

ISSUES TO CONSIDER BEFORE MERGING WITH THE ECB

These broadly fall into 2 categories - power & influence, and resources. Set out below is the current position - this may differ slightly depending on your area or county.

POWER & INFLUENCE

As regards women's cricket - the WCA is a full member of the International Women's Cricket Council (IWCC) which regulates women's international cricket including the World Cup, and we are also part of the Northern Hemisphere group. We are largely in control of our own destiny albeit working closely with other agencies such as the ECB and County Boards, and perhaps somewhat constrained by policies of grant awarding bodies such as the Sports Council. However, we organise our own affairs and decide how our domestic competitions will be run, produce our own publications for members, select and train our England teams and contribute to women's cricket at an international level. At Area/County level we organise our own county teams, run competitions, develop new clubs, promote our game in schools and operate our own bank accounts.

As regards the ECB, at national level we are entitled, along with other appropriate cricket bodies, to a seat on the Clubs/League sub-group which is at the lowest level in the ECB committee structure. (Incidentally, the Chairman of this committee said recently that the WCA has only been represented at one meeting since January 1997 and that no women's cricket issues have been raised nor have the committee's views on the proposed merger been sought which seems rather odd given that it is our only official access to ECB.) N.B. This gives us less influence than under the old system where the WCA was a voting member of the NCA Executive and as such, was involved in all aspects of the recreational game. The WCA also had elected representatives on two NCA sub-committees which enabled our voice to be heard. The TCCB were also very supportive and offered expertise, advice and, most importantly, considerable funds to help with our four year Development Plan.

Our level of influence within the new County Boards varies but is generally confined to sub-committee status where as far as funding is concerned, women's cricket has to compete with schools cricket, youth county squads, junior competitions etc. Some of the area or county WCA's also have a seat on the County Board but few if any, actually have a seat on the Management Executive of their corresponding County Board.

RESOURCES

These come from a number of places and include :-

- People - Paid staff at WCA HQ & volunteers, particularly at Area level
- Funds - Affiliation fees, competition entry fees, players' contributions, fund raising activities; grants (Sports Council, Lord's Taverners, ECB, Foundation for Sport & Arts), sponsorship (Tilney, Vodaphone).
- Expertise - ECB staff in all departments offer help & advice, support & help from CDO's and Sports Council staff both nationally and regionally

Over the past four years we have been able to tap into increased funding - directly from and via cricket bodies such as the ECB and Counties themselves, or from the Sports Council and the Foundation for Sport & Arts both at national and local level. CDO's have also been more willing to take on work programmes which offer girls the opportunity to play cricket.

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If we merge with the ECB and accept the terms agreed so far what will happen and what might the consequences for the women's game be?

From the information supplied so far by WCA Officers, ECB Officials and also as a result of WCA members' own enquires direct to Sports Council and ECB/County Board representatives, the following picture emerges :-

POWER & INFLUENCE

The situation relating to the England women's teams looks reasonable as a new sub-committee will be set up which, in the first instance will be our National Squads Management Group under another name, but with the addition of nominated ECB representatives. This sub-committee will then report to the England Management Advisory Committee who in turn have access to the Management Board. It is difficult to comment on exactly how this will all work but in recent years the advantage of working closely with ECB (and previously TCCB) has been clearly demonstrated for our Senior England team and there is no reason to suppose that this will not continue. Indeed, if the 18 First Class counties through the First Class Forum can be convinced of the importance to cricket as a whole of successful women's England teams, then the future at that level seems relatively secure.

However, it does seem slightly strange that we are not separating out the relevant activities of our NSMG into the existing three sub-committees shown on the Committee Structure diagram especially as one of the main reasons given by our Officers for merging is to avoid duplication by integrating into the mainstream of cricket.

The rest of women's cricket, such as development and the domestic programme, will be catered for by a Women's Cricket sub-group which is at the same level in the ECB structure as the Schools & Youth and the Clubs & Leagues sub-groups. The terms of reference agreed for this Women's sub-group do not in fact give us any real powers and any decisions, proposals or recommendations made by this sub-group can easily be blocked at a number of higher levels according to the present ECB committee structure.

RESOURCES

The only information available relating to finances is that clubs will pay a reduced affiliation fee to the County Boards and entry fees for league & knock-out will be abolished which is good news, especially for clubs playing in those competitions.

However, nothing has been circulated to WCA members by the ECB which states that we will get any or increased funding for development and county squad programmes if we merge. According to a member of the ECB Management Committee, the only source of ECB funding available to County Boards for the recreational side of the game is from the Cricket Foundation. The Cricket Foundation however, is limited by its charitable status and as many of us know, can only fund programmes related to Under 19's or things like Coach Education.

Whilst this is not a major problem for the men's game, the different development needs of women's cricket mean that certain crucial areas cannot be funded eg the setting up of new clubs so that the massive number of girls taking up the game can progress. What is the point of introducing girls to cricket if they have to travel 30 or 40 miles to join a club and then there is no junior section? Also, WCA area associations continue to struggle to run their affairs but we cannot request money for basic administration costs so our members are often personally subsidising the development programmes and other activities they organise.

10 The suggestion that we will lose money from the Sports Council has been widely promoted as a major reason for merging. The Sports Council funding over the past four years has gone almost entirely into staffing costs and whilst it is the Sports Council's stated aim to see one Governing Body for each sport, they will not force this. What they have actually said is that funding for the WCA will be paid through the ECB, not that it will be stopped. To cut off our grant aid would be against their own equal opportunity policy and also their policy on Women and Sport.

WHAT DO THE ECB THINK ABOUT THE MERGER?

Whilst the current ECB Chief Executive, his staff and the ECB Management Board have expressed their commitment to developing women's cricket, (and have sought to reassure us after the unpleasant situation reported in the Press recently) the same cannot be said of the rest of the ECB simply because, as far as the committee structure relating to the Recreational side of the game is concerned, the issues regarding the WCA merger with the ECB have not been discussed nor have they been considered by County Boards. This means, according to the Articles of Association of the ECB and the RF Constitution (which states that the Recreational Forum must agree to matters of cricket significance) that the terms put forward could in theory be overturned or changed by the Recreational Forum. The RF meets twice a year and it seems unlikely that our situation could be fully considered before their December meeting.

A number of County Boards have advised that they have not yet discussed the merger (and this probably applies to them all) and they are not due to meet for some weeks so we could find ourselves in a situation where we have agreed to a merger and dissolution without knowing for sure what the RF and the County Boards view will be. Of some concern is the lack of understanding by County Board personnel as to the implications for them if the WCA is merged into the ECB and therefore a separate body for women's cricket no longer exists. Members of at least three County Boards canvassed have expressed concern for the future of women's cricket if the proposed merger goes ahead under the suggested terms and they have cautioned against it at this stage.

There is still a lot of jockeying for power by the various organisations already incorporated into the ECB, particularly the Minor Counties who are in effect private members' clubs whose sole interest is the running of their county teams. They have little or no knowledge or experience of development issues and are due to lose a considerable amount of funding after next year. It seems unrealistic therefore to expect them to give women's cricket any priority yet they exercise considerable influence both at ECB Board and at Recreational Forum levels. The First class counties basically control the purse strings and decision making in the ECB by virtue of their domination of the Management Board and their power to appoint Advisory Committee Chairmen.

It would appear that the only group within the ECB to actually discuss and agree the merger is the Management Board which consists of 14 members of which only 4 come from the Recreational Forum. The Management Board seems to have decided that the issue of the WCA/ECB merger does not need to be passed to the Recreational Forum despite the fact that the RF's principal functions and powers include the consideration of all matters of significant cricketing or financial importance to the RF. The County Boards have therefore been denied the opportunity to influence (a) whether a merger is the right course of action, and (b) the terms and conditions of a merger, yet they will be required to undertake responsibility at county level for women's cricket and our development needs will have a significant impact upon County Board resources.

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Under the current proposals we have no real guarantees that our game will be promoted and developed as we would hope for - without written and binding commitments which have been agreed at all levels our interests cannot be properly protected. We could therefore find ourselves even more reliant on individual patronage than now and, as committee members can change quite quickly then different policies and priorities which divert resources away from women's cricket could be brought in.

OPTIONS FOR TODAY

There appear to be three options today because new or amended proposals cannot be introduced :-

If you are convinced either (a) that the concerns raised above are unfounded or (b) that we cannot do any better than accept what is on offer, then you should vote in favour of the merger proposal and consider your position within the ECB, lobbying especially at County Board level for women's cricket to be promoted and developed.

If you feel that women's cricket can operate successfully as a separate organisation with the support of the ECB and the Sports Council which has been forthcoming over the last four years (and there is no reason why this should not continue), then vote against the resolutions put forward and seek to ensure that the WCA takes up all opportunities offered to work jointly with the ECB and County Boards. This enables Individual Members to have a continuing role within women's cricket.

If you feel that a merger and subsequent abolition of the WCA is the most appropriate course of action then it makes sense to abstain today in order for all of the issues raised and suggestions made to be properly considered and then come back in a few months time or even to the next AGM, to vote a re-negotiated merger through. Although Resolution 2 appears to provide for us to agree to the merger today and then iron out the finer points as in 2 (b), if members are not happy with the terms being negotiated during the period referred to, ie by September 30th, then we cannot in fact stop the merger going ahead and the WCA being dissolved anyway. Once this step has been taken there will be no going back so we need to make sure we have got it right and there is no reason why we should not take our time over this. After all, the TCCB and NCA took several years to complete the negotiation process and the new body is still settling down after only 15 months in existence.

It would seem sensible therefore for us to try and get as much as we can in writing before we vote to merge rather than agreeing to merge today and leaving one or two individuals to sort out the details. A delay would also enable all of the County Boards and the Recreational Forum to consider their responses to the merger proposals.

This would also allow alternative proposals put forward by WCA members to be discussed, (perhaps by a small group of members with relevant expertise and to include current WCA) and a more thorough examination undertaken as to how women's cricket can best be safeguarded.

