

Provisional Minutes of AGM held at Damazan on 26th November 2022

Present:

Committee, without vote:

- Peter Townsend, interim president (“PT”)
- Peter Brown, treasurer (“PB”),
- Rajesh Gopalan, secretary (“RG”)

Clubs, with voting rights:

- **Bordeaux-Giscours: Apologies** from Andy Smith (President). Proxy given to Saint Aulaye
- **Catus: Apologies** from Peter Stirling (President). Proxy given to Saint Aulaye.
- **Damazan: Apologies** from Gagan Singh. Proxy given to Damazan, John Ayling (“JA”)
- **Eymet: Andrew Cardle (“AC”)** (President)
- **Montpellier: Apologies** from Gérard Cros (President). Proxy given to Toulouse.
- **Midi: Apologies** from Reginald Gratton (President) Proxy given to Toulouse.
- **Nîmes CC: Apologies** from Rolf Zechner (President). No proxy given.
- **Saint Aulaye: Peter Brown (“PB”)** (President)
- **Toulouse: Philippe Fermanel (“PF”)** (President)

In attendance, without vote/apologies:

- Sheila Ayling, Damazan
- Gary Stark, Damazan
- Mehul Dhorda (MD), Toulouse
- Apologies from David Horlock, Competition coordinator (DH)

Agenda Item 1: Quorum/Proxies:

Quorum was reached. 5 of the 9 member clubs could not be present in person, however 4 gave a proxy to the other clubs (see above) whose presidents were present or represented.

All current committee members were present.

Agenda Item 2: Welcome:

PT welcomed those attending and thanked Sheila and John Ayling for reserving the conference room and for dealing with the local restaurant for our take-out lunches.

He thanked PB and RG for having managed ACCSO's affairs during Ian Brown's illness; and the clubs for having confidence in him to act as interim president between Ian's sad and untimely death and the AGM of today.

He made mention of the sad news just received of the death of Roy Pederson, a long-time member of Damazan CC; and also of Tom Lewis, another stalwart at Damazan.

Agenda Item 3: Apologies for absence:

PT informed the meeting of the clubs which had said that they could not attend and advised which clubs were carrying their proxies. It was noted that Nîmes had not given a proxy.

Agenda Item 4: Introductions: The necessary introductions were made.

Agenda Item 5: Draft Minutes of AGM March 2022:

Document pre-published on Web site. Reading not required. No significant matters arising.

Approval of AGM 2021 minutes: All clubs voted Yes: **Minutes approved.**

Agenda Item 6: President's report and review of Season 2022

President's report pre-published on website..

PT summarized the report. No questions were posed. The President's Report 2022 was noted (not subject to vote).

Agenda Item 7: Treasurers Report and Financial Statement 2022:

Document pre-published on website.

PB summarized the report. No questions were posed.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report & Financial Statement 2022: All clubs voted to approve. **Report and Statement approved.**

Agenda Item 8: Budget proposal 2023:

Document pre-published on website.

Questions related to the increased cost of balls anticipated for 2023, club finances, the ongoing dependence upon donations and our sponsor were posed and answered, to the satisfaction of attendees.

Approval of proposed Budget 2023: All clubs voted to approve. **Budget approved.**

Agenda Item 9: Secretary's Report:

Document pre-published on website.

Questions related to team sheets, scoring, umpiring in pool stages and the finals were posed and answered, to the satisfaction of attendees. The Secretary's Report was noted (not subject to vote).

Agenda Item 10: MCC Laws changes as from October 2022:

Document pre-published on website.

PT reminded the AGM that these multiple changes took effect as from last month (October).

He strongly urged club administrators to ensure that any club member likely to act as an umpire knows of these changes and will be capable of implementing them as and when called upon to umpire in season 2023. The document of reference cited at the top of the ACCSO document should be required reading for them.

PT highlighted the significant change to the Laws concerning catches taken after the batsmen have crossed; the assessment of batsmen's position for Wides; and that saliva is now banned for the purpose of shining the ball.

Club presidents present committed to comply with these requirements.

PT also confirmed that he is well advanced in updating the French translation and is confident that he will have finished it and got it approved by the MCC before season-start.

Agenda Item 11: Concussion Protocol:

Document pre-published on website.

PT advised that the FFBS had not yet produced its mooted protocol. In any event, given the current state of FFBS-FC developments, any such document will no longer cover cricket.

He strongly urged club administrators to ensure that club/team captains and any club member likely to act as an umpire is familiar with this protocol and will be capable of executing it as and when such an incident arises. In particular, that the number for the emergency services should be posted prominently at club grounds.

It would be make economic sense to group club orders for the ECB Guidance quick-reference card **Club presidents present committed to comply with these requirements.**

See also below for the outcome of a debate about making the wearing of helmets compulsory.

Agenda Item 12: Situation FFBS-FC:

Briefing document circulated to clubs pre-AGM.

These are the main points of PT's overview and of the questions/answers and debate that followed.

The clubs had been copiously briefed on the visible aspects of the situation about FC's bid for independence from the FFBS and its search for the recognition of cricket as a *Sport de Haut Niveau*.

The briefing document was designed to be sure that all clubs, old or new, should know the historical background and also be aware of the many non-visible positions and actions at play. Plus the likely implications for "ACCSO" cricket.

It is important to bear in mind that, providing the requirements of the Code du Sport are respected in full (titles, insurance, etc.), there are no obstacles to the organising of competitions for cricket clubs. It is only when a club decides - or is obliged - to affiliate to such-and-such an organisation that their playing against other clubs becomes problematic. If, as is the case with the current FFBS-FC arrangement, those organisations lay down strict rules about what matches their affiliated-members can play. It should be noted that the proposed new semi-independent FC would carry on with such restrictions.

