are continuing to work with the new governing body, Cricket Wales, to develop the game further. In 2011/12 Sport Wales has provided over £550,000 of funding to Cricket Wales for this purpose. The grant we provide is also supplemented by funding directly from the ECB, which is outlined in the response to the committee made by Cricket Wales.

The governing body has also been working to continue to develop a close working relationship with Glamorgan CC, which represents the professional game in Wales. We have been very pleased with how both agencies have worked together to ensure that there is a joined up pathway for those wanting to play cricket in Wales.

At present both Cricket Wales and Glamorgan CC are of the view that the establishment of a Welsh cricket team would not be in the long term benefit for the growth of the game in Wales and we support this position.

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?

We do not believe that this is currently the case, as talented cricketers are supported by both Cricket Wales and eventually Glamorgan CC if they reach that standard. We recognise the wider issue with regard to the England & Wales cricket team being referred to exclusively as “England” and the acronym for the England and Wales Cricket Board being the ECB, does lead to the perception that Wales is overlooked. In fact Wales has a strong history of providing players to the international side and currently both James Harris and Tom Maynard, both of whom are products of the Glamorgan Academy, are in the England development squad with aspirations of making the senior side.

We would be concerned if the establishment of an independent Wales team would see Glamorgan alienated from the County Championship. There is every chance that this could result in Welsh professionals opting to play for English counties resulting in a dip in focus and standards in Wales.

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

For Wales to have representative teams of its own, it would have to break with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and become affiliated to the International Cricket Board (ICC) instead. This would have significant funding implications as Glamorgan CCC and Cricket Wales who collectively receive up to £2 million funding per annum from the ECB. If Wales was ratified as an associate member of the ICC it may expect to receive a significantly smaller grant. The reduction of funding would undoubtedly have a significant negative impact on both the professional and recreational game in Wales.

The quality and regularity of competition that a representative Wales international team would be exposed to would be significantly inferior to the standard of competition enjoyed by Glamorgan in the County Championships. Wales would start at the bottom rung of the international cricket ladder and it may be some time before they achieved test / one day international status. Other small cricketing nations (e.g. Ireland and Scotland) are thought to struggle for meaningful, appropriate competition between major events (i.e. the Cricket World Cup).

4. Should the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) team play home games in Wales? What are the arguments for and against this?

They do. There was an ashes test at the SWALEC stadium in 2009 and it has recently been announced that a further ashes test will be held here in 2015. The bid for the 2015 Ashes Test included an ambitious plan for the future of the game in Wales to ensure that a sporting legacy remains following the game.

Further to these test matches, one day internationals and twenty-twenty matches against other nations have also been held in Cardiff, all helping to boost the profile of cricket in Wales. If Wales were to become an independent cricket nation then such matches are highly unlikely to be held in Cardiff.

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Wales and International Cricket: Some Key Issues

There can be no doubt that in both men's and women's cricket Wales could be one of the top six countries in Europe if its administrative structure could be adjusted to enable proper national sides to be fielded and official international fixtures to be played. More drastic changes would be needed to allow Wales to become an Associate member of the ICC since the links to the England and Wales Cricket Board would need to be changed for either the CBW or the WCA to be recognised as the official governing body. If Wales is serious about international cricket on a par with Scotland and Ireland, however, these issues will need to be addressed.

Roy Morgan, *Encyclopedia of World Cricket* (Cheltenham 2007), 237

Unquestionably, the current status of Welsh cricket is in many respects anomalous. Although there have been periods in which a Welsh national team has been regarded as an international side on the same basis as those of other countries – even participating in the first-ever ICC Trophy in 1979, despite the fact that Wales was not an Associate member of the International Cricket Council – this has never become an established practice, and for most purposes cricket in Wales forms a minor part of the England and Wales Cricket Board (significantly, referred to both by itself and by others as the ECB).

It should not be thought, however, that this is a unique anomaly, or that the relationship between national status in cricket and political statehood is self-evident. Rhodesia played in South African domestic cricket until 1979-80, for example, and many Rhodesian players represented South Africa at Test level. The West Indies has always been a consortium of many territories, only corresponding to a national entity during the lifetime of the West Indies Federation (1958-62). At present, players from the US Virgin Islands and the Dutch territory of Sint Maarten are considered eligible to play for West Indies domestic teams, and could presumably be selected to play for the West Indian 'national' side. As in rugby union, Ireland is also a transnational entity in cricket, comprising both the Republic and the UK territory of Northern Ireland.