Lancashire WCA and its constituent clubs believe that women's cricket will not be adequately protected by the terms put forward and we will therefore be abstaining on all matters today.

ECB WCA MERGER

The administration of cricket has undergone considerable change; this proposed merger is part of a process that began by the TCCB and NCA coming together to form ECB. Much of the change is and will continue to be vital to the survival of the game as a mainstream sport for the male population. However it is very much a minority sport for girls and women and whilst the development potential is enormous, so are the challenges.

The WCA needs to consider the situation very carefully before taking the irrevocable step of dissolution. Clearly it makes no sense for the Women's Cricket Association to pursue an isolationist policy as we have consistently been unable to significantly increase participation and develop club cricket. Much of this has been due to the lack of resources both human and financial. Many enthusiastic volunteers have over the years been overwhelmed by the task, not through lack of interest by potential participants but by the logistics of reaching them, then servicing and sustaining activities whilst in many cases caring for a family and pursuing a full time job.

If we dissolve today, will the ECB and County Boards rise to the challenge of developing the women's game or will it be paid lip service because of current Sports Council policies and funding issues?

The ECB Objectives are all embracing:

- to be the governing body of all cricket [therefore it is implicit that includes women & girls]
- to take responsibility for, organise, promote, facilitate and administer the game of cricket at all levels... and to undertake any and all activities directly or indirectly associated therewith
- to encourage maximum participation and interest... to improving playing standards and to oversee the commercial promotion and exploitation of cricket at all levels

The National Development Plan refers to support of the game through the following laudable objectives, many of which are also to be found within county and regional cricket development plans: [In some County Board plans women and girls are mentioned specifically]

- To ensure every young person is introduced to the game
- to ensure a vibrant club game
- to encourage the provision of facilities and the opportunity to participate
- to establish tailored coach education, umpiring
- to ensure the progression and development of talented cricketers
- to ensure the successful staging of England international cricket

It is our duty to ensure that the commitment is honoured. To integrate successfully into the new structure will require active participation and clear thinking from existing women cricketers. We must have our voice heard, be prepared to sit on committees, apply for paid employment as development officers, administrators and officials. We must lobby for change in attitudes, for positive images of female players on posters, leaflets and in publications. We must insist that we are involved with the drawing up of development plans, preparation of job descriptions, staff recruitment policy, appointment and education when the work relates to female participation. If we do not it may well be to the detriment of the sport, not just of women's cricket.

However to enable this to take place the structure of the ECB, the Recreational Forum and the County Boards need to be amended so that women can participate fully both now and in the future. Therefore Redoubtables WCC would recommend that we vote NO today but suggest immediate negotiation based on the following approach which would result in new proposals being put to the AGM for consideration. If the ECB is as committed as they say they are to female participation in the sport, the following reforms should be fairly simple to achieve. The English Sports Council are in favour of a merger but will not force the issue. The suggestions outlined below are consistent with English Sports Council policy, particularly points 1 to 13 contained within the Sports Council policy document Women and Sport Framework for Action - Governing Bodies of Sport section.

Point 4 of that section refers to integration and specifically states:

'Where separate governing bodies exist, discuss the formulation of a common policy and co-ordinate planning and practice. Where appropriate establish a single governing body'

The first two of the following suggestions could be interim solutions for a specified time period until the remainder of the changes have been achieved and are seen to be working.

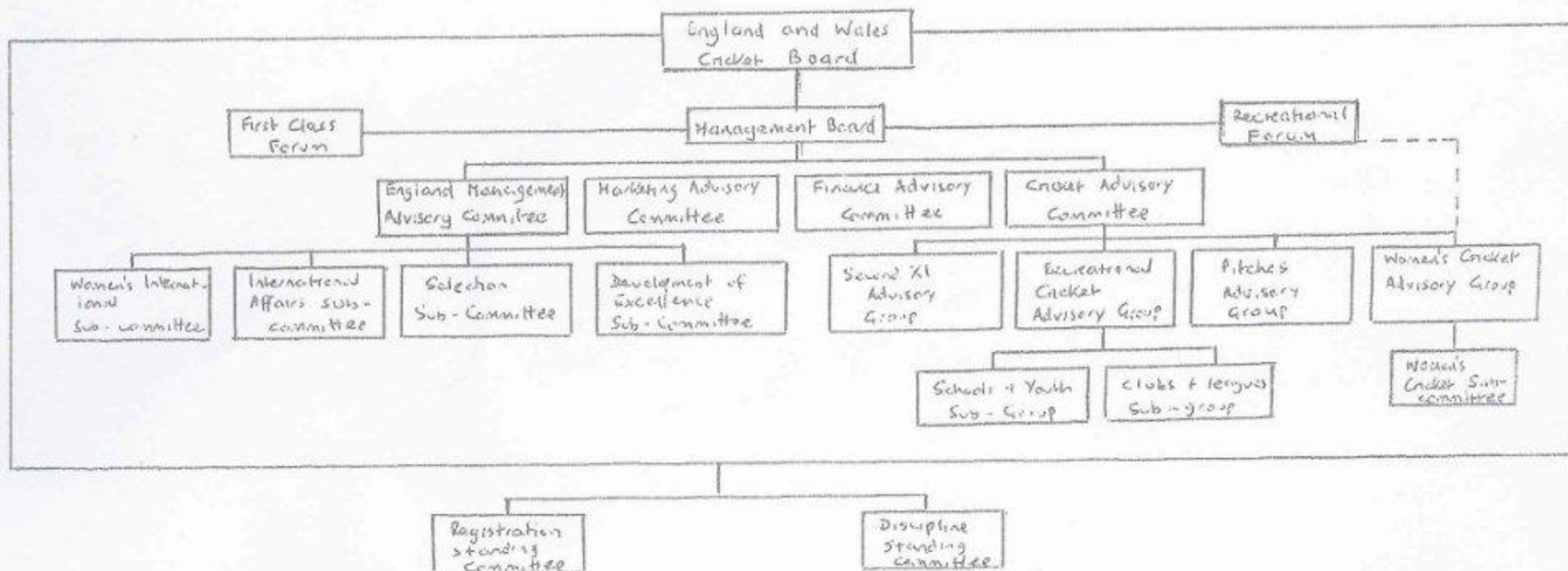
1. The WCA would change its remit but not dissolve itself, it would then become a Women's Cricket Advisory Group (equivalent to WCA General Purposes Committee) with a nominee having an automatic place on The Cricket Advisory Committee and the ECB Management Board which is similar to the position of the Minor Counties identified in schedule C of the ECB Articles of Association.
2. This nominee would come from the Women's Cricket sub-committee which would fulfil a similar role as the WCA Executive. This would allow the existing WCA membership to vote people on to the committee and help ensure that they are accountable and reflect grass roots opinion. These arrangements would be time limited, once full integration has been achieved they should no longer be necessary.
3. The ECB would become the Governing Body for cricket, with the existing administration and staffing of the WCA integrated into the relevant ECB departments i.e. Corporate Affairs, Development, Finance, Administration, Cricket Operations, Technical/Coaching, Marketing and England/International.
4. The ECB would produce a new vision of the future with policies embedded in it's structure which would ensure equality of opportunity and purpose for all participants, this should encompass all aspects of the games administration and development and be accompanied by appropriate staff training. This approach would be consistent with the view outlined by David Dolman of the ESC Cricket Service Team on Radio 5 during an interview on the subject of NGB mergers, he stated: *'The Sports Council would take a very robust view on this and would seek to ensure that the one organisation had a very strong equal opportunities policy and that, that policy was converted into an Action Plan, implemented and very carefully monitored and we would also wish to see equity training undertaken by Management within the men's section and the women's section of the game to ensure equality of purpose'*
5. County Board constitutions would be amended to reflect the new governing body mission statement and policies.

We have already seen some investment at the top end of the game in the form of the Vodafone sponsorship, support for squad training etc. We must ensure that proposals for the future are right for the whole of the game not just our international teams.

It is readily accepted that youngsters need role models, they also need places to play, experienced personnel to pass on the skills and understanding of the game. Many of our top club and county players are on the verge of retirement, employment patterns have changed, it is much harder to get time off to play cricket. Competitive structures must still allow for 'social/friendly' cricket and the development of young players within the club cricket environment. Until we have strength in depth at grass roots a balance must be struck between club needs and county demands on young players. Youngsters need to play with players of a similar age yet they must become integrated into clubs both to develop their knowledge and understanding of cricket and to ensure the survival of clubs.

These are the issues that the new WCAG should be addressing within the new structure and the financial and staffing resources provided at Lord's and throughout the County boards will make it possible to deliver. This approach to integration would at least retain a group of people with unified purpose to pick up the reins of the women's game should the vision not become reality.

Committee Structure



Possible Proposals for the Future of Ex-WCA Members

Following the merger of the Women's Cricket Association (WCA) with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), there is no longer a place for Life, Individual, Honorary Individual, Associate and Honorary Associate Members of the WCA. Also, the WCA 100/500 Club has to consider its position, along with the WCA Golf Society and the possible formation of a Reunion Club (to be named at a later date).

Upon representations from various Officers as to future procedure now that the WCA has ceased to exist, the following is a compilation of ideas and suggestions put forward by Pat Siderfin (Vice-President - WCA), Norma Izard (President - WCA), Pam Crain (Secretary/Treasurer - WCA Golf Society) and Alison Littlefair (who is keen to organise a Reunion Club).

To keep former WCA links, a new group name has been suggested: "WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATES".

The Aims and Objectives are to further women's cricket interests, enthusiasm and links among its members.

Membership would be open to all present, Life, Individual and Associate Members of the WCA; members contributing to the WCA 100/500 Club; the WCA Golf Society and a possible Reunion Club.

