

4 – Consultation Letter Responses

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Doc39

Adrian Tucker - Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

From: Adrian Tucker - Environment [mailto:adrian.tucker@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk]

Sent: 04 May 2006 12:36

To: Gomila, Karl (APS - Committee Service)

Subject: CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Karl,

As a development officer with the FAW Trust, I feel a lot of development within the game is being achieved at grass roots level. The Trust management together with the local FDO's continue to drive the programmes, for Player Development, Coach education, Womens and Girls, Schools and disability with a budget greatly appreciated but far below that, which is needed to drive the individual programmes further.

As an employee with the Trust for over 8 years the most frustrating aspect is the relationship with the FAW. As a governing body the FAW should support and recognise the work of the FAW Trust far more than what they currently do. That being financially and within the Senior Committee.

To me a lot of politics and personalities are effecting the relationship and development of the game in Wales. I may be wrong but its the impressing I still have.

Hope this helps

Regards

Adrian Tucker

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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Doc40

Alison Rees - Carmarthenshire County Council

From: Allison Rees [mailto:AMRees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 May 2006 14:00
To: Annand, Julia (APS - Committee Service)
Subject: RE: Policy Review: Football in Wales

Hi Julia

Please find attached a response from Carmarthenshire County Council to the consultation letter on the review of football in Wales. Hope OK,

Regards

Allison Rees
Rheolwr yr Uned Datblygu Chwaraeon / Sports Development Unit Manager
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COMMENTS FROM CARMARTHENSHIRE

The future direction and priorities for the development of football in Wales

The FAW Trust is one of the most pro active and progressive NGB's in Wales. This is mainly through the implementation of a comprehensive club accreditation scheme, schools programme and coach education structure. The club accreditation scheme and McDonalds initiative will assist WAG in achieving the club membership and participation rates as set out in the Climbing Higher Strategy.

The effectiveness of the current structure

Every local authority has a football development officer to improve the local football infrastructure. The role of the football development officer has evolved over the years. Initially the officer was known as an Area Coach and the main focus was on the delivery aspect. This has change and the role now is more developmental orientated and involves the planning and coordination of activities and opportunities.

In addition, the FAW Trust has introduced a club accreditation scheme, which is an extremely valuable tool in developing the infrastructure of the sport through the

Principality. In order to accommodate the growing demand on the officers though, with respect to implementing the club accreditation scheme as well as the needs of local schools etc, there is a need to appoint part time coaches. This will ensure that the quality of delivery continues and to act as a mentor for those club coaches within the authority.

In addition, the FAW Trust may wish to consider appointing another tier of management between the existing local development officers and National Development Manager.

Funding and Resources

To support those clubs that sign up to the club accreditation scheme, the NGB should develop a national directive that if a football club returns to Community Chest grant for a second time, the club must be actively seeking a minimum of a bronze award. This will direct resources into clubs and communities that are proactively supporting the NGB.

FAW and FAW Trust Relationship

The relationship is getting stronger through the links with the FAW committee members and Trust board members. In addition, there is improved communication between the senior officers of the Trust and the FAW Council.

A positive move has been the formalisation of the Area Association meeting the football development officers on a regular basis and discussing local issues, such as coach education arrangements.

NATIONAL DISABILITY FORUM

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION OF
DISABILITY SPORT WALES LTD**

UK DISABILITY FOOTBALL STRUCTURE

08.06.06

FOR INFORMATION:

This paper provides information on:

- 1. The UK Disability Football Structure**
- 2. Exit Routes into International Disability Football Organisations**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the National Disability Forum meeting of the 26TH February 2006 a brief discussion took place regarding the ‘exit routes’ for talented disabled footballers into UK and International competitive structures.**
- 1.2 This paper provides information on those structures and identifies the key partners at UK and International level who have a significant role to play in the governance of disability football.**

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Disability football is not governed under the traditional models that non – disability football structures are i.e. Home Country Football Associations or International Bodies such as UEFA or FIFA.**
- 2.2 Instead disability football has been competitively developed through UK and International disability specific sports organisations - otherwise known as National Disability Sport Organisations (NDSOs) or International Sporting Organisations for the Disabled (ISODs).**
- 2.3 This probably reflects the lack of priority that the mainstream football Governing Bodies have given to disability football and the adapted formats that have been developed (in some cases) to enable disabled people to play the sport.**

3. UK STRUCTURES

- 3.1 Within the UK many of the community led programmes are pan-disability (a variety of impairment types playing/training collectively in one group) in their organisation. This enables the sessions to have a far greater chance of being sustained and are more viable – in terms of player numbers, facility hire, pitch usage, coaching delivery and, in some cases, grass-root competitions.
- 3.2 Once talented individuals are identified and coached to a higher level competitions tend to be organised by the impairment type e.g. visually impaired, learning disabled, amputees, and cerebral palsy.
- 3.3 The UK NDSOs who tend to promote and manage these competitions are:

British Blind Sport	Visually Impaired
(or Soccer Sight – although Soccer Sight is not an NDSO but is a RNIB funded programme)	Visually Impaired
CP Sport England and Wales	Cerebral Palsy
British Amputee and Les Autres Sports Associations	Amputees
UK Sports Associations for People with Learning Disability	Learning Disabled
UK Deaf Sport	Deaf / Hearing Impaired

4. INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES

- 4.1 At International level, the above British NDSOs tend to feed into their World Governing Bodies (based on impairment) – otherwise known as ISODs.

British Blind Sport	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
(or Soccer Sight – although Soccer Sight is not an NDSO but is a RNIB funded programme)	
CP Sport England and Wales	CP International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA)
British Amputee and Les Autres Sports Associations	IWAS – International Wheelchair Sports Association
UK Sports Associations for People with Learning Disability	INAS - FID
UK Deaf Sport	Committee International Sport Silence (CISS)

- 4.2 International competition is arranged and representative GB teams (based on impairment) attend tournaments.**

5. PARALYMPIC GAMES

- 5.1 The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) organise and delivery the Paralympic Games, every four years, approximately 2 weeks after the conclusion of the Olympic winter and summer Games at the same venue/s.**
- 5.2 At the summer Games Visually Impaired and Cerebral Palsy football competitions are organised. In the case of these two competitions IPC liaise closely with the ISODs. The relevant ISODs for visually impaired and cerebral palsy football competitions are IBSA and CP ISRA respectively.**

6. BEIJING 2008 AND LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES

- 6.1 The significance for the National Disability Forum to understand these UK and International structures has now heightened given that in April 2006 the British Paralympic Association announced that they would be taking both CP and visually impaired football teams as part of the Paralympics Team GB to both the Beijing and London Games.**
- 6.2 There is now a real opportunity for Home Country players to be selected to play on the world's biggest paralympic stage that there is.**
- 6.3 The Federation of Disability Sport Wales, as the Welsh Member of the British Paralympic Association supports this development. Furthermore, FDSW is committed to ensuring that robust and transparent UK structures emerge to enable an equitable playing field from which the most talented Home Country based players can be nurtured and ultimately selected.,**
- 6.4 The investment by the FAW Trust into grassroots disability football is significant. The success of the existing programmes allied to a potential further increase in both local session based opportunities and coaching resource should provide a platform from which, if not for Beijing, players should certainly be able to emerge for selection by London 2012.**

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 It is accepted that the UK and International structures for disability football (based on impairment type) can appear complex. Through**

partnership between FDSW and the FAW Trust, players need not worry about this complexity. Support should now be readily available to direct talented players from the grass roots through to higher levels of the performer pathway. Players should only concern themselves with preparation and training.

FOOTBALL IN WALES

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WALES CROSS PARTY CULTURAL COMMITTEE FROM THE FEDERATION OF DISABILITY SPORT WALES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISABILITY FOOTBALL IN WALES

INTRODUCTION

Football has proven to be one of the most popular sports played by disabled people, at a community level, throughout Wales.

Up until relatively recently a structured football programme had not been available to disabled people. It was, however, clear that disabled people, and particularly children and young people, were keen to play the sport, no doubt influenced by national role models, media coverage and their disabled and non-disabled peer groups. In this sense the desire to play the sport is probably based on the same type of rationale as a non-disabled person would have

The need for development of the sport had also been identified by the Federation of Disability Sport Wales (FDSW) network of local development officers. It became evident that some form of programme had to be introduced to satisfy demand.

BACKGROUND

In 2003/04, informal talks were held between the Football Association of Wales Trust (FAW Trust) and SCW. These talks centered on how a programme for disability football should be introduced and built.

It was agreed that the approach should take a traditional line – i.e. identifying the financial, human and practical resources that would be required to develop a national scheme.

At around the same time, the National Assembly of Wales (NAW), were undertaking a review of the football. This provided an opportunity to identify the need to introduce a disability football programme and agreed target outcomes (please see NAW/FAW Trust report).

FDSW was supportive of this process as it felt that if football was to develop then there would need to be a specific programme in place, with staff and resources to ensure it had a chance of becoming sustainable.

In 2004 FDSW was invited to nominate a representative to sit on the Board of Directors for the FAW Trust to ensure an inclusive approach was taken and that there was a 'voice' for disability sport. The FDSW Chairman, Gareth John was duly appointed.

NATIONAL DISABILITY FOOTBALL PROGRAMME

The FAW Trust demonstrated good practise in the recruitment and appointment of their first National Co-ordinator for the disability football programme by involving an FDSW Officer at every stage.

The process of partnership ensured that there would be a 'fit' between the FAW Trust's plans and the FDSW community scheme. It also ensured best use of staff and resources.

This process has continued with regular meetings between the relevant FAW Trust disability football staff and the FDSW National Development Manager and Officer network.

Following a period of maternity leave, the FAW Trust took a strategic decision to appoint a second Officer – thereby creating two part time posts to cover North and South Wales more effectively in terms of geography and scope of work.

External Funding

The FAW Trust has been particularly successful in attracting external funding, based on the profile of football at national and UK level. Funding received from organisations such as the Millennium Trust and McDonalds have enabled the FAW Trust to strategically develop the national scheme, ensuring that it is resource driven and is able to build a foundation and coaching programme that should sustain development for years to come.

Coaching

The FAW Trust took the important step of ensuring that a coaching module existed for disability football. The need for good coaching and coaching resource is well documented in sport.

Since the introduction of the scheme the number of coaching courses delivered in a typical year by the FAW Trust disability programme is

Sport	Sports Leader	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Football	8	6	1	1	1

This is to be commended and certainly does not reflect the position of the vast majority of governing bodies of sport in Wales who have yet to develop specific or integrated modules for coaching disability sport.

