

# ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD-OUEST

*Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN*



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## **ACCSO AGM 2017**

### **Secretary-General's Report**

The 2017 cricket season saw dramatic changes in the format of the Blevins Franks League competition with the amalgamation of the two SW pool into a single league, with each team playing each other once at home or away.

Whilst the opportunity to play different teams was a refreshing change, travel and player availability proved to be a big issue especially for the clubs at the extremity of our region. The costs associated with away matches put increased pressure on club resources and on club management to organise players for long-distance away matches. It was encouraging to see clubs at the centre of our region offering to act as a neutral venue to avoid excessive travel. They are to be thanked for their co-operation.

The problem of clubs not having enough playing members is not a new one. It is a problem that all too many clubs are experiencing. Recruitment is a complex and difficult process given the ageing expat community. Reliance on young Asian lads is something that brings its own management challenges. They are an enthusiastic and talented group who add a great deal to our cricket and are undoubtedly raising the playing standard. Clubs do need to try to get these lads to play an active role in the running of the clubs as well as the playing side. **Recruitment of new players is, in my opinion, the number one priority for 2018.**

It was disappointing to see the number of matches forfeited because of the inability to field even the minimum number of players. Of the 39 matches scheduled (28 League and 11 T20), 7 were forfeited (3 in the League; 4 in T20). To complete the picture, one League match was settled on run-rate after rain prevented completion.

On-field behaviour remained a source of concern, with excessive appealing from all parts of the field and the questioning of umpires' decisions by word or deed. Much appealing can be put down to enthusiasm rather than malicious intent; but it was nevertheless a very frustrating feature of the 2017 season. Captains need to take more responsibility in controlling appealing.

We are reliant on a dedicated group of umpires who give up their time willingly to travel long distances to officiate in our games. Questioning their decision-making is to do them an injustice, apart from being against the Laws. We all make mistakes and apparently wrong decisions have always been a part of the game and always will be (ask the umpires in the recent England-South

Africa Test series). Accepting umpires' decision' is part of the game and being able to accept a 'wrong' is part of the character-building aspect of cricket.

We do not want our game to become like that of amateur cricket & football in the UK where umpires/referees are refusing to officiate because of the abuse they receive from players. The new Code of Laws will give umpires more 'teeth' next season, notably with the yellow/red card system. Let us all hope that it will never be used in our cricket.

This season saw three disciplinary issues with players receiving bans in two of them.

The 2017 League was very competitively fought, with the final winner being in doubt right up to the last set of matches.

The T20 Finals were hosted by Eymet, who are to be thanked for their organisation and hospitality.

Our thanks should also go to the umpires, the scorers (of which there are still far too few), the tea ladies, groundsmen and above all our sponsor Blevins Franks.

M.E.GEAR

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