Suggestions for the formation and administrative details of the proposed "WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATES" are detailed, as follows:-

Administration would be managed by a Committee of various Officers and suggested volunteers to inaugurate the Associates are as follows:-

Co-ordinator	-	Norma Izard
Membership Secretary	-	Pat Siderfin and Alison Littlefair
Membership Secretary (Golf)	-	Pam Crain and Toni Nash
Promoter WCA 100/500 Club	-	(Pat Siderfin)
Treasurer (suggested)	-	Norma Whitehorn

It is suggested that an annual subscription of £10 be raised, the money possibly being directed to the Cricket Foundation for the furtherance of women's cricket.

The Women's Cricket Associates would continue as they did within the WCA for the 1998 season, with a review at the meeting set for 1999 WCA Annual General Meeting, when the links with the ECB will be more evident.

A fuller Constitution may be needed in January 1999. If there is no specific Annual General Meeting of the Women's Management Group of the ECB in January 1999, perhaps the Administration Committee of the Women's Cricket Associates could arrange to meet at Lord's on 9th January 1999 at 1 p.m.

An initial approach has been made both to The Council of Cricket Societies and to the ECB about the formation of Women's Cricket Associates and there would seem to be no problems.

The format for future communication is still to be considered. However, regular cricket information could possibly be circulated from the ECB with 'Wicket Women' and other communications. Permission will, however, need to be obtained from the members to release their names and addresses to the ECB for future mailings.

Present communications through Hazel Gillyon at the Office in Edgbaston will continue until 30th September 1998.

If you have any views on or objections to the above, or have any other ideas or suggestions as to how we might maintain our links in the future, please let either Norma Izard or Pat Siderfin know.

Norma Izard/Pat Siderfin

6th May, 1998

PROPOSED MERGER OF WCA WITH ECB

The WCA has achieved a great deal over the last 70 years and therefore the need for change has to be very clearly demonstrated. The Association continues to aim high to develop the game at all levels. Over recent years success in gaining financial support has come largely through close co-operation with ECB (previously TCCB) and it has largely been directed at elite cricket. There is a huge need for effective development at grass roots level throughout the country. While some Areas have been very successful at developing girls' and women's cricket there has been little planned national development, essentially due to lack of funding and manpower.

This kind of strategic development will be best achieved through proper integration with the existing network of Regional and County Cricket Development Officers (RCDO's and CDO's) plus the possibility of some Women's Cricket Development Officers. In this way women's cricket becomes fully part of the National Development Plan at all levels from the "playground to the Test arena" including playing, coaching, umpiring, scoring, facilities, etcetera.

The consideration of a merger with ECB has come about for a number of reasons:

1. The Sports Council's stated aim that there be one governing body for cricket and therefore only one governing body in receipt of Sports Council funds.
2. The system of administering all cricket in a County through its County Board. We need to fit in with this system to access funding and to be at the heart of cricket in each County.
3. The ECB is itself the result of a successful merger between the Test and County Cricket Board and the National Cricket Association, bringing together the First Class and Recreational games. **ECB's National Development Plan** recognises its responsibility for all cricket. The ECB objective clause is all embracing as follows:

...(A) to be the governing body of all cricket...

...(B) the commercial promotion and exploitation of cricket at all levels...

...(C) to take responsibility for, organise, promote, facilitate and administer the game of cricket at all levels... and to undertake any and all activities directly or indirectly associated therewith;

...(D) to encourage maximum participation and interest ...to improve playing standards...

The National Development Plan refers directly to the support of women's cricket:

Objective 1: To ensure every young person is introduced to the game:

50% of the population is female and 80% of primary school teachers are female.

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WCA FUTURE POLICY & PLANS

Good Afternoon.

As many of you are aware it was my intention to stand down having served a four year term as Chair and a full year prior to that formulating and subsequently implementing the 1993 - 1997 Development Plan. However, in view of the position vis a vis the proposed merger with the ECB I have agreed to continue as Chair until the merger is complete. If the merger goes ahead the Womens Cricket Association will cease to exist and my role as Chair will be integrated into the professional structure of the ECB. There will still be an important role for volunteers and I hope very much that the transition will appear seem less for much of the membership who should see business as usual.

So what of future plans?

Merger With the ECB

The top priority for the early part of 1998 is the merger with the ECB. Your Executive Director, Barbara Daniels and myself and Executives from the ECB will shortly be meeting all the Areas to explain the process and set out what we perceive as the main advantages for womens cricket of the merger. Preliminary meetings have been held with the ECB and discussions held as to how the organisation, administration and funding of womens cricket will take place within ECB. It is this detail that we intent to expand on in writing and at the pending meetings with Areas. The target date for completion of the merger is 31st March 1998. I do not pretend that this is going to be easy but I remain totally convinced that it is the only way forward. There will be some teething troubles but I ask you all to have faith and help us make it work. I have seen the future and it is with the ECB.

Links With County Boards

We hope that what is happening at the top level of administration will continue to be mirrored throughout the forty County Boards and that womens Area / County Associations will continue to disaggregate from Areas and move alongside the County Boards and eventually become fully integrated. This is the model that we wish to see adopted and congratulate those who have achieved it. We will continue to support those in negotiation and spread examples of good practice.

Future Tours

We have seen the value of regular international competition both in terms of raising standards, remaining competitive and having a public profile. It is intended to continue annual international competition at senior and where possible U.21 and U.17 level. The proposed future international programme is provisionally as follows:

1998

U 21 to South Africa (April)

Seniors home to Australia (July - August)

Women's International Sub - Committee

A separate committee to discuss all aspects of the women's international game and Excellence squads. This committee would report to the England Management Advisory Committee (EMAC). The Chairman would sit on EMAC. Members would be initially appointed by WCA Officers' advice to EMAC.

County Boards

The administration of the game locally will be through County Boards. Current Area Associations would become sub - committees of the County Board so that they are fully part of cricket in that County. Where Areas exist across a number of Counties funding will be available to continue Area representative cricket while plans are developed to break into constituent counties.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

It is believed that women's cricket should be assumed by each department with the addition of a "Women's Cricket Manager". From the date of merger, however, it is recognised that the WCA office in Edgbaston would be kept operational for not less than six months to facilitate a smooth handover of work to individual departments.

a) MARKETING

To a large extent, the major broadcasting/sponsorship streams are already dealt with by ECB. New event/competition sponsorships should emerge by dedicated responsibility for new business with the present department.

b) CORPORATE AFFAIRS

As for the men's game, an information line is an essential part of the service to the women's game.

WCA's current Press Officer, Cath Harris, has twelve months to run on her two days per week contract and could be usefully employed by a) and b) during this interim stage of integration. Merchandising, brochures etc. should be out-sourced as in ECB. Newsletters/Wicket Women to be confirmed.

c) FINANCE

The Honorary Treasurer and Chairman's workload for up to 1,000 transactions per year to be assumed within the Finance Department.

1998 affiliation fees to be retained by County Boards as proposed for men's game. Fee to be £10 per club. If a women's team is a section of a men's club, only one fee is payable.

Fees to enter League and Knockout Competitions to be abolished.

d) INTERNATIONAL TEAMS DIRECTOR

Planning and policy for International squads to be incorporated into EMAC sub-committee.

A new staffing structure to include a Performance Director specifically for women's cricket is to be part of the Performance Plan bid to the Lottery Sports Fund.

e) CRICKET OPERATIONS

The administration of Area/Club and schools events will be transferred to the Cricket Department Staff under the responsibility of the Cricket Operations Manager (Recreational). Jacki Wainwright to continue her three day per week responsibility for Events for at least six months from the merger date.

The women's equivalent of ACU&S will continue to provide umpire appointments, although it is hoped to integrate into the men's game and, in particular, for senior international matches to provide umpires (reserves) from the First Class list.

f) DEVELOPMENT

Potentially the largest area for future activity, the National Development Manager, Keith Pont, will, in due course, need to prepare a report on staffing, playing and Facility Strategies for women's cricket. It is important that provision for women's cricket is seen as supplementary to schools/clubs and not displacing or in competition with colts/men's cricket. In the short - medium term, RCDO and CDO activities are geared to servicing both men/women.

TIMETABLE

Open Discussion Meetings:

Monday February 9th	Headingley	7.30pm
Tuesday February 10th	Edgbaston	7.30pm
Thursday February 12th	Oval	7.30pm
EGM Sunday March 29th	Edgbaston	1pm

1999

European Cup (Denmark)

U.21 / Seniors home to Ireland

Youth World Cup (ECB to bid for Sports Council Events Funding)

Seniors away to Australia (Nov - Dec)

2000

Seniors home to India

World Cup in New Zealand (December)

2001

Seniors home to South Africa

Seniors away to New Zealand

2002

Seniors home to New Zealand

World Cup Qualifying Tournament

2003

Seniors home to Australia

Seniors away to South Africa

2004

Senior home tour

Seniors away to India

World Cup in South Africa

2005

Seniors away to Australia

It is our intention to confirm as many of these proposals and arrange U.21 and U.17 fixtures up to 2006 and thereafter on a rolling programme.

Performance & Development Plans

Future planning is an essential part of successful governing body administration. Together with the ECB, we shall be preparing two essential future planning documents - The Performance Plan and a Cricket Development Plan. These will be our blueprints for development at performance and excellence level and development and participation. They will be crucial in terms of access to English Sports Council funding and ensuring a future for cricket at all levels from primary school to Veterans / Masters.

Domestic Programme Review

The much need domestic programme review working party has now been formulated and under the guidance of Events Officer Jax Wainwright it will be conducting a review of the structure of domestic cricket. There will be no changes to what is proposed for this season but the Groups remit is to look to the long term future.

Friends Of Womens Cricket

We shall continue to work with Mike Fredman of Black Dahlia to promote this supporters club.

Before closing I should like to thank the following people and organisations for all the support they have given womens cricket over the year. So to all the WCA staff and volunteers, the ECB, Vodafone whose international sponsorship has made a very significant impact, Tilneys and the English and UK Sports Councils - we thank you all.

1998 will be a very exciting year with a home tour against newly crowned World Champions Australia. They have set the standard - fitter, quicker, meaner and leaner. Lets show them that we are not going to be left behind.