The end product of this coach education activity – i.e., the total numbers of coaches per disability sport – across these 12 local authority areas is stated to be as follows:

Sport	Sports Leader	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Unqualified	Other
Football	809	523	15	2	2	8	-

This figure far exceeds other sports and reflects the planned development of the sport, the recognition of the need for a strong, qualified volunteer coaching base and the desire to ensure sustainability.

It, therefore, follows that club development and membership figures (current figures to be sourced from FAW Trust) will be based upon sound planning.

CREATING AN EQUAL PLAYING FIELD

The consultation and production of the FAW Trust Disability Football strategy ‘Creating an Equal Playing Field’ is again to be commended. Whilst many sports are beginning the process of integration into their main stream programmes, there still needs to be a well thought out strategic approach if a level of integration is to be achieved.

The Trust has developed such a plan. The plan was developed in consultation with key stake holders and identifies clear pathways to success and performance indicators along the way (please see strategic document for PIs).

The recent appointment of a Disability Football Forum to support Trust Officers and drive the strategy is an important step in the development of an overall plan.

Again, it is pleasing that the Forum is also representative of other Bodies, such as FDSW, Local Authorities and schools demonstrating the Trusts commitment to partnership working and joined up thinking.

The Forum is currently mapping out how competition structures will emerge at a grass roots level – again working in partnership and recognising the role that the existing Regional Associations and structures can play in delivering this aim.

The FAW Trust also works in partnership with other bodies such as Soccer Sight (see attached email for information on programme) utilising other organisations expertise as and when necessary.

Overall, the participation programme at community level is to be commended and FDSW will continue to support the work of the FAW Trust.

It is acknowledged that the work of the FAW Trust only goes up to the age of 16 years (male / female).

Often in performance or ability terms a disabled person (although not in all cases) cannot always play at the same level as their peer group. This may be due to physical / sensory or learning disabilities.

Provision, therefore, needs to be made to ensure that these individuals who fall over the age of 16 yrs are not dis-engaged from the sport. There may needs to be some level of consideration between the FAW Trust and the FAW to ensure that there is agreement as to who is responsible for adult disabled players at community level. At this time, however, there seems to be more evidence to suggest that the Trust would be better placed to deliver this.

PERFORMANCE

The FAW Trust have recently been given the opportunity by the FAW to develop performance structures for disability. In fairness, given the relatively recent development of the sport it unlikely that Welsh National teams at any age group are ready to play to an international standard at the moment.

Notwithstanding this, it should be recognised that as the community base expands, there will inevitably be the identification of talented players who could develop and ultimately play at a representative level. Disabled people must be afforded an equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential in sport.

This position must be taken into consideration by all of those key stakeholders with a vested interest in performance and positive debate opened to ensure that the above happens.

The recent announcement by the British Paralympic Association that it intends (subject to standards) taking both Cerebral Palsy and Visually Impaired squads as part of Team Paralympics GB to both Beijing and London will heighten the need to discuss 'performer pathways' to ensure that Welsh players have the same level of opportunity to represent GB as any disabled player in the rest of the UK or indeed rest of Paralympic nations family .

It should also be recognised that international disability football is not governed in the same manner as non-disabled football (see report attached). This effectively means that, theoretically, irrespective of the position of Welsh

football (where it was recently announced that they would not support an Olympic GB Team). Welsh players could still qualify under their membership to GB impairment led governing bodies of sport like CP Sport England and Wales or British Blind Sport.

It should be noted that at international level, both CP and Blind football are played under different rules affecting team size, pitch size and other adaptations.

At present, with no clear performance opportunities for disabled players to follow at National level it then becomes even more important that they are able to pursue an international career through a GB structure

FDSW with a clear performance mandate from the Welsh Assembly Government and Sports Council for Wales would wish to negotiate positively with Welsh Football on this matter, and hopefully reach a consensus position. Ultimately, if no consensus position is agreed, FDSW would support any athlete in their progression to GB, if they are deemed to be talented enough, as it would with any other paralympic sport.

CONCLUSION

There is much for the FAW Trust and its partners to be proud of in-relation to it's disability football programme. There is no doubt that with the delivery of their strategy, 'Creating an Equal Playing Field', more will be achieved.

If the pathway from participation to performance can be established and agreed by all key stakeholders then Wales could emerge as a model of best practise for other Countries to emulate.

Jon Morgan
Executive Director
Federation of Disability Sport Wales

Doc42

Gwilym Boore – GOL

-----Original Message-----

From: Gol Centres [<mailto:golcentres@btconnect.com>]

Sent: 16 November 2005 12:26

To: Annand, Julia (APS - Committee Service)

Subject: Football in Wales

Annwyl Julia

Thanks for sending the link.

As I pointed out in our telephone conversation I would be grateful if you could draw the committee members' attention to our development which is due to open in Cardiff on December 7.

The centre is Wales' first purpose-built 5-a-side centre and comprises eight floodlit courts and a clubhouse with changing facilities. We have employed third generation artificial surfaces which, without getting overly technical, feature the performance characteristics of natural turf while remaining genuinely all weather. Crucially, these offer a greater degree of safety to players than other multi-purpose artificial surfaces. In short, the development offers recreational and elite footballers in the region, of both genders and all ages, the opportunity to play on the same type of artificial surface as used by top European clubs such as Real Madrid and Manchester United.

At a cost of £1.25 million we believe that the centre represents the greatest single financial investment in Welsh football. We are keen to explore the possibility for extending the concept across Wales and have some imaginative ideas for doing so thereby developing opportunities for players.

I also wanted to draw the committee's attention to our frustration with South Wales FA. We have asked to affiliate the 5-a-side leagues which will operate at the centre but our request has been refused. Our reasons for wanting to affiliate are that we want to offer referees and players protection and ensure that standards of discipline are met.

We believe that the SWFA's stance is inconsistent with the FAW's policy of accepting UEFA money for installing short-sided football pitches and including the rules for short-sided football in its handbook. Furthermore, while we accept that we in Wales should not follow England's example in everything, we believe the English FA has shown greater vision in embracing short-sided football in a response to changing social and demographic

behaviour as it attempts to maintain participation in football.

We would be pleased to show committee members around our facility collectively or individually and if you want any further information about the centre please feel free to contact me on 029 20617860.

Yn gywir

Gwilym Boore
Director Gôl Centres Ltd

Doc43

Karen Jones - Cardiff City Ladies FC



*Karen Jones
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Tel:- 07866 525177

Dear Sir/Madam,

Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee

Policy Review: Football in Wales

In response to your request for our views on football in Wales I would like to respond as follows:-

The relationship between the FAW and the FAW Trust has always been a stumbling block throughout the club structures in Wales.

We have a fairly good relationship with our Football Development Officer in Cardiff whose post is partly funded by the FAW Trust, he is on hand to help and advise on the junior and youth development side of our club.

But we have little or no support for our two womens sides as womens football is very poorly supported by the FAW in terms of recognition of the clubs with no formal league structure.

The womens international team has witnessed lack of interest from the governing body by withdrawing them from European competition in the past, and not providing adequate preparation and training get togethers.

For those matches played there is no support via local media/press and publicity for any of the womens international matches or cup competitions.

For the past three years we have played in the UEFA Championships as winners of the Welsh Cup, however for the first two years there was no funding at all from the FAW towards the costs. Last year after lobbying FAW Councillors we were granted 70% of our travel costs. However as an independent group this burden leaves us with a shortfall that its players have to find before competing with the best teams in Europe to represent our country.

As a well established club we have seen the growth of girls football develop considerably into one of the fastest growing sports in the country over the past couple of years with flourishing youth teams, but express our extreme concerns as to the lack of support and interest from our governing body for the future of girls and womens football in Wales.

Yours sincerely
Cardiff City Ladies F.C.

Karen Jones
Club Secretary

Doc44

Kath Hayler - Disability Sport Cymru

POLICY REVIEW

FOOTBALL IN WALES

KATH HAYLER
DISABILITY SPORT WALES / SWANSEA.

In Swansea , we currently have a multi-disabled Football team ,Swansea City Bravehearts. They have a membership of over 70 ,with age range from 6 to 30. There are numerous volunteers who cover the coaching ,first aid , fundraising etc. They were set up with lottery funding and assistance from myself. They have now been running for almost 6 years.

We also have a Visually impaired football team in partnership with Swansea City. They have been set up almost a year ,with lottery funding and are now being run by a parents committee.

These developments have taken place with no assistance from the FAW Trust ,apart from a recent £500 grant. There has been a Disability Football co-ordinator in place for over 3 years but I do not feel this has led to any practical development as yet. However , there does seem to be some progress ,as for several years ,we had no clubs to compete against.

I would like to see more development in this area ,so that people with disabilities can be given the opportunity to play football , particularly as some classifications are to be included in the Paralympic Games. This will give Welsh footballers the opportunity to achieve GB honours.

Whilst each local authority has a FAW trust development officer ,their portfolio is too large to cover Disability. There needs to be development for disability at regional level to ensure the continued development programme.

All sport is an important aspect of the Climbing Higher strategy and the WAG Health Agenda and people with disabilities suffer a disproportionate amount of ill-health.

With regards to the relationship between the FAW and FAW Trust, I have never seen any positive aspect to this , merely a continual conflict of interests between the two.

Doc45

Mike Davies - independent football coach

From: Mike Davies [mailto:mikedavies.pro.fi@gmail.com]

Sent: 16 May 2006 20:04

To: Annand, Julia (APS - Committee Service)

Subject: Football in Wales

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you in response to your letter regarding the Sports Committees review of Football in Wales. I am a self employed Football Coach from Welshpool (Powys) and for the last 3 years I have been delivering coaching sessions to schools, clubs and individuals in the local area.

I would like to express my concern with regards to the current state of football in Wales. Although our National squad is currently 74th in the FIFA rankings, I still believe there is room for improvement at all levels of the game.

To tackle the problems, I feel the only way forward is to concentrate initially on the grass routes level. Since I have been working in schools and running holiday soccer camps, we have been trying to implement a strategy that appeals to children of all ages and abilities.

The main aims of the strategy are to:

- Provide and increase the opportunity for local young players to participate in football within the area.
- Improve the standard of young players in the area.
- Provide opportunities for players to compete at the highest possible level.
- Increase the quality and numbers of trained adults working with young players in the area.

Through the coaching we deliver I estimate we come into contact with over 1,500 different children between the ages of 4-16years old. I have been fortunate to receive funding from TNS FC for delivering their Football in the Community programme, which will be in place for the next six months. Feedback received from schools and parents in the area has been overwhelming, the participation numbers along with the development of the children have improved immensely and continue to do so month after month.

