



Svenska Cricketförbundet

Information letter from the office

Hej Svensk Cricket!

This will be a long information letter, but I ask you to take the time to read it as there are important information and some serious points that we have to lift in the letter.

The season is now running and the warm weather begins to spread from the South to the North in our elongated country. Lovely! We hear about many fun activities in the clubs to spread the sport and cricket gets a lot of attention in the media. Great job everyone!

SM-veckan in Borås – semifinals och final in Svenska Cricketcupen 6th-7th of July

The SM-veckan is another step forward for Swedish cricket, which means a lot of work for us at the federation in preparation, but we think this is a very positive context for us as sport to participate in. Over the years it has grown and become a major event for Swedish sports. Together with the other 50 participating sports we will compete and showcase our sport for all the public and the media - a great opportunity and fun ending on the newly formed Svenska Cricketcupen!

The League 2017

It has been very intense before the start of the league, just adding the game and umpire schedule for 4 divisions is a huge puzzle and we have now delivered around 800 balls to all your clubs. We will evaluate when the season is over, how it worked and if the new balls for the year, as you wished, have worked well or if we need to think differently next year.

We will adjust the routines for next year's game and will start work this autumn, but now we have the 2017 season running so let's play and experience the amazing with cricket both on and off court.

To build structure for Swedish Cricket towards 2025

Yes, this with building routines, structure, clear communication channels, etc. so that we, as an organisation, become ONE, and do not work against each other or in different directions, it will not come of its own. It requires a lot of cooperation and understanding for each other. By this time, we have become a pretty big organization and we have done that in an extremely short time.

As we see it from the federations side, there is an enormous need to create common goals, to raise the level of competence about the opportunities and the requirements of being a formal part of Swedish sport and to receive support from our district sports federations in that work. This presupposes that we want to continue to be a member of Swedish sport and in the Riksidrottsförbundet (RF). With this membership comes requirements and obligations that are extremely important to respect. A membership in RF is not obvious, but requires that all clubs and the



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federation comply with these requirements. Through the contacts you have with your district sports federations, you have the opportunity to learn more about having a club, build your society stronger and develop your leadership - an opportunity that we really encourage you to develop. They are a great resource for your club.

We call for respect for each other

We at the office have been working for four months now and we can see patterns that makes us very concerned about the future of Swedish cricket as a member of the Riksidrottsförbundet. We can read and hear bad statements towards clubs, members and the federation, and spread out on Facebook, by email and rumors are being launched. There is a picture of the federation that isn't correctly presented in these flows, and often it is only one side that presents a picture of how things are. We ourselves have been called racists, unnecessary staff, etc. Comments about us, the board and other clubs that are both offensive, disrespectful and split Swedish Cricket rather than strengthens. We have also begun to get match reports of disrespectful comments during games. This makes us very concerned about the developments that occur on the cricket ground and are far from cricket as the gentleman's sport it should be. This is something to take on seriously and something each of us needs to take responsibility for.

There are also e-mail messages that choose to lift single parts from a larger context so that the image becomes misleading about how things are at SCF. One example is the dissemination of salary information about one of our employees, it is very unfortunate as this is against the personal integrity and something we completely renounce. We pay contractual wages based on the industry agreement between the sport's own employer organization (ie the Arbetsgivaralliansen) and the employee organizations (mainly Unionen). It is important to protect personal privacy so personal wages are NOT public duties. Please read more about this here:<http://www.svenskidrott.se/Juridik/Foreningskunskap/Foreningskunskap/Oppehnetienforening-safunkardet?>

As for the funds we've been given this year, what we do at the office, etc, we will describe it more in detail further on, both in terms of the purpose of our efforts and what is being planned and done so that you know what is being done for Swedish Cricket.

The economy

There is also rumor spreading that money has been scattered by the board, this completely without a piece of evidence. I would like to recall that the federations economy was reviewed by an Authorized Audit Office (Grant Thornton) as early as the beginning of this year and they found NO irregularities.

The economy and the increased funding that cricket receives from the Riksidrottsförbundet is one of the things that are repeatedly raised in social media



and where there is a tone of that irregularities is happening within SCF. Of course, the question is of the utmost importance. I have full insight into the economy, report to the board and everything is completely in order I can guarantee. And I want to clarify that the funds we have received from the Riksidrottsförbundet are mostly so-called targeted funds. In other words, we get different sums of money for different purposes we will do or focus on, so we do not get one sum that we can distribute how we want. This year, it is for inclusion and integration, for Idrottslyftet, to create a structure for developing the leadership in Swedish cricket (at club level) and a sum for the national team. This is important to also know that the Riksidrottsförbundet does not approve that these funds go directly to your clubs but will be used to build up the entire federation's activities, as well as support the parts that we and the Riksidrottsförbundet identify. Previously, sports federations have misappropriated money and used it other than intended, but the Riksidrottsförbundet has tightened its insight and its requirements and Swedish Cricket must comply with these requirements. This is positive, this is a guarantee for you in the clubs to know that RF keeps an eye on what we do with the money, so nothing can be used for the wrong purpose. We will of course present a summary of how we distribute the money, we will get back to you about that. However, if you suspect that the economy is not correctly handled, you as members of the federation have the right to turn to our auditor with a request for a check. The auditor is always entitled to access all documents at any time.