I sign off by thanking the WCA for the learning experience being Chair of an evolving organisation has provided. It has been a wonderful opportunity. I am not giving up cricket but I look forward to watching from the back row of the stands for a while and having my winter weekends and evenings back.

Sharon Bayton
Chairman
10th January 1998

Women's Cricket Association

Warwickshire County Cricket Ground,
Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QX.

Office Telephone 0121 440 0567
24hr Fax/Ansaphone 0121 440 0520

Dear Members,

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody who attended the regional meetings. It was a good opportunity for frank and open discussion and for members to meet and question ECB executives.

As a result of these meetings it was agreed that further information should be sent out, therefore in this mail out as well as the resolutions to be voted on at the EGM you should have a copy of the ECB Memorandum and Articles of Association, the constitution of the Recreational Forum, and copies of the overhead slides used at the regional meetings.

There were a number of issues raised at the meetings which required further clarification:

1. Were any other options considered?

The other options available are to stay as we are, to establish a parallel organisation to ECB or to form a Women's Cricket Department within ECB.

The Officers feel that to stay as we are is not an option as we will not be able to further develop Women's Cricket from our current position in terms of human and financial resources. There would also be no increase in representation at ECB.

To establish a parallel organisation would be impractical as it would duplicate resources which already exist within the ECB, it would also serve to keep Women's Cricket outside the main focus of the Cricketing World.

Similarly, by being a Department within ECB the notion of separation rather than integration would be continued and would cause unnecessary duplication of effort.

Therefore, the Officers feel that a full merger is the best route through which to further the development of girls' and women's cricket.

2. Why should we merge now?

Time is very important. If we merge now we will be able to have full input into a number of new initiatives such as the new Secondary School game, further World Class lottery programmes and National Development Issues.



The longer we remain outside ECB the harder it is to be included in all of the work necessary to develop and implement these initiatives. Similarly, the longer we remain outside the weaker our voice is in the world of cricket.

As part of ECB it will be much easier to bring pressure to bear and monitor actual progress

3. Will the Assets of the WCA be ringfenced for use within Women's Cricket ?

Any assets will be transferred to the Cricket Foundation and ringfenced for the development of girls' and women's cricket. This would be accessed through County Board bids, based on their development plans, to the Foundation.

It has also been agreed that a women's cricket representative will have a seat on the Foundation.

The Hon. Treasurer will be meeting Cliff Barker, the ECB's Finance Director, to work out the details of the transfer of assets. these details will be reported to members as soon as possible.

4. What will happen to the Handbook, Wicket Women and other communications to current WCA membership ?

The handbook will be published as normal for 1998 and Wicket Women will be published until a review has taken place. It is expected that the standard, style and amount of communication to members will be improved through the merger.

5. How will County Boards be involved in this process ?

Information re the merger has already been sent to County Boards. There is undoubtedly a need for an education process so that County Boards are fully aware of their responsibilities towards women's cricket. County Boards are monitored by ECB and again, we will have a greater say in this monitoring process from within.

It is recognised that each County Board is different and that discussions at a local level will be most important in establishing where and how women's cricket is Represented. If problems occur in these negotiations then we will be able to assist from the centre.

6. How will the Women's Cricket sub-group and International sub-committee be formed ?

Initially, the current Executive Committee and National Squads Management Group will take on these roles. Their Chairmen will sit on the Recreational Forum and EMAC respectively.

They will stay in place until the end of December 1998 discussing all issues relating to Domestic and International cricket. Elections to sub-committees at ECB are held in December.

Nominations for these sub-committees would be sought from and voted on by current Areas Women's Cricket Associations. The new Committees would then be formed in January 1999.

It will be the Executive Committee's responsibility to consider options and propose the best way forwards in conjunction with ECB.

7. Will current Contracts of Employment be guaranteed ?

In taking over the assets of WCA, ECB guarantees to uphold existing contracts. As previously circulated, the WCA office will remain staffed for at least six months to facilitate the handover. It has also been agreed that Jacki Wainwright should remain in post for the first six months, again to facilitate ECB departments' understanding of the operation of women's cricket.

As in any organisation, staffing needs will continue to be reassessed in terms of agreeing the best ways to further the development of cricket for women and girls.

8. What happens to WCA Individual, Associate, Honorary, and Life members ?

ECB does not have a membership structure for individuals. We are still pursuing the option of -Friends of Women's Cricket which would provide a separate membership organisation supporting women's cricket. In the meantime, we will maintain our database of members and continue to circulate information. We are also investigating a broader system of recognising achievement within, and contributions to women's cricket by players, coaches, and administrators.

9. Has legal advice been sought ?

We have sought the advice of Slaughter and May, who acted for ECB in the merger of NCA and TCCB. They have advised on matters of constitution and procedure, having clarified that there was no conflict of interest with themselves giving advice to both ECB and WCA.

Denton Hall, solicitors have been appointed to advise the WCA. Their comments have been incorporated into the final documentation.

At this point, I would like to stress that ECB are extremely supportive of women's cricket. They have every intention of developing women's cricket at grass roots and supporting the game internationally. They are fully behind the notion of cricket being one game.

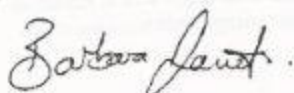
Whilst I understand people having concerns about the merger, I do feel that now is the time to act. This is a big step but it will benefit women's cricket in a way that we cannot contemplate as a separate body.

It only remains to urge all club and area representatives to attend the EGM and vote. This is too important an issue for the outcome to be unrepresentative. We have investigated the possibility of a postal vote but the constitution does not allow for such a move.

Prior to the EGM you will receive information detailing the rules of procedure for this meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the issues involved. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours faithfully



Barbara Daniels
Executive Director
For and on behalf of WCA Officers.

3. The Management Board have noted the need for a transitional period for appointment to the Women's Advisory Sub-Group. The terms of reference recently submitted are agreed and it is noted that in the first instance, the current Executive Committee of WCA will form this Advisory Sub-Group and in conjunction with ECB staff will prepare recommendations regarding succession for consideration by the Management Board in due course.

Similarly, we have had a number of discussions with the Chairman of the England Management Advisory Committee, Bob Bennett, and in due course will formalise the proposal and timetable for representation of the Women's game on EMAC. I hope the members of WCA will see these proposals as sensible and in the spirit in which they are made, ie. that it is recognised that there is the need for there to be pragmatic and sensible integration of the committee structure into ECB which must carry participants with it and be satisfactory to all concerned.

Certainly, we are pleased with the way the merger proposals are progressing and wish you all the very best of luck in securing a successful outcome at your meeting this evening.

If there is any area in which we can help, please do not hesitate to let us know.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Cull

PP C. A. Barker
Deputy Chief Executive
and Finance Director

Women's Cricket Association

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above named association will be held at WCA Headquarters, Warwickshire County Cricket Ground, Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QX on the 29th March, 1998 at [1.00] p.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions

Resolutions

1. That the following amendments to be made to the Constitution and Rules of the Women's Cricket Association:
- (a) the following be inserted in Rule 2 of the Constitution and Rules of the Women's Cricket Association immediately after Rule 2(c):
- "(d) To transfer the responsibility for the discharge of the Association's purpose, including its functions and powers, rights and responsibilities and assets and liabilities, to other organisations whose aims and objects are similar to those of the Association, including the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited."
- (b) the following Rule be inserted as a new Rule 20 of the Constitution and Rules of the Women's Cricket Association:

"20. DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the Association may be approved at a General Meeting of the Association provided due notice has been given in accordance with Rule 6 and 7 and passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote thereat."

2. That, conditional on resolution number 1. in this notice of meeting being duly passed and pursuant to the reorganisation of the administration of women's cricket:
- (a) the functions and powers, rights and responsibilities and assets and liabilities of the Women's Cricket Association be transferred to and assumed by the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited (the "Merger");
 - (b) that the terms of the Merger be agreed as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event for the Merger to be effected on or before 30th September, 1998 and that any member of the Executive Committee be appointed as agent of the Women's Cricket Association and be authorised to do all such acts and execute all such documents as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the Merger and subsequent dissolution of the Women's Cricket Association; and

- (b) the Women's Cricket Association shall be dissolved as soon as reasonably practicable after the Merger has been effected.

WCA Headquarters
Warwickshire County Cricket Ground
Edgbaston Road
Birmingham B5 7QX

By order of the Executive Committee

Secretary

Dated March, 1998

4B
From the Chief Executive

Tim Lamb

Ref: CAB/CMC

5th March 1998

To: WCA Members



Lord's Cricket Ground
London NW8 8QZ
Telephone 0171 432 1700
Facsimile 0171 269 5619

Dear WCA Member,

MERGER OF WCA WITH ECB

The England and Wales Cricket Board very much welcomed the opportunity to meet WCA members during the recent consultation exercise, and in response to the concerns that were raised at the meetings I am pleased to confirm the following:

1. Your President, Mrs. Norma Izard, has been invited, and I am pleased to say has accepted, to become an additional Trustee of The Cricket Foundation with immediate effect. The development and funding of girls' cricket is of course an essential part of the activities of The Cricket Foundation.
2. The ECB Management Board have approved that assets held by WCA at the date of the merger will be transferred to The Cricket Foundation and separately reported in ECB's accounts for the year ending 31st December 1998.

As was the case for NCA, WCA assets will be separately "ringfenced" within The Cricket Foundation accounts and used for the purpose for which they have been accumulated by WCA.

3. The Management Board have noted the need for a transitional period for appointments to the Women's Advisory Sub-Group. The terms of reference recently submitted are agreed and it is noted that, in the first instance, the current Executive Committee of WCA will form this Advisory Sub-Group and in conjunction with ECB staff will prepare recommendations regarding succession for consideration by the Management Board in due course.

Similarly, we have had a number of discussions with the Chairman of the England Management Advisory Committee, Bob Bennett, and in due course will formalise the procedure and timetable for representation of the women's game on EMAC.

