

# ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

*Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN*

BLEVINS  FRANKS

INTERNATIONAL TAX & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

## Minutes of AGM held at Damazan on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Published Version, dated 13 November 2019

Meeting started at 11:05 with Peter Townsend, President, in Chair.

### Present:

Committee, without vote: Peter Townsend, president (“PT”) and Stephen Harrison, treasurer (“SH”).

Ian Brown ( secretary - “IB”) and Malcolm Grant (umpire community manager - “MG”).

### Clubs, with voting rights:

**Bordeaux-Giscours**: Andy Smith, (“AS”),(President)

**Catus**: Apologies from Peter Stirling (President) Proxy given to Ken Sutton (“KS”) (Treasurer)

**Damazan**: Apologies from Gagan Singh. Proxy given to John Ayling (“JA”),

**Eymet**: Andrew Cardle, (“ACa”), (President).

**Mansle**: Caroline Beecroft (“CB”) (President), Proxy given to Andy Coope (“ACo”),(Captain)

**Midi**: James Luckes (“JL”) (President).\*

**Saint Aulaye**: Peter Brown (“PB”) (President).

**Toulouse**: Apologies from Philippe Fermanel, (“PF”) (President) Proxy given to Christophe Srikanth (“CS”) (Vice President)

### In attendance, without vote:

Gary Stark (“GS”), Damazan.

Reg Gratton (“RG”), (Secretary), Mark Hayden (“MH”) (Fixtures Sec), Midi \*

Avarinth Ramakrishnan (“AR”), (Secretary), Toulouse

Rolf Zechner (“RZ”), (President), Pénélope Chauvin (“PC”), (Secretary) Nimes CC

**Agenda Item 1: Quorum/Proxies**: With so many attendees the quorum was easily reached. Proxies; See above.

At 11:05, 7 of 8 member-clubs present or represented.

\* Remaining attendees arrived 11:15

### Agenda Item 2: Welcome

PT welcomed all to the meeting, notably those from newly formed Nimes CC, thanking them for their time. Introductions made by all concerned.

**Agenda Item 3: Apologies**: See above. Plus R Holderness “RH”, Blevins Franks

**Agenda Item 4; Minutes of AGM 2018**: Document pre-published on Web site.

Reading not required. No significant matters arising. One correction required regarding renewal of conventions with France Cricket should read March 2021

**Approval of AGM 2018 minutes**: Proposed by Catus Seconded by Damazan. Unanimously approved, by acclamation.

Document signed by PT and IB.

**Agenda Item 5: President’s report and review of Season 2019.** Document pre-published on Web site.

PT summarised a few points and asked if there were any questions. With none forthcoming the President’s Report was noted (not subject to vote).

**Agenda Item 6: Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statement 2019**: Documents pre-published on Web site.

SH confirmed to AGM that all items-to-date are recorded and reconciled.

He was pleased to be able to announce just a small loss over the year re-dressing the surplus from 2018 and with a substantial sum in the bank the finances of the Association are in a good state.

The Umpires line item remains as the most substantial element of the accounts. It continues to be manageable because umpires are prepared either to make no claim for their travel expenses or to opt for a tax credit. Some attendees were not familiar with the tax credit and needed to understand more. SH confirmed that this is very important to the Association and to the umpires using it and outlined how it can be of significant benefit to Clubs as tax can be reclaimed every time anybody declines a reimbursement of an expense and opts instead to make a gift to the Club of the amount of the expense.

Note: Post AGM the new treasurer has agreed to produce a paper explaining how to operate this arrangement. **Action PB**

SH reminded clubs that the business model of our cricket is highly dependent upon the continuing generosity of Blevins Franks, our sponsors. Our thanks are due to Rupert Holderness for his continuing championing of our cricket, with a further 2000€ guaranteed for 2020. Rupert had passed a few comment to SH for presentation at the meeting.

- ❖ RH is extremely grateful that it has been possible to re-introduce the Blevins Franks Cup competition and notes the effort made by ECC to host the final on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019. He has already confirmed the date for the Final of 2020.
- ❖ RH and SH had discussed the change in demographic of the local British populations with far fewer now playing cricket.
- ❖ RH would like to increase sponsorship but it is incumbent on clubs to do more to promote the services of Blevins Franks. Clubs should advertise BF where possible to help improve their customer numbers. **Action by clubs.**

SH suggested that the order for balls should be placed by mid December to avoid any issues arising with Brexit.

**Action by the incoming Treasurer and clubs.**

**Approval of Treasurer's Report and P&L Statement 2018:** Proposed by Eymet; seconded by Bordeaux Unanimously approved, by acclamation, with thanks to SH for his stewardship.

**Agenda Item 7: Budget proposal 2020:** previously published on Web-site - is a working document, open to comment / modification at AGM.

