National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee

The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

May 2013

The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

An electronic copy of this report can be found on the National Assembly's website: **www.assemblywales.org**

Copies of this report can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print; audio or hard copy from:

Petitions Committee

National Assembly for Wales Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

Tel: 029 2089 8421 Fax: 029 2089 8021

Email: Petition@wales.gov.uk

© National Assembly for Wales Commission Copyright 2013

The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in

The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading or derogatory context. The material must be acknowledged as copyright of the National Assembly for Wales Commission and the title of the document specified.

National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee

The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team

May 2013

Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee was established on 15 June 2011. Its role is to consider all admissible petitions that are submitted by the public. Petitions must be about issues that the National Assembly has powers to take action on. The petitions process enables the public to highlight issues and directly influence the work of the National Assembly. Its specific functions are set out in Standing Order 23.

Current Committee membership



William Powell (Chair)
Welsh Liberal Democrats
Mid and West Wales



Russell GeorgeWelsh Conservatives
Montgomeryshire



Elin Jones Plaid Cymru Ceredigion



Joyce WatsonWelsh Labour
Mid and West Wales

The following Member was also a member of the Committee during this work:



Bethan Jenkins Plaid Cymru South Wales West

Contents

Cł	nair's foreword	5
Su	ımmary of Committee Consideration	6
,	Views of the cricketing community	6
	Feasibility of the proposal	6
1.	Introduction	7
2.	The current position	8
3.	Iconography and symbolism	10
4.	Playing opportunities	12
4	Arguments in support of the proposal	12
,	Arguments against the proposals	14
	Player eligibility against player availability	15
5.	Funding	17
	Brand Wales	18
6.	Glamorgan Cricket Club	20
	Hosting international matches in Cardiff	20
	Retaining status as a first class county	21
7.	Conclusion	22
Witnesses		
Lie	24	

Chair's foreword

The Petitions Committee has a broad and wide ranging remit, and we are always pleased to consider issues, which while important, do not have the opportunity to be considered by the Assembly elsewhere. This petition is such an issue.

The future of Welsh cricket, and whether there should be a separate Welsh team, is one that ignites strong views and passion on both sides. In considering this issue, we have tried to ensure that all sides have had the opportunity to share their views.

It is clear that this is a complex issue, and that there are many issues which need to be looked at in more detail, before a decision could be made on the establishment of a Welsh cricket team.

This report outlines the evidence we considered, which we hope will help encourage further debate and discussion on the future of Welsh Cricket.

We would like to thank all those who kindly gave their time in providing written and oral evidence, but especially the petitioner, whose passion for this issue is self-evident.

We hope that this report opens up the discussion and sparks more debate on the future of Welsh cricket. It is in this spirit that the report has been written. We look forward to following the debate as it develops.

Summary of Committee Consideration

Due to the nature of the petition, we have not made recommendations to the Welsh Government; however, we have identified two areas which we feel would benefit from further work.

Views of the cricketing community

During our consideration, we were told that this was an issue that both exercised and did not exercise the cricketing community in Wales. We feel that there would be considerable merit in undertaking some work to ascertain what the majority view is of all sections of the cricketing community; players at all levels and ages, fans and those who run cricket across Wales.

Cricket Wales, with possible support from Sport Wales and / or the English and Wales Cricket Board would seem to be in the best position to undertake such an exercise. This should be done in a non-partisan way, and the results should be published and made available to all.

Feasibility of the proposal

If the findings of the consultation exercise suggest an appetite for the establishment of the Welsh Cricket Team, support should be provided to an appropriate organisation to undertake a detailed feasibility study to look at all the practical aspects of establishing a Welsh Cricket team.

1. Introduction

- 1. In October 2011, the Committee received a petition which called for the "National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to support the establishment of a Welsh international cricket team." The petition collected 187 signatures.
- 2. The Committee issued a public written consultation on the petition, followed by a roundtable session with key stakeholders in March 2012.
- 3. While taking evidence, we saw that this is an issue which ignites passion and strong views on both sides. In this report, we lay out the evidence that we have heard, but we do not come to a position on the petition.
- 4. However, we do believe that this issue deserves further consideration, and we hope that our report is the first stage in opening up both public and political debate about this issue.