4. Current contracts of employment for Barbara Daniels, Cath Harris and Jacki Wainwright will be honoured. The WCA office and staff will be maintained for a period of no less than six months from the date of the merger. ECB will then seek to maintain staffing in the best interests of women's cricket.
5. County Boards will be advised of their responsibilities with regard to women's cricket and will be monitored on their performance. They will be assisted in this by improved information, by the spreading of best practice and by the increasing awareness of Cricket Development Officers to the needs of girls' and women's cricket.

I hope that members of WCA will see these proposals as sensible and view them in the spirit in which they are made - ie. taking account of the need for there to be a pragmatic and seamless integration of the committee structure into ECB, which must carry participants with it and be satisfactory to all concerned.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

T. M. LAMB
Chief Executive



Ref: CAB/CMC

2nd March 1998

Finance Department

Lord's Cricket Ground

London NW8 8QZ

Telephone 0171 432 1250

Facsimile 0171 286 5583

Ms. B. Daniels,
Executive Director,
Women's Cricket Association,
WCA Headquarters,
Warwickshire County Cricket Ground,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham B5 7QX.

Dear Barbara,

MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING - 25TH FEBRUARY 1998

John Carr, Keith Pont and I very much welcomed the opportunity to meet WCA members during the recent regional consultation exercise.

I am pleased to confirm that at the meeting on 25th February 1998, the Management Board received a full report back from me and confirmed the following:

1. Your President, Mrs. Norma Izard, will be invited to be an additional Trustee to The Cricket Foundation with immediate effect. I have written separately to Norma to give her details of the next meeting and hope very much that she is able to accept the invitation to be a Trustee. The development and funding of girls' cricket is of course an essential part of the activities of The Cricket Foundation.
2. The Management Board have approved that assets held by WCA at the date of the merger will be transferred to The Cricket Foundation and separately reported in ECB's accounts for the year ending 31st December 1998.

As was the case for NCA, WCA assets will be separately "ring-fenced" within The Cricket Foundation Accounts and used for the purpose for which they have been accumulated by WCA.



Women's Cricket Association

Warwickshire County Cricket Ground,
Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QX.

Office Telephone 0121 440 0567
24hr Fax/Ansaphone 0121 440 0520

16 March 1998

Dear Members

We are writing to you because at the end of this month we have to make an important decision about the Women's Cricket Association and its future. You will no doubt have seen the Press following the recent industrial tribunal involving the England and Wales Cricket Board and we want to be able to reassure you on one or two counts.

Firstly, the impression given of the ECB and its managers and staff bears no resemblance to the office and people we know and have dealt with. We have never encountered the kind of anti-feminism which is supposed to exist. On the contrary, we know the office to be a pleasant, hard working environment and we have always been made welcome.

Secondly, Tim Lamb, the Chief Executive, is a family man with a 14-year-old daughter who plays cricket. Tim has always been a champion of the women's game and counts a number of the England Women's team amongst his friends. In our view, he is the last person to make the remarks he is alleged to have made. Similarly, Cliff Barker, who has been directly involved in the discussions on integration, has always been courteous and professional in his dealings with us.

Finally, the ECB since it was established 15 months ago, has made tremendous progress in promoting cricket at all levels. The Women's game has begun to see the benefit with more schoolgirls playing cricket at primary school - more than 350,000 - than ever before; 26 new Women's Clubs were established last year alone and there are now 96 Cricket Clubs with women's sections.

The ECB can bring us a power and resource which we never achieve in isolation and although in partnership we have done much to improve the lot of women in cricket to date, we can achieve so much more with integration. We hope you will take all these points on board and ensure that you or your club/area representative attend the EGM at Edgbaston at 1.00 pm on March 29. Please let us know if you want to discuss any of the points we have raised.

Yours faithfully

SHARON BAYTON
Chairman

BARBARA DANIELS
Executive Director



Women's Cricket Association

Warwickshire County Cricket Ground,
Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QX.

Office Telephone 0121 440 0567
24hr Fax/Ansaphone 0121 440 0520

ref: EGM 29.03.98

24 March 1998

Dear Members

Extra-Ordinary General Meeting : 1.00 pm : 29 March 1998

David Heath Suite, Warwickshire County Cricket Ground, Edgbaston, Birmingham

As the EGM draws nearer I write to ask that all those entitled to vote make every effort to attend. In order for the resolutions to be accepted a two-thirds majority *of those in attendance* is required. It is obviously vital that the vote is as representative as possible.

Clubs and Areas are entitled to nominate a delegate to the meeting to give their vote. That delegate does not have to be an affiliated member of that Club/Area.

The meeting will be run on similar lines to the Annual General Meeting. On arrival you should register and receive your voting card. Observers will be entitled to attend but may only speak with the permission of the Chairman.

It is intended that there will be an opening address from Norma Izzard, the President of the WCA and Chairman of the meeting. This will be followed by a statement from a representative of the England and Wales Cricket Board. At this point questions and comments will be taken in relation to the ECB after which the ECB representative will leave the meeting. This will be followed by a short address from myself as Executive Director.

Time will then be given for questions, comments and discussion on the resolutions before a vote is taken. The Chairman of the meeting has the power to regulate the course of proceedings, to close the discussion and move to a vote with the consent of the meeting, to adjourn the meeting and to declare the result of the voting. Depending on how many people present wish to speak the Chairman may ask members to speak only once to each resolution or may limit the time allowed to any speaker so that other members are given the opportunity to speak. The intention is to have an orderly meeting in which members have the opportunity to express their views on the proposed resolutions.

Members of the Press will not be allowed into the meeting but it is likely that they will be outside the meeting. It is difficult to predict what level of interest there will be but in the light of recent media coverage we should be prepared for national press interest.

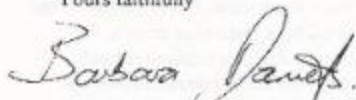
The last two weeks have been difficult for cricket and obviously questions have been raised about the merger in the light of the issues surrounding the press coverage. I have spoken at length to Tim Lamb, Cliff Barker and other ECB officials. Whilst accepting that recent events have been unhelpful they do not represent the general attitude at ECB to women generally or women's cricket in particular. I remain convinced, after two years of working alongside these people, that ECB genuinely supports women's cricket and wants to accept responsibility for developing girls' and women's cricket nationally. This intention is demonstrated through development already happening through ECB programmes and Cricket Development Officers' figures released for 1996/1997 show a level of girls' participation achieved largely by ECB :

Participation	Primary School Girls	374,003
	Secondary School Girls	82,346

The opportunity to capitalise on this interest and encourage more girls to play is available through merging with ECB.

Once again I urge you to ensure that your Club/Area/School is represented at the EGM so that whatever the result it is a fair reflection of opinion within the Association.

Yours faithfully



Barbara Daniels
Executive Director

enc : Map/Directions to Edgbaston

6



Women's Cricket Association

Warwickshire County Cricket Ground,
Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QX.

Office Telephone 0121 440 0567
24hr Fax/Ansaphone 0121 440 0520

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EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 29th MARCH 1998

1. Welcome and Introduction, Norma Izzard, President of WCA and Chairman of the meeting.
2. Keith Pont, National Development Manager, ECB.
3. Barbara Daniels, Executive Director, WCA.
4. Questions / discussion on the resolutions.
5. Vote on first resolution.
6. Vote on second resolution.
7. Result of vote.
8. Closing statement, Sharon Bayton, Chairman WCA.

6

7
Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above named association will be held at WCA Headquarters, Warwickshire County Cricket Ground, Edgbaston Road, Birmingham B5 7QX on the 29th March, 1998 at 1.00 p.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions:

Resolutions

1. That the following amendments to be made to the Constitution and Rules of the Women's Cricket Association:

✓
A.30
(a) the following be inserted in Rule 2 of the Constitution and Rules of the Women's Cricket Association immediately after Rule 2(c):

"(d) To transfer the responsibility for the discharge of the Association's purpose, including its functions and powers, rights and responsibilities and assets and liabilities, to other organisations whose aims and objects are similar to those of the Association, including the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited."

- (b) the following Rule be inserted as a new Rule 20 of the Constitution and Rules of the Women's Cricket Association:

"20. DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the Association may be approved at a General Meeting of the Association provided due notice has been given in accordance with Rule 6 and 7 and passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote thereat."

2. That, conditional on resolution number 1. in this notice of meeting being duly passed and pursuant to the reorganisation of the administration of women's cricket:

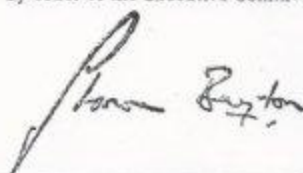
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(a) the functions and powers, rights and responsibilities and assets and liabilities of the Women's Cricket Association be transferred to and assumed by the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited (the "Merger");

- (b) that the terms of the Merger be agreed as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event for the Merger to be effected on or before 30th September, 1998 and that any member of the Executive Committee be appointed as agent of the Women's Cricket Association and be authorised to do all such acts and execute all such documents as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the Merger and subsequent dissolution of the Women's Cricket Association; and

the Women's Cricket Association shall be dissolved as soon as reasonably practicable after the Merger has been effected.

WCA Headquarters
Warwickshire County Cricket Ground
Edgbaston Road
Birmingham B5 7QX

By order of the Executive Committee



8A
WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the accounts set out on pages 3 to 7 in accordance with approved Auditing Standards.

We have relied upon assurances from the officers as to the records concerning grants and other income of the Association and in respect of the existence of stocks and fixed assets.

Subject to the foregoing, in our opinion, the accounts have been properly drawn up and comply with the Constitution of the Organisation.

