

## Women and Girls sub-committee meeting - minutes

National Sports Centre Tuesday 26th November 18:00

Present

Greig Wright (GW), Sally Green (SG), Janelle Clarke (JC), Bernie Haywood (BH), Kate Butler (KB), Kathryn Clough (KC), Jenny Barnett (JB), Fiona Roome (FR)

Apologies

Lucy Barnett

meeting commenced 18:30

GW commenced the meeting thanking all for agreeing to be part of the new initiative to drive women and girls cricket forward and explained the current committee structure and how this group sat as a sub committee of the Junior cricket group. This was followed by a breakdown of the ICC scorecard and its funding and how W&G cricket is now an ICC priority and also responsible for 22% of the funding received by IOM cricket. It was reinforced W&G cricket has been something the IOMCA have tried in the past and were keen to grow however previous initiatives hadn't seen the success they would have liked, however with SG now in a position to drive and deliver on the programme 2019 had already seen tremendous growth.

SG gave feedback on 2019 activities which included all girls primary school comp, Manx youth games girls only sessions run in Douglas, Brownies, rainbows and guides sessions and a festival held at KWC, all girls cricket at the community games which was assisted by the cricket factory being brought to the IOM to support (FR commented on the impact of the event on secondary schools who attended and as a result it is expected all secondaries will be delivering girls cricket in 2020, SG added it is hoped the IOMCA will be invited to the heads of P.E. meeting on the 9th January to discuss an offer they have to put to schools) secondary school delivery at King Williams college, Ramsey Grammar and Castle Rushen, weekly regional training in the North at Ramsey and the South at KWC, Mums and Daughters indoor sessions over the winter and the hugely successful softball festivals held at clubs. FR and KB said how the festivals had led to all women training sessions being held at the club (Castletown) running alongside the juniors (logistically makes sense as parents are already there) KC, JB and JC agreed a great idea however no coaches available at their clubs (Cronkbourne and Finch Hill) to support and they were often involved in assisting in junior sessions themselves.

SG then went on to 2020 planned delivery which at present are continued primary school delivery and a repeat of the all girls Kwik festival, community games, secondary schools girls sessions (to be confirmed) a girls development side which has 19 girls in which will be training on Saturdays at the NSC. The format of the festivals were then discussed. It was agreed there should be some provision for both softball and also hardball play. The transformation from soft to hardball was seen as a concern for some so it was agreed to play some incrediball cricket with pads, helmets and wooden bat initially to assist with this. FR mentioned kit however most clubs have club kit so not seen as an issue. Timings were discussed and certain venues play hardball first then softball to follow, where venue size allowed see if it is possible to run both at the same time.

New initiatives were discussed KB mentioned linking to other sports Hockey being the obvious link GW mentioned these links had been mentioned at the heads of performance committee however there was a reluctance in sports to 'share' players for the fear of them losing them and sports seem to run all year round now. KB & FR agreed to talk to Castletown hockey club directly to see if it was possible to deliver some sessions to the hockey girls towards the end of their season to encourage players to play cricket. All others were encouraged to see if they could do similar across any all W&G sports sections they may have contact with.

Adapted and themed festivals were discussed as options to encourage new players like prosecco cricket (already run and successful in the UK) and Gin and Tonk-it (cricket scotland) these were met very positively and will be looked at further KC mentioned she knew a gin producer who could potentially be approached.

Indoor sessions to be run again at KWC these to include training sessions before matches, booking was discussed and if open turn up or pre-booking worked better. Pre-booking in 3 week blocks was agreed to ensure numbers weren't an issue with the size of the venue. Attracting people from outside the traditional cricket world was discussed JC mentioned the IOM children's centre rounders festivals were hugely popular. It was agreed to contact the children centre and see if they would consider a cricket or cricket rounders option where we could supply kit and hand out club and festival details. KC mentioned the commonwealth lawyers society as an option as they already have women cricket as a played format, FR suggested the chamber of commerce as an option to contact businesses. KB offered to put posters/flyers up in the hospital changing rooms.

This led onto how to best target new players in new environments, social media (facebook, twitter and instagram) seen as options GW mentioned the time it could take running all these mediums so facebook was seen as the best/most used option along with the website. Posters and Flyers to be produced with dates/contacts when possible.

Lots of positive promotion had already taken place with the podcast with Rhianna Evans from Manx radio women in sport being the most recent. FR & JC mentioned contacts in local media who may be able to get articles in the newspaper.

Coaching/officials met with a positive with lots of interest in attending courses the ICC entry level programmes (ELP) are being launched in January and will be available for people to attend and gain qualifications. KC mentioned a fear in some of not being able to coach as they had never played, this was not seen as an issue in facilitating sessions in clubs and coaching could over complicate or sour the experience for some. It was agreed to produce a series of session plans where players could try leading certain elements of the session which may be an option for those clubs without coach access or just a change which could be fun for the players.

GW brought the meeting to a close at 20:41 with the next meeting date being set as Tuesday January 21st 2020 18:30 at the NSC.