What I am trying to say is by making football available for all children at all levels will go along way to enhance the development of the game. It will also aid the current problems that we face with improving the health of children Nationally.

As far as I know there aren't many opportunities for children to play fun football on soccer camps through out the country. If we start at the bottom and make these camps available to children during the holidays, I am very confident the results will soon be evident in both the health of the children and for the development of game.

To give you an idea on some of the coaching that i offer you can find my some details on www.saints-alive.co.uk/fitc If would like to anymore information on the type of sessions that I deliver, and the impact it has had on the local area I would be happy to take your call.

Yours in Sport,
Mike Davies
07977212275

Doc46

Pedr S. McMullen, Chairman of the Referees Association of Wales

To the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee

Policy Review – Football in Wales

28 May 2006

Dear Friends,

My name is Pedr S. McMullen, and I am Chairman of the Referees Association of Wales. I have distributed copies of your consultation to members of the Council of the Association. However, this letter contains only my own thoughts and opinions.

Firstly, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation. Secondly, I have to express my disappointment that we as a National Association of referees in Wales have not been invited to appear before your committee to present our evidence orally and also, that we did not receive an official invitation to write to you.

These are the facts – during the football season in Wales more than a thousand matches are played every weekend. Although no authority has conducted a proper audit for the whole of Wales, it is estimated that between 20% and 30% of these games are refereed by 'club referees' or 'pick-ups'. In other words, the people who interpret the rules and decide the results of a great many matches have not received any training to be referees. (As a primary school teacher, I am quite used to hearing children voicing their opinion on Mondays, saying, "We would have had a goal or a penalty had our referee been in charge, but it was their game, so it was their referee!")

Another fact is that fewer than 10% of Level 6 referees in Wales are under 30 years of age. We are talking about the future of our future!! This fact was noted in an article by Rodger Gifford, the (part time) National Referees' Officer of the FAW, in the programme for the 'Eve of the FA Cup Final Rally' held in Cardiff on Friday 12 May 2006. The evening was organised by the Cardiff Referees Association which is affiliated to our Association,. The title of the article is, 'At the Moment it's a Trickle, But We Need a Flood', which summarises neatly the problems facing the game in Wales. Another fact which has to be mentioned is that licensed referees are an essential and important part of the future of the game!

May I ask whether it is part of the role of the FAW Trust, as a development body, to develop referees or only to develop players? How many of the Trust officers are able to devote attention to football refereeing as a skill?

At the present time all aspects of football in Wales are the responsibility of the FAW including the recruitment of new referees and in-service training for the existing referees.

Another question I wish to ask is – in view of the terrible scarcity of referees in Wales is the FAW really fulfilling this role?

Despite being responsible for referees in Wales, the FAW does not register them, nor does the Association train all of them directly. That task has been passed on to the six Regional Football Associations, with their voluntary officers – to whom all praise is due. At present these Regional Associations each receive £1000 a year from FAW in order to attract new recruits and arrange courses for them, and also arrange training for existing referees in their areas. I wonder what £6000 a year is, as a percentage of the FAW's annual funding, for something that 'is essential and important for the future of the game'!!

Another question which deserved to be raised is –How many of these Regional Associations, with their voluntary officers, apply the procedures and criteria of the FAW when administering, recruiting and training referees in their areas? Does the FAW carry out any inspections?

As evidence of the alleged failure of the present arrangements, may I refer the Committee to one very important matter, if the future of the game is to be safeguarded by increasing the number of referees – namely, Public Liability Cover for all the referees of the game (something of which the Welsh Rugby Union has been made acutely aware!). **How many prospective referees are willing to face the risk of losing their homes and all they own, simply in order to put something back to the game?** The Regional Associations do not all provide the same cover for their referees against this very important risk. All the regional associations insure their referees for the games which are managed by the associations themselves, but it is only some associations which cover their referees for every game at every level in Wales. For example the South Wales Regional Football Association does not insure its referees for games controlled by the FAW, namely the Welsh League, the Premier League and FAW cup competitions. **The majority of referees don't even know this!!! Fair and Equal Treatment?** But the FAW and the regional associations are aware of the fact when appointing referees who face the risk of being involved in future legal action. I know that FAW and the regional associations are at last discussing this matter, but please let there

be no delay, because in the meantime there are referees acting without this essential insurance.

The Welsh Rugby Union encountered serious problems of this kind some two to three years ago in a court case that cost £1.7 million in compensation, on top of legal and administrative costs. The court case forced the Welsh Rugby Union to look hard at its responsibilities in every aspect of the game, and by means of a lottery grant and support from the public sector, the Union has taken positive steps to recruit new referees and train the existing ones, with the commendable aim of ensuring a licensed referee is in charge of every game under the Union's control. I heard recently that two rugby clubs had been disciplined for permitting a game to be played without a referee appointed by the Welsh Rugby Union. The Welsh Rugby Union has a rule which states that no game shall be played without a referee appointed and licensed by the WRU. Conversations with a number of rugby referees leave me in no doubt that their status within the game has been greatly enhanced. The Union is also keen to ensure that referees arrive at the matches suitably dressed, in a manner which reflects their status. Alas! The same cannot be said about all football referees.

May I ask the Committee how many of your members know that we have more than one National football team in Wales? Small teams of 4 referees, or sometimes 1 alone, have been representing Wales internationally throughout the season! The majority of the public are not aware of that fact. Nor do they know that we have three FIFA referees and six FIFA assistants. A little positive publicity about this in the media could help to realise Rodger Gifford's dream and repay his hard work by turning the 'trickle' turns into a flood!

My local referees' association here in Pembrokeshire, with the support of the local league and local press, has made sure that every occasion of importance to local referees, and all of our meetings, are well publicised. For the first time in ages, the local league announced that almost every local match played during the season had a licensed referee in charge! Not all publicity is bad!!

Pembrokeshire Referees' Association Survey

Setting

The Pembrokeshire Referees' Association undertook a survey of individuals who had completed a FAW referee's course in the past fifteen years. This was with the aim of understanding why a number of qualified referees were not currently active as referees.

All correspondents were issued with s.a.e. to reply to the nine questions. Individuals who were known to be deceased or for having moved from the area permanently were not contacted, with those included in the survey being contacted through the contact name and address given at the time they took the course. No further follow up has been undertaken for those individuals who have not replied.

Time

Initial questionnaires and s.a.e. were distributed on 29/7/05 to 84 individuals. Returned questionnaires, oral replies or 'not known at this address' were then received over the next three months.

26 questionnaire replies have been received

11 'not known at this address' were received, with no acknowledgement of the person it was intended for

5 oral responses were made

1 had returned to refereeing as of 1/8/05 but has subsequently finished due to work commitments (18/10/05)

Feedback

- Of all who had replied to the survey, either in a written or oral way, no-one expressed a desire to return to refereeing.
- 11 respondents had been members of Pembrokeshire RA
- 2 respondents had been allocated senior fixtures in the Pembrokeshire League and undertook these for longer than 1 month.
- No-one had been assaulted whilst refereeing.
- Abusive/aggressive language shown towards referees was a problem
- Lack of respect from players, club officials and spectators towards referees was a problem
- Lack of support/proactive involvement of local area(s) governing bodies led to disillusionment
- Lack of money for being a referee
- Reasons for undertaking the course but not refereeing regularly were -
 - Needed to do it for my Duke of Edinburgh award
 - Wanted to referee my child's junior game
 - I'm a club official and I wanted to cover our home fixtures when we were not allocated a referee
 - I've been involved in football for a long time and it was a way of staying involved

Conclusions

1. A number of individuals, having passed the referees course didn't take up the whistle. This has been a drain on instructor time and has training implications for costs which could be better used with active referees.

2. Most of the respondents were not members of the RA. This could be incorporated into registration fees.
3. Refereeing for mini/junior football only, when rules of the game have been adapted - does this need a full course?
4. Undertaking the course for the CV - what benefits do the individual or football gain
5. Abuse - what can be done about it; what is being done about it; where do we go from here?

Possible Recommendations

- All course participants must referee a minimum of twelve senior games before becoming qualified - (adapted to age group level for U18's). On completion and presentation of certificate/registration with County FA 50% of course fee should be returned. A further 50% repaid having completed a full season. Those who fail to follow this through should have payment withheld of course fee.
- All referees who register with their County FA must become members of their local RA through a joint registration fee.
- Abuse players, club officials, spectators need to be monitored by local area governing bodies through spot checks. Leaving it to the referee to report is too much.
- Mentoring of new officials needs to be followed up by local governing bodies (not assessors)
- Incentives to remain as a referee from local area governing bodies/FAW/RA need to be looked at.

Follow up

- All Welsh Premier Referees should be contacted with a view to highlighting the positive aspects of being a referee and problems they have encountered when climbing the ladder.
- All Premier League Referees should be contacted with a view to highlighting the positive aspects of being a referee and problems they have encountered when climbing the ladder. This could highlight the full time officials commitment to refereeing.

JD Twigg

Hon. Secretary

Pembrokeshire R.A.

1/11/05

From: pedrmcmullen@totalise.co.uk [mailto:pedrmcmullen@totalise.co.uk]
Sent: 04 July 2006 18:22
To: Cox@hosting-e.gsi.gov.uk; Cox, Neil (APS MRS)
Subject: RE: Peldroed yng Nghymru

Dear Neil,

Can I suggest you read the S. Wales Echo tomorrow, which will give you a further insight in to the 'gung ho' attitude towards refs in Wales, and why some of us get a little 'testy' on occasions.

Regards, Pedr

Doc47

Rhodri Edwards - NPFA Cymru

Dear Ms Annand

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the policy review of football in Wales. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) is a registered charity which aims to protect and improve the nation's recreational space ensuring everyone has access to high quality play areas, playing fields and recreational grounds near their homes. The NPFA would like to comment on the provision of adequate facilities for football.

The NPFA is not aware of any audit of football pitches, or for that matter any other sports pitch and playing fields, in Wales. The Sports Council for Wales will know the number of artificial pitches but not, more importantly, grass pitches. Having said this, the local authorities will have an idea of the number of pitches it maintains. It is important to know how many pitches are available and compare this against demand to ensure there are sufficient pitches.

In assessing the number of pitches that are required and where, the NPFA recommends a strategy in three phases:

- i) The NPFA minimum standard, the Six Acre Standard, should be adopted as a general measure of land required for a given population. The Standard includes 4 acres for sport including football per 1000 head of population.
- ii) Recognising that different circumstances exist in different towns, a detailed local assessment of football pitch requirements should be undertaken, using the supply and demand methodologies (e.g. 'Pitching it Right' document by the Sports Council for Wales).
- iii) On the basis of research for a particular area, local standards of football pitch supply per 1000 people should be identified for demographically cohesive areas. Each local authority would then be able to specify the number of football pitches needed per 1000 head of population within part or whole of its area.

Local authorities should adopt the above strategy to ensure there is sufficient provision of facilities before contemplating disposing of any recreational open space including football pitches. The NPFA is hoping these recommendations will be included in the final version of Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space. The NPFA has been a part of the Technical Advice Group revising the TAN and a draft document is due to be released for consultation soon.

In terms of the number of pitch losses, the Sports Council for Wales will have some information as they should be consulted on planning applications affecting full sized football pitches. However, they are not consulted on junior pitches or training areas and the NPFA is aware of authorities failing to consult the Sports Council when required. The NPFA is hoping the National

Assembly will make greater effort to record playing field losses, not just those with full sized sports pitches, as proposed in the Statement of Opinion tabled on 14 February 2006 titled 'Protecting Playing Fields in Wales'.

The views above are that of the NPFA and it is happy for these to be published. I would be grateful if you could send me a copy of the final document.

Kind regards

Rhodri Edwards
NPFA Cymru Development Officer
02920 636110

Doc48

Richard Griffiths

From: Richard [mailto:richevans23@hotmail.com]
Sent: 30 May 2006 17:22
To: Annand, Julia (APS - Committee Service)
Cc: Gomila, Karl (APS - Committee Service)
Subject: Review of Football in Wales

Submission to Welsh Assembly Government's Review of Football in Wales

There is one main problem for Welsh football. Uniquely in the world, 6 of our clubs play in another country's league system. (Cardiff City, Swansea City, Wrexham, Newport County, Merthyr Tydfil and Colwyn Bay all operate at various levels from level 2 to level 8 north in the English pyramid). This is a crippling handicap which no footballing nation in the world could cope with, and no other but Wales would allow to happen without so much as a whimper of protest. It means that no club from our 3 biggest urban conurbations plays in our national league. Try to imagine, say, the English Premier League thriving without a single London, Birmingham or Manchester club in it. Gates would collapse, sponsorship would dry up, TV would not be interested. And England has a population of 50 million compared to our 3 million, plus a vast web of professional clubs as back-up. We need every club to be playing in our own pyramid system. It shouldn't need saying, but in a Wales without a pluralist press and media, it never is said. The selfish, short-term dreams and fantasies of 6 clubs, their officials, their fans and their pals in what passes for the Welsh media, are prioritised ahead of the requirements of the thousands of other football clubs in Wales playing in the Welsh pyramid. The damage this schism causes to Welsh football is there for all to see. In all of Europe the Welsh Premier has the lowest gates, worst grounds, least sponsorship, least TV and press coverage, least prize-money, oh and least support from their government. Yes, even impoverished Albania and Armenia do better. Any funding and attention going goes straight to the Anglophile clubs, leaving our flagship league a laughing-stock. We send out clubs to represent Wales in the biggest club football competitions on the planet - the European Cup and the UEFA Cup - barely equipped to pay for a man on the turnstile on a Saturday afternoon. In the circumstances, despite the mocking relish in the Western Mail and Echo, our brave clubs from towns and villages across Wales do rather well (we are currently ranked 46th of the 52 European leagues - that's an *overachievement*).

There is no rocket-science involved in how to build a successful footballing nation. Just take a look at how *every other nation on the planet* does it. To play football you need football players. To create football players you require football clubs. To build football clubs you set up leagues. To run a viable league you have all your clubs in it. How difficult is this to grasp? Now, the last time I looked, Cardiff was located in the geographical entity called Wales. Not England, Wales. No-one has ever satisfactorily explained to me why they ply their trade in another country. When I press Cardiff City fans for an explanation, it always boils down to "because we want to." The FAW, cowed and bureaucratic, is far too scared to take on screaming headlines in the Echo, and doesn't even have a policy on this most fundamental issue.

The fact is that our woeful decades of football failure will keep rolling on into the future unless this is dealt with. We haven't qualified for any International finals for nearly half a century. In that time soccer has gone global and we have been left at the starting gate in a timewarp. Playing in England has patently not worked, even on the terms the 6 clubs set up. They don't produce Welsh internationals in any numbers or quality to make a difference. In fact, of all the capital city clubs in Europe, Cardiff City has produced the fewest players for its international side in the modern era. It's not surprising: they must concentrate on wheeling and dealing league journeymen who can out-muscle Burnley rather than nurturing Welsh-qualified talent who can out-think Brazil. And all for what? The empty trophy-cabinets, the perpetual financial crises, bragging rights in Rochdale? John Toshack will go into the next European Championships with a pool of about 30 pro-footballers to choose from. That puts us on the same level as San Marino! This in a country which has a vast network of clubs from

Angle to Amlwch, Chepstow to Connah's Quay, a country which gets the largest pro-rata international attendances on Earth, a country which is 5% of the world's 4th biggest economy, a football-mad country which could have thrilling success if only we all pulled together. Look at the international achievements of similar sized nations like Denmark, Ireland, Greece. That is what is possible if we stopped clinging to mummy England's apron-strings. No country but Wales would put up with this standing insult to itself. Colwyn Bay, for instance, make the statement every time they play another meaningless Unibond League Div 1 match against the likes of Ossett Albion, that it is better to be 8th-rate in England than 1st-rate in Wales. How cruel, how racist, how *untrue*.

The status-quo has failed by any reckoning. Appeals to 'history' and 'tradition' are self-serving and futile. We only set up a national league in 1992, forced to by FIFA and UEFA's threat to our international status. Prior to that, there was nowhere for a bigish Welsh club to compete but in England. There is no excuse anymore. The Welsh Premier is an established institution now and it is not going away. No country would contemplate trying to do without its own league. Our precious international status in football (FIFA is the only global body which Wales has independent membership of) would go if the Welsh Premier was abandoned. This is the only future possible. The Welsh Assembly is legally obliged to deliver the best policies for *all* Wales, not a self-appointed few. Moreover, it is required to project Wales to the world, not just to England. Wales has virtually zero global profile, and if it wasn't for football we would scarcely exist in Poland or Paraguay. But clubs like Cardiff City are allowed to opt out of their responsibilities to the nation, jeopardise our independent football status, blur the already fuzzy Wales/England demarcation, and ludicrously reject the chance to represent their country in football's greatest tournaments - all for the sake of regular matches against Colchester and Coventry! It's preposterous, even more so when you consider that the English FA have told Cardiff that, even if they ever attain their 'Premier League' dream, they could not enter Europe that way since they are Welsh!

As a result, they are the only capital city club in Europe deliberately choosing to never play in Europe, so addicted are they to their English habit. How embarrassing for Wales is that? They not only hurt the Welsh pyramid clubs by denying them the revenues a Cardiff fixture would always generate, hindering the development of our clubs, they also stupidly hurt themselves. I'm a Cardiff City fan and there is nothing I would like more than the club playing in Europe as Welsh champions. But ludicrously, they opt out of a competition which is the *raison d'etre* of every club. They should be trying to win their own national championship, as should the other 5 clubs. There is no argument against this.

What the Welsh Assembly Government urgently needs to do is the following:

- Agree a policy declaration that all Welsh clubs should play in the Welsh pyramid
- Set up a timetable for the rapid, orderly move of the 6 clubs into the Welsh pyramid
- Seek compensation from the UK government and the English FA for the long years of lost revenue and for transition costs
- Put funding in place so that all Welsh clubs in the top 2 tiers of the pyramid have grounds which meet minimum UEFA standards
- Put funding in place for infrastructure, administration, academies etc until all are bought up to minimum UEFA standards
- Prepare for the outraged propaganda onslaught from TrinityMirror newspapers and BBC Wales that will inevitably follow such policies with careful, irrefutable arguments
- Prepare for any legal action from the 6 clubs which may follow (they will fight to the last ditch rather than embrace Wales) - previous legal action by Newport & Colwyn Bay only succeeded because all 6 clubs were not treated the same

It will be necessary to co-ordinate all this with the FAW, English FA, UEFA and FIFA, as well as the UK government, to ensure that any rogue club which attempts to wreck or delay the policy is kicked out of world football.

Yours sincerely, and in expectation of courage, intelligence and integrity from the WAG,
Richard Griffiths

Doc49

Sian Mai Jones

13/06/06

Dear Julia Annand

**CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE
POLICY REVIEW: FOOTBALL IN WALES**

I apologise for the delay in replying to your letter dated 4th April 2006. I understand that the deadline for comments was 31st of May but having spoken to one of your work colleagues I was assured that our response would be considered as part of your review.

Please find below comments from the Sports Development Unit, Isle of Anglesey County Council. Your questions have been highlighted in bold.

To review aspects of football in Wales in order to establish the future direction and priorities for the development of football in Wales

- The FAW Trust have already established a comprehensive programme which is highlighted in The Strategy for Football Development in Wales 2006 -2010 which the Council endorses.
- The staffing structure of the FAW Trust needs to be enhanced with establishing regional staffing structure a priority.
- More funding is required to develop facilities, club development and delivery of programmes.

To review aspects of football in Wales in order to establish the effectiveness of the current structure supporting football in Wales

- The structure between the FAW as a governing body and the FAW Trust seems to be fragmented and political issues override the development and progress of football. There needs to be better cooperation between the FAW Trust work with juniors up to age of 16 and the FAW's National Youth Team.
- The current structure for senior football in Wales is complex. There are too many tiers for the number of clubs competing and the promotion/relegation system needs to be modified.

- With regards to the Welsh Assembly's agenda, particularly Climbing Higher, targets of engaging more people to be physically active are being met through working closely with schools and clubs. This will continue to progress if the

FAW Trust are successful in securing future funding to enable them to deliver their targets which are outlined in the FAW Trust Strategy.

To review aspects of football in Wales in order to establish funding and resources for football

- Senior Football Clubs receive minimal funding to develop facilities. The FAW's financial assistance to the Welsh Premier League needs to be substantially increased if it is to become comparable with similar nations in Europe.
- There also needs to be far more investment in funding and resources to engage and retain children participating in football and particularly if the Welsh Assembly Government is to realise its objectives set in Climbing Higher.

Yours sincerely

Sian Mai Jones

Principal Sports Development Officer
01248 752030

Doc50

Stephen Cordle – DEMSA

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Cordle [<mailto:stephencordle@hotmail.com>]

Sent: 25 April 2006 14:04

To: Annand, Julia (APS - Committee Service)

Subject: RE:football in wales for the BME.

Hi,

My name is Stephen Cordle, I'm from an Organization called DEMSA.

Development of Ethnic Minorities Sports Association.

Added are a number of issues that have taken place over the last few years.

If you wish further info about DEMSA please contact me.

Steve,

I am glad to see that this leopard (you) have not changed its spots, still ducking, diving, misleading and deceiving people as to the real truth of a situation.

This time your BS will stick to you I'm afraid, so please be my guest and keep digging a bigger hole for your self with your half truths and deception.

I do hope this time around you will stick to your guns and there will be no back tracking, no U-turn's or as in the past pointing the finger at other parties to take the fall, as you are attempting to do once again.

I will clarify a number of issues so all parties concerned are clear about the type of persons that the BME communities have had to deal in the past and are still having to deal with at present.

The main problem facing the BME communities here in Wales is that in the past as well as in present, there are racist bigots being allowed to hold down keys positions in institutions, and they posses the plantation (over seers mentality) that has and will continue to keep the BME communities down under control and hinder their progress and development in the future.

By pass your convenient and selective memory loss, to a time when a project named 'people in the communities' was up and running, now we both know you know who and what DEMSA are.

1. In your information you state you have no knowledge of DEMSA I know by this you are already aware of this information and are attempting to cloud the situation, so let's cut to the chase. Sport Cardiff and the FAW interest's lay

with both parties own agenda's justifying what ever money has been received on behalf of the BME with regards to this specific project.

2. How can Sport Cardiff and the FAW have the BME communities' interest at heart when both parties have ignored the work, the aims and objectives that have been delivered by groups and organizations within the BME community?
3. It appears that the so called key stake holders both internal and external in this specific project are the very parties that are keen to promote this project.

The real stake holders at the centre (the BME communities) have had their aims and objective's swept aside by Sport Cardiff FAW and the Sports Council for Wales.

4. How can there be no hidden agendas here when the establishment of this Forum which you claim to be the key drive to ensure the agenda of the BME community's priority for progress and development, posses no knowledge of the work aims and objectives that have been carried out by groups and organisations within the BME community (or so they claim).
5. Please state and identify who it was that qualified your self, Sports Cardiff, the FAW and the Sports Council for Wales stake holders and champions for the BME communities, when in the past none of these organisations has shown any interest in our development, that is until X amount of millions have been allocated to the BME communities.
6. The work carried out over the last 6/7 years by groups and organisations within the BME community has been communicated and understood by these so called stake holders, but they have chosen to conveniently ignore and sweep aside the good and hard that has been taking place with in the BME community.
7. I can assure that no more information will be communicated to Rob Franklin the so called Football Inclusion Officer for Ethnic minorities or Anthony Hughes, as information has been communicated to both in the past and as a result a number of issues have come to light;
 - They posse no knowledge of the BME communities and how we function, so how can they possibly have our best interests at heart, so there for how are they qualified to represent us in the BME community?
 - Information in the past has been communicated over to both of them and they have chosen to take a number of options;
 - a) To ignore this vital and important information.

- b) They have decided that the vital and important work done in the past and present by groups, organisations from the BME communities is nothing and not worthy of acknowledgement.
- c) They are not capable of passing on vital and important information back up the chain of command.

Now this situation shows with out question your poor judgement, in who you have chosen to represent the BME community, from your lack of awareness in this situation it is clear that you and those chosen cannot be key stake holders when dealing with vital and important BME interests.

- 8. My comments about the employees are as stated above, plus the underhanded manner in which they have gone about getting this specific project you all have decided to get sanctioned by the FAW with out first bringing it to the table of this so called forum you have set up.
- 9. Introducing new innovative schemes, getting them sanctioned ahead of projects that groups and organisation from the BME community have been working hard to achieve over the past 6/7 years, is only taking us in the BME a step backwards in the opposite direction to our own aims and objectives.
- 10. This clearly demonstrates that you have not fully embraced the hard work that has been done with in the BME community as you state you have, but it also highlights that you do indeed posse the plantation (over seers mentality) and you cannot and must not be allowed to be a key stake holder or have any influence what so ever when it comes to BME interests.
- 11. There is evidence of how seriously your self and other high ranking officials take racism, institutional racism and other cultures into account.

Please cast your selective memory back to Dec 2004 during a time when a war was taking place in the Far East and I will add is still ongoing at this present moment in time.

Yourself plus high ranking representatives from the Council, the FAW, UEFA, were at the photo call and viewing of the Scansis Five-a-side facility here in Butetown.

This took place within 50 yards of a Muslim Mosque, 20 yards from dwelling house's of Muslim families, with also members of the local community and most important of all, the children from St Mary the Virgin Primary School, which had a number of Muslim children taking part in the program.

Comments, commands and terminology were being used which under the circumstance's, plus under the amendment of the Race Act were racially

culturally insensitive and to certain members of the BME community these comments would be deemed as inflammatory; e.g.

Oil slick.

Oil spill.

F.B.I. At this command the children were asked to point a finger as to imitate holding a gun.

This yet again demonstrate that those mentioned cannot be key stakeholders or be allowed to posse any influence what so ever when the interests of the BME communities are at stake, as these inflammatory comments and action smack of racial bigotry.

12. Please name those members in the forum that gave you this advice that has led you to this point, I will remind you that I sat on the last forum meeting dated 29/03/2004, and it was then and then only where we made aware of this specific project that had already been sanctioned by the partnership; e.g.

- Sport Cardiff.
- The FAW.
- The Sports Council Wales.
- Communities 1st.

At no point was this project tabled to the forum prier to the last meeting.

This yet again demonstrates that those mentioned do not have the interests of the BME community heart, but their own agendas and I will add your are duplicating what has already taking place with in the BME community.

13. There has been a forum taking place and at no time has there been any mention of Steve Khairah being the chair.

Is this a further demonstration of the plantation of the (over seers mentality), telling us what you what to happen?

With the evidence at hand plus the general feelings of mistrust and past history in dealing with those mentioned, I really cannot foresee a combining of the two forums in the near or distant future.

14. If indeed you would have taken consultation as seriously as you state then we would not find ourselves at this point.

As I have stated from the evidence above, you so called stakeholders must not be allowed to be at the helm when it comes to the interests of the BME community.

As for me being involved through out the process the facts show that the true situation is quite the opposite.

You cannot be trusted one little bit; there is no ways no matter how you try to sugar coat it over.

You have your own agendas and not the interest's of the BME community at heart.

Recognising, developing and sustaining these who have been doing the work in the BME community (and continue to do so), should be at the heart of this and any other initiatives at present or in the future? But as clearly shown above this is not the case.

Thank you,

Stephen Cordle.

DEMSA.

Doc51

WLB

WELSH LANGUAGE BOARD

31 May 2006

Julia Annand
Clerk
Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Julia,

CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

POLICY REVIEW: FOOTBALL IN WALES

I wish to thank the Committee for the invitation to submit evidence in connection with the above policy review. The Board has two brief comments to make in the context of the Review, both of which concern the ability of the present structure to enable everyone to participate and contribute to the agenda of the National Assembly for Wales.

Firstly, it has come to our attention that both members of the public and members of the Football Association of Wales encounter difficulties in attempting to communicate with the Association centrally in Welsh. Indeed, the Association has indicated publicly that it does not intend to correspond with individuals or individual clubs through the medium of Welsh.

In the opinion of the Board this is a very unsatisfactory situation, which prevents individuals from participating and communicating in their own language with a national representative body. As a national sports organisation that is influential in the cultural life of Wales, we believe that the Football Association has much to contribute to the Government's policy agenda as outlined in *Iaith Pawb*. Under the Language Act 1993 the Association is not required to communicate with its members or with the public through the medium of Welsh, but we believe it would be good practice for a national body like the Football Association to adopt such a policy. There would be substantial benefits gained from a policy which would enable the Association and its activities to become more firmly embedded in communities throughout Wales. A number of representative, voluntary and private sector bodies have adopted similar policies, and the Board would be happy to work with the Association to develop an appropriate policy.

Secondly, and on a more constructive note, it is worth referring to the work done by the Football Association of Wales Trust, as part of the Welsh Sports Association, to develop a training programme through the medium of Welsh. This project is funded jointly by the Sports Council and the Welsh Language Board. It is an important project which ensures that Welsh speakers, especially young Welsh speakers, can participate in sport, and the project also expands opportunities to use the language. The project is still in its first stage, which is a review of the present capacity to provide training through the medium of Welsh. That review will give a clear picture of the development needs, after which appropriate resources will need to be made available to develop the work further and ensure that Welsh speakers can participate and contribute in accordance with the policies outlined in *Iaith Pawb* and *Climbing Higher*.

We trust these comments will be of use for the Committee, and our great hope is that the Review will consider how the right structures can be established to ensure that Welsh speakers participate in and contribute to football in Wales. We look forward to receiving a copy of the Committee's final report.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

Prys Davies
Director, Strategic Operations

Doc52

Huw Pritchard

-----Original Message-----

From: Huw Pritchard [<mailto:huw.pritchard1@btinternet.com>]

Sent: 04 December 2005 15:39

To: Mel ap Ior Thomas; Ian Garland

Cc: Dafydd Hughes; Denise Idris Jones (Assembly Member)

Subject: The Assembly and Welsh football

As I have nothing better to do with my time (!) I have drafted a few notes suggesting where the Assembly's investigation into Welsh football might lead.

You can use them as you wish, but I hope that they might at least kick off a debate.

These are personal views of course. If any clubs wish to contribute to the debate, I have suggested here how that might happen

Best

Huw

It is by no means inappropriate that the Welsh Assembly Government is showing interest and concern in the organisation of the game in Wales. The Assembly is a major funder of sport in Wales, football is a major contributor to the national economy and social regeneration of our nation, and, on a personal level, many Assembly members have close ties with their local clubs. Nor can it be a matter of pride to the Assembly government that its national football League is low-profile, openly defied by some clubs, and lacking representation from key communities.

Nor is it unique for politicians to have an interest in sport. In the last few days, members of the UK Parliament's committee for Culture Media and Sport have been debating the broadcasting of cricket, and last week it was announced that the European Commission, UEFA, FIFA, the European Professional Football Leagues and Sports Ministers from the 5 major European domestic leagues will meet on December 8 to discuss how football can adopt better corporate and social governance across Europe.

Indeed, considering the amount of taxpayers' money that is poured into sport at various levels, it would be surprising and remiss if politicians did not take an interest

There are many differing opinions on the way forward for football in Wales, and of the relationship between the domestic game and the national team. I have my point of view, but this is not the place to express it.

The danger of the Assembly's examination of the game is that this will be too closely focussed on a small number of specific issues, and that the bigger picture will be lost.

For that reason, I am suggesting that the result of the Assembly's interest should be a thorough examination of the organisation of Welsh football, to be carried out by external experts to be appointed and managed by an external body. There are too many conflicting interest groups within the game in Wales to hope that such an investigation managed by the game itself would arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

This examination should assess a number of key issues affecting the game, evaluate options and make recommendations which would take the game forward over the next 10 - 15 years.

These issues would include -

Relationship between the national team and the domestic game, and the links between the two

The management and funding of the domestic game

The pyramid structure of the domestic game

The situation of those Welsh clubs playing in the English football system - access to Europe and participation in various competitions - this also to examine the various legal issues impacting on this

Nurturing, progressing and profiting from talented young players within the domestic game

Improving the business acumen of clubs and domestic leagues

The investigation would consult with relevant football governing bodies (in Wales, England and Europe) with the individual clubs and leagues, other relevant public bodies, and with the general public, using a variety of means such as public meetings, interviews and online forums.

The investigation would finally make a series of recommendations - this is where I come slightly unstuck as at least some of these are likely to be unpopular and likely to be resisted by those who will see them as threats to their authority or status. For that reason, again, I would recommend an independent body (whether the Assembly or Sports Council) to appoint individual(s) to arrive at necessary compromises, and then drive them through.



Secretary.

NEWI CEFN DRUIDS Football Club

Plaskynaston Lane, Cefn Mawr, Wrexham
www.cefn-druids.co.uk

NEWI

Welsh Language and Sport Committee



Julia Annand.
Clerk, Culture, Welsh Language & Sport.
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

26 Pont Adam Crescent.
Ruabon.
Wrexham
LL14 6ED.

24 April 2006

Dear Ms Annand

In reply to your letter dated 4th April 2006 concerning our views on Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee's review of football in Wales.

1. The future direction and priorities for the development of Football in Wales.

At the moment all football teams in Wales, apart from the full time professional teams are administered by volunteers, with little help from the centre. The improvement of coaches should continue, this is going well, but again with all these qualified coaches the infrastructure must improve to give more suitable venues so that their knowledge may be passed on to the younger generation.

At the Welsh premier level, we have over 240 youngsters being trained each week as well as providing coaches for football coaching in local schools and will meet about 2500 children in a year, this again should be funded properly.

If the Welsh premier league wishes to improve, the infrastructure must improve, usually demanded by UEFA and again this requires money.

2. The Effectiveness of the current structure supporting football in Wales.

Whether it enables delivery for all and contributes to the Welsh Assembly Government's agenda, I have no idea what is the Welsh Assembly's agenda, all I do know that for football, English, Scottish and N.Ireland Teams receive far more support and financial aid than the teams in Wales, I would like to ask about the funds given to Rugby by this body?

The relationships between the FAW as the governing body and the FAW Trust as the development arm.

This relationship is not transparent I have no idea what goes on and what the trust is supposed to provide.

Funding and Resources for Football.

In attempting to run an academy for over 240 the FAW gives this club just over £6000, but please note that money comes from UEFA, we do not get a penny for the coaching and training of young players, but is helped by Wrexham Council.

All teams in the Welsh premier league are required to attain a UEFA license, most of it is to improve the infrastructure of the grounds, and in the 6 years that we have been in this league, the only money we have received is just over £19000, towards the improvement of our floodlights which cost £32000, fortunately AVOW of Wrexham gave us a £10,000 grant towards this project

This club is situated about 2 miles from one of the most depressed area's in Wales namely Plas Madoc, and even with that we cannot attract further funding from anyone.

The better the facilities, encourages good coaches which in turn encourages more children to take part.

Your Sincerely,

J. H. Davies
John H Davies
SECRETARY

Chief Leisure, Libraries & Culture Officer/Prif Swyddog Hamdden, Llyfrgelloedd a Diwylliant
Alan Watkin

Tŷ Henblas, Queen's Square, Wrexham. LL13 8AZ Tel: 01978 297430 Fax: 01978 297448 Minicom 01978 311318

Tŷ Henblas, Sgwâr y Frenhines, Wrecsam. LL13 8AZ Ffôn: 01978 297430 Ffacs: 01978 297448 www.wrexham.gov.uk



Julia Annand
Clerk
Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

Ask for/Gofynner am

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

E-mail/E-bost

AW/CLP/L260406

5 May 2006

Mr Alan Watkin

01978 297431

alan.watkin@wrexham.gov.uk

Dear sirs

Football in Wales

Please find attached a number of key points which Wrexham County Borough Council would wish to make to the Committee's review of football. Underpinning these statements is the assumption that all governing bodies / the Trust etc must align their work with the aspirations of 'Climbing Higher'.

We have organised our response in line with the three key elements identified in the review brief.

Yours sincerely

Chief Leisure, Libraries & Culture Officer

Future direction and priorities for the development of football in Wales:

1. Professional level

The maintenance of the 3 professional clubs in the English league is essential to the profile of the sport and as an anchor point for the successful development of the sport; equally the national football team should regularly play at different venues in Wales as a key motivator (e.g. direct access by local children to such events is both inspiring and a useful tool for skills demonstration).

2. Junior level

Considerable progress has been made in recent years, in particular in the improvement in coaching levels etc, however we would advocate a greater emphasis on linking football experiences to wider educational agendas (e.g. numeracy, geography, reading, writing etc) – good examples of successful programmes exist quite often linked to professional football clubs in England which achieve attainment improvements particularly amongst children who often tend to struggle in more conventional educational programmes. We would strongly advocate that a national action plan is developed bringing together the football and educational worlds.

3. Women's football

There has been a significant growth in the number of girls and women participating in football with some 255 new girls teams and 15 new leagues being established and a 300% rise in the number of players being registered between 2001/2 and 2003/4, however this still only represents some 2500 players. Much remains therefore to be done and we would wish to see an increased proportion of football's resources being devoted to continue to expand this area of activity.

4. Amateur football

In respect of funding allocations we make our key point in section c; we also applaud the fact that between 250 and 300 clubs have registered for the Club Accreditation Scheme and the fact that the number of registered coaches has increased significantly in the last 2-3 years. Both of these elements are vital to the sports' development and should continue to be encouraged as a key element in improving standards. One area of growing concern is the physical condition of many football pitches across the country with the general picture being that most pitches receive only minimum maintenance – grass cutting etc. With the virtual disappearance of lottery funds, it is rare for any significant work to be undertaken (e.g. drainage, reseeding etc) and thus there is a decline in quality across Wales. The Committee may wish to seek information, for example from local authorities, as to what percentage of their pitches have benefited in the last say 3 years from any maintenance beyond the routine day-to-day.

Effectiveness of the current structure

Our sentiments are that in particular the FAW as the overall governing body of the sport in Wales should urgently consider modernising its structure and governance. In perhaps over simplistic terms, it would appear to be firmly in the mode of mid-twentieth century sporting bodies – slow to respond and open, all too easily, to the charge of 'being out-of-touch'. Certainly as a body it rarely seems to communicate with stakeholders such as local authorities etc.

It would appear in contrast that the Football Trust has established itself in line with the recommendation of the Sports Council's governing body modernisation programme and has also endeavoured to contact authorities etc. We are unable to comment on the relationship between the Trust and the FAW as we have no knowledge of this.

As noted above much remains to be done to open access to all in particular those who because of ability level or social / ethnic background etc currently experience difficulty in gaining enjoyment. We make specific points above and we are also aware and support in particular the Trusts' emphasis on establishing partnerships with Communities First, Health Promotion Groups and BME communities. However we would suggest that the structures of football should be reviewed so that participation, as well as ability, is identified as an important driver. Opportunities which allow people to enjoy playing, regardless of their capability, could be an important contributor to the exercise targets set in Climbing Higher.

Funding and Resources for football

Each and every level of football in Wales seems to be in constant struggle to identify sufficient resources to maintain, never mind enhance, their activities – this is particularly so at the lower levels where committed clubs and their members often have difficulty in being able to raise resources for key elements such as coach education. Currently most 'junior' clubs (i.e. lower status and age-group clubs) are reliant on one-off small grants from either the Community Chest scheme or if they are in such a fortunate position – Sports Match. The funding position of junior clubs is also adversely affected by the apparently up-grading of requirements by league authorities – whilst such a progression is understandable, it does risk creating a situation which provides a counter-incentive to improving standards.

ELY RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

**AFFILIATED TO THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES
MEMBERS OF THE WELSH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
R.A. FRY 4, FAIRMEAD COURT, FAIRWATER, CARDIFF TEL 02920 566762.**

APRIL 9TH 2006..

JULIA ANNAND.

Dear Julia,

In reply to your letter of the 4th April last, with regard to your committee Review, in our case Football.

We play in the Welsh Football League which is the second tier of football in WALES And in division one of the league, as a club who own its own ground which is a rare Thing in Welsh Football as most are council owned we have over the years improved The ground and its surroundings spending thousands of pounds with no grant aid, Money raised by the members and sponsors.

Our next stage was to install floodlights at the ground for this season, however the Local council failed to give us permission so we went to the WELSH OFFICE on Appeal this also failed.

We run at this time two senior sides, a youth team all in the Welsh League and some Sixteen junior sides in local football from the age of eight to sixteen over 200 players In total we need the lights to enable the club to move forward and gain promotion To the LEAGUE OF WALES.

We would also like to start a ladies team but without the lights we cannot as the Youth team play on a Sunday and Sunday would be the day for the ladies team With the youth moving to a midweek night under lights we feel that is so unfair That the club cannot make progress as the local VALE OF GLAM council and The WELSH OFFICE stand in our way and in due course will deny all these Young footballers from playing football for the club, which if it cannot progress Could fold up.

Would you be so kind and forward this letter onto the MINISTER FOR SPORT.

Yours sincerely

RA FRY





Holyhead Hotspur Football Club

The New Oval, Kingsland, Holyhead, Anglesey

Secretary: Mr Richard Parry, 27 Tan Y Bryn Road, Holyhead, Anglesey, LL65 1AR Phone: 01407 762904.

10th April, 2006

National Assembly of Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA
Attention Julia Annand

Dear Ms Annand,

With reference to your letter of the 4th April, 2006 I respond as an individual although I believe my views are shared by others.

One of the problems with Welsh football is that there are too many clubs chasing scarce resources, be those resources national or local.

You may know that the senior leagues in Wales are affiliated directly to the FAW and the remaining leagues to their local Football Associations.