J PEARSON & CO

Chartered Accountants
32A Downend Road
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5UJ

5 January 1998

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

2

	Note	1997 £	1996 £
INCOME	2	124,038	211,556
EXPENDITURE			
Administration expenses		5,673	2,331
Audit and accountancy	8	1,308	220
Bank charges		701	638
Donations		320	-
Depreciation		1,126	747
Development projects		6,584	13,061
Computer rental and expenses		881	562
Insurance		684	615
Equipment		-	163
Meeting expenses		1,449	1,939
Merchandise		4,197	2,796
Postage		4,319	2,004
Printing and stationery		2,699	2,847
Publicity		6,284	1,799
Recruitment costs		-	1,610
Rent		929	1,000
Salaries and sub-contract staff		48,374	38,597
Telephone and fax		1,865	3,502
Subs and registrations		-	238
Uniforms		-	390
WCA news/magazine/fixture card/year book		7,189	6,164
Events	3	30,826	114,844
Coaching and training		18,982	14,285
Deficit resulting from South African Tour	4	6,827	-
Tax penalties		-	83
		151,217	210,235
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME BEFORE TAX		(27,179)	1,321
Corporation tax charged on investment income		(1,109)	(1,622)
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME AFTER TAX		(28,288)	(301)

8.8
WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

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BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

	Note	1997 £	1996 £
FIXED ASSETS	5	8,364	8,491
CURRENT ASSETS			
War stock		108	108
Stock	6	935	3,538
Bank - deposit account		48,368	100,302
Bank - current account		77,641	22,532
Prepayments		-	929
		127,052	127,409
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals		31,306	3,625
Provision for tax		123	-
		31,429	3,625
NET CURRENT ASSETS		95,623	123,784
NET ASSETS		103,987	132,275
REPRESENTED BY:			
Administration fund	7	14,848	15,785
Membership services	7	33,511	34,823
Marketing and promotion	7	(9,937)	(4,974)
Schools	7	18,502	18,027
Club cricket	7	11,929	12,664
Representative cricket	7	20,201	23,644
National squad	7	2,876	13,685
Coach education	7	3,903	3,903
Training of officials	7	1,000	1,000
Development projects	7	7,154	13,738
		103,987	132,275

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

1. Accounting policies

a) Accounting convention

These accounts have been drawn up under the historical cost convention.

b) Fixed assets and depreciation

The cost of fixed assets is written off over their expected useful lives at the rate of 10% per annum.

c) Stocks

Stocks of merchandise are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is defined as the actual purchase price and net realisable value is the price at which stock can be sold in the normal course of business.

2. Income	Note	1997 £	1996 £
Grants		89,660	115,597
Membership subscriptions and affiliations		4,885	4,361
Donations		7,442	2,353
Bank interest received		4,928	6,489
Events	3	16,805	78,781
Club competitions		-	3,975
Sundry		518	-
Total income		124,038	211,556

3. Events	Income £	Expenses £
Area championship	8,620	11,026
Cricket week	2,067	875
Indoor 6's	-	4,079
Outdoor 6's	850	3,656
Representative w/e	918	3,893
Under 17 Territorials	2,400	3,520
Under 21	-	1,092
Leagues and knock out	1,950	2,685
	16,805	30,826

80
WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

5

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

4. South African Tour

£

Income :	Sponsorship	55,000
	Profit from merchandise	1,202
		<u>56,202</u>
Expenditure :	Team expenses - South Africa	19,081
	England	14,082
	Training expenses	3,135
	Uniforms	7,301
	Match facilities	7,841
	Officials expenses	2,373
	Receptions	3,438
	Presentations	1,119
	Publicity	3,353
	Administration	1,306
		<u>63,029</u>
Net deficit		<u>(6,827)</u>

5. Fixed assets

£

Cost as at 1 October 1996	10,261
Additions	999
	<u>11,260</u>
Cost as at 30 September 1997	
Depreciation as at 1 October 1996	1,770
Charge for the year	1,126
	<u>2,896</u>
Depreciation as at 30 September 1997	
Net book value as at 30 September 1997	<u>8,364</u>
Net book value as at 30 September 1996	<u>8,491</u>

Notice is hereby given that the Sixty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Women's Cricket Association will be held on Saturday, 10 January 1998, in the Pavilion at Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8, commencing at 1.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To consider the Minutes of the Sixty-Fourth Annual General Meeting held on 11 January 1997.
3. Matters Arising.
4. To receive the results of the election of Officers for 1998. The following Officers are standing for re-election and no nomination is required :

President	Norma Izard OBE
Chairman	Sharon Bayton
Vice Chairmen	Carol Salmon
	Pat Siderfin
	Jacki Wainwright
Treasurer	Norma Whitehorn ✓

- ✓ 5. To receive and consider the Treasurer's Report and the Audited Accounts for 1996/1997. *accept - as above*
6. To elect an Auditor for 1997/1998. *Pearson, General*
7. To receive and consider the Executive Committee's Report.
8. To receive and consider other Reports on the activities of the Association.
9. To consider any proposed amendments to the Constitution and the Rules of the Association :
 - a) Amendment to By Law relating to Dress Code as proposed by Carol Salmon
 - b) Constitution amendment on Area Qualification of Players as proposed by Carol Salmon
 - c) Rules for Affiliated Area Associations : to insert "Northumberland" between Middlesex and Surrey as proposed by the Executive Committee
10. Future Policy and Plans/International Tours.
11. Any Other Business.

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

6

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

6. Stocks

	1997	1996
	£	£
Videos	-	1,792
Balls	935	556
Ties	-	216
Maiden over	-	974
	<u>935</u>	<u>3,538</u>

The stocks of videos, ties and maiden over were written off during the period as they were considered to have no value due to their obsolescence.

7. Funds

	1.10.1996	Trf from receipts & Expenditure	30.09.1997
	£	£	£
Administration fund	15,765	(917)	14,848
Membership services	34,823	(1,312)	33,511
Marketing and promotion	(4,974)	(4,963)	(9,937)
Schools	18,027	475	18,502
Club cricket	12,664	(735)	11,929
Representative cricket	23,644	(3,443)	20,201
National squad	13,685	(10,809)	2,876
Coach education	3,903	0	3,903
Training of officials	1,000	0	1,000
Development projects	13,738	(6,584)	7,154
	<u>132,275</u>	<u>(28,288)</u>	<u>103,987</u>

8. Audit and accountancy

The 1996 charge is net of the write back of the provision made in 1994 amounting to £705 which was never actually charged.

9A

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To be held at
Lord's Cricket Ground
at 1.30 pm on
Saturday, 10 January 1998**

NOTES

- a) The Executive Committee considers that the WCA constitution does not prevent an Individual Member of the Association who is entitled to vote in her own right from attending the Annual General Meeting in a Representative capacity and there using her individual vote and her Representative vote but that one individual should not represent more than one Official body.
- b) Visitors may not be present at the meeting except by the agreement of the delegates.
- c) All Official delegates will be asked to deposit £20.00 on entering the meeting. On leaving the meeting each delegate will receive her full fare plus the difference between the pooling figure and her deposit.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES MUST REGISTER BEFORE THE MEETING. THEY ARE ASKED TO DO SO BY 1.15 PM SO THAT THE MEETING CAN BEGIN ON TIME.

THEY ARE ASKED TO PAY THEIR DEPOSITS IN CASH NOT BY CHEQUE TO FACILITATE REIMBURSEMENT.

Members are asked to notify the Administration Secretary no later than 1 January 1998 if they are not able to be present. Secretaries of Areas and of Affiliated Clubs, Colleges, Schools and other Associations should advise her by the same date if they will not be represented.

Any amendments to the proposed resolutions should be submitted in writing to be received by the Administration Secretary **not later than 1 January 1998.**

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, 10 JANUARY 1998

Extract from the Constitution and Rules

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

The General Meeting shall be constituted by the following persons, all of whom shall have the right to vote thereat :

- [i] One delegate from each affiliated Club, School and College.
- [ii] One delegate from each affiliated Area or other Association.
- [iii] The Officers, the Players' Representative and the Public Relations Officer.
- [iv] Individual (Class C) members.
- [v] Honorary Individual (Class D) members.
- [vi] Life (Class G) members.

Delegates from affiliated Clubs, Colleges, Areas and other Associations shall have three votes each; all other persons entitled to vote shall have one vote each. Other members of the Association may attend but may not vote and may speak only by invitation of the Chairman.

19. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

No alteration of these Rules shall be made except at a General Meeting of the Association and unless due notice has been given in accordance with Rules 6 and 7 and unless passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote thereat.

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Attendance at Executive Committee Meetings

Financial Year 1 October 1996 to 30 September 1997

	Jan	April	July	Sept	Nov
President	y	n	y	n	y
Chairman	y	y	y	y	n
Vice Chairman	y	y	y	y	y
Vice Chairman	y	n	y	y	y
Vice Chairman	n	n	y	y	y
Treasurer	y	n	y	y	y
Executive Director	n	n	y	n	n
P R O	n	n	n	n	n
Cheshire	y	y	n	y	y
Derbyshire	y	y	y	y	y
East Anglia	y	n	y	y	y
East Midlands	n	n	n	n	n
Hampshire	y	y	n	n	n
Kent	y	y	y	n	n
Lancashire	y	n	y	y	y
Middlesex	y	y	y	y	y
Surrey	y	n	y	y	y
Sussex	y	n	y	y	n
Thames Valley	n	y	y	y	y
West	y	n	n	y	n
West Midlands	y	y	y	y	y
Yorkshire	y	n	n	n	n
Events Chair	y	n	n	n	y
Umpires & Scorers Chair	n	n	y	n	y

PROPOSALS UNDER ITEM 9 OF THE AGENDA FOR AGM 1998AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED BY GUNNERSBURY WCCItem 9(b) - Amendment 1

- (a) In i) delete the word 'Registered' and replace by the words 'Fully paid up playing'.
- (b) In i) delete the words 'a club' and replace by the words 'an affiliated club within the Area for at least two outdoor seasons'
- (c) In i) delete the words 'school or college' and replace by the words 'or equivalent membership of an affiliated school or college team'

NOTE 1: This would make the clause read as follows:

Carried Fully paid up playing membership of an affiliated club within the Area for at least two outdoor seasons, or equivalent membership of an affiliated school or college team within the area OR

NOTE 2:

The amendment recognises the value of committed Club membership in qualifying a player, but seeks to avoid the otherwise inevitable 'club-hopping' for personal advantage that could be disastrously damaging for club cricket.

