

# ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD-OUEST

*Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN*

## Provisional Minutes of AGM held at Damazan on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

### Present:

#### Committee, without vote:

- Peter Brown, president (“PB”),
- Peter Townsend, vice-president (“PT”)
- Mehul Dhorda, treasurer (“MD”), apologies for absence, present via electronic link for the financial agenda items

#### Clubs, with voting rights:

- **Bordeaux-Giscours: Apologies** from Andy Smith (President). Proxy given to Saint Aulaye
- **Catus: Apologies** from Peter Stirling (President). Mandate given to CCC VP Anthony Burden (“AB”)
- **Damazan: Apologies** from Gagan Singh. Mandate given to Damazan fixtures secretary, John Ayling (“JA”)
- **Eymet: Andrew Cardle (“AC”)** (President)
- **Saint Aulaye: Peter Brown (“PB”)** (President)
- **Toulouse: Philippe Fermanel (“PF”)** (President)

#### In attendance, without vote:

- Ken Sutton (“KS”), Treasurer, Catus
- Gary Stark (“GS”), Treasurer, Damazan
- Scott MacKinlay (“SM”), Secretary, Eymet
- Wynford Hicks (“WH”), Treasurer, Saint Aulaye

#### By invitation, without vote:

- Irfan Sheikh (“IS”), president of Eyliac CC, Périgueux, club in formation and putative ACCSO member-club 2024
- Bilal Mian (“BM”), club captain, Eyliac CC

### 1. Agenda Item 1: Registration/proxies/Quorum:

Quorum was confirmed at 11h10, with 5 of the 6 member clubs represented by their president, by mandate to another member of club or by proxy given to another club.

Committee members PB and PT were present.

### 2. Agenda Item 2: Welcome:

PB welcomed those attending and thanked Sheila Ayling for reserving the conference room and for dealing with the local restaurant for our lunch.

He informed AGM that TCC’s representatives were delayed en route but were expected to arrive in time for the financial questions. **Noted.**

PB also advised that MD, our treasurer, was unable to attend but that he would be available via a telephone link for the financial questions. **Noted and telephone presence approved.**

PB also suggested that the agenda be adjusted such that the essence of the debate on affiliation 2024 should be scheduled for after-lunch. **Approved.**

### **3. Agenda Item 3: Apologies for absence:**

PT informed the meeting that B-GCC apologised for their absence and had given a proxy to SAC. **Noted.**

### **4. Agenda Item 4: Introductions:**

The necessary introductions were made, including those of IS and MB of the club-in-formation near Périgueux. Club president IS informed AGM of the timescale for the setting up of the new club and the status of their pitch project. He explained the transition plan relative to SAC. **Members noted, with congratulations.**

### **5. Agenda Item 5: Draft Minutes of EGM January 2023:**

Document pre-published on Web site. No significant matters arising. Approval proposed by Eymet; seconded by Damazan. **Approved unanimously.**

### **6. Agenda Item 6: President's report and review of Season 2023:**

Document pre-published on website. PB congratulated all clubs to the successful conclusion of a very demanding season. He expressed the thanks of Committee and the clubs for the continuing sponsorship of Blevins Franks and summarized the report. No questions were posed. The President's Report 2022 was **noted** (not subject to vote).

**Arrival of TCC. All six member clubs now present or represented.**

### **7. Agenda Item 7: Treasurers Report and Financial Statement 2023:**

Document pre-published on website.

MD joined the meeting via telephonic link and on loudspeaker. PB summarised the key points of the Financial Statement and **MD concurred.**

In response to PB's call for reactions from clubs, AC agreed that ACCSO's finances continue to be well-managed and that its cash assets are in good health. He proposed that, given the financial situation of member-clubs, a minimum level of cash assets should be set and that the excess be re-distributed to the clubs at year-end, to be used at the discretion of each club. He mentioned alleviation of club travel costs or contribution towards club capital expenditure as possibilities. AC proposed that such a minimum level of assets might be of the order of €7K or €7,5K.

PB reminded clubs that cash assets have always been managed with a mind to the eventuality that Blevins Franks sponsorship comes to an end or is significantly reduced. **PT and MD confirmed this as historic policy.**

A summary of club reactions:

Saint-Aulaye (WH) supported the ECC proposal.

Damazán (GS) agreed to the principle but would prefer a phased introduction.

Toulouse (PF) supported the principle and would propose that any such lump sum would be uniform, taking no account of size of club membership or number of teams presented.

Catus (KS) were not in favour of such disbursements and would prefer to see existing aids (travel costs, payment for use of third-party grounds) be guaranteed. CCC also consider the funding of club capital projects to be a club responsibility.

MD offered the suggestion that ACCSO pay club affiliations to FC or whatever other body/bodies AGM would decide before the end of the meeting.