SH confirmed that his Budget 2020 provisions are based upon an expectation that the year's competitions would be similar to those of 2019, all teams from 2019 signing up; same entry fees; and prizes.

SH confirmed that Gray Nicolls, our supplier, continues to offers us a good deal on pink and red balls and at the same price as 2019 €70 per box of 6. A short discussion on potential savings with other suppliers took place and AR agreed to put the treasurer in contact with SMC, an Australian company with offices in France. **Action AR**

SH proposed that annual ACCSO subscription be increased to €75 as it has been €50 since 2013, whilst costs have risen.

Training course(s) for new umpires have been allowed for in the draft budget.

**Approval of proposed Budget 2020:** ACa proposed that any vote should be delayed to later in the meeting as some discussion may have significant bearing on the figures. It was agreed to vote in principle for this document and re-visit the situation under AOB. Vote Proposed by St Aulaye; Seconded by Midi. Unanimously approved, by acclamation.

**Agenda Item 8: Umpires Report:** Document pre-published on Web site.

MG summarised his report and highlighted the need for more umpires.

JA suggested that square leg umpires should assist the bowlers end umpire regarding the height of the ball when an appeal for LBW is made. It was agreed by consensus this should be for the two umpires of the day to discuss pre-match.

**Agenda Item 9:** Discussion of Item 8 carried over into item 9 where a proposal was put forward for clubs to be responsible for providing one of the umpires at each of their home league and cup matches ( approximately 6 matches per year ). It would be a qualified umpire who does not play on the day. The other umpire being nominated by the Umpire Manager, from the Pool list. Any home club who failed to provide an umpire would forfeit the match.

This produced a lengthy discussion on the various aspects of locating suitable, willing people and in particular the severe sanction of forfeit for any contravention. During the discussion;

- ❖ PT reminded the attendees that for an umpire from the ACCSO Pool to have to stand as the umpire at both ends with a makeshift relay of players at square leg was simply no longer an option. With only 8 Pool umpires, average age 71 (median age 69) it is too much to ask them to travel to and from matches alone and cover all the aspects single handed.
- ❖ AR on behalf of TCC stated that after canvassing their players there are none who are now ageing and none want to umpire. They want to play. It was pointed out by members of the committee that
  - ❖ The current situation is unjust and unsustainable.
  - ❖ If the clubs did not produce candidates for training and standing at matches there would be no matches.
  - ❖ There is no lower age limit for umpires
  - ❖ If a few players from a club became qualified each one may only need to umpire one or two matches per year.
  - ❖ The names of Club umpires and candidates for training will in any event be required on the ACCSO Competitions Entry Form.

A number of counter-proposals were made by the clubs, including more flexibility on sanctions, and a transition period whilst clubs worked out how to achieve the proposal. Nothing definitive was forthcoming as a consensus.

RZ and AR stated they felt that their players would need some financial incentive to umpire rather than play. PT and SH said such a measure would be a local issue as there are no funds within ACCSO for such payments

The discussion was halted at 12:50 to enable lunch to be taken and reflection on the topic in hand.

After lunch PT proposed there should be one more round of comments then a vote be taken regarding the proposal.

This produced a general acceptance that clubs needed to take responsibility for finding suitable people to qualify and umpire but that to forfeit a match was too severe as a sanction. PT suggested that the vote should be on the proposal that clubs agree to take responsibility whilst ACCSO Committee look further at more lenient sanction for non compliance such as losing points, penalty runs or overs which had all emerged during discussion. The final decision to be taken by circulating a paper and email vote by club presidents. This was Proposed by Catus, Seconded by Eymet, vote result 7 for and 1 abstention.

**Action IB**

**Agenda Item 10: Sportsmanship Award 2020:**

Those present agreed that the Award process had greatly improved the behaviour on the field of play but was still a useful way to keep the behaviour situation at a satisfactory level. It was unanimously agreed to continue the process for 2020.

**Agenda Item 11: Sportsmanship Award: 2019 result**

Congratulations to Eymet as 2019 winners. ACa was happy to receive the certificate to display at their ground.

**Agenda Item 12: Update on State-of-Play at FFBS & FC:**

PT re-iterated the hierarchy of the sport of cricket in France, FFBS, FC, ACCSO with a brief resume of the budgets to show where the affiliation fees are used. It was emphasized the bulk of FC income come from ICC and that there are funds which clubs can apply for integration of immigrant communities and development of young players.

The Street Cricket format has blossomed at an enormous rate but is completely unregulated. It is hoped to introduce a Street Cricket licence in order to bring many of these players into the scope of organised cricket.

FC reorganised the management of the national u19 team. and ladies teams. Poor performances by the u19's in the U19 CWC qualifying round; and good wins by the ladies.

Director of Cricket David Bordes has left FC. His poor treatment by the FC board resulted in PT resigning as S-G FC.

