

# ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

*Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN*

BLEVINS  FRANKS  
INTERNATIONAL TAX & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

## Minutes of AGM held at Damazan on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Published Version, dated 22 November 2018

Meeting started at 11:07 with Peter Townsend, President, in Chair.

### **Present:**

Committee, without vote: Peter Townsend, president (“PT”) and Stephen Harrison, treasurer (“SH”).  
Ian Brown ( secretary - “IB”) and Malcolm Grant (umpire community manager - “MG”).

### **Clubs, with voting rights:**

**Bordeaux-Giscours:** Andy Smith, (“AS”),(President)

**Catus:** Apologies from Peter Stirling (President) Proxy given to Ken Sutton (“KS”)

**Damazan:** Apologies from Gagan Singh. Proxy given to John Ayling (“JA”).

**Eymet:** Apologies from Andrew Cardle, (President). Proxy given to Ian Brown (“IB”).

**Mansle:** Caroline Beecroft (“CB”) (President)

**Midi:** James Luckes (“JL”) (President).

**Saint Aulaye:** Peter Brown (“PB”) (President).

**Toulouse:** Apologies from Philippe Fermanel, (“PF”) (President)

### **In attendance, without vote:**

Gary Stark (“GS”), Damazan.

Justin Burley (“JB”), Mansle

Reg Gratton (“RG”), secretary, Midi

Wynford Hicks (“WH”), secretary, Saint Aulaye

### **Agenda Item 2: Quorum/Proxies:** See above.

At 11:00, 7 of 8 member-clubs present or represented. Quorum (half of member-clubs) exceeded.

### **Agenda Item 3: Welcome**

All expected attendees had arrived and PT welcomed all to the meeting, thanking them for their time. Introductions made by all concerned, but notably, Caroline Beecroft, attending her first ACCSO AGM since election as president of Mansle.

### **Agenda Item 4: Apologies:** See above.

PT told the meeting that illness to his translator prevents Philippe Fermanel, President of Toulouse CC attending.

Information regarding several matters had been communicated by telephone which would be mentioned at the relevant agenda item.

### **Agenda Item 5 Minutes of AGM 2017:** Document pre-published on Web site.

Reading not required. No significant matters arising.

**Approval of AGM 2017 minutes:** Proposed by Damazan; seconded by Catus. Unanimously approved, by acclamation.

Document signed by PT and IB.

### **Agenda Item 6: President’s report and review of Season 2018.** Document pre-published on Web site.

PT did not wish to elaborate on any particular aspect of his review of 2018, however he provided an up to date situation regarding two matters.

1. Clubs / groups in the region who are yet to form an association or join ACCSO.

La Rochelle - Association formed but not ready for any involvement with ACCSO and competitions

Eyliac, Bergerac - Groups interested in forming clubs but find the administrative overhead too onerous.

“CB” mentioned a similar situation at Poitiers, and “JL” one at Beziers.

The club at St Omer has shown what is possible with such groups and **PT** agreed to circulate the article about them published in the NY Times. Action by President. (subsequent to the meeting this was circulated 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018)

2. The conventions whereby ACCSO are able (i) to authorise matches against touring clubs not affiliated to FFBS but without risking loss of FFBS insurance cover and (ii) arrange our own competitions have been re-negotiated with France Cricket and confirmed until March 2020.

No further matters arising, the President's Report was noted (not subject to vote).

**Agenda Item 7: Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement 2018:** Documents pre-published on Web site.

**SH** confirmed to AGM that all items-to-date are recorded and reconciled.

He was pleased to be able to announce a profit of 1,000€ for the year 2018. This margin was caused by the fact that so many matches did not take place during the season. The Umpires line item remains as the most substantial element of the accounts. It continues to be manageable because umpires are prepared either to make no claim for their travel expenses or to opt for a tax credit.

**SH** reminded clubs that the business model of our cricket is highly dependent upon the continuing generosity of Blevins Franks, our sponsors. Our thanks are due to Rupert Holderness for his continuing championing of our cricket, with a further 2000€ guaranteed for 2019 ; and the best way to repay him is to look for every opportunity in and around the clubs to promote the services of Blevins Franks. Action by clubs.

The cost of the ACCSO website has risen to 300€ per year but has been donated via a tax credit.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report and P&L Statement 2017:** Proposed by Mansle; seconded by Damazan  
Unanimously approved, by acclamation, with thanks to **SH** for his stewardship.

**Agenda Item 8: Budget proposal 2019:** Document pre-published on Web site.

**SH** reminded clubs that, as ever, the document is a working document, open to comment / modification at AGM.

**SH** confirmed that his Budget 2019 provisions are based upon an expectation that the year's competitions would be similar to those of 2017 (ie, with the Cup restored); all clubs signing up; same entry fees; and Fair Play Award prizes.

Subject to vote later in AGM, **SH** confirmed that our supplier continues to offers us a good deal on pink and red balls and invited clubs to inform him, by mid-December, of any extra club orders for balls, at an attractive rate of €50 per box of 6.  
Action by clubs.

**SH** reminded those present that his health concerns mean he will not be seeking re-election at the 2019 AGM so a replacement should be sought in good time.

**Approval of proposed Budget 2018:** Proposed by Damazan; seconded by B-GCC. Unanimously approved, by acclamation.

**Agenda Item 9: Umpires Report:** Document pre-published on Web site.

**MG** stated that he was pleased to report 2 umpires per match were provided but further numbers may be required for 2019.

**MG** confirmed that the trial of the new wides arrangement for 2018 worked well and should continue. Clubs should ensure, however that the edges of the mat are cleaned, removing grass creeping on to the mat Action by Clubs.