Conversely, Scotland has since 1994 been an Associate member of the ICC, although it is a constituent part of the United Kingdom. Having previously been linked to the English Test and County Cricket Board, the predecessor of the ECB, the Scottish Cricket Union decided in 1992 to seek separate ICC membership, joining as an Associate member at the same time as Ireland. The intervening years have seen both countries more than replace their former funding from England with substantial ICC funding, much of it coming through their participation in the ICC's High Performance Program.

The fact that Wales is not an ICC member evidently has more to do with the particular history of Welsh cricket than it has with any political constitutional arrangements. A key factor is the existence of Glamorgan County Cricket Club, formed in 1888 and since 1921 a participant in the English County Championship. This has given cricket in Wales both a professional dimension which has been absent in Ireland and Scotland, and a structural interface with the English game. As one of the current 18 first-class counties, Glamorgan CCC derives substantial financial benefits from its membership of the ECB, and any change to the status quo would need to ensure that Glamorgan's position was suitably protected.

Founded in 1969, the Welsh Cricket Association is responsible for the amateur game in Wales, and is one of the constituent elements of the Cricket Board of Wales, formally the governing body of Welsh cricket. Any negotiations between the Welsh cricket authorities, the ECB, ICC and any other relevant parties would presumably be conducted by the CBW, whose views are therefore likely to be crucial.

Implications of ICC membership: cricket

There are at present three categories of ICC membership, although this is one of the topics covered by the governance review currently being undertaken on behalf of the ICC Executive Board by Lord Woolf. (He is expected to report early in 2012.) They are:

1. **Full** members, comprising the ten Test-playing nations. They dominate the ICC's decision-making processes, and take the lion's share of the money generated by the sport.
2. **Associate** members, including Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands and some 32 other countries where cricket is well established. Jersey and Guernsey also fall into this category. There are established criteria for Associate membership, covering organisational, infrastructural and playing factors. Normally, a country must have been an Affiliate member for at least three years before it can become an Associate, but there is provision for this requirement to be waived.
3. **Affiliate** members, where cricket is played and there is a recognised sole governing body.

It seems clear that Associate membership would be the most appropriate level for Wales to enter, although there would probably need to be confirmation of the national sides' playing strength before this could be achieved.

It is important to recognise, however, that the membership categories are only in part a determinant of playing status. The most striking case is Afghanistan, which does not (yet) satisfy the criteria for Associate membership but which has through the achievements of its national team qualified for the High Performance Program and gained the right to play full ODIs and to participate in the first-class Intercontinental Cup competition. On the other hand, Test status is a jealously-guarded closed shop, and entry to global events like the World Cup and World Twenty20 tournament is tightly restricted.

As an ICC member, Wales would participate in regional tournaments conducted by ICC Europe, including the men's Twenty20 championship, European 50-over and 20-over championships for women, and a range of youth competitions down to under-15. The exact format of these events has changed significantly over the past two years as a result of financial constraints and a shift in emphasis towards the Twenty20 format; discussions at global level may or may not produce further changes here.

As of October 2011, the principal competition structure for senior men is a three-division European Twenty20 championship, leading to places in a global qualifying tournament and potentially to the World Twenty tournament itself. Rankings in T20 also determine access to a regional qualifying tournament for the World Cricket League, a global 50-over competition which at present comprises eight divisions. This, too, is likely to be reviewed as a result of the debate about qualification for the World Cup and World T20, but it is reasonable to assume that the WCL will continue in some form, and that there will continue to be a regional qualifying process.

There are at present nine European countries in various divisions of the WCL: Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland in Division 1, Italy in Division 3, Denmark in Division 4, Guernsey in Division 5 (having recently won promotion), Jersey in Division 6, Germany in Division 7, and Norway in Division 8. Wales would presumably need to qualify for the lowest division via the European T20 competition, and then work their way up: depending on the issue of player eligibility (see below), it might be anticipated that it would take two or three years for them to find their level in the upper

divisions, and hence to have a chance of reaching a qualifying tournament for the World Cup and/or entering the lucrative HPP.

