

## **North West Cricket Union (NWCU)**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

#### **Reference and Administrative Details**

**Charity Name:** North West Cricket Union  
**Other Name:** NWCU  
**Charity Registration Number:** NIC 107737  
**Principal Address:**

7, Mason Road,  
Maghermason  
Londonderry,  
BT47 2RY

#### **Trustees:**

Mr B Dougherty  
Mr T Patton  
Mr Manav Bhavsar  
Mr N Stewart  
Mr M Kilgore  
Mr B Allen  
Mr J Semple  
Mr R Goud Sama  
Mr M V N Rao  
Mrs J McLaughlin

**Senior Management Team:** General Manager

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Governing Document**

The North West Cricket Union is governed by its Constitution. The charity operates in compliance with the requirements of charity law in Northern Ireland and any other relevant legislation.

##### **Trustee Recruitment and Appointment**

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Union's governing document. Recruitment is based on skills, experience, and commitment to the objectives of the charity. Trustees serve for defined terms and may be reappointed in line with constitutional provisions.

## **Organisational Structure and Decision-Making**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall governance, strategic direction, financial oversight, and compliance. The Board meets quarterly throughout the year to review performance and monitor risk.

Operations are delegated to the General Manager, who leads the staff team of five and reports directly to the Board. Clear reporting structures and internal controls are in place to ensure accountability.

## **Risk Management**

The Trustees are responsible for identifying and reviewing major risks facing the charity. Principal risks monitored during 2023 included:

- Diversification of Income and Funding Concentration
- Regulatory, Safeguarding and Compliance Oversight
- Workforce and Volunteer Capacity
- Digital Security and Data Protection
- Reputational Risk

Appropriate policies, procedures and controls are in place to mitigate these risks.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **Charitable Objectives**

The objectives of the North West Cricket Union are to:

- Promote and develop the sport of cricket across the North West region.
- Increase participation in cricket at grassroots, club and performance levels.
- Support affiliated clubs through governance, development and training.
- Deliver inclusive programmes to ensure accessibility for all sections of the community.
- Develop pathways for players, coaches, officials and volunteers.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit.

NWCU provides public benefit by:

- Delivering cricket participation opportunities for children, young people and adults.
- Increasing physical activity and promoting health and wellbeing through sport.
- Delivering school-based programmes that engage young people from diverse backgrounds.
- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion across all programmes.
- Supporting cross-community engagement through structured sporting activity.

All activities are undertaken for the benefit of the wider public and are accessible to the community.

### **Achievements and Performance**

During 2023, the Union continued to deliver against its strategic priorities, with a focus on sustainable growth, governance strengthening and inclusive participation.

### **Participation and Schools Development**

- Continued delivery of structured cricket programmes across primary and post-primary schools.
- Expansion of girls' participation initiatives and targeted engagement programmes.

Strengthened partnerships with schools and community organisations to widen access.

### **Performance Pathways**

- Delivery of regional performance programmes for male and female players.
- Ongoing coach education and development workshops to raise coaching standards.
- Further development of talent identification and structured progression pathways.

### **Competitions and Events**

- Successful organisation of league and cup competitions across affiliated clubs.
- Delivery of representative fixtures and regional tournaments.
- Governance and administrative support provided to clubs to enhance competition standards.

### **Inclusion and Community Engagement**

- Delivery of funded programmes targeting underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.
- Continued emphasis on equality, diversity and safeguarding standards.
- Strengthening of cross-community initiatives through structured cricket activity.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity made measurable progress toward its objectives during the year while maintaining strong governance oversight.

## **Financial Review**

The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and ensuring appropriate financial management and internal controls.

The charity's principal sources of income during 2023 included:

- Grant funding
- Programme income
- Affiliation and competition fees
- Sponsorship and partnership income

Expenditure was applied in furtherance of the charity's objectives, including staffing, programme delivery, competitions, facility support, governance and compliance activities.

The Trustees continue to closely monitor financial sustainability, diversify income streams and manage reserves prudently in line with the Union's reserves policy.

## **Reserves Policy**

The charity aims to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure operational stability and to mitigate financial and funding risk. The adequacy of reserves is reviewed annually by the Trustees, taking account of projected income streams and operational commitments.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

In 2024 and beyond, the Trustees intend to:

- Further expand participation programmes across schools and clubs.
- Continue to strengthen women's and girls' cricket pathways.
- Enhance governance, safeguarding and compliance standards across affiliated clubs.
- Broaden and diversify sustainable funding streams.
- Develop digital systems and workforce capacity to support long-term growth.
- Expand inclusive and cross-community initiatives across the region.

Appropriate policies, procedures and controls are in place to mitigate these risks.

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- Keeping proper accounting records;
- Safeguarding the assets of the charity;
- Preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;
- Ensuring the charity operates in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on: 18/12/2024

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Name: B-D  
Position: \_\_\_\_\_

For Sample