It also recognises that 'Registered membership of a school' is not meaningful within the context of this clause.

Item 9(b) - Amendment 2

In iii) delete the word 'April' and replace by the word 'January'.

Item 9(b) - Amendment 3

Insert an extra paragraph after items i), ii) and iii) and before the paragraph beginning 'A player who has played for the Senior Area team' to read as follows:

The Executive Committee shall, if it thinks fit, extend the qualifications to meet individual cases, on a written appeal from the Secretaries of the Areas concerned.

NOTE. This restores the power, granted by the current Constitution to the Executive Committee, to meet cases of genuine need. It could encompass the situation of visiting overseas players. Members might wish to have an undertaking that this power would not be used to permit more than one *visiting* overseas player in an Area Team in one season.

Item 9(b) - Amendment 4

Insert an extra paragraph before the paragraph beginning 'A player who has played for the Senior Area team' to read as follows:

Such applications must be received in writing at Headquarters no less than four weeks in advance of any Executive Committee meeting, for consideration at that meeting. No application shall be considered more than once for any season.

NOTE 1:

If Amendment 3 fails, then Amendment 4 will be withdrawn. It is presented separately so that, if the meeting wishes, Amendment 3 could be carried, but Amendment 4 could fail.

NOTE 2: Again this restores a provision in the current Constitution.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and the Rules of the Association

Proposed By Law on Dress

Official WCA teams must play in white or coloured uniforms as approved by the Executive Committee. It is WCA policy that all teams affiliated to the WCA must play in white unless coloured clothing is unanimously adopted by all teams for a specific competition.

It is also WCA policy that teams adopt a common uniform in that all team members wear Mayfield pattern white shorts or all team members wear full length white trousers. Knee-length white socks, worn at that length, should also be worn if Mayfield pattern white shorts are adopted.

WALLINGTON LADIES CRICKET CLUB, SURREY

Propose that the above amendment should read 'white or cream' not just white and that the name 'Mayfield' be removed from the By-Law as this style is in limited supply.

Constitution Amendment on Qualification

Proposed New Clause 9

The following are the Rules for Qualification for Membership of an Area Team :

- i) Registered membership of a club, school or college within the Area OR
- ii) Birth within the Area OR
- iii) Continuous residence within the Area from the first day of April prior to selection of that Area Team.

A player who has played for the Senior Area team of one Area for four consecutive years, or for as long as the Senior Area team has been in existence, shall have a qualification for that Area for the remainder of her cricket career or until she has played for some other Area.

If a player changes her residence from one Area to another she shall still be eligible for her old Area until she has completed residential qualification in her new home.

A pupil of an affiliated school may play for the Junior Area team of the Area in which the school is situated even though she was born in, or is resident in, another Area.

No player may play for more than one Area in the same season.

Carved
16/4
14/4
Large ladies now
no change

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

REPORTS FOR 1997

The following reports are submitted to the Sixty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Women's Cricket Association to be held on Saturday, 10 January 1998.

AREA REPORTS

CHESHIRE
EAST ANGLIA
LANCASHIRE
MIDDLESEX
SURREY
SUSSEX
THAMES VALLEY
WEST MIDLANDS
YORKSHIRE

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOUTH AFRICA TOUR 1997
CHAIRMAN OF SENIOR SELECTORS
UMPIRES & SCORERS

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

100/500 CLUB

Cheshire Women's Cricket Association

It's almost twelve months since the Lancashire and Cheshire W.C.A disbanded and the Cheshire Women's Cricket Association evolved by the Northern Marches League taking responsibility for all female cricket in Cheshire. The Committee was unaccustomed to such a big responsibility and the first year has not only been a learning curve and a year for making progress as a separate Association but also a time for establishing links with all other parties involved with cricket in Cheshire.

The changeover date for the restructuring of the E.C.B was 1st January and despite me sending a number of letters to the Cheshire County Cricket Board our first invitation to attend a meeting was 15th May with Mickey Stuart M.B.E in attendance. As a result of this meeting the women's league was invited to become part of the Cheshire Cricket Clubs Committee. We have also been invited to attend regular meetings of the Cheshire Umpire and Scorers Association. Although we have no representation on the County Junior section as yet, we do have connections who are very supportive of our cause. The majority of votes on the Cheshire County Board are held by previous members of the old Cheshire County Team Board. The Cheshire Cricket Club Committee has one vote and the Junior Section one vote. As yet we do not have a women's representative on this board and can only air our views through the Clubs Committee. Although this is not satisfactory we have made some progress making links with the men's game and the committee, where we do have representation, have been most welcoming and helpful. We have been offered use of pitches and umpires and a promise of some sponsorship for our Senior County Team.

Richard Newton, our C.D.O, has been particularly helpful towards Women's Cricket. He organised the U15 Indoor Competition last year and an Assistant Coaches Course for thirteen women early in the season. We also obtained a donation from the Cheshire Building Society for £500 towards our youth development in June 1997.

The U21's and Senior County teams have remained as Lancashire and Cheshire for 1997 and both teams had reasonable success this season.

The Cheshire U17 team organisers had difficulty forming a team for the re-arranged U17 8-a-side competition. Four of the regular team players had previous commitments but despite having a number of new players in the squad they were placed a credible ninth out of twelve teams.

The league in Cheshire has nine teams that play each team both home and away. The Marches Team play a higher standard of cricket in the Northern Premier Division so there is a good deal of cricket played in the County at various levels. There are some boroughs in Cheshire that do not have women's cricket teams and it is part of our long term development plan to eventually establish teams in these boroughs.

This year the following players deserve particular mention:-

(Crewe)	Laura McLeod	-	Full International, England U21 (Vice Captain)
(Neston)	Sarah Collyer	-	England U21, England U17 (Captain)
(Cheadle)	Jenny Thompson	-	England U17
(Oakmere)	Suzi Walker	-	North of England U17
(Oakmere)	Hayley Agnew	-	North of England U17

Their excellent performances this season will give us all inspiration for carrying on with the groundwork in 1998.

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EAWCA Report to the WCA for the 1997 Season

EA Teams

The senior team beat the West Midlands in their only warm-up match before the Area Championships, but struggled at Cambridge despite a strong team spirit. The U21 side reached the playoffs and finished fourth in their first season in the U21 league competition. The U15 and U13 sides also thoroughly enjoyed their seasons.

Cambridge Ladies

Cambridge were one of the three sides relegated from the South Premier League and were beaten in the Cup by Shenocorton. However, many of the matches were very close and the emergence of some new players means that CLCC hope to do well in the Regional league next year. CLCC also hopes to be able to build on the development work which it has conducted over the past few years in Cambridgeshire, having drawn up a Development plan with the aid of the newly appointed Regional Development Officer, and is actively seeking a tie-up with a local men's club. As a club with a strong social base, but with no true home base, it is hoped that these developments will lead to an even stronger club.

Radlett Vasebonds

Vasebonds are now a thriving section of Radlett CC, a club with a very strong men's playing base and a Cricket Academy. The men's section has been highly supportive to the ladies and this has shown in the number of good youngsters that Vase now boast. They only just missed promotion last year, and so a major goal will be to win their league next year.

Hitchin

A once thriving club, Hitchin has suffered from a baby boom this year and now needs new members! With a number of experienced players able to give coaching and advice, and a well established base at Hitchin CC they will aim to rebuild next season.

Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest performed creditably in the regional league, finishing runner up in their pool. The side found it more difficult when playing friendlies however - a large number of new teams have sprung up in the Essex area but as yet are not large enough to guarantee fielding a full side. Waltham Forest hope that they will be able to continue to encourage their beginners with more games next season.

LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The first year of the re-formed Lancashire Association has gone well with progress both on and off the field. New teams started up at Newton Le Willows near St Helens and Bootle on Merseyside and a successful schools eight a side tournament was held at Arnold School in Blackpool. The Lanes & Cheshire Senior and Under 21 teams continued as before but we set up an Under 17 team which played several friendly games and also in the WCA 8 a side. Three players - Nicola Bell, Arran Thompson and Suzanne White, were selected for the England Under 17 winter squad and we are very proud of their achievements.

The Lancashire League and Cup were won by Littleborough with Edenfield runners up in both competitions and fewer games were cancelled due to lack of players this year. Clubs still seem to find it difficult to persuade more adult players to help with running team affairs and this can cause real problems if one or two key players leave. This, and pitch availability remain the main obstacles to establishing successful teams and providing players with the opportunity to play longer games.

We have had considerable media exposure for our events and activities throughout the season from a new publication - the League Cricket Review whose editor, Andy Searle has been very keen to include women's cricket as an integral part of the magazine. We have therefore had at least one page in every issue and this has led to a wider audience for our activities. As the magazine is due to run again next year we will be able to offer potential sponsors publicity through our page and this has already led to offers of support.

Positive links with the Lancashire Cricket Board and the County Club are developing and we are grateful for their help during the year. We received considerable financial support for our squads training programme and have been awarded increased funds for development over the next 12 months. There are now three Cricket Development Officers for the county and each has specific tasks for developing female cricket in the forthcoming year. Between their activities and our own efforts we should see a dramatic increase in opportunities for girls and women to take up the game.

We were invited by the Lancashire Cricket Board to comment on the MacLaurin blueprint for cricket - Raising the Standard, but it was difficult to do so as we were unsure what sort of knock-on effects a merger at national level would have. If our governing body disappears does that mean the county associations will also go? More information on the future for women's cricket at national level and how that affects us is desperately needed and very quickly if the proposed merger is to take place next spring.

Maria Grant
Chair of Lancashire WCA

MIDDLESEX W.C.A. - REPORT - 1997

Clubs enjoyed a variety of ups and downs this past season. Dukesmead replaced Gunnersbury in the Premier League South, so Gunnersbury will have a season of consolidation in the South Division, while Riverside remain in South Division Two. Gunnersbury reached the semi-final of the National Plate Competition and just failed to progress to the final. All teams are hoping that the toss of a coin will not be necessary next year in order to decide who goes through to the next round of the NCKO. On one of the sunnier days in July, Dukesmead celebrated their 70th birthday, with their annual 6-a-side tournament followed by a nostalgic 70s orientated bop in the evening.