As indicated above, none of this need have any direct implications for Welsh cricketers' continued access to the higher echelons of the game via the ECB's competitions. There is no reason why Glamorgan should not remain a first-class county, or why Wales should cease to enter a team in the Minor Counties championship, or Wales Women cease to play in the Women's County Championship. By the same token, Welsh youth teams could continue to take part in the ECB's age-group competitions. After all, Scotland and the Netherlands play in both the Clydesdale Bank 40 League (men) and county championship (women), with Ireland also participating in the latter.

Implications of ICC membership: player eligibility

The ICC has strict rules on who is allowed to play for any country, and there can be little doubt that separate Welsh membership would pose certain questions. The main criteria are:

1. the *Player* was born in the relevant country;
2. the *Player* is able to demonstrate (by his/her possession of a valid passport issued by the relevant country) that he/she is a national of the relevant country; or
3. the *Player* is a *Resident* of the relevant country, in other words:
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In the particular circumstances pertaining to Wales, especially the existence of Glamorgan as an English first-class county, player eligibility would need careful definition, but in many respects the situation is little different from that in Ireland or Scotland – or, for that matter, in the Netherlands. Young Welsh cricketers could continue to aspire to play for England, and playing for Wales in the meantime need be no barrier to that ambition; having once played for England, however, they would be barred for playing again for Wales for at least four years.

Anyone contracted to play for Glamorgan would, presumably, qualify to play for Wales, either by birth or after a period of residence; such a player would arguably also satisfy eligibility criterion 5, and therefore meet the development criteria.

There is, however, a considerable difference between eligibility and availability, as Associate countries with county-contracted players know very well. Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands have all had problems securing the release of their county-contracted players during the English season, even though there is in theory a mandatory release system which should work in their favour. In Ireland's first-ever ODI against England they were unable to field their first-choice wicketkeeper because he was not released by his county; the reason was that he was the deputy to the England keeper, who had naturally been released to play!

It should, therefore, be assumed that for many tournaments the Welsh national side would look more like the team which plays in the Minor Counties Championship; it could scarcely be anticipated that Glamorgan would release their entire squad for a European Division 3 or Division 23 Twenty20 tournament in mid-season, even if all the players were deemed eligible. On the other hand, there are several top Welsh cricketers who play for counties other than Glamorgan.

Implications of ICC membership: finance

Others are better qualified than I am to speak on this matter, but again there is need for a degree of caution: while substantial funding can become available through the ICC's development programmes, much of it needs to be earned on the field, and this would certainly not happen overnight. Furthermore, much of the ICC's funding is earmarked for specific purposes, such as participation in tournaments, and its use is tightly controlled.

Any negotiations with the ECB would therefore need to be very carefully handled if the threatened loss of income were to be avoided, and at the very least there would need to be bridging arrangements in place until such time as Wales could play a full part in the global game and derive the appropriate benefits, such as Scotland received.

Conclusion

In the end, it is for Welsh cricket to determine its own future, and to decide whether the possible financial consequences of ICC membership and the difficulties which might well accompany any renegotiation of the relationship with the ECB would be outweighed by the advantages of Wales establishing an autonomous identity in international cricket. It is not a simple question, but it is a debate which undoubtedly ought to take place.

(Professor) Rod Lyall
October 2011



CRICKET WALES CRICED CYMRU

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

11th November 2011

Dear Ms Phillips

c/o Glamorgan Cricket
SWALEC Stadium
Cardiff
CF11 9XR
Telephone (029) 2041 9341
Facsimile (029) 2041 9389

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.

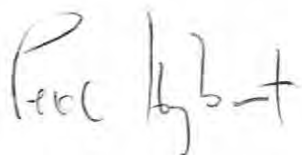
Cricket Wales played an important role in helping Glamorgan Cricket secure a 2015 England Ashes test match at the SWALEC Stadium, through the joint development of an ambitious plan for the future of the game in Wales.

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'.