The proposal to have a pre-match chat with captains / players regarding how the umpires proposed to run the match turned out to be impracticable as the teams were rarely in a place to gather them together. A short discussion confirmed that the matters which would have been outlined were the responsibility of the clubs to ensure players were aware of what is required of them. This needs to be done well in advance of the match day. Action by Clubs.

No further matters arising, the Umpire Manager's Report was noted (not subject to vote).

**Agenda Item 10: Fair Play Award:** Document circulated 3 September 2018.

Clubs present agreed that the Award process had greatly improved the behaviour on the field of play but was still a useful way to keep the situation at a satisfactory level. The emphasis should change slightly more towards good sportsmanship. Hence the process should continue in 2019, with the change of name to The Sportsmanship Award with a trophy for the winner to display at their ground rather than the 200€ cheque. Action by Umpire Manager and Treasurer.

### **Agenda Item 11: Fair Play Award: 2018 result**

Congratulations to Midi as winners who were happy to receive a small certificate and the 200€ cheque.

### **Agenda Item 12: First Aid provision at matches.**

Following a suggestion that more First Aid support should be considered at matches a short discussion about all levels of support followed. The points which emerged as most important and practical were;

- ❖ Make sure a notice is prominently displayed giving details of the local Pharmacie and Doctor who may be available during the match.
- ❖ Post notices warning the public of the possible dangers if they remain in an area where balls might land.
- ❖ Make a sure a basic first aid kit is in a prominent place and contents are adequate. Action by Clubs
- ❖ Investigate if umpires would be interested in being trained in basic first aid. Action by Umpire Manager

### **Agenda Item 13: Secretary's Report:** Document pre-published on Web site.

The Secretary's Report was noted (not subject to vote).

### **Agenda Item 14: Proposed changes to Disciplinary Procedure:** Document circulated on 2 October 2018 and pre-published on Web site.

The following additional points were covered;

- ❖ Any Level 4 breaches in discipline will be referred to FC Disciplinary Panel, assuming this is created in March 2019 as a replacement for the FFBS Disciplinary Committee.
- ❖ There is the possibility that a Disciplinary outcome could be a suspended sentence and remain in place for up to 3 years as in the current FFBS procedure. The topic will be up for further discussion on 2019 AGM Agenda. Action by Secretary.

The proposed changes were accepted by all present and will be formally published. Action by Secretary.

### **Agenda Item 15: Update on State-of-Play at FFBS & FC:**

PT began the update by saying that he felt it was a good time to give a summary of these organisations as there have been a number of new Club Presidents elected in recent years.

- ❖ The FFBS (to whom clubs pay an annual membership fee and the licence fees, is the body legally recognised by the Government to administer the sports of baseball, softball and cricket. A special government decree was necessary to give France Cricket a degree of independence (organise championships, select national sides, etc.). FC have further delegated some of its authority to ACCSO (organise our own championships, authorise matches against touring sides).
- ❖ FFBS: Annual Budget 1.392 million €, has over 200 affiliated clubs mainly Baseball and Softball. Spends 1.370 million € - almost entirely on employees (6 or 7 permanent members of staff), on baseball and softball.
- ❖ FC: Annual Budget 535K € of which 335K € comes from ICC, includes 2 permanent members of staff
- ❖ The FFBS has a national network, with regional HQs at Bordeaux and Montpellier covering the ACCSO Clubs. A presence at these groups helps cricket clubs have their presence recognised and learn about funding opportunities.
- ❖ The increase in FFBS Affiliation fees voted for by FFBS member-clubs in March 2018, from 175€ to 250€ was required due to reduced government funding, to improve salaries and continue to help fund national baseball and softball teams to tour abroad.
  - FC get a portion of these fees
  - Approximately 50% of the Cricket clubs across France affiliate to the FFBS.
  - There is no legal obligation for a club to affiliate however there a strict obligation to ensure that all sporting events are adequately insured.
  - Good reasons for clubs to Affiliate and licence players are;
    - ❖ The club is covered for Responsabilité Civile
    - ❖ Players have access to inexpensive increased personal insurance ( eg loss of earnings) if they wish to take it up.
    - ❖ Clubs have access to funding from FC, current annual surplus of 80K €.
    - ❖ Clubs can use municipal facilities, unheard of for a Maire to permit a sporting association to use them if they are not a member of their National Federation.
    - ❖ Nobody gets selected to play for France without being a member of an affiliated club.

- ❖ A local option for insurance cover was investigated by ACCSO a few years ago, in the context of a debate of clubs not affiliating. The conclusion was that clubs' annual membership fee to ACCSO might double; but there would be no more affiliation and licences to pay for. The debate foundered on the question of use of municipal facilities.

#### **Agenda Item 16: Tournament / Match planning for 2019 season**

Feedback was provided by clubs in advance of the meeting and findings circulated 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Proposals for the format of BF League matches and for the BF Cup to become a pool of FC Coupe de France were circulated 20<sup>th</sup> October.

At the meeting;

**AS** confirmed that B-GCC would like to take part in all competitions

**PB** stated that whilst any decision would be at their AGM in December, there is a greater than 50% chance that St Aulaye would enter the competitions.

**JA** stated that Damazan would decide shortly on their participation.

**PT** following a telephone conversation with Philippe Fermanel, president of TCC, confirmed TCC were planning to entering **TWO** teams in 2019 competitions, and a new full size carpet was planned for 2019 season.

The usual topics were briefly discussed and the following decisions were taken:

- ❖ The ACCSO Weekly 'newsletter' should continue.

#### **BF League**

- ❖ Return to the 2 pools format as prior to 2017, with "cross-over" