

# ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD-OUEST

*Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN*



**6 November 2023**

## **ACCSO Presidents Report 2023**

Dear Presidents and club members,

I would like to thank all clubs for their participation in the 2023 competitions. It was particularly good to see Bordeaux-Giscours return to ACCSO cricket.

The tight schedule and additional travel were difficult for clubs, players and umpires. I thank everyone for their efforts, as a result of which only a relatively small number of fixtures were not completed. I would also like to thank those clubs who hosted/offered to host third-party matches to assist in reducing travel time and costs. It was invaluable in delivering what was a demanding timetable.

Congratulations to Catus on their stellar season, cumulating appearances in both finals and topping the BF league. Congratulations to Damazan and Eymet for victories in the BF Cup and T20 finals respectively. Peter Townsend's tournament report covers the playing events of the year in some detail so I will not repeat more here.

I would like to thank Peter for his invaluable assistance in supporting the ACCSO committee as VP and standing in as de-facto S-G after the sad and untimely death of his partner. We continue to hold Rajesh and the children in our thoughts and wish them all the very best for the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rajesh for all his hard work while serving as ACCSO S-G.

The S-G position is obviously vacant and we will clearly need to elect a new S-G at the AGM – for the 1 year remaining of Rajesh's mandate. I would ask that any potential candidates contact either Peter Townsend or myself.

Mehul Dhorda was elected last year, for a 1-year period as my replacement as Treasurer. The post of Treasurer is therefore now open for election, for the regular 2-year mandate. Mehul has indicated that he is willing to stand again and I wholeheartedly welcome that. Notwithstanding, if anybody else wishes to present themselves, please let me or Peter Townsend know.

In addition, the position of Vice-President is up for election/re-election. Given that our situation with France Cricket remains 'fluid', Peter Townsend has agreed to allow his name to be put forward again but he has indicated he will stand for one year only, which takes us usefully to the end of both the FC-CD mandate and the FC-ACCSO *conventions*.

I will leave it to Mehul to report on the detail of your association's finances but I will mention that we were extremely pleased to receive generous financial support once again from Blevins Franks. I would like to thank Rupert and all at Blevins Franks for their critical financial support but we should be aware that while not likely to come to an end next year it is by no means guaranteed in the future.

We also received generous donations via the tax donation scheme from administrators and umpires and I thank them all for their time and their donations.

I was once again delighted to attend the BF Cup Final, held at Eymet. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and was pleased both clubs competed well. Again, congratulations to Damazan for prevailing in the end. I would like to thank all at Eymet for organizing the day and laying on an outstanding spread for our sponsors, their guests and the players. I don't wish to be negative about the day but the Final did once again show that ACCSO clubs struggle with over rate - to the point where a number of BF's clients did not stay to the end. I hope ACCSO clubs are able to find ways to improve over rates in ALL our cricket in 2024.

Hui Scheers of Catus CC has been instrumental in trialing the CricHQ scoring system. A number of clubs are no longer able to provide a full-time "traditional" scorer and CricHQ provides a solution, allowing the players to score on smart phones or tablets. In addition, when using CricHQ there is no need to be trained in 'score book' methods so in theory anyone can score – provided that they know how to interpret all umpire signals, of course! Hui has set up accounts for each club on the CricHQ system so your club would be able to start working with the system quickly and easily. I would like to thank Hui for his hard work and while he will be away for the AGM, he has indicated he is happy to help support clubs if they wish to implement the solution. There will be a presentation of the system at the AGM and clubs then can decide what our policy on scoring will be in 2024.

Peter Townsend has produced a briefing document (Review of likely ACCSO-FC developments 2024) on the ACCSO-FC relationship and likely developments. Our *conventions* with France Cricket run for one more year and there are unlikely to be material changes that would have an effect on ACCSO cricket in the 2024 season. Change will be inevitable if and when FC becomes a *fédération* in its own right.

*Haut Niveau* status is now a given following cricket being confirmed as an Olympic sport in 2028. *Haut Niveau* status opens up government funding for FC but also potentially for clubs, either directly or much more likely via departmental and regional Olympic organisations.

Peter will cover the principal points at AGM and clubs will have an opportunity to discuss and vote on the situation.

We must consider the format of our cricket in 2024 so it would be extremely helpful if clubs were able to come to the AGM with an idea of what competitions they are likely to wish to compete in. Talking with club presidents, captains and the bureau/committee members, I feel that we should explore a new format and or dates for the T20 competition. This along with the other competition formats will be discussed at the AGM and I encourage clubs to put forward ideas particularly on the T20.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who make our cricket possible - the ACCSO committee, the committees of clubs, umpies and scorers, ground staff, Blevins Franks and the players.

I look forward to the AGM and to seeing many of you then.

Peter Brown

President

ACCSO (Association des Clubs du Cricket du Sud-Ouest)

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