Peter Hybart
Director of Cricket

Consultation on the Establishment of a Welsh National Team – Matthew Bumford – Principal Petitioner

Point 1. I think the action called for is both reasonable and feasible. It is currently the case that in the British Isles alone there are teams from Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Mann, Jersey and Guernsey. There is of course the England (and Wales) team also but no Welsh person has played for it in over half a decade. Given that Wales has a cricketing population on par with New Zealand, a full test playing nation, and more than four times the number of clubs as Ireland, who regularly appear in the World Cup, then I think it is self-evident that Wales would be a successful cricketing nation. In sum, if Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Mann, Jersey and Guernsey are all able to support national teams then it is clearly both reasonable and feasible to assert that Wales could also.

Point 2. As noted in point 1, cricketers from other nations/islands in the UK have a national team that they are able to play in. In Wales this is not the case. Instead cricketers must attempt to play for the England cricket team. This presents difficulties for several reasons. The first of these is that Glamorgan is not a fashionable county for selection for the England team. This may seem subjective but the facts speak for themselves; since 1921, when Glamorgan became a First Class county, it has produced just 16 Welsh Test players of the 650 players capped for England and only 11 One Day International players. This is a very poor return from almost a century of cricket. Furthermore, the lack of a national team for Wales means that a glass ceiling exists for Welsh cricketers that is very difficult to break through. At present, up until the under-19 age group players are able to play for a Welsh side, with Welsh women able to carry on after the age of 19. Good players are then fed into the Glamorgan system and hopefully end up playing for the Glamorgan first team. For most cricketers this is as high as they can get. Irish and Scottish cricketers are able to play in World Cricket League competitions, where they hone their skills against international teams of similar ability, whilst Welsh cricketers do not. Hence in the years since establishing their own teams Ireland have played 70 One Day Internationals and Scotland have played 49. They both now find themselves in World Cricket League Division One, regularly appear in World Cups and, in the case of Ireland, are now pushing for full membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and test status. This would be the case for Wales also had we chosen to set up our own teams when Ireland and Scotland did.

I also believe that the real question is not whether Welsh cricketers have the same opportunities as cricketers from elsewhere but whether they should have the opportunity to play for Wales. Some may argue that the England cricket team is sufficient representation for Wales but I vehemently disagree. The team is referred to as England in common usage (not England and Wales), the acronym for the England and Wales Cricket Board is the ECB, games begin with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem (the unofficial national anthem of England) without Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau nor God Save the Queen (as the anthem of the UK), and the team is represented by the English Flag of Saint George. In essence all of the symbolism and talk of the team is very English with no Welsh representation. It may be tempting for some to try and make the team more Welsh through something as irrelevant as a change in the ECB acronym but this will make no difference. By playing for England a Welsh person is being asked to dress up as an English person and represent England. This is distinctly different from the British and Irish Lions, where all four nations are represented in the badge and the Team GB, which reflects all of the nations that make up the UK. Welsh cricketers

should, therefore, be given a choice and given the opportunity to play for a team that represents them and not be forced to play for a team that most likely does not.

Point 3. The barriers to establishing a Welsh cricket team are Glamorgan and the Welsh Cricket Board because both believe that money from the ECB is more important than Wales representing herself and would rather see Wales being “represented” by the English team described above in which no Welsh players actually play and Wales gets no mention. This fixation with funding from England is in itself based on a fallacy because the ECB would continue to provide funding for Wales in the event of us establishing a team, as it does for Scotland, Ireland, Holland and the island teams of the UK. The International Cricket Council (ICC) would also provide funding and has recently announced new funding, such as the Bigger Better Global Game campaign, to encourage new nations to take up cricket, and there is also the Higher Performance Programme funding that is available to nations as they rise up the ranks of world cricket. It is, therefore, likely that Wales will not be financially worse off than before we had a team, meaning that rather than being reliant on English funds alone we will benefit from a mix of ECB and ICC funding.

The other major barrier is Glamorgan who seem convinced that they will not survive as a First Class county if there is a Welsh team, even though the ECB have made it clear that Glamorgan can continue to play in the English County League if a Welsh team is established. Again, Glamorgan’s view does not stand up to scrutiny. The first reason that they believe they will not survive is because they fear that they would lose players to the Welsh team when international competitions are being held. It is true that they would have to allow some players to play but it is also disingenuous to suggest that all Welsh players would come from Glamorgan. Many of Wales’s best cricketers do not play for Glamorgan and it is also likely that players from outside Wales, who have a connection to Wales, will want to play for the team, as is the case with Scotland and Ireland, for example.

