

Witness: Lord Condon QPM DL  
Statement No: 1  
Exhibits Referred to: PC/1, PC/2  
Date Statement Made: 27 January 2012

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**The Leveson Inquiry into the Culture Practices and Ethics of the Press**

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This is the exhibit marked 'PC/2' referred to in the statement of Lord Condon,  
dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012.

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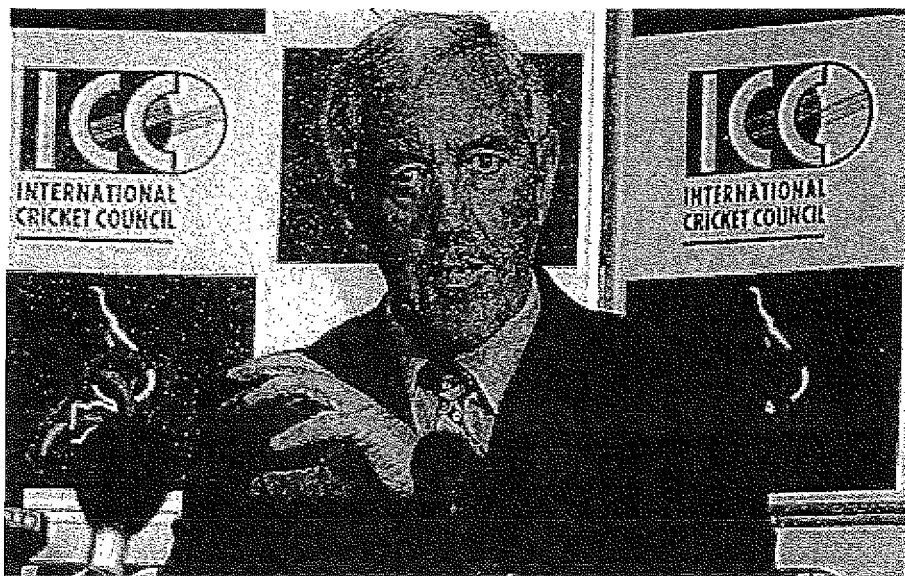
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## **– Pakistan spot-fixing scandal: International Cricket Council must take decisive action, says Sir Paul Condon**

**The case of the Pakistan cricketers found guilty and sentenced for spot fixing for money is a very loud wake-up call for world cricket.**



Crime fighter: Sir Paul Condon in his former role as head of the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit Photo: PA

By Sir Paul Condon, former head of ICC Anti-Corruption Unit

8:30AM GMT 06 Nov 2011

For while much has been achieved by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport is once

again at a credibility crossroad.

Decisive action will keep cricket corruption to an occasional embarrassing episode. No action, or the wrong decisions, will allow corruption to gain a stronger foothold and the game will return to the bad old days of the 1990s, when Test and World Cup matches were fixed for betting purposes.

Cricket will always be the global sport most vulnerable to corruption because of the nature of the game and the consequent heavy volume of betting. The fixers do not have to fix the outcome of the whole match to arrange a betting coup. The players involved use the twisted logic that they are not affecting the outcome of the match. In theory, they could deliver the fixed event for the betting coup and still go on to win the game and even the man-of-the-match award.

Gambling on cricket is a massive industry, primarily in the Indian subcontinent, where it is unlawful, unregulated and sometimes linked to organised crime. Informed sources suggest that up to the equivalent of \$1 billion is bet on a single match if it involves **Pakistan** and **India**.

Routinely, betting on cricket outstrips the volume of betting on all other global sports. Cricketers and their families have been intimidated in the past to encourage them to become involved in fixing.

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The last time cricket was forced to respond to serious scandal was in 2000 after the Hansie Cronje saga. The Indian police, as a by-product of a telephone intercept, proved that Cronje and others had been fixing the outcome of matches for gambling purposes. At the time, the gambling environment was less sophisticated and betting on every ball was uncommon.

Consequently Cronje and others were prepared to fix the outcome of matches for cash payments.