PB thanked the clubs and MD for their inputs and proposed that he convene a meeting of ACCSO Committee which would put forward a consolidated proposal, for debate at an EGM early in 2024, ahead of the new season.

Approval of Treasurer's Report & Financial Statement 2022: Proposed by Damazan; seconded by Catus. **Approved unanimously.**

### **8. Agenda Item 8: Budget proposal 2024:**

Document pre-published on website.

PB explained that the proposed Budget was constructed on the basis of the same competitions as in 2023 and with the same number of teams. MD confirmed this baseline, which would clearly need adjustment in light of final competition make-up and the outcome of the eventual decision on the disbursement proposal debated earlier (see paragraph 7, above).

PF wanted to put on record TCC's dissatisfaction with the Kookaburra balls which were delivered over and above the match balls. For TCC, the Elite balls as used in competitions are much better. PB took note.

Approval of proposed Budget 2024: Proposed by Eymet; seconded by Damazan. **Approved unanimously.**

### **9. Agenda item 13: Elections:**

- **Treasurer:** PB reminded AGM that the current Treasurer, Mehul Dhorda, has come to the end of his mandate. He is willing to stand for re-election.

There being no other candidates, PB invited AGM to vote on MD's renewal. Eymet proposed; Catus seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

- **Secretary:** PB reminded AGM that the current secretary, Rajesh Gopalan, was obliged to resign earlier in 2023 for family reasons. AGM joined with PB in thanking him for his previous contributions and wished him well. Hui SCHEERS (member of Catus) has submitted his candidature. Catus support this and KS briefly described Hui's background and in-club activities.

There being no other candidates, PB invited AGM to vote on Hui's election. Catus proposed; Eymet seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

- **VP:** PB thanked PT for his ongoing work as advisor to the Committee on questions such as affiliation and for standing in as Secretary following Rajesh Gopalan's standing down. PT has also come to the end of his 2-year term. He is willing to stand for re-election but only for 1 year.

This 1-year term being acceptable to ACCSO Committee and there being no other candidates, PB invited AGM to vote on PT's renewal. Saint-Aulaye proposed; Eymet seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

For the record, Committee contact details are as now follows:

- Peter Brown – President - [president@cricket-sw-france.org](mailto:president@cricket-sw-france.org)
- Peter Townsend – Vice President - [VP@cricket-sw-france.org](mailto:VP@cricket-sw-france.org)
- Mehul Dhorda – Treasurer - [treasurer@cricket-sw-france.org](mailto:treasurer@cricket-sw-france.org)
- Hui Scheers – Secretary - [secretary@cricket-sw-france.org](mailto:secretary@cricket-sw-france.org)

**10. Agenda item 9: Secretary's Report:** With Committee's approval, PT had prepared highlights of season 2023 in lieu of a Secretary's Report. His **Document Tournament Review** was pre-published on website.

PT apologised for not attending many of the season's matches, especially the finals of the Cup and the T20.

PB presented the T20 Winners' trophy to AC (Cup and League trophies were awarded at the BF Cup Final).

The most notable on-field performances were the 105 of Rajat (TCC Wolves) and the 7-for-14 of Ali Khan (ECC).

PT went on to award medals for the umpires who had contributed significantly to the season's many matches – Adrian Evett (Saint-Aulaye); Gary Stark (Damazan), in person; Glyn Taylor (Eymet); Peter Stirling (Catus); and Christophe Srikanth (Toulouse), in person.

PT emphasised that all umpires – whether one of the 3 much-travelled regulars or those from the batting side - remain the sole authority in all aspects of match management. They alone have control of the over-rate and the number of overs to be bowled. These aspects of the game were areas of concern in 2023.

AGM debated the proposal put forward by Toulouse to at least maintain a good over rate by bowling a number (5) of overs from the same end, targetting sometimes excessive field changes during any given over. (In the case of matches at Sordelo this device also helps to maintain a reasonable over rate whilst search parties look for "lost" balls).

**Eymet opposed the proposal; Catus and Damazan reacted favourably.** A proposition by PT that bowling 5 overs from the same end be inscribed as a Local Condition which any home club can put to the visiting captain - who has the right to decline it – was **approved unanimously**. This will be written into 2024 Match Regulations (**action by ACCSO Secretary**).

The reporting of match results was of variable quality in 2023. From impeccable to non-existent, as in the case of the T20 Final, where a post-match decision, based on the 2 scorebooks plus parallel CricHQ scoring, confirmed the NRR decision in favour of the eventual winning side.

For the validity of results to be assured, the signatures of the 2 captains and 2 of whoever contributed to the umpiring of the match are all essential. This will continue to be the case where matches are scored via CricHQ (see the following section). **AGM took note.**

## **11. Agenda item 9: CricHQ prototyping and proposition to adopt.**

Document pre-published to clubs.