2. The current position

- 5. Cricket Wales, the national governing body for junior and senior recreational cricket in Wales, is currently affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Glamorgan Cricket Club is responsible for the professional game in Wales.
- 6. The England cricket team represents England and Wales, however they are commonly referred to as 'England', and the iconography surrounding the team is English.
- 7. Male players up to the age of 19 and female players of all ages play under the Welsh banner. Cricket Wales explained that national teams were possible for these levels of the game as men's junior teams and the women's senior teams are playing against English county teams instead of international cricket.¹
- 8. The Welsh Government stated in correspondence to the Committee that:
 - "... the subject of whether Wales has a national cricket team is a matter for Welsh Cricket in consultation with the England and Wales Cricket Board and is not a matter for Government."²
- 9. Sport Wales, who are the main adviser on sporting matters to the Welsh Government, stated that such a decision was a matter for Cricket Wales. They noted that currently neither Cricket Wales nor Glamorgan Cricket is supportive of the petition. They also said that such a decision would have to be based on what was the best for cricket both in terms of participation and the elite game.³
- 10. Other constituent parts of the UK, including Scotland, Jersey and Guernsey support their own national teams and are affiliated to the International Cricket Council (ICC), as opposed to the ECB.
- 11. We were told by one respondent that the current position of Welsh cricket was "anomalous" and that the fact Wales was not a member of the ICC in its own right was more to do with the "particular

² National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18b</u> <u>Correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage</u>, 13 March 2012

¹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [167]

³ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18e Sports Wales response</u>, 13 March 2012

history" of Welsh cricket rather than "any political constitutional arrangements."4

 $^{^4}$ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response PET (4)CRI 05 Professor Rod Lyall</u>

3. Iconography and symbolism

12. We heard from the petitioner⁵ and Jonathan Edwards MP⁶ that the current set-up does not represent Wales.

"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 Team GB, which reflects all the nations that make up the UK."

- 13. Sport Wales acknowledged that there was an issue with the team being exclusively referred to as England, and that the use of 'ECB' as the acronym for the England and Wales Cricket Board could "lead to the perception that Wales is overlooked." Cricket Wales acknowledged this, and said that possibly there was a case for the EBC to renamed Cricket England and Wales, with the acronym CEW.
- 14. The petitioners feel that such a change is "irrelevant." However, we feel that further consideration should be given to this idea.
- 15. We heard conflicting reports as to whether the establishment of a Welsh team was an issue of concern to the cricketing community. The petitioner told us:

"It is clear that the Welsh public want there to be a senior-male international team, but one playing other countries, not minor counties."

16. Jonathan Edwards MP said:

"The Western Mail conducted an opinion poll last year and 81% were in favour....The supporters and players want this.... Each

⁵ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18d Matthew</u> <u>Bumford Petitioner response</u>, 13 March 2012

⁶ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response</u> <u>PET(4)CRI 02 - Jonathan Edwards</u>

⁷ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18d Matthew</u> <u>Bumford Petitioner response</u>, 13 March 2012

⁸ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18e Sports Wales</u> response, 13 March 2012

⁹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18g Peter Hybart</u> <u>Cricket Wales, item 7</u>

¹⁰ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18d Matthew Bumford Petitioner response</u>, 13 March 2012

and every one of the Glamorgan players wanted a national team for Wales and wanted to play on the highest level for Wales."12

17. Yet Cricket Wales said:

"This issue is not a concern for our member clubs and leagues. In the last month, we have held an annual general meeting, a meeting of all our senior leagues across Wales and a meeting of all our junior regions throughout Wales. It was an open agenda on each occasion and this issue was not raised." 13

18. It is clear that further investigation needs to be done to get the views of players, fans and stakeholders in the Welsh game. We note that we did not hear from a current professional cricket player and as the people most affected by such a change, it is vital that their views are sought. To this end, we think more work is needed to gauge the level of support for such a proposal.