For Welsh football to flourish the League of Wales (LoFw) league needs to be reduced to 14 Clubs. The Clubs should compete in the same league with 7 North/Mid and 7 South/Mid. Promotion to and relegation from the LoFw should be determined by the lowest position in each of the two elements, this would maintain the geographical balance between North and South. The 14 Clubs should be regionalized so that they can take full advantage of local sponsorship and funding, academy structure etc and receive a greater share than now of FAW funding. The LoFw is the shop window for Welsh football and needs to radically look at itself and how it is to improve the standard of senior football in Wales; and its perception outside of Wales. The leagues that feed directly to the LoFw and other feeder leagues below should also reduce the number of participating Clubs.

It is high time that more Clubs had several teams competing in different leagues. This would provide benefits of scale and better use of the scarce resources available at present to Welsh football. Clubs should be encouraged to amalgamate as increased participation can be accommodated more easily by larger Clubs who have a better chance of local sponsorship, support and coaching possibilities for youngsters. Larger Clubs (like Holyhead Hotspur F.C.) has two senior teams, nine junior boys teams ages 9 to 17, and we are in the course of establishing several girls teams.

It is hard work trying to fund all of ones objectives, and it may be that radical thinking is needed by FAW/WAG and financial support targeted to those who help themselves!

Yours sincerely,

Richard Parry

CLUB HONOURS

Anglesey League Champions 1994/5 & 1995/96
Dargie Cup Winners 1993/4 & 1995/6
Megan Cup Winners 1995/6
Elias Cup Winners 1995/6
N.W.C.F.A. Challenge Cup Finalists 2000/2001.

Gwynedd League Champions 1996/7
Fitlock Welsh League Champions 1997/8
Alves Cup Winners 1997/8
Anglesey Aluminium Invitation Cup Winners 1998/2002



**Cyfadran Datblygu
Development Directorate**

Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth Dysgu Gydol Oes/
Head of Lifelong Learning Service – Rhys Wyn Parri

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Mr G. Watson
☎ (01341) 424 411
✉ (01341) 423 723
✉ GeorgeWatson@gwynedd.gov.uk
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: GW/EWJ

24.05.06

Julie Annand
Clark
Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1HA

Dear Colleague

**RE: CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE POLICY
REVIEW FOOTBALL IN WALES**

Further to your correspondence of 4th April 2006. I would like to lend my support to the future funding of football in Wales.

Football nationally and locally has witnessed an increase in participation within the male and female sections of the sport.

Football contributes to the Welsh Assembly Agenda (Climbing Higher) through increasing participation and physical activity.

The sport also enables participation to take place between all social groups regardless of age, sex, educational ability and social class.

The sport has also made inroads into increasing participation with people with disabilities.

In addition to increasing participation and physical activity football has considered the delivery of the sport and leads the way in providing quality coach educational programme which take into account the following:-

- Coach education
- Coach accreditation
- Club welfare
- Club accreditation

Swyddfa'r Cyngor
Caernarfon
Gwynedd, LL55 1SH
01286 672255
www.gwynedd.gov.uk

- School accreditation

In order for football to continue to develop and extend its programme long term funding must be secured for the sport.

Yours faithfully



GEORGE WATSON
PRINCIPAL LEISURE OFFICER

Swyddfa'r Cyngor
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Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee Policy Review: Football in Wales

Brief response to review aspects of football in Wales from Denbighshire's Leisure Services.

1. The future direction and priorities of the development of football in Wales.

Referring to the recent document produced 'A strategy for football development in Wales 2006-2010' we believe that the FAW Trust has embraced and recognised the objectives of Climbing Higher, whilst also being innovative in its method of programme delivery.

The key priorities would include:

- ✓ To strengthen the partnership between the FAW and the FAW Trust
- ✓ Promoting active participation through Primary and Secondary schools
- ✓ Further developing the schools and club accreditation schemes creating quality outcomes and long term sustainability.
- ✓ Further develop junior club membership through closer liaison with area associations.
- ✓ Develop stronger partnerships with Communities First and local agencies involved with developing social inclusion; the local health board and the National Public Health Service in developing healthier lifestyles; the Urdd through developing and mainstreaming the Welsh Language.
- ✓ A marketing strategy to be established to further develop commercial opportunities and hence additional funding.

2. The effectiveness of the current structure.

- ✓ The current structure and hierarchy has made considerable progress in delivering the strategic objectives it established in 2002. There has been a tremendous increase in participation, the creation of competitive structures and training opportunities improved to many coaches and volunteers.
- ✓ Further development requires consolidating the above priorities, in particular to the FAW and FAW Trust becoming stronger partners. This will enable the governing body to contribute further to the Welsh Assembly Government's key aims and objectives.

3. Funding and Resources for Football

- ✓ Further sources of funding to be acquired through a commercial arm. The Trust to develop a marketing and fund raising department to probe avenues of commercial funding from multi-national companies.
- ✓ This additional funding would develop the club accreditation process
- ✓ Schools Outreach programme for school children (in particular with girls) using current and ex-Internationals to deliver sessions.

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**Councillor Graham Thomas
Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism**

Our Ref: 060508GT(L)JA

8th May 2006

Julia Annand
Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Julia

Re: Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee Policy Review: Football in Wales

1. The future direction & priorities of football in Wales.
1.1 Over the last few years this has become more focussed in the direction of club accreditation, the development of women and girls' football and football for people with disabilities. I believe that these should continue to be the focus as progress is now starting to be made in these areas. Additionally, ensuring suitable structures are in place to allow the smooth progression and transition of players to junior and senior international level.
2. The effectiveness of the current structure
2.1. *in the delivery for all and its contribution to WAG's agenda*
The structures that have been put in place to allow participation for all, are starting to show dividends, but need to continue to be given time, and support, to develop. Whilst there is recognition of need to increase participation numbers, a direct link needs to be made to WAG's agenda. The structure is very dependent on on-going support to the provision of officers at a Local Authority level to ensure targets are met, but with greater demands being put on officers from a football agenda, the WAG agenda, as well as local needs.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Committed to providing a better life for Rhondda Cynon Taf • Ymrôwn i roi bywyd gwell i drigolion Rhondda Cynon Taf

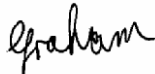
2.2. *the relationship between the FAW and the FAW Trust*

This has become very fragmented and has made the delivery of every aspect of football problematic. I would suggest there needs to be one body overseeing all football issues, but with a much clearer management and communication structure, involving clearer business planning and ensuring all parties are working to a common agenda. This would probably involve new financial structures being put in place to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of funds.

3. Funding & resources for football

3.1 Football is one of the highest participation sports and could greatly impact on WAG's agenda and the targets in "Climbing Higher". However, a lack of committed long term funding for any sport leads to a lack of continuity of delivery of programmes on the ground. A more joined up governing body structure for the sport may address some of these issues, but additional funding is also likely to be required. Additionally, a review of the funding of the infrastructure for football, i.e. suitable playing space and associated facilities (changing rooms etc.) should also be considered. The growth of the sport, especially the expansion of girls' teams is putting increasing pressure, in some areas, on already over used facilities. In many areas, changing facilities are not able to cope with the number of teams, or the need for both male and female facilities, as well as access for people with disabilities.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Graham Thomas
Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism

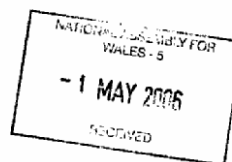
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City and County of Swansea



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Our Ref: ID/DJ/JT Date: 27 April 2006
Ein Cyf: Dyddiad:
Please ask for: David Jones Direct Line: 635475
Gofynnwch am: Llinell Uniongyrchol:
E-Mail: davidr.jones@swansea.gov.uk
E-Bost:

Julia Annand
Clerk
Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA



Dear Ms Annand

Thank you for your letter regarding the Football in Wales Policy Review by the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee.

The City and County of Swansea has had a FAW Trust Football Development Officer as part of the Sports Development Section since 1998. The Authority currently contributes 50% funding towards this role. Over this period officers within the Culture and Tourism Section have maintained strong partnerships with national officers within the FAW Trust.

The current perception of the FAW Trust within Swansea is extremely positive. The Trust has been keen to involve us as partners in consultation exercises concerning their recent plans and future direction in achieving mutual aims and widening their traditional remit.

I believe the FAW Trust is one of the most progressive bodies the City and County of Swansea deals with and schemes recently introduced by the Trust such as school and club accreditations, child welfare and proposals for future structure changes could be considered as examples of good practice for other NGB's to follow.

Cont...

REGENERATION DEPARTMENT /ADRAN ADFYWIO
CULTURE AND TOURISM /DIWYLLIANT A THWRISTIAETH

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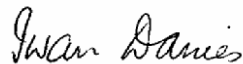
In terms of the Football in Wales contribution to Climbing Higher and other healthy living strategies, I feel they have generally embraced the concept and looked to implement operational actions based on the new agendas. As with all sports specific NGB's, the FAW Trust must look at which aspects of the Climbing Higher strategy it can best contribute to. A single sport will obviously be limited in delivering various aspects of the strategy, but can have significant influence elsewhere. The FAW Trust has shown their willingness to challenge themselves, based on the community club, school curriculum and world stage aspects of the Climbing Higher Strategy through the implementation of the previously mentioned schemes.

The local development officers have an integral role in the delivery of these well planned initiatives, and without these officers in place the targets set by the Trust would not be met. It is essential that funding continues to be provided for these roles. The City and County of Swansea will continue to commit partnerships funding as the outcomes from this officers role are valued and contribute strongly to local community sport strategies.

With regard to the relationship between the FAW Trust and the FAW, I feel I am not in a position to comment as all our contact is with the officers of the FAW Trust.

If you require any further information please contact David Jones (Sports Development Manager) on 01792 635475.

Yours sincerely



Iwan Davies
Head of Culture and Tourism

Doc61
Llanwern AFC



LLANWERN A.F.C.

Members of the Welsh Football League since 1972
Affiliated to the Football Association of Wales

Chairman David Jones	President: J.Vazquez, Commercial Director, Corus Strip Products UK	Secretary Alan Watkins 21, Traston Close, Newport, S.Wales. NP19 4TG Tel : 01633 671748
Vice Chairman Alan Chorley.		

Ground : Newport Stadium, Spytty Park, Langland Way, Newport, S. Wales

Julia Annand,
Clerk,
Welsh Language and Sport Committee,
National Assembly for Wales

11th May,2006

Policy review: Football in Wales

Dear Miss Annand,

Our comments have been invited as a contribution to the review and we happy to do that.

The Welsh Assembly wishes to see how effective the current structure of football in Wales is and then to establish the future direction and priorities for its development.

This looks very much to us as an investigation to see how "politically correct" the FAW and Welsh football are and that it comes from a desire for the Assembly to interfere and impose p.c. standards on the game and its structures. If this is true, then the best thing that the Assembly could do would be to quickly end this unhelpful review and leave the FAW and Welsh football get on with its own affairs.