The ICC asked me at the time to look at the problem and I submitted a report in April 2001. All 24 of my recommendations were accepted by the ICC executive board. Some were embraced with more enthusiasm than others. My recommendations for an awareness and education programme for anyone playing international cricket were implemented very well, as were recommendations for better security and the formation of a specialist anti-corruption unit.

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This relatively small unit of former police officers has developed expertise and operating methods that have been studied and copied by other sports.

The Anti-Corruption and Security Unit has successfully led investigations against players and disrupted the grooming and preparation of many others who were in danger of being drawn into the fixers' web.

I remain confident that, despite the exposé of the malpractice by members of the Pakistan team, the overwhelming majority of international cricketers are not involved in fixing. However, if the ICC and national cricket boards do not make a renewed effort, cricket could quickly regress to the bad old days epitomised by Cronje and others.

Some of the recommendations I made in 2001 that received the least support within the ICC are still relevant today. I hope they will be revisited. At the time of my report I wrote: "The players are not sufficiently involved in the administration of the game and ownership of the problems. Consideration should be given to enhancing the role of the players and their representative bodies."

Although some progress has been made, I believe cricketers are still not an integral part of the solution to corruption. The anti-corruption endeavour is applied to them rather than with them.

Consequently, over the past 10 years, cricketers have grudgingly accepted the anti-corruption measures rather than being the eyes and ears on the front line, reporting suspicious events. The MCC World Cricket Committee and others are now actively speculating about what more can be done. That is encouraging.

The other recommendations that were more challenging to implement concerned the ICC itself. In 2001, I wrote: "The ICC will be in a stronger position if it continues to evolve from its origins as a loose and fragile alliance into a modern regulatory body whose role is clarified and whose transactions are transparent and accountable."

Corruption in cricket will flourish again unless the ICC and every national board show leadership and determination to keep malpractice to a minimum, as it is unlikely to be totally eradicated. Complacency and the growth of Twenty20 tournaments in recent years have opened the door for the return of the fixers. Corruption relies on opportunity, human weakness and greed. The growth of T20 has changed the dynamic of world cricket and created new challenges. While 20x20 is an exciting, unstoppable and commercial format, it has a potentially more sinister underside that needs to be understood.

In the frenzy of commercialisation, cricketers are immersed in a heady world of monopoly-money bids for franchises, teams and players. An "anything goes" party atmosphere, with more and more agents, celebrities and even previous fixers re-emerging at matches, can seduce cricketers into a toxic justification for occasional spot-fixing. They see so many people making huge sums of money that they can be tempted to agree to a prearranged no-ball here or a duck there.

So, although I do not think the case of the Pakistan cricketers is a tip of an iceberg of corrupt players, I have real concerns for the future and more must be done to preserve the integrity of the game.

Experts have argued that legalising gambling in the subcontinent and banning bets that enable and encourage spot-fixing is the way forward.

If only it was that simple. Even if gambling was legalised, it is highly probable that the legacy of the past and current demand would maintain a significant, underground and unlawful gambling industry. This sector would still offer the sort of bets that facilitate spot-fixing and betting coups, because gamblers love the immediacy and gratification of being able to bet on every ball.

So what is the best way forward? The ICC must have the courage to support its current anti-corruption infrastructure. More resources may be necessary to monitor the growing volume of matches and tournaments. The ICC must insist and ensure that every national board, team management and tournament organiser has accredited measures to prevent and detect malpractice.

In future, if cricketers are found guilty of corruption, consideration should be given to punishing national boards and if possible tournament organisers, if they have been negligent with regard to the guilty behaviour.

In the same way that the new Bribery Act in the UK seeks to hold to account companies who have not done enough to prevent their employees being drawn into corruption, the ICC should explore ways to hold national boards more accountable for their cricketers' integrity.

But, above all, the biggest advance in the fight against corruption will come from international players themselves. They must be empowered and encouraged to become more active stakeholders and guardians of cricket integrity. The ICC and national boards must rise to the challenge to find a more productive partnership with players and their representative bodies.

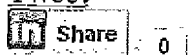
For the past 10 years cricketers have too often been passive observers of the fight against corruption. They owe it to themselves and all who love the game to do more.

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