PB introduced this topic by reminding clubs that ACCSO Committee had accepted a proposal from Hui Scheers (Catus) to prototype scoring via the CricHQ application in 2023 with a view to having it accepted as a viable method of scoring for ACCSO competitive matches.

Hui regretted that he could not be at AGM to present the system and to answer questions; but he and PB had exchanged sufficiently to enable PB to take AGM through the document.

PB described the advantages of the system and noted some important questions that clubs and the new ACCSO Committee need to consider.

- As a digital scoring application, there is no need to know how to use a traditional score book. However, it remains imperative for digital scorers to understand umpires' signals and to be trained on the use of the system.
- The application can be switched from device to device during the match, as required (when a player-scorer goes in to bat, for example).
- CricHQ can create player profiles linking to licence numbers set by FFBS/FC or any Omnisport organisation.
- CricHQ can produce statistics (averages) for clubs and players leading to greater engagement with players and potentially with a club's local community.

- Live streaming is available, again leading to greater engagement.
- As per the ACCSO Budget 2024 proposal, provision is made to provide clubs with rechargeable/solar battery packs to ensure scorers have enough power to run a match.
- PB stressed that the application can be used alongside traditional scoring methods. It is NOT a replacement for where a club is able to provide a full-time scorer who prefers to use a scorebook.
- PB emphasised that training is essential - it is incumbent on clubs to ensure they were up to speed with using the system ahead of using it in any competitive match.
- Hui was already in the process of generating a plan to provide such training. It will include full awareness of umpires' signals.

PB asked clubs to inform Hui (secretary@cricket-sw-france.org) of a contact person for further discussion with a view to implementing – or not – in 2024. Those persons would decide whether to call on ACCSO to allocate one of the back-up power units provided for in the 2024 Budget. **Action on the part of ACCSO clubs.**

In recognition of Hui's staff work, ACCSO Committee decided to award a medal, which PB presented to the Catus representatives.

## **12. Agenda item 11: Situation FC and decisions on Affiliation 2024**

Briefing document circulated to clubs pre-AGM.

Recognising that the several club members present did not attend the March 2023 videoconference EGM, PT covered the key points of the affiliation question; and presented an assessment of whether FC had proactively displayed during 2023 (a) that it was proceeding solidly towards proving that cricket merited *Haut Niveau* status and (b) that FC was showing itself worthy of becoming a *fédération* in its own right. No, is the most likely conclusion, on both counts.

However, the CIO's decision to incorporate cricket in the Los Angeles Games of 2028 has forced the issue in one respect. By virtue of its own regulations, the Ministry is now required to consider cricket as a *Sport de Haut Niveau*. But most likely not until after the Paris Games, which is when the new Olympic cycle formally begins.

FC's campaign – of which there is not much public evidence – of proving it as worthy of *fédération* status has clearly suffered as a result of the allegations made by the France24 journalist. Many other media took up the story – most significantly *L'Équipe* – but there was no public reaction from the bodies nominally affected by the allegations (the Ministry, the ICC, and FC itself).

On behalf of ACCSO member-clubs, PB had invited FC president Balane to provide some indication of what FC's *droit de réponse* would be, in time for review at our AGM. PB distributed copies of what he had received. AGM reaction: Not at all impressed by the content of the reply; and alarmed by the pre-announcement of a vigorous witch-hunt.

PT invited clubs to declare their assessment of the situation.

Going round the table, **clubs were unanimous in having no support for FC.**

With the exception of B-GCC (Saint-Aulaye did not exercise its proxy, having received no pre-AGM directions from B-GCC on the subject), **AGM voted unanimously against affiliation to FC in 2024.**

A final tour de table showed that 3 current member-clubs, plus the new club at Eyliac, would open discussions with the ASPTT. JA had not received any specific guidance on this question from Damazan Committee. Given the present absence of DCC president Gagan Singh, DCC will decide by mid-January. **AGM took note.**

**13. Agenda Item 12: Discussion on winding-down/dissolution of ACCSO**

Debate not required because of decisions reached earlier.

**14. Agenda Item 14: Planning for 2024 competitions:**

The clubs reviewed a proposition that the 2024 League competition should be re-set at 35 overs as a norm. This to reflect the several occasions in 2023 where it was decided at the ground. **AGM agreed unanimously not** to adopt this as a norm but instead include it as an option under the heading of Local Conditions, with visiting sides having the right to stay with 40-overs.

Topic deferred to an EGM towards the end of January, 2024, and by videoconference, to allow clubs time to arrange alternative affiliations/insurance cover. **AGM took note.**

**15. Agenda Item 15: Any other business:**

PB informed AGM that he would be sending Gagan Singh a note of sympathy and solidarity. **AGM took note and approved.** No other topics were raised.

**16. Agenda Item 16: Close:**

PB thanked all for attending and closed the AGM at 17h00.

**Published by ACCSO Secretary on behalf of Committee.**