

ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD-OUEST

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN

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BLEVINS  FRANKS
INTERNATIONAL TAX & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

ACCSO AGM 2018 Secretary-General's Report

The 2018 cricket season saw a reduction in the number of teams able to take part in the competitions, just 5 in the league and 7 in the T20.

There was a continuation of the changes made in 2017 to the format of the Blevins Franks League competition with the amalgamation of the two SW pools into a single league, with each team playing each other once at home or away, reversing the 2017 fixtures.

Travel and player availability proved to be a big issue especially for the clubs at the extreme south 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 agreeing to act as a neutral venues to avoid excessive travel. They are to be thanked for their co-operation. The feelings of all clubs regarding participation in 2019 will form the backbone of discussion and decisions later in the meeting.

The weather played a great part by disrupting the original schedule, Orange alerts for both thunderstorms and a canicule meant re-organisation of a good number of matches. The T20 pool round being postponed one week and the idea of a match between the League Winners v The Rest abandoned. The T20 Final being also disrupted by the petulant actions of some at B-GCC.

The problem of clubs not having enough playing members remains. Reliance on young Asian lads still brings management challenges. They are an enthusiastic and talented group who add a great deal to our cricket, raising the playing standard but tend to lack understanding of playing organised matches. Clubs try to school these lads to play an active role in the running of the clubs as well as the playing side, but distances involved and their

lack of transport greatly hinder this. **Recruitment of new players, and continued schooling remain a priority for 2019.**

The number of matches forfeited because of the inability to field a competitive side grew in real terms. Of the 20 matches scheduled (10 League and 10 T20), 7 were forfeited (2 in the League; 5 in T20).

On-field behaviour was greatly improved. A very small number of minor incidents being reported with none requiring disciplinary action. On the other side of the coin 2 players walked when the umpire was uncertain of the decision. We are again grateful to the dedicated group of umpires who give up their time willingly to travel long distances to officiate in our games. The 2018 League was competitively fought, with the winners being victorious in all 4 of their matches. The T20 Finals were hosted by Damazan who are to be thanked for their organisation and hospitality, as well as their patience and understanding of the format revised at a very late hour.

Our thanks 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.

Ian Brown

September 2018