If the Assembly really wishes to help football in Wales, it should note that it is by far the biggest sport in Wales in terms of the numbers who play it and watch, then ask itself why it is so badly supported by yourselves, the Sports Council for Wales and by local councils.

Why is the biggest sport in Wales only represented on the Sports Council for Wales' governing body by a retired referee and by a former lady footballer? Why not a couple of experienced persons who are or have been recently involved in football clubs and football league administration, who really know the problems of the clubs and what their needs are?

Why the disgracefully poor level of funding for ground improvements for football clubs in Wales compared (say) to England? As an example, why hasn't a similar system to England's "Sports Ground Improvement Fund" been set up in Wales? Why is there no funding set aside for the provision of floodlighting for clubs in the Welsh pyramid system?

Why the very low priority given to sport (and football in particular) by local councils, who preside over poor pitches and facilities and always plead "lack of funding" when asked to improve them? Why can our local

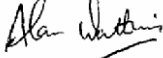
council employ 28 people in its' Sport Development Department (document enclosed), not one of whom is related to any soccer activities?

We cannot comment on whether the FAW and Welsh football contribute to the Assembly's agenda, as we don't know what their agenda is (who does?), nor on the relationship (if any) between the FAW and the FAW Trust, because we know nothing about it. Nobody tells us anything about the various bodies and what they can do for football clubs. Are the Football Trust and Football in the Community the same body? Its website (www.fawtrust.com) gives no information, only adverts. about car hire, etc.

I have been Secretary of this club for the past 25 years and had many years previous experience as a player and Secretary of clubs in local and Gwent County Leagues. I was a member of local league committees for a number of years before joining Llanwern and I have been a member of the Welsh Leagues' Management Committee for the past 18 years. I have visited all the 54 grounds of the Welsh League over the past three years and I know the state of their grounds and facilities and the frustration they feel in not being given any help to improve them from their local councils, Sportlot, etc.

Can we repeat in closing that it is not a pc enquiry, it is a "pounds and pence" and "lack of support" enquiry " that is needed and how the Assembly can help those who run football in the towns and villages of Wales to get decent facilities for their players and spectators.

Yours faithfully,



Alan Watkins,
Secretary,
Llanwern AFC.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT - OFFICERS WORK CONTACTS

May 06

DEPARTMENT	OFFICERS NAME	JOB TITLE	WORK TELEPHONE	WORK MOBILE
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT	Kerry Griffiths	Sports Development Manager	671801	07973 385763
	Martin Lippiatt	Sports Development Administrator	671801	
DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS /	Sieve Mc Grath	Disability Sports Development Officer	671805	07866 544273
	Richard Jones	Tennis Development Officer	671803	07976 054807
	Chris Garrett	Rugby Development Officer	671812	07773 312662
	Kelly Gaffney	Swimming Development Officer	670516	07855 466892
	Ian Jenkins	Cycling Development Officer	670542	07968 801628
CO-ORDINATORS	Matthew Green	Dragon Sport Co-ordinator	671819	07866 544311
	Lisa Taylor	Health Related Fitness Co-ordinator	671802	07866 544227
	Ana Edwards	PE & School Sport Co-ordinator	671801	07811 179745
	Suzanne Burrows	Older Persons Development Officer	414747	07974 915819
	Phil Evans	NOF PE and School Sport Portfolio Co-ordinator	656607	07855 779602
POSITIVE FUTURES SPORTS DEVELOPMENT	Paul Roberts	Positive Futures Sports Development Project Co-ordinator	671806	07811 179739
	Ian McElhool	Assistant Positive Futures Sports Development Officer	671802	
COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT	Ian McElhool	Positive Futures / NOF & AWP Coach	671806	07976 055664
	Caroline Studley	Positive Futures / NOF & AWP Coach	671811	07866 544271
	Lucy Powell	Community Sports Development Officer	671811	
	James Rowberry	Duffryn Community Sports Development Officer	816916	07866 544272
	Clare Dando	Somerton Community Sports & Activity Worker	281669	07814 496058
	Norman Parselle	Gaer Community Sports & Activity Worker	663442	07967 684223
	Peter Orford	Pill Community Sports & Activity Worker	671823	07976 055151
	Gareth Evans	Always Community Sports & Activity Worker	281819	07950 848175
	Ian McElhool	Maesglas Community Sports & Activity Worker	817615	07967 379713
	Michael Pugsley	Mountain & Breidden Community Sports Development Officer	274586	07976 056664
COMMUNITIES FIRST	Michael Pugsley	Mountain & Breidden Community Sports Development Officer	242974	07867 684221
	Daniel Clements	Mariner Community Sports Development Officer	416075	07967 684237
	Earl Palmer	Underwood Community Sports Development Officer	214516	07967 684236
	Morean Lovell	St Julians Community Sports Development Co-ordinator	658268	07967 684217
		Shafesbury Community Sports Development Officer		
CYMORTH				

Doc62

Hartridge High School, Hartridge Football Academy

THE HARTRIDGE FOOTBALL ACADEMY

As a result of the efforts of the Local Authority, Newport AFC, the Governors and the Head of Hartridge High School, the Hartridge Football Academy was opened in September 1999, the first of its kind in Wales, with the full support of the FAW and FAW Trust.

The purpose of the Academy was to provide quality education for students in Years 12 and 13, at a level commensurate with their ability, whilst also providing enhanced football coaching on a regular basis during the school week. A two year course was provided with the aims of the student reaching his full potential in both academic and sporting achievement.

Emphasis was, and is, always placed upon educational achievement as a priority. The enticement of the football coaching and matches has, in most cases, proved to be a prime motivator towards pupils achieving academic success, often well beyond the expectations of the students themselves, their parents and the schools some of them previously attended.

Selection was open, but certain requirements were felt to be necessary:

- 1 To be able and willing to pursue a course of academic study offered by the school, appropriate and of future value to the student.
- 2 To have played to at least 'town representation' level in association football eg Newport Schools, Torfaen Schools, Gwent Schools FA.
- 3 To be prepared for an interview with academic and coaching staff prior to selection.

In order to accommodate the requirements of students applying to join the Academy in 1999, it was necessary to offer a wide range of 'A' and AS level subjects in addition to the BTEC Intermediate and Advanced Sports Science Course. These were already being offered by the school prior to 1999 and with the exception of football coaching staff, necessitated no additional staffing costs.

In 1999, the initial intake into the Academy numbered 17 students. The vast majority of these students were from Newport and Torfaen. From this intake, the Academy produced three WSFA under 18 internationals and won the Welsh Schools cup at both under 18 and under 19 level. Thirteen boys won Gwent County caps.

September 2000 saw a 'first year' (Year 12) intake of a further 18 students, so increasing the Academy numbers to 35 students. The reputation of the Academy was now beginning to bear fruit and students were requesting to join the Academy from further afield, including one student from Pwhelli (released as a result of Chester City's financial difficulties), who was prepared to move to Newport and pay for his own accommodation. (He was eventually awarded a contract with Newport County and won a place at UWIC.) This intake produced three WSFA under 18 caps, one FAW under 17 cap, won the WSFA under 19 cup, (we had now opted out of the under 18 competition), and were finalists in the ESFA Premier League Inter County Championship, (losing 1 – 0 to Humberside at Derby County FC), providing 15 of the 16 man Gwent squad.

An intake of a further 13 students in September 2001, (now 31 in total), brought the Academy the highest achievement an individual school could obtain by winning the ESFA Individual School Championship, by defeating Bluecoat School, Liverpool, 3 – 2 on Liverpool's famous Anfield. Four of the Academy were awarded international caps at under 18 and the WSFA under 19 trophy was retained. By winning both the ESFA under 19 and WSFA under 19 individual trophy's in the same season, history was created. No school had ever won the English and Welsh schools "double". Twelve of the intake won Gwent Count Caps.

Season 2002/03 saw an intake of 14 students and in both footballing and academic terms, the best to date. This intake produced 4 under 18 international caps, were runners-up in the South West Counties Youth League, semi-finalists in the ESFA Individual Schools Cup, won the Herefordshire FA Youth Cup and thirteen boys were in the Gwent Squad which won the ESFA South West Championship and Cup double. Seven of this intake made first team debuts for Newport County, five of whom are still under contract with the club. John Phillips was also selected for the Rest of the World XI v England under 18 at Villa Park.

Whilst 2002/03 was considered the Academy's best intake to date, in all honesty, the level could not be maintained in 2003/04. Twelve boys were recruited, bringing the number in the Academy to 26. For the first time in its short history, the Welsh Schools U18 awarded no international caps, but the Academy squad as a whole were good enough to win the South West Counties Youth League, joint winners of the ESFA South West Counties Cup (2 – 2 after extra time with Somerset, who were UK Champions), and six Gwent Caps were awarded.

The Academy, in the guise of Newport County Youth, had been winners or runners-up in the South West Counties League for the past four seasons and it had become clear that a higher level of competition would benefit the players in their aspirations to play for the first team at Newport. To that end, the club was successful in applying to join the under 19 Nationwide Football League Alliance South West Conference. In this league they would be playing against full-time trainees from football league clubs. This was a massive increase in standards, for what is, in reality, a school team.

The opportunity to take our place in the Football League Alliance, whilst also wishing to remain in the South West Counties League, necessitates a much larger than usual intake in September 2004. Two teams were now being fielded on Saturdays and as such necessitated a total squad in excess of 40, together with the appointment of a

third member of the coaching staff. Thirty-three new students were recruited in September 2004, bringing the number in the Academy to 46. Whilst results have not been forthcoming on the field to date, the group as a whole have made an excellent start to the academic year and we feel it is only a matter of time before we reach success in the higher level of football.

In season 2005/06 the team retained their hold on the Welsh Schools and Colleges U19 Cup and the Welsh Schools U18 Cup both sponsored by HSBC. Undoubtedly, there would have been a number of boys who would have been selected for the Wales U18's Schools squad, however, unfortunately, funding problems resulted in the FAW **not** running a side at this level. Two lads have been offered scholarships in American Universities this year.

POTENTIAL BAD NEWS

The Academy has been a roaring success helping to:

- recruit and keep youngsters in Post 16 education – a number going on to University to pursue their studies not surprisingly in sport.
- motivate these boys.
- provide them with top class professional coaching and academic qualifications.
- improve their self-esteem and confidence.
- improve the school's touch reputation with the school becoming a centre of excellence (mirrored in cricket and golf!)

However, the new DELLS (ELWA) funding formula has severely damaged this good work as it really only recognises the academic qualifications and not the coaching aspect. With no specialist school funding available in Wales this excellent provision is in danger of having to be scrapped, purely for financial and NOT educational reasons.