¹² National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [132]

¹³ Ibid [177]

4. Playing opportunities

19. We heard a number of arguments in support of the petition, but it was summarised by the petitioner:

"I also believe that the real question is... whether they [Welsh cricketers] should have the opportunity to play for Wales."

- 20. The petitioners and their supporters suggest that a national team would provide Welsh players with a choice, whether to play for England and Wales. However, those who oppose the proposal suggest that this is not straightforward.
- 21. Almost all those who shared their views and opinions acknowledged that player eligibility criteria is complex and careful consideration would need to be given as to how this could impact on Welsh players and the choices that they had.

Arguments in support of the proposal

- 22. One of the core arguments of the petitioners is that few Welsh players have played for the England and Wales cricket team. Since Glamorgan became a first class county, only 16 Welsh Test players out of 650 have played for England, with even fewer selected for one day internationals. They state that this means Welsh players are not getting the opportunity to play international cricket at the highest level.¹⁵
- 23. Glamorgan Cricket Club told us that if there had been more Welsh players playing in the England team, that a call for a separate Welsh team may not have arisen. They admitted that "Glamorgan has underperformed"¹⁶ over the past ten years.
- 24. In addition to providing more Welsh cricketers opportunities to play international cricket, a Welsh cricket team could improve the attractiveness of the game:

"Welsh youngsters, good at sport, are much more likely to persevere with cricket if there is a Wales national team than if

¹⁴ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18d Matthew</u> <u>Bumford Petitioner response</u>, 13 March 2012

¹⁵ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18d Matthew</u> <u>Bumford Petitioner response</u>, 13 March 2012

¹⁶ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [172] 13 March 2012

the only National Representative team is England and thus grow to love the game whether they make the top or settle into club cricket."¹⁷

25. Building on this, Jonathan Edwards MP told the Committee that a Welsh team, could help players develop their game so that they were able to play test matches for England (who would be playing at a higher level than Wales), and that player eligibility rules would allow this:

"Playing for Wales would be a stepping stone in their development." 18

- 26. Although this could be seen as undermining the petitioner's arguments if one of the advantages of a Wales team is helping to develop players for England.
- 27. If Cricket Wales broke away from the ECB and affiliated directly with the ICC, a Welsh team would have to apply for either Affiliate or Associate membership of the ICC. It could not become a full member of the ICC immediately. We were told that to become an Associate Member, countries usually have to be an Affiliate Member for three years, but that there was provision for it to be waived.¹⁹
- 28. Mahendra Mapagunaratne, told us that both Scotland and Ireland, by-passed Affiliate Membership to become Associate Members immediately, stating that Wales "easily fulfils ICC Associate Membership from an infrastructural and administrative stand point."²⁰
- 29. A number of witnesses highlighted that the cricket infrastructure and grassroots support in Wales is greater than some Affiliate countries, and similar to New Zealand, who are a full ICC member.²¹

¹⁷ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation response</u> <u>PET(4)CRI 01 Michael Blumberg</u>

National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [153] 13 March 2012
 National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, Consultation Response PET
 (4)CRI 05 Professor Rod Lyall

²⁰ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response PET(4)</u> <u>CRI 10 Mahendra Mapagunaratne</u>

²¹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response</u> <u>PET(4)CRI 02 - Jonathan Edwards</u> and <u>Consultation response PET(4)CRI 01 Michael Blumberg</u>

Arguments against the proposals

- 30. Opponents of the proposals say that currently Welsh cricketers who are selected for England have the opportunity to play against the top cricketing nations in the world, where as a Wales team, would not get the same opportunities. This is a debated point.
- 31. We will look at the issue of Glamorgan Cricket Club and country cricket in chapter six and now focus on international opportunities.
- 32. Cricket Wales told us that affiliation of the ICC would have an impact on all levels of the game in Wales:

"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 girl's fixtures would be even more adversely affected."²²

- 33. As highlighted in 27-28 there is a precedent for Wales to become Affiliate Members of the ICC. However, we were told that it would be likely that Wales would have to go into Division Seven of the ICC World League, which would mean playing countries such as Papua New Guinea.²³ Wales would have to work its way through the divisions, and there are varying views on how long this could take. While the petitioners have stated that this wouldn't take long, there is no guarantee of this. Opponents of the proposals have highlighted that this would mean a drop of the calibre of international cricket that Welsh players would have the opportunity to participate in.
- 34. Additionally, we heard that there is a "closed shop"²⁴ in top flight international cricket. At the moment, there are 10 full members of the ICC, who are the test-playing nations, and we heard that it is "unlikely" that new test nations will be given status by the ICC.²⁵ Glamorgan Cricket told us:

²² National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)05-12 p18g Peter Hybart,</u> <u>Cricket Wales, item</u> 7, 13 March 2012

²³ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [148] 13 March 2012

²⁴ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response PET</u> (4)CRI 05 Professor Rod Lyall

²⁵ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [148] 13 March 2012

"So, the best that Wales could hope for would be to battle it out with Ireland, Scotland, Kenya and so on every four years to try to get a place in the World Cup." ²⁶

- 35. This means that even if a Welsh team did move through the leagues quickly, there is no guarantee they would be able to join the test playing nations at any stage in the near or mid future.
- 36. Sport Wales highlighted that:

"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)."²⁷

- 37. Although we heard from more than one source that a Welsh team could provide opportunities for Scotland and Ireland to "join forces with Wales in a tournament" akin to rugby's Celtic League.²⁸
- 38. Cricket Wales said that these factors would impact on players choosing to play for Wales.

"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."²⁹

39. So the lack of opportunities to play top flight cricket could impact on player development and on the number of players who would make themselves available to play for a Welsh team. However, as with the arguments in support of the proposals much of this is based on conjecture, and we therefore cannot come to a view.

Player eligibility against player availability

40. The rules around player eligibility are complex, but we heard that players could have a choice as to who they wish to play for; England or

²⁶ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [148] 13 March 2012

²⁷ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18e Sports Wales</u> response, 13 March 2012

²⁸ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response</u>
<u>PET(4)CRI09 Neil Drysdale</u> and National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee,
<u>Consultation Response PET(4) CRI 10 Mahendra Mapagunaratne</u>

²⁹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, PET(4)05-12 p18g Peter Hybart, Cricket Wales, item 7, 13 March 2012

Wales. (In fact this is very much the crux of the petition, the need to provide a choice).

41. We heard that concerns about a Welsh team taking away all of Glamorgan's players for internationals are 'unfounded' as the international cricket season is not the same as the English summer, and that it would not just be Glamorgan who would provide players:

"Suffice to say Glamorgan never complains when Glamorgan players are on England duty!"³⁰

42. It strikes us that further detailed work is needed to investigate these issues in more detail.

-

³⁰ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response PET(4)</u> <u>CRI 10 Mahendra Mapagunaratne</u>

5. Funding

- 43. As with most issues, funding is key. We heard that funding for Welsh cricket primarily comes from the ECB through three main routes: international matches at the SWALEC stadium; direct payments to Glamorgan Cricket Club; and investment in grassroots cricket. In 2011 this amounted to £2.4 million.³¹
- 44. There was additional funding of £227,200 to assist with a range of club and community funding programmes, and £479,552 of capital funding to build and renovate facilities.³²
- 45. Glamorgan Cricket Club, Sport Wales and Cricket Wales have all said that a key barrier is funding. Sport Wales told us that unless there was "significant compensatory funding" a Welsh team was "almost impossible to achieve."³³ They also said that in terms of financing the game, it is reliant on test cricket for stability.³⁴
- 46. Although this was not a universally acknowledged view, with Mohammed Ashgar AM saying that it was "totally wrong" to say test cricket is vital for funding citing the Indian Premier League as an example.³⁵
- 47. The petitioners felt that it was a fallacy to claim that Welsh cricket would be worse off in the longer run, and were concerned that financial concerns were overriding the importance of a Welsh national team. The cited the examples of Scotland, Ireland and the island teams, where the ECB had continued to provide funding, and that Wales would be able to access more funds directly through the ICC:

"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 mixture of ECB and ICC funding."³⁶

³¹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18c</u>
<u>Correspondence from the England and Wales Cricket Board, item 7</u>, 13 March 2012
³² Ibid

³³ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [134], 13 March 2012

³⁴ Ibid [176]35 Ibid [179]

³⁶ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18d Matthew</u> <u>Bumford Petitioner response</u>, 13 March 2012

48. Jonathan Edwards MP told us that it would be possible to get "bridging loans"³⁷ from the ECB, and Michael Blumberg also raised the possibility of a "phased reduction" in ECB funding.³⁸

49. The ECB told us:

"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."³⁹

- 50. So while it is clear that no further funding would be available from the ECB, there is still some confusion as to whether loans or bridging arrangements could be put in place. It is clear that financing is a critical element to this issue, and it seems that further feasibility work would be needed to understand what sort of funding gap there would be and how this gap could be filled.
- 51. In addition to the loss of funding, there was also concern that Cricket Wales would lose out on the expertise and administrative support that is provided by the ECB. This could include initiatives such as the coach education programme, which is more advanced than the ICC programme.⁴⁰

Brand Wales

52. Asides from the issue of direct funding, we heard from a number of people that a Welsh international cricket team could provide global exposure for "Brand Wales":

"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."

³⁷ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [130] 13 March 2012

³⁸ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation response</u> <u>PET(4)CRI 01 Michael Blumberg</u>

³⁹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18c</u> <u>Correspondence from the England and Wales Cricket Board, item 7</u>, 13 March 2012

⁴⁰ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)05-12 p18g Peter Hybart,</u> <u>Cricket Wales, item</u> 7, 13 March 2012

⁴¹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response PET(4)</u> <u>CRI 10 Mahendra Mapagunaratne</u>

- 53. This was supported by Jonathan Edwards MP, who highlighted that the potential reach of cricket is higher than that of other sports played in Wales and that India is earmarked as a key economic area for developing relations with the UK.⁴²
- 54. Additionally, the opportunity to enter into "lucrative television deals" was highlighted, and that Welsh cricket could benefit from such deals, which it does not at the moment.⁴³
- 55. There are issues directly related to the financial situation of Glamorgan Cricket Club and the hosting of test matches at the SWALEC Stadium which we will come to in the next section.

⁴² National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response</u> <u>PET(4)CRIO2 Jonathan Edwards</u>

⁴³ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>Consultation Response PET(4)</u> <u>CRI 10 Mahendra Mapagunaratne</u>

6. Glamorgan Cricket Club

56. Glamorgan Cricket Club is the only professional cricket team in Wales. They do not agree with the petition, stating that playing standards at Glamorgan are far higher than would be in a Welsh international team, and that players currently get the opportunity to reach the pinnacle of the game.44

Hosting international matches in Cardiff

57. Glamorgan Cricket Club also hosts international matches at their home, the SWALEC stadium. They state that if Wales were to disaffiliate from the ECB, the staging agreement to host England matches would be terminated, and that:

> "The financial impact for Glamorgan would mean that we would be placed into administration tomorrow; that is the real truth."45

- 58. We were told that the debt profile the club currently has, means that it cannot survive without international cricket. 46
- 59. However, the petitioners stated that it was "wrong and unacceptable" that Glamorgan was seeking to "hold the rest of the country to ransom" with such threats of administration.⁴⁷
- 60. Jonathan Edwards MP agreed that Sophia Gardens status as a test venue cannot be jeopardised, but said there is no reason that the SWALEC Stadium could not continue to host England matches, citing examples such as Abu Dhabi hosting international matches.48
- 61. The petitioners highlight that if there was a Welsh team, that the SWALEC Stadium would be hosting international matches on a more regular basis than it currently does so.49
- 62. We are not in a position to adjudicate this difference of opinion, but it does reinforce our view that further investigation is needed into whether the action called for in the petition is feasible.