Poor weather meant that the majority of non-competition matches scheduled for June were not played. This, together with a slightly imbalanced Domestic Programme, due to the visit of South Africa, meant that some club players had only two or three matches in the whole season. This is clearly not acceptable and we need to be aware of the need to give all players, of all levels, the opportunity to play as many games as possible.

At County level, again because of the weather and restrictions of the Domestic Programme, few games were played outside the Area Championship. Next year's Domestic Programme also seems to restrict opportunities for "friendly" fixtures - is this the way we intend to go? At Cambridge, Middlesex just managed to stay in Division II; a lack of all-round consistency meant that only one game in five was won. Middlesex is determined to continue to run a 2nd XI as this must be the source of new players; several have come through to the senior XI and performed successfully.

One source of encouragement for the future is the revival of Junior cricket in Middlesex at all levels. There was a full fixture list for U-13s, U-15s and U-17s. As a result of performances at the U-17 National Tournament and Territorial matches, Beth Morgan was selected for the England U-17 and U-21 winter training squads, while Naomi Polytello was selected as a reserve for the latter. The Junior Sub-Committee has worked very hard over the past two years and their efforts must continue to be supported.

Finally, the County is losing two long-standing Committee Members. Ros Heggs is standing down as Hon. Treasurer, while Gwen Morgan is calling it a day as Chairman. Somehow, Committee Meetings will not be the same without Gwen's interventions. A hard act to follow.

Surrey Secretary's Report - 1996

The SWCA committee met five times during the 1996/7 season. One of its first goals was to try and improve the administration and management of the County's squads. A playing committee was established consisting of the two captains and vice captain, the selector and our Chairman, Sara Dann. This committee has met on a number of occasions and has begun to have an influence on, and take control of, the management of training, trials and other senior squad related issues.

Another important issue for the committee this year has been establishing ways of working with the Surrey County Cricket Board. Once more, with our limited resources, we found it difficult to attend all the meetings of the various Board sub-committees, a situation that was not helped by the poor communication between ourselves and the Oval itself. As a consequence, we now have a lot of work to do rebuilding our relationship next year and the committee has already established this to be one of its key goals for the coming months.

Despite this, two major things have already happened to help women's and girls cricket within the county. Firstly, our junior teams have been officially recognised as part of the Surrey Youth Cricket programme and thanks to a lot of hard work by each squad manager and Stuart Goodden, the Surrey WCA youth teams are closer than ever to becoming part of a single youth programme - by next season we even hope that the girls will be part of the Nescafe sponsorship scheme.

The second, and probably the most significant advance has been the creation of the post of Cricket Development Officer for Women's and Girls cricket in Surrey which has at last become a reality. Although part of their brief will be to work on cricket development in the Guildford area for both men and women, hopefully the majority of their time will be spent working with us. Interviews took place in November and we hope that the job will begin in earnest during December. Two of the main objectives for this new post will be to help existing clubs develop further and to create new clubs in areas which are currently without, such as the Redhill/Caterham area and the Dorking/Reigate area. In addition we hope they will be able to create stronger club/school links, run a schools competition and increase the number of girls currently playing in club colts sections.

Still on a positive note I am delighted to tell you that three more clubs have now affiliated to the Association - Honor Oak, Englefield Green and Hampton Wick. All three have done so in order to play competitive cricket and although we have not had a representative attend committee meetings yet, we are hopeful that next season we will be able to welcome them on board. In addition, Normandy Cricket Club have decided to start a women's section and will be working closely with the new CDO early next year.

Once more we owe a big vote of thanks to the parents of many of our Junior players who continue to work behind the scenes to keep our U15 and U21 teams together under the direction of Stuart Goodden. Last season was particularly successful for our U15 team who won the inaugural WCA Area Championships by beating Middlesex in the final. In addition, two of our girls were selected to play for the South U17 squad and one of these for the England U17 squad.

The SWCA representative teams had a less successful season as I am sure the following reports will tell. The Senior 1st XI again finished third in the WCA Area Championships at Cambridge and the Senior 2nd XI found themselves in the third division of the Championships having lost to Yorkshire in what is hopefully their last play off.

SUSSEX REPORT

Another busy season, all squads have had numerous fixtures against good opposition and overall the number of girls is increasing across the County. Sussex fielded U11, U13, U15 East, U15 West, U17, U21 A and B plus a Senior team.

There is a great deal of stalwart help at all levels, with the Managers and Coaches providing advice and support. There have been promising results and successes and many players are to be congratulated.

The U15's were runners up in their section in their regional tournament and aim to go one better next season.

The U17's continue to show improvement with players gaining in confidence and showing some good performances. Caroline Atkins, Tamsin Kelsin and Camilla Cullen have been selected for England U17's.

The U21's had an outstanding win becoming the Champions in the National Championship Final by beating their 'rivals' Yorkshire. The team fielded particularly well and Claire Connor batted superbly.

Congratulations to Claire Connor who has been selected for the England Squad and she will be leaving for the World Cup in December.

Yet another year has passed and we must continue to keep abreast of all the changes and make sure we know the workings of the WCA therefore being beneficial for Sussex's coaching and finances.

WENDY LARDNER
Sussex Secretary

Thames Valley W C A
Annual Report 1997

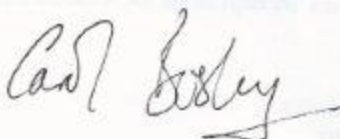
The A G M in November 1996 saw several changes the most significant being the appointment of Roz Tritton as President and Julia Measures as Chairman .
During the Winter Judith Walmsley in Berkshire again ran Indoor tournaments for the Schools at both U19 and U15 level .Unfortunately the equivalent tournaments did not happen in Bucks or Oxon .

Steve Roberts from Wood Green School organized the very successful National Tournaments at Lords but will be taking on less in the coming season as he is about to become a proud father .Our congratulations and thanks for all of Steves' work with the juniors in the past few years .

Congratulations also go to the Senior Team on winning the second division at the Area Championships and the U15 squad who only just missed getting to the final .Our thanks should go to Bob Lester for all his efforts with the younger girls in the past few seasons .

In the individual counties changes are afoot , Bucks will enter the U15 Area Championship for the coming season with the possibility that Berks and Oxon will be ready to follow in the 1999 playing season .

We hope to see three separate Counties at all levels of the Womens' game in around five years time and feel that the existence and structure of the English Cricket Board will help develop more womens cricket .



Hon Sec.

28. 10. 97

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WEST MIDLANDS WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

REPORT TO 1998 AGM

The 1997 season, although interrupted by the tour to England by South Africa, commenced with Trials in May.

Several new players were chosen to represent the side and to complement the present team.

The Senior County side were due to play two matches: the first against East Anglia, which we unfortunately lost; the second against Yorkshire, which was rained off. The Junior County side continues to grow and develop.

We are happy to report, as most of you will know, that the West Midlands came 2nd in the County Championships at Cambridge. Highlights to emerge were that Helen Pugh was awarded West Midlands player of the Tournament and also WCA bowler of the Tournament; Kelly Evenson and Gill Richards (the latter only 16) were selected to play for the U23 England side against South Africa; and Barbara Daniels was again been selected for the England Squad - both against South Africa and for the Tour to India to defend the World Cup.

Unfortunately, no new teams affiliated to the West Midlands during 1997.

Finances remain in a fairly good state.

One sad event, which touched not only the West Midlands, but the whole of women's cricket, was the loss of our President, June Bragger. It was with very deep regret that we received this news. She will be greatly missed in women's cricket, not only for her sterling efforts during her playing days, but also for remaining the guiding hand of the West Midlands; but, equally, will be remembered for both.

Our AGM has been postponed from November, 1997 to January, 1998, due to the World Cup in India. It is proposed to move Officers around to take up different posts, in order to give them a wider experience of administration and to bring in new and younger blood with a view to bringing them into line with succession plans.

We are already working in conjunction with the ECB as regards the proposed integration of women's cricket in the Area with the men's game.

YORKSHIRE WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION

4th December 97

Chair

Miss Barbara Hare
Homecrest, Carthorpe
Bedale, North Yorks
DL8 2LF
01845 567385

Administration Secretary

Miss Sarah Gill
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0113 230 0033
Email: sarah.gill@btinternet.com

Fixture Secretary

Miss Janet Tedstone
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Wibsey, Bradford, BD6 1RY
01274 676463

Junior Organiser

Miss Jayne Helliwell
139 Oldfield Road, Wortley
Leeds, LS12 4EX
0113 263 0008

Yorkshire have had yet another successful season. They were yet again outright winners in the County Championships, and six of those players will hopefully make England proud by contributing to their bid to retain the World Cup. Sue Metcalf the Yorkshire Captain was nominated as Vice Captain of England and the following players are in the England Squad: Clare Taylor, Melissa Reynard, Bev Nicholson, Helen Plimmer and Kathryn Leng.

The U21's were runners up this season in their version of the County Champs. A number of new players were in the U21 squad as it is a highly competitive squad to get into. The winter training discovered a number of new talented cricketers who I'm sure you will see most probably in the County Sides next season.

Yorkshire remains a dominant force in women's cricket and a lot of this force is due to the commitment of the players and the committee itself in making sure that Yorkshire receive the best training possible. Over a hundred juniors were expected at trials this season, unfortunately the weather put a stop to the trials. Never the less, the U21 squad that was selected was possible because of the opportunities to train at the Centres of Excellence and the ever increasing Development Centres. Every girl or woman who wishes to take part in cricket in Yorkshire is given every opportunity possible to carry out their wish.

Lots hope that next season brings more trophies home to Yorkshire. Maybe the U15's squad will make their mark in their first season. With the number of players waiting in the wings for county places, it certainly makes selection a more difficult task.

Well done to Yorkshire this season and we can only hope for bigger and better wins next season.

Sarah Gill
Admin Secretary