Competitions – respectful of the Code du Sport – can legitimately be organised for participants from multiple organisations which do not impose restrictions on their members.

The long-standing arrangement that ACCSO has with FC, via the convention, only reflects that ACCSO member-clubs have for many years now chosen to affiliate to the FFBS/FC. Otherwise, ACCSO is "agnostic" about where and with whom its member-clubs decide to affiliate/subscribe.

The essential point is that, either FC and the FFBS both sign up to a new convention which gives FC greater control and reduces FFBS's oversight powers to a minimum; or the new deal is called off. In which case, the FFBS will no longer want to have anything to do with cricket and thus cricket ceases to be recognised as a sport in France. In this latter case, FC effectively disappears from the scene and all previously affiliated clubs become "homeless".

Conclusion of those present/represented at AGM: no decision about future affiliations will be taken until we have sight of the published conclusions of the FC-AGE scheduled for 17th December.

However, all clubs were agreed that we should move forward together in solidarity in whatever direction clubs feel best. ACCSO will arrange one or more videoconference meetings with a view to reach consensus on the way forward. All to be achieved in order that planning for any season 2023 competitions can be finalised (see discussion points).

Agenda Item 13: Discussion on winding-down/dissolution of ACCSO

Debate not required because of decisions reached on Agenda Item 12, above.

Agenda Item 13: Elections:

PT reminded attendees that ACCSO's constitution requires that elections be voted by secret ballot. Given that recent elections have been by acclamation, he asked attendees whether they wished to continue with a show of hands. **Attendees agreed.**

- President: Peter Brown, sole candidate, was **unanimously elected** for a 2-year term.
- Treasurer: Mehul Dhorda, sole candidate, was invited to say a few words about himself and what he hoped to bring to the job. **He was unanimously elected** for a one-year term to complete Peter Brown's term as Treasurer.
- Secretary: Rajesh Gopalan, sole candidate, was invited to say a few words about himself and what he hoped to bring to the job. **He was unanimously elected** for a second two-year term as Secretary.
- PT congratulated the new Committee members on their election and handed over the chairmanship of the meeting to Peter Brown.
- Peter Brown thanked the member-clubs for their confidence. He proposed that Peter Townsend be elected Vice-President for a one-year term, to advise and assist the new Committee in the ongoing relationship with France Cricket, this for the duration of the second year of the vacant post of VP. **Unanimously approved.**
- For the record, Committee contact details are as follows:
 - Peter Brown – President - president@cricket-sw-france.org
 - Peter Townsend – Vice President - VP@cricket-sw-france.org
 - Mehul Dhorda – Treasurer - treasurer@cricket-sw-france.org
 - Rajesh Gopalan – Secretary - secretary@cricket-sw-france.org

Agenda Item 15: Planning for 2023 competitions:

The following topics were discussed before moving on to 2023 season planning:

- Club individual finances, including cost of FC/FFBS affiliation.
- Cost of ACCSO membership and competition entry fee remain unchanged.
- Development fund can be requested by clubs with proposal/justifications
- Increasing financial cost if sponsorship/donations are no longer forthcoming.
- Umpires or club officials can record their expenses through club as tax donation.
- Clubs have issues on stability and transportation.
- Scoring and match sheets inadequacy, clubs MUST ensure they are completed correctly.
- Application to be proposed for scoring electronically if clubs find it easier. Clubs can continue with a regular scorebook but all details must be included.
- Developmental help from FC to clubs unlikely..
- New Committee will investigate options to FFBS-FC (ASPTT or similar multi-sports bodies), subject to the decisions taken in December by Government/FFBS/FC.

- ✓ Telephone numbers of the emergency services to be put up at every ground.
- ✓ Medical clearance to be done for everyone without fail.
- ✓ Normally the federation insurance is adequate but additional charges of 4€ would top up through federation.
- ✓ Concussion needs to be treated seriously. Clubs and umpires must emphasise to players the need to wear helmets.

More notes to support the fixtures planning for season 2023:

- Confirmed participation:
 - Damazan
 - Eymet
 - SAC
 - Catus
 - TCC (1 or 2 teams to be confirmed and also the willingness to have 1 team in NA pool)
- Participation in doubt:
 - Bordeaux (Unclear)
 - Nimes (Unclear as they propose not to affiliate to FC/FFBS)
 - Montpellier (Unclear)
 - Midi (Do not have players)
- Rajesh to work out and propose competition fixtures
- BF Cup (35 overs with good ground facilities)
- T20 leagues (have only 2 matches per day)
- League (40 overs unless until due to weather conditions and do not change / agree based on 2 captains as everyone MUST respect league rules & uniformity)
- Helmet usage – after a vote the existing rules remain in force. But the wearing of helmets should be strongly recommended.
- Weather
 - Bans announced by préfecture will result in automatic postponed.
 - Red/orange *alerte canicule* warnings ⚠ = Postponement.
 - For yellow alert, increased water breaks and/or reduced overs as necessary, with agreement of both captains & both umpires
- Scoring: try to have both, try app scoring preferably if players are entered
- Umpiring : preferably as in season 2022 - 2 non playing
- Ensure all grounds are maintained and pitches in good shape.

Agenda Item 16: Any other business:

No topics raised.

Agenda Item 17: Close:

PB thanked all for attending and closed the AGM.

Published by ACCSO Secretary on behalf of Committee.