

Cricket Scotland

Statement by Tony Brian (candidate for Chair) and Paul Reddish (candidate for Director)

As candidates for election at the AGM of Cricket Scotland ("CS") to be held on 25 March 2014, we want to explain why we think there is an urgent need for change at CS and what we believe needs to be done.

CS is currently in difficulties: -

- firstly, it has become distant from the clubs in Scotland and their needs and difficulties in the modern world. Its governance structure needs reform for CS to restore close relationships with grass roots cricket and to understand its issues and nurture it successfully.
- secondly, it has made losses in the two financial years 2012 and 2013 (totalling nearly £100,000) and its share capital and reserves are much reduced (at end 2013 only £142,000). While the accounts for 2014 have not yet been published (that will happen shortly before the AGM), our expectation, in the absence of any visible change, is that there will have been further losses, leaving very little cushion for the future. That trend must be reversed quickly.
- thirdly, it has lost its chief executive and head of regional development in the last year and the performance development manager has become assistant coach with the national team. No action has seemingly been taken to fill these important positions permanently. The non-executive chair is currently working as an executive chair for one day a week – that is insufficient to provide executive leadership and management of the body that leads cricket in Scotland.

To meet those challenges we would, if we were elected, press for: -

- CS to create a new and ambitious strategy to develop cricket in Scotland so that both the performance of the flagship national teams (we should be at least aiming for Test status for the men) and participation in cricket at club level (both men and women) are improved in parallel and in an inter-dependent and complementary fashion – one does not preclude the other.
- Increased emphasis on supporting clubs to grow and the encouragement of children and young people to take up our sport. That is paramount to the growth of our game and the future success of the national team. More must be done to reach new geographic and social demographics in Scotland to make cricket an accessible game irrespective of background, social circumstance, ethnicity or gender. This includes offering variations of our game on a larger and more ambitious scale that make it fun and exciting for children.
- The introduction of cricketing skills to all school children in Scotland in the early primary years as part of the Curriculum for Excellence, allowing cricket to substitute rounders as the striking and hitting core element of physical activity. An excellent scheme to do that (with the potential for vital "first mover" advantage) has been designed within CS but it is currently stalled as result of hesitation on how to fund it. That delay cannot be allowed to continue if cricket is to steal a march on other sports in this crucial area and introduce its

skills to all Scottish schoolchildren. That scheme could lead to a natural transition of many more children to the sport itself.

- The creation of a development strategy to increase income – from commercial, public and charitable bodies and the wide base of individuals in Scotland who are passionate about cricket and its future. This would be secured thanks to a strong narrative on Scottish Cricket, built on the success of the national teams and clubs now doing great work to attract children and young people to the game. We would also encourage a greater focus on bringing in high quality commercial partnerships for both the national teams and community programmes.
- The speedy recruitment of a new chief executive to lead the development of Scottish cricket at all levels, with the appropriate commercial acumen to design, drive and deliver a strategy to support the growth of the game.
- Proposals to be put to the membership to change the constitution of the CS board to add further non-executive members directly from the three areas to whom responsibility for cricket in their areas has been, and is being, devolved by CS. This would enable the CS board to have direct and closer links with the clubs which are the bedrock of cricket in Scotland. Other changes we would seek would be around the terms of office of board members, to introduce independent non-executives (bringing new skills and perspectives) and to address the current gender and diversity imbalance on the board.

Key to all of this would be raising new funds to ensure that the balance of resources devoted to the national teams and to grass roots cricket ensures that both succeed.

* * * * *

Cricket Scotland faces major challenges. We believe our skills, experience and, above all, drive for success make us both suitable and able to make the case within CS for the changes that are essential if cricket is to be the successful sport within Scotland that we all want it to be. Cricket in Scotland should be at least as successful as it is in Ireland – in the last 10 years it has fallen well behind in national team performance and financial strength.

If you agree that change is needed then we would ask your club, league or association to support us at the AGM either in person at the meeting or by proxy (as explained in the notice of the meeting sent out by CS on 4 February). A form of proxy will be sent out by CS with the papers for the meeting, typically about 14 days before the date of the AGM, but the proxy form can be requested in advance from CS (general@cricketscotland.com).

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact us – we would be delighted to expand on what has been said above: -

Tony Brian – 07909 687096 – changeatcricketscotland@gmail.com

Paul Reddish – 07585 048414 – changeatcricketscotland@gmail.com

CVs attached

25 February 2015

TONY BRIAN



Tony has played cricket since he was ten (ailments permitting!) and is still doing so today in East League Division 8/9 – truly grass roots cricket! In his heyday he opened the batting for Watsonian's first team. He has lived and played cricket in Italy and Jersey and has also played in Spain, France, Switzerland, Greece, Ireland and Alderney!

In addition to playing, he currently helps to coach (as an ECB Level 2 coach) and manage womens and junior cricket at his club. He also chairs the Lothian Junior Cricket Development Group which seeks to further the level and quality of participation amongst juniors, both male and female, in that region.

In his career Tony was a partner in a firm of solicitors and then joined Bank of Scotland with whom (and its successor companies) he spent the rest of his working life. Initially he did legal, company secretarial and corporate finance work for the Group (with transactions in UK, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and the USA), before moving to Italy to become the treasurer of a mortgage lender. He was then transferred to Jersey where he was the managing director of three banks. He returned to the UK to risk management roles, rising to head up jointly one of the HBOS' central risk functions. He was then appointed a board member of the division looking after the Group's businesses in Continental Europe and North America. Subsequently he directed all operational risk management in the insurance businesses of Lloyds Banking Group, then the biggest insurance company in the UK. He has served on the boards of over 20 companies in the UK and overseas.

On retiring from financial services in 2011, he was elected chair of Glasgow Caledonian University (of whose board he had been a member since 2003). GCU has 20,000 students worldwide, 1500 staff, campuses in Glasgow, London and New York and a turnover of more than £100m. He retired from that position in February this year, having served the maximum period allowed on the board of 12 years.

PAUL REDDISH



Paul has been the driving force behind the changes at Edinburgh South Cricket Club. In 2005, the club had 20 members (most over the age of 50) playing in East Division 6 playing on a council park. Fast forward ten years, the club now has a state of the art facility which they raised £2 million for alongside the local rugby and football club, and a thriving junior section.

Edinburgh South operates in an area with severe social problems and dominated by football – not a traditional cricket stronghold. Not to be put off, Paul set out on changing things. They are now delivering in numerous primary schools in the area and have just started a ‘school of cricket’ in the local secondary school. Pupils are being released five hours a week at S1 to take part in a cricket technical and games, nutrition and physical fitness development programme. After just two years, cricket is now an established sport in an area previously reserved for football, and the club employs a full time cricket development officer to deliver this.

Paul also runs the Last Man Stands franchise in Scotland. A new 8-a-side format of the game designed to bring adults back to, and into, the game of cricket. It’s been successful in doing just that in Edinburgh with benefit to the local clubs, and launches in 2015 in Dundee, East Lothian and the Borders with the same aims.

Paul spent 13 years in various roles at Royal Bank of Scotland Group – including latterly a spell as Head of Communications at the Retail Bank. Paul is now Chief Executive of ProjectScotland – a national charity helping unemployed young people get into work through volunteering in the third sector. Paul has transformed both the operations of the charity and overhauled its approach to fundraising – bringing in revenue from a wide variety of commercial, statutory and charitable sources.

Paul’s track record in communications, strategic change and fundraising – particularly in attracting commercial organisations – make him a strong choice to help guide the change needed to Scottish Cricket.