The second barrier with Glamorgan is the possibility that Sophia Gardens will no longer be able to host England test matches. The first thing to be said about this is that it is financially irresponsible to base a county’s future on hosting English test matches. The test match system means that tests essentially go out to tender and counties/grounds then bid to host them. Such is the logic of Glamorgan that they bid a huge sum of money to host an England vs. Sri Lanka test match in 2011 that saw crowds of less than 1000. They have now failed to pay the ECB the £2.5 million debt that they owe for hosting that match, meaning they have been stripped of the 2012 West Indies test match that they were due to hold. This means the next test match in Wales will not be held until at least 2013. We, therefore, now find ourselves in a situation where Welsh cricket is in debt to the ECB rather than profiting from being a part of it.

It is also always assumed that there will be no money to be made from having a Welsh team. Again, I do not see why this should be the case. What we observe in rugby is that crowds at regional rugby are quite low, whilst virtually every rugby international in Wales is a full-house. I believe it likely that this would be the case for cricket. Whereas a person may not go and watch Glamorgan play Somerset it may be the case that they will go and watch Wales play home nations like England/Ireland/Scotland etc. and touring sides such as Australia and South Africa. So a Welsh team may open up cricket to an audience in Wales that did not follow it previously. This would then lead to merchandise and sponsorship deals that would mean that Welsh cricket starts to generate money.

Furthermore, with regards to economic exposure, Paul Russell, Chairman of Glamorgan CCC, has stated that the reason why they spent £3.2 million (including £1 million from the Assembly) to host the 2009 Ashes test match in Cardiff was to show off Wales. Surely, the best way to show off Wales to economic target countries such as Australia and India is not to have them play England in our country but to invite them to play Wales instead. Also, when Wales then go and play elsewhere they will be ambassadors for our country rather than England going to represent us without any sign or mention of Wales.

Point 4. I am not against England playing cricket matches in Cardiff. In cricket it is often the case that countries play in other countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan, for example, play their home games in countries such as the United Arab Emirates and England due to the security situation in their countries). What I am against is an England team arriving and claiming to play a “home” game in Cardiff when it is obvious to everybody that the England team is not a Welsh team. If it was genuinely an England and Wales team with Welsh players and Welsh symbolism then the case would be different, but as this will never be the case then it would be in the best interests of everybody if we set up our team. England will then be welcome to play in Wales but under the understanding that they are not representing Wales.

The final thing I think we should note is that several Welsh national teams do already exist. As stated earlier female cricketers in Wales already have their own team. There are also several male Welsh national teams up until the under-19 age group, after which players must suddenly forget playing under the Welsh Dragon and start playing under the Flag of St. George and the English 3 Lions. There is also the Wales Minor Counties team, which plays in a lower league than Glamorgan. Even Glamorgan have recognised the need for a Welsh national team by playing their games all over Wales and changing their name to the Welsh Dragons. Glamorgan, therefore, now has a confused role of claiming to represent Wales but only in the English county leagues.

It is clear that the Welsh public want there to be a senior-male national team, but one playing other countries not minor counties. The change that needs to be made is not a big one. All of the structures are already in place except for the team itself and it is clear where the sources of funding for a Welsh team will come from. Richard Holdsworth, when Regional Development manager for ICC Europe gave his blessing to a Welsh team and even wrote a paper on the matter (which has already been submitted), David Collier, the Chief Executive of the ECB, has also stated that the ECB does not oppose establishing a Welsh team and in Scotland and Ireland they are very keen on establishing the team so that they can begin playing Wales on a regular basis. So the only opposition to Wales becoming a team is emanating from the few individuals who benefit from the status quo. We cannot let fear and the vested interests of a few individuals stand in the way of the legitimate aspirations of Welsh cricket and so the sooner we set up our own team the sooner we can take our rightful place on the global stage, and in order to do that we must get the support of the elected representatives of the Welsh people in our National Assembly.

Hi Abigail, I'm a Scottish cricket writer, with the Herald, who was talking to some of my friends in Wales. They mentioned that some people in their homeland were talking about canvassing for Wales to be given separate status with the ICC and asked if I could support this idea, which I am delighted to do so.