⁴⁴ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, PET(4)-05-12 p18f Alan Hamer Glamorgan Cricket item 7, 13 March 2012

⁴⁵ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [123], 13 March 2012

⁴⁶ Ibid [144]

⁴⁷ Ibid [173]

⁴⁸ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, Consultation Response PET(4)CRI02 Jonathan Edwards

⁴⁹ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [114], 13 March 2012

Retaining status as a first class county

- 63. There is one subject on which all are agreed, Glamorgan must retain first class county status. Yet Sport Wales believes that the establishment of a Welsh national team, could cause Glamorgan to be vulnerable, if there was a move to reduce the number of county cricket clubs.⁵⁰
- 64. However, Glamorgan say this is an academic discussion because:

"Whether the England and Wales Cricket Board or the other counties would want to continue playing against Glamorgan would be a hypothetical question, because we would not exist, because we would not have any money."51

65. The ECB did tell us that:

"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." 52

66. Although they go on to highlight that there could be added complications on how this could impact on player eligibility and who players would be qualified to play for.

_

⁵⁰ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, RoP [141], 13 March 2012

⁵¹ Ibid [144]

⁵² National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, <u>PET(4)-05-12 p18c</u> <u>Correspondence from the England and Wales Cricket Board, item 7</u>, 13 March 2012

7. Conclusion

- 67. It is clear that there are strong views on both sides of this argument. We have not had the time to explore all the issues in detail, but hope that by publishing this report, it will start a wider debate that will engage with everyone with an interest or a role in Welsh cricket.
- 68. It seems that it was an outsider to Welsh cricket who was able to highlight the nub of this issue, and state that in a sense both sides are 'right':

"Is the sport in Wales prepared to forego the funding and match-hosting benefits which accrues from being part of the ECB system in order to reach the sunlit uplands of future international success at some indistinct point in the future? It seems to me this is the rub."53

69. We have identified the need for greater investigation into the desire and the feasibility of establishing a Welsh team. Without this information, it is impossible to come to a decision which is rooted in evidence and fact. We understand that with sport, evidence and fact is often overruled by passion and love. But such a big decision which could have a huge impact on the future of the sport needs to be taken removed from emotion, and dare politicians say it, removed from politics.

_

⁵³ National Assembly for Wales, Petitions Committee, 12.04.26 Cricket Ireland to Chair, item 5, 2 July 2012

Witnesses

The following witnesses provided oral evidence to the Committee on the dates noted below. Transcripts of all oral evidence sessions can be viewed in full at:

http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lld= 1310

13 March 2012

Matthew Bumford Lead Petitioner

Mohammad Ashgar AM

Jonathan Edwards MP

Dr Huw Jones Sport Wales

Alan Hamer Glamorgan Cricket

Peter Hybart Cricket Wales

List of written evidence

The following people and organisations provided written evidence to the Committee. All written evidence can be viewed in full at http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lld=1901&Opt=0

Organisation	Reference
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage, Welsh Government	n/a
Michael Blumberg	PET(4)CRI 01
Jonathan Edwards MP	PET(4)CRI 02
Matthew Maynard	PET(4)CRI 03
Sport Wales	PET(4)CRI 04
Professor Rod Lyall	PET(4)CRI 05
Glamorgan Cricket	PET(4)CRI 06
Cricket Wales	PET(4)CRI 07
Matthew Bumford	PET(4)CRI 08
Neil Drysdale	PET(4)CRI 09
Mahendra Mapagunaratne	PET(4)CRI 10
England and Wales Cricket Board	n/a
Cricket Ireland	n/a
Cricket Scotland	n/a