



Association des Club du Cricket du Sud Ouest.

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN

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ACCSO Secretary's report 2024

In this my first year as secretary of the Association, I unfortunately have little hindsight but would nonetheless like to report the 2024 ACCSO season as a general success. All the more noteworthy as this would be the first year obtaining cricket licences outside of the association France Cricket. I can but applaud the huge efforts made by all the member clubs to get this in order before the start of the season.

With the very much appreciated support and guidance from the long standing stalwart of cricket in the region Mr Peter Townsend as well as support from the rest of the committee we arranged the 3 competitions with a total of 43 competitive matches to be played across 2 regions (Nouvelle Aquitaine & Occitanie spanning 156000 km²).

Thanks to the tenacity of the member clubs as well as some flexibility from the sponsor, all of the 43 matches could go ahead despite some flooding/weather issues as well as a surprise pitch invasion which eventually pushed back the calendar by one week.

One of my objectives when entering the ACCSO committee a year ago was to ensure our past legacy (30+ years) as well as our current efforts are put forward to give our Association (as well as the quality cricket you as member clubs provide) the public credibility it deserves. With this in mind, we now have dedicated championship floating trophies (Ligue, Cup and T20) which will (eventually) hold the plaque with the names of the previous champions over ACCSOs history. We have also increased the association's visibility to the public through the use of social media (only Facebook for now) throughout the season. We do not of course have much to compare to however the current statistics from ACCSO's Facebook presence show that our latest posts are reaching an audience of over 700 with 216 engagements. This has also allowed for member clubs to have better visibility on their own social media platforms (this is useful in attracting new players as well as possibly getting support/sponsors).

A second objective of mine was to attempt to start implementing a digital scoring system at ACCSO, primarily with the objective of recording all the match data (far more than is currently noted on the match report form) and secondly to give the clubs easier access to the ability to score their matches (training players to score in a book properly is far more difficult than learning to do so on a digital app). This test season started off fairly well with many clubs getting involved with the use of CricHQ and others (having opted to remain on paper) willingly submitting copies of the paper version so as to include their player statistics. All the player and team statistics were being recorded which would have allowed ACCSO to identify and reward players/teams that had outstanding performances. This all went well until the unexpected collapse of the CricHq platform. I still consider the testing phase to have been a success up until this point. I am currently experimenting with an alternative platform



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“CricHeroes” which should allow us to run another test in the upcoming season. Once again I would urge clubs to try this new platform however there should (as per the 2024 season) not be an obligation to use the platform. I would however urge clubs to try scoring on both paper as well as digitally. A big thank you goes out to all the players & management of the teams that assisted with the initial testing in 2024.

As far as I report this season to be a success there are, as with everything, some room for improvement going forward. Proper match reporting was particularly difficult to achieve though we did eventually receive all the match results. I believe that we need to investigate an easier way for a match report to be completed and signed off accordingly (needing 2 signatures from opposing teams). We clearly need to make it as simple as possible for captains to complete a match report form after the game.

I would like to thank all of the members for continuing to support ACCSO as it continues on into its 3rd decade of existence.

Hugues “Hui” Scheers

Secretary - Association des Clubs de Cricket du Sud Ouest.