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## Ed Smith Appointed National Selector

The England and Wales Cricket Board have appointed Ed Smith as the new National Selector.

Smith played three Test matches for England and made 350 appearances in county cricket across a first-class career that spanned 12 years.

His appointment is part of a new approach to scouting, assessing and selecting players for the senior men's Test, T20 and One-Day sides, ensuring greater connection right through the International pathway.

Smith will appoint a full-time independent England Selector to work alongside him and England Head Coach Trevor Bayliss.

Beneath them a scouting system with designated discipline-specific scouts will work to ensure comprehensive coverage of the domestic game and the talent pathway.

Ed Smith, National Selector, said:

“I’m delighted to take on the role of National Selector. I was very happy with what I was doing previously but the chance to be at the forefront of this development in English cricket was too good an opportunity to turn down.

“Selection and Talent ID have always fascinated me and I’ve explored extensively how they are evolving.

“It is an exciting time for England cricket. I’m very much looking forward to working with Trevor, Joe and Eoin, as we work towards ensuring that the talent in English cricket feeds into consistent performances in all formats of the game.”

Andrew Strauss, Director of England Cricket, said:

“We’re excited about the changes we’ve made to our talent identification and selection structure. It’s about us getting better quality information, and making sure our decision-making is as clear and robust as possible.

“Ed stood out as an ideal candidate for the role for a number of reasons. There is real depth to his talent identification knowledge and he’s done a great amount of research into the subject.

“He has a rich and varied sum of experiences having played professional cricket for 12 years and having written extensively on cricket and other sports. As well as this he has a strong academic interest in high performance and excellent knowledge of the international game.

“Ed will come to this role with fresh ideas and his input will help us implement a structure that we hope can become world-leading, not just in

cricket but in sport generally.”

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