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ECB Board approve further financial support package for whole game

- ECB Board approve £35.7million financial support package for professional and recreational game
- ECB Board agree to expedite core payments that were due to First-Class Counties (FCCs) and County Cricket Boards (CCBs) between August 2020 – January 2021.
- The remainder of The Hundred payments will be paid to FCCs and the MCC
- ECB provided an initial £61million interim financial support package in March

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has today announced a further financial package to support professional and recreational cricket during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The £35.7million support package was agreed by the ECB Board after detailed financial planning with the whole game and to support all levels of cricket during a period of extreme financial uncertainty.

Following the initial interim financial support package of £61m, which was announced in March, the Board has agreed to further expedite payments from across the 2020-2021 planned distribution budgets.

The £35.7m will be comprised of:

£30.22m will be made available to FCCs and the MCC on August 1 via:

- Early release of six months (Aug-Jan) of core payments from the County Partnership distributions to FCCs.
- Early release of the remainder of The Hundred payments to FCCs and the MCC.

£5.5m will be made available to CCBs on August 1 via:

- Early release of six months' (Aug-Jan) of core payments from the County Partnership distributions to CCBs.

In addition to the £5.5m available to CCBs, recreational clubs will continue to have access to the £20m available through the cricket club support loan scheme, grants through the "Return to Cricket" scheme and a 12-month holiday on loan repayments for recreational clubs.

ECB Chief Executive Officer, Tom Harrison, said: "It is the ECB's responsibility to protect the whole game's future during the financial uncertainty we face as a sport.

"We continue to work closely with all levels of the game to understand the challenges that are being presented and to map out a plan for the future. While I am pleased the ECB Board has been able to approve this financial

support package for the remainder of this year we are still only at the beginning of addressing the impact of this crisis on cricket.

“We still should not underestimate the significant financial burden that is ahead of us across all levels of the game. We must seek to reduce the cost base across the game, as we face up to the sobering reality of what lies ahead of us.

“The response we have seen within the game has been reassuring and I know how much a return to the field of play would mean to clubs and players of all ages across England and Wales.

“It remains our priority to get cricket started again this summer, from the grassroots to the elite level, and we will continue to work with Government to try and do that in a way that keeps people safe but that limits the ongoing impact of this crisis on our game.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The ECB Board announced an initial £61m interim financial support package on March 31, which provided assistance at every level of the game across counties, boards and clubs.

That financial support package included:

Around £40m was immediately made available through:

- Early release of three months' (May-July) county partnership distributions to FCCs and CCBs
- The immediate availability of two years' facilities maintenance distribution
- Suspension of international staging fees for four months and waiving of international staging fees payable in 2020 if the match is not played as scheduled due to COVID-19

An extra budget of just over £20m was made available to the recreational game through a cricket club support loan scheme, grants through the “Return to Cricket” scheme and a 12-month holiday on loan repayments for recreational clubs.

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