District or not – regardless we encourage cooperation

In addition to the economy, the district issue is a topical question. At the annual meeting in February, you decided that a possible formation of the so-called Special Sport Districts Federation (SDF) may be applicable only after the Board made an investigation to highlight the pros and cons. After that, it is the task of the annual meeting, on the recommendation of the Board, to decide on the possible formation of Cricket District (SDF). However, it is important to highlight that if we decide to have cricket districts (SDF) in Swedish cricket, it should apply throughout the country, including all club in each district and all district's constitutions including missions and purposes should look the same no matter where in the country and which clubs included. The question of forming a structure with SDF is a matter for the entire Swedish Cricket Federation and single clubs can not legally decide whether to form an SDF on their own. This is what it looks like in Swedish Sports and that we need to follow in Swedish Cricket.

The question of whether we within the Swedish Cricket will have SDF or not is complex, there are advantages but also many disadvantages. It is important to do an investigation where we show both the benefits and the disadvantages. It is also important that we listen to what other sports in Swedish Sports have for experience, where there are very many who have trouble getting their districts to work well.



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Therefore, many of the other sports federations are trying to change, and many now try fewer districts than before to see if it works better. It is important to know that a district requires much non-profit and administrative work, a separate board, annual meetings, etc. There are also no larger amounts to apply for the SDFs.

The question of the purpose of cricket districts is very important to ask. In short, SDF in Swedish Sports is expected to:

- be a bridge between clubs and federation to strengthen and develop the entire federation in a common direction
- represent all cricket clubs in a district in the talks with the municipalities, district sports federations, etc.
- Create joint activities in the district, such as camps, courses of all sorts, etc.

All this goes well to do without forming SDF. What is also good to know if Swedish Cricket at an annual meeting decides that we will have SDF, this is a process that takes time to implement when all clubs throughout the country will be involved in this work, we will decide how the districts geographically will be divided, what the districts will be responsible for and do, etc.

Cooperation between clubs are extremely positive and something we from the federation really encourage! Not only when it comes to contact with municipalities and district sports federations but also to increase cooperation between clubs around education, camps and other developments that strengthen your societies and strengthen Swedish Cricket. On the other hand, we as an organization need to make sound and well-thought-out decisions about the forms of the more formal cooperation, not just from a short-term but also a long-term perspective. What is best for the entire Swedish Cricket in Sweden?

We look forward to talking to you about this important issue later this year, but I hope this longer response gives a little more insight into the structure with the District issue. I know that there are many concepts and not always easy to understand even for me who worked in Swedish Sports for over 10 years. Therefore, the investigation about this is important as an opportunity for all of us to learn more about both Swedish sports in general, but also about districts.

Our work situation and next plans for us at the office and in the board

We still put a lot of time on "extinguishing fires" and we have so many plans on how we together can build a strong and sustainable Swedish cricket, but at the same time the climate is becoming more and more divided. This I would say has been intensified recently and with this comes a concern about where this is heading for the sake of Swedish cricket.



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We have close contact with the various departments of the Riksidrottsförbundet to ensure that we are doing things right and RF is informed about different situations and issues that arise and RF is a big support for us as we are such a new federation that lack routines, structure and that we haven't got all the knowledge ourselves. We work for your clubs, we want to see Swedish cricket blossoming now and in the future. We put a lot of work on this.

It is imperative that we all meet and we want to make effort to understand each other's situations. You clubs and we in the federation are complementary and we want the best for Swedish cricket. We at the office have worked far beyond what our working hours say since we started and we are still forced to work on a reactive basis to work away from all acute situations. The fact that we do not respond directly to your conversations or email does not depend on the fact that we do not want to; we simply can not do everything directly. Lots of reports, actions around the league, creating routines, structure, managing the accounting, a lot of email and telephone conversations with your clubs, with municipalities, district sports federations, with RF, with ICC, etc, takes a lot of our time in the office and the board. We want to be there for you in the present, but we also have to set a route for the future and have time to start working in that direction. We now yearn to get time to start meeting you and talk more about Swedish cricket's future - a trip we do together. Our first meeting will take place in Skåne in late May in collaboration with Skåneidrotten, and after that we will have a number of additional regional meetings before we start our Utvecklingsträffar, that I've mentioned before. More about this will come in the future.

We, both the board and the office, work for you and consider everything that has been done in recent years - how cricket has grown. It is very positive that the sport is spreading, but it also means a major shift for those working at the federation, both the board and the office. What I see when I have contact with the board is a big commitment to lifting the sport all over the country and they do an incredible job on their spare time – it's all volunteer work. The board and the office will be even better at communicating so you know what we do, it's coming! We sometimes make decisions that not everyone thinks is good or right, ask the question, allow us to respond to it.

We have just written an article about cricket in a magazine and to spread the knowledge about what cricket is, Swedish cricket's fast growth, the welcome reception when we meet people who have not heard so much about cricket is incredibly stimulating and fun. Swedish cricket has a great opportunity to flower! Let's respect each other and see each other as resources on that trip and make the trip together.



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We'll be back soon with information about the Idrottslyftet, the SM Week, our new cricket map, etc. So much fun is happening in Swedish Cricket! See you on or off the court!

All the best!

Best regards,

Ulrika Lingslunde, CEO

If you have any questions or ideas you are very welcome to contact us at the office. Here is how to get in touch:

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