ACa asked if there were any means to recuperate licence fees for unemployed players. PT suggested he produce a paper for PT to review and help pass to FC / FFBS. Perhaps other clubs might be interested in such a proposition. **Action ACa**

**Agenda Item 13: Secretary's Report:** Document pre-published on Web site.

The report included a proposal to modify the team-sheet produced from E-Licence to have just one page per team, showing the player, the name he is known by at the club, squad number if used. It was suggested that the player Licence number would also be useful. It was agreed by consensus that IB produce a sample and instructions to clubs. **Action IB**

The Secretary's Report was noted (not subject to vote).

**Agenda Item 14: Tournament / Match planning for 2020 season**

- a) CS confirmed that the TCC project to replace their playing surface was planned to complete by the end of March 2020
- b) RZ confirmed NCC are working towards FFBS Affiliation in January and although they have not been successful in obtaining a ground, discussions are looking favourable to ground share with Midi. JL confirmed.
- c) Clubs agreed in principle their same teams (Toulouse = 2) plus Nimes (1 team, although they have 30 players) would take part in 2020 competitions
- d) A review of the previously circulated proposed pools and calendar produced the following suggestions
  - a) Schedule the South Pool League matches to be complete by the end of June
  - b) Try to fit in a match between the Winner South Pool League v Winner North Pool League

To trim the 10 teams to 9 to fit the 3 x 3 teams T20 pools, TCC would consider and agree to one of the following

- a) One T20 Match Bears v Wolves
- b) Two T20 Matches Bears v Wolves results aggregated to decide the winner (PT recommends this strategy)
- c) TCC would choose one T20 team **Action AR**

**e) Scorers / CrickHQ**

Proposal to change scoring to be by this software package had already been circulated.

Some clubs were keen others totally against using the Tablet/Smart-phone option. It was agreed to try a pilot where TCC and Catus run with the book and software for a few matches before reporting on successes and difficulties. **Action: AR KS**

PT pointed out that FC run 500 matches in the Paris Region using this software

f) Friendlies IB needs to know by 31 Jan 2020 any committed friendly matches. **Action by all clubs**

### **Agenda Item 15: Proposed changes to Tournament Regulations for 2020**

The proposed changes, shown in the agenda and associated document and summarised below were discussed and agreed individually before a formal vote to include them in the re-write of the Match Regulations.

- a) The League Pool matches should revert to 40 overs per team knock-out matches with 2 points for a win 1 for a tie and 0 for a loss.
- b) Off side wides revert to the ICC ruling of a line 35 inches from the middle stump to guide the umpire on calling wide.
- c) The 2019 25% rule to control swapping players between teams should be removed.
- d) Team sheet to be simplified to a list, derived by ACCSO S-G from e-licence and updated by clubs
- e) Batsmen wearing of helmets - no rule required, it is a matter for the individual unless under 19 years where it is mandatory. But umpires have the right to put the question to incoming batsmen.

**Action IB**

Formal vote Proposed by Eymet seconded KS Unanimously agreed by acclamation

### **Agenda Item 16: Training requirements for 2020**

Umpire training will be scheduled for February /March 2020. Clubs should compile lists of candidates for training MG and SH to look at dates / venues

**Action; Clubs /SH / MG.**

AR asked about training for coaches. PT advised this would need to come from France Cricket, there being no qualified trainers of coaches in the south-west.

### **Agenda Item 18. Elections to Committee**

**Treasurer-** PB had agreed for his name to be put forward. Proposed by Eymet seconded Damazan by Unanimously agreed by acclamation

SH and PB will meet with the bank to enable recognition of the transfer from SH to PB. To facilitate this IB will produce document in French which SH and PB will show to the bank as proof of PB's election. **Action IB, PB, SH**

In recognition of the 20 or so years of service SH has given to ACCSO as treasurer and on other cricket bodies PT presented SH with a plaque and expressed the thanks of all those who had worked with SH during this exceptional period of service.

**Vice-president,** charged with Development: No nominations, the post remains vacant. However, AR expressed an interest in understanding further the position. PT outlined the role as envisaged on inception suggested AR looked for more detail available in the internal regulations document on the web. **Action AR**

**Umpire Manager,** MG agreed to one more 2 year period. Proposed by Eymet seconded by Toulouse Unanimously agreed by acclamation

**Post AGM** the S-G will do the necessary paperwork and file the composition of Committee with the Prefecture. **Action IB**

### **Agenda Item 18: AOB**

Re-visit Draft Budget, no matters had arisen to change that already approved.

**No further other business being proposed, the President thanked all the attendees for their time and attention and the meeting closed at 17:05.**

Prepared by Ian Brown

Approved for distribution by PT. 13 November 2019.

#### **Distribution:**

- Attendees
- Damazan president Gagan Singh
- Mansle president Caroline Beecroft
- Catus president Peter Stirling
- Toulouse president Philippe Fermanel
- Rupert Holderness, Blevins Franks
- Web site