This could have many benefits, both for Wales and the other Associate members. Scotland have taken great strides in the last 20 years and Ireland have fared even better, whether in developing a string of outstanding county players, such as Eoin Morgan, Ed Joyce and Niall O'Brien, or recording some terrific results at the World Cup, including memorable wins over Pakistan in 2007 and England this year.

I think, with English cricket currently among the strongest organisations, if not THE strongest in the world, that this would be the right time for Wales to seek separate membership of the ICC. I believe that this would have major benefits, including the following:

1) It would enable Scotland and Ireland to join forces with Wales in a tournament, which might offer possibilities such as rugby's Celtic League. There is always keen competition when these countries meet in rugby and I have doubt - after watching the Scots beat Ireland in a memorable match in Edinburgh this summer - that the same interest and excitement could be generated in cricket.

2) It would allow Wales to move away from a situation where all their best talent is immediately swallowed up by England. This might still happen in some cases, but Wales has the benefit of a professional county in Glamorgan, and no shortage of development streams, so the next logical step, given the introduction of devolution, is for Wales to go their own way in cricket and other sports.

3) Cricket needs to expand its own horizons and the more countries there are in Europe, the better the prospect of expanding and generating interest in a European League (which would not include England).

I am firmly of the opinion that this would be a positive step forward for Welsh cricket and believe, as I do with Scotland, that we have to work with the ICC to nurture the sport at Associate level.

Yours sincerely
Neil Drysdale

SHOULD WALES BECOME AN ICC MEMBER?

I am Mahendra Mapagunaratne - Barrister - at - Law from Toronto, Canada.
I am an independent cricket analyst and have been intrigued by the ongoing debate in Wales on whether or not Wales should apply for membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC)

To the average cricket playing country the proposition of joining cricket's world governing body would seem non-negotiable. However the presence of Glamorgan County Cricket Club (Glamorgan) in the English County Championship and the upgrading of Sophia Gardens as SWALEC Stadium with a view to hosting Test matches complicates matters for Wales making this topic an emotionally charged issue between Glamorgan and the rest of Wales.

As an outsider I am in no mood to take sides but would like to rationally place herein facts and figures spiced with reasonable arguments on this subject for the consideration of the Welsh Assembly.

1) UNILATERAL ASSUMPTION

My first observation is that Glamorgan is a mere county of Wales and questions arise when Glamorgan unilaterally attempts to assume that it represents the 'whole' of Welsh cricket. I have yet to hear a satisfactory explanation given by anyone as to how Glamorgan could be considered the Spokesman of Welsh cricket. If the reasoning and logic is a case of 'money speaks' then one would similarly have to bear the bullying tactics of India as the wealthiest cricket playing nation at ICC level.

2) LACK OF CHOICE

Wales is a proud democracy and it is disturbing to note that Welsh cricketers have not been given the choice of which country to represent -Wales or England? On what basis does Glamorgan and Cricket Board of Wales (CBW) assume that the majority of Welsh cricketers wish to represent England and not Wales?

This conclusion by both Glamorgan and CBW is amazingly presumptuous considering no formal Referendum or Opinion Poll has been held among Welsh cricketers to decide as to which country they wish to represent.

3) PERCEIVED FEARS

The two greatest fears among Glamorgan and CBW officials when considering ICC membership for Wales is the stoppage of funding from ECB and drying up of international fixtures for the newly upgraded SWALEC Stadium.

Funding

I have personally communicated with Mr David Collier - Chief Executive of England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and he has assured that Glamorgan would continue playing in the English County Championship even in the instance of Wales becoming a member of ICC. That should assuage any fears held by Glamorgan on funding.

Who would fund the rest of Welsh cricket is the next logical question. The answer to that lies in several sources. Sport Wales apart one must not forget the fact that Wales has an excellent chance of directly becoming an ICC Associate Member and gaining valuable funding from ICC.

Besides with a Welsh national team playing international cricket there is every chance that benefactors in Wales - especially the business enterprises would come forward to sponsor Welsh cricket.

Commercial enterprises in Wales would be willing to sponsor matches by a Welsh international cricket team when they have the opportunity to advertise to billions of eyeballs on Television in the Indian sub-continent.

Just the other day a prominent figure in Scottish cricket informed me that should Wales becomes an ICC member they would be willing to stage an annual Celtic Cup among Wales, Ireland and Scotland under a lucrative Television deal. Television deals these days run into millions of dollars and I dare say Wales would gain none of these lucrative benefits if it takes the easy route and remain as it is - doing nothing.

Status of SWALEC Stadium

Anyone with an inside knowledge of international cricket would testify to the fact that third party hosts of international cricket is nothing unusual. Way back in 1912 England hosted the first Test Championship between England, Australia and South Africa. In recent times even Lord's has hosted Test matches between Pakistan and Australia. Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates have staged third party internationals for years.

There is no ICC regulation to the contrary that SWALEC cannot bid to host England's Test and One Day International (ODI) matches as long as Wales has the funds to outbid rival English venues.

Player Eligibility

Player eligibility is another fear expressed by Glamorgan and England. What would happen if someone plays international cricket for Wales? Would he be lost to Glamorgan and England? The answer is an emphatic NO. Those who express such fears do so due to ignorance and they should be advised to read the ICC Player Eligibility Rules linked below. There is no qualification or waiting period required for a player from a non Test playing nation (Welsh International) to play for England. However if that player turns his back on England and wishes to play for Wales again he would have to endure a waiting period of 4 years. What this means is that England is in an advantageous position due to its Test status.

Glamorgan may fear that Wales would grab all its players for Welsh internationals. This again is an unfounded fear considering international cricket does not encompass the whole English summer - especially for a non Test playing would be Associate nation as Wales and also due to the fact that Glamorgan is not the only county producing cricketers in Wales. There are plenty of other counties in Wales producing players of quality. These are mere details and petty concerns considering the larger picture. Suffice to say Glamorgan never complains when Glamorgan players are on England duty! I ask from Glamorgan - why this petty mindedness towards your own kith and kin?

4) SCOTLAND & IRELAND

If doomsayers in Glamorgan are to be believed, should Wales becomes an ICC member, Welsh cricket would collapse due to the cutting of funding from ECB. Scotland and Ireland - once part of the ECB set up proves otherwise.

No one denies the fact that Scotland and Ireland have not only gone on to become one of the 6 High Performance Countries in the ICC drawing millions of dollars but they have also competed at World Cups, enhanced their finances, player and spectator bases, improved infrastructure and

as if to taunt Wales even play against England under lucrative television deals. None of these achievements would have been possible if Scotland and Ireland remained under the control of ECB.

Ireland has played 70 ODIs and Scotland 49 ODIs on its own and cricket in neither country has collapsed nor their coffers rendered bankrupt by cutting ties with England.

Wales easily fulfils ICC Associate Membership criteria from an infrastructural and administrative stand point and has the ability to bypass the lower Affiliate Membership to directly become a higher ICC Associate Member just as Scotland and Ireland did.

Glamorgan CCC Chairman Mr Paul Russell has stated that the reason for Cardiff to stage England matches at considerable cost running into millions is to 'showcase' Wales. If that is the argument, would it not showcase Wales better had Wales played international cricket at Cardiff on its own? How can a team of eleven English players 'showcase' Wales?

5) AFGHANISTAN

As a means of discouraging Wales some opponents create a fear psychosis by stating that all Wales as an ICC member would be doing would be playing against the lower ranked ICC members. This is not the reality. War ravaged third world nation Afghanistan with no cricket stadium and proper funds and literally with no cricket tradition qualified from the lowly ICC Affiliate Membership Status to the ICC World Twenty20 Tournament in the West Indies in 2010 by winning the qualifying tournaments within a short span of 2 years.

What prevents Wales with a cricket tradition of more than 100 years and a first class infrastructure and an administration from emulating or doing better than Afghanistan? Or is it that Wales is economically worse off than Afghanistan? Or is it that Wales which feeds a first class county in English cricket is a lesser breeding ground of cricketing excellence than Afghanistan?

6) STUNNING STATISTICS

- 1) Is the Assembly aware that only 16 Welsh players have played Test cricket since the induction of Glamorgan into the English County Championship in 1921 (90 years back) and that just 11 Welsh players have played ODI cricket for England since the very first ODI in 1971?
- 2) Is the Assembly aware that if you take out the 6 years for the Second World War - in 84 years Glamorgan has produced just one Test player every 5.25 years and one ODI player for England every 3.63 years since the first ODI in 1971?
- 3) Is the above statistic worthwhile to have Wales in ECB from a playing perspective?

7) WALES PAYS MILLIONS TO ENGLAND

The popular belief is that England sustains Welsh cricket with funds. But how many are aware that hosting England matches at the SWALEC Stadium is the result of a competitive bidding process with bids running into millions of pounds?

While Glamorgan generated 3.2 million pounds (including 1 million from the Welsh Assembly) to pay England for the privilege of hosting the 2009 Ashes Test against Australia, it lost the bid to host the Test against West Indies in 2013 since Glamorgan was not able to pay the bid deposit of 2.5 million pounds on time for the Sri Lanka Test during the just concluded summer.

Winning bids to stage Test matches at Cardiff is a lottery and one wonders the long term sustainability of staging Test matches at Cardiff due to spectator apathy for Test cricket unless England's rivals are either Australia and possibly India.

It was estimated that crowds of less than 1000 per day watched the England - Sri Lanka Test at Cardiff this summer.

How often do you get an Australia or India match in Cardiff and what guarantee is there that Cardiff would get these blue riband matches when it has to compete against 7 or 8 Test match Stadia in England including the likes of Lord's, The Oval, Headingley, Trent Bridge and Old Trafford - all well established Test match venues with populations brought up on Test match cricket for generations?

No less a person than Glamorgan chairman, Paul Russell has questioned Cardiff's viability as a Test venue admitting to "conceptual difficulties" in marketing a venue in Wales as a home of English cricket.

See news item:

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/england/content/story/521382.html>

Is SWALEC Stadium therefore a good enough reason to block Wales from becoming an ICC Member?

8) TASK FOR WELSH ASSEMBLY

It is my considered view that the Welsh Assembly should:

[a] Request Sport Wales to stage a Referendum among ALL cricketers in Wales to gauge their allegiance if given the choice between Wales and England in ODI cricket

[b] Call for evidence from both Scotland and Ireland who have cut ties with ECB to become independent members of ICC to understand how they have managed to flourish devoid of funding from England.

[c] Request an official from ICC Europe to detail the financial benefits for Wales as an ICC member. (A similar request maybe made to Sport Wales)

[d] Request documentation from Glamorgan and ECB under Right to Information on the following:

- 1) Funds transferred to ECB by Glamorgan CCC to win bids to stage Test matches and ODI matches over the years
- 2) The number of Welsh players who have played Test cricket and ODI cricket for England since the establishment of Glamorgan CCC in 1921 and the corresponding number for England during that period

9) SUMMARY: EFFECTS OF WALES BEING AN ICC MEMBER

[1] Wales' primary objective as an ICC Member would be to play ODI and T20I cricket

[2] Glamorgan would remain within the English County Championship

[3] ICC regulations would certainly allow Cardiff to host third party Test and ODI matches between England and other countries

[4] England would be able to utilize Welsh international players according to ICC Player Eligibility Rules and no less Glamorgan would be able to do the same.

[5] Glamorgan would continue generating funds from ECB and Wales would be generating funds from ICC, Sport Wales, Television and Sponsorship deals, Gate attendance and Merchandise

10) ADDENDUM

1/ Interview by Glamorgan CCC Chairman Paul Russell -

<http://www.spin cricket.com/2011/07/14/spin-chat-to-paul-russell-chairman-of-glamorgan-ccc/>

2/ Glamorgan penalized for failing to pay the guarantee fee of 2.5 million pounds to ECB

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/sports/cricket-news/glamorganccc/2011/07/01/cricket-swalec-test-match-loss-is-confirmed-91466-28974279/>

3/ List of Welsh players who have played Test cricket for England

http://cricketarchive.com/Glamorgan/Records/Miscellaneous/GLAM_TEST_CRICKETERS_STATS.html

4/ List of Welsh players who have played ODI cricket England

http://cricketarchive.com/Glamorgan/Records/Miscellaneous/GLAM_ODI_CRICKETERS.htm

5/ ICC Player Eligibility Rules

http://static.icc-cricket.yahoo.net/ugc/documents/DOC_5F00BDA78B77363CAE461644EC9C1688_1281866239978_416.pdf

6/ ICC Associate Membership Criteria

http://static.icc-cricket.yahoo.net/ugc/documents/DOC_9FDF982555EAB31CA424FBA08A631BB6_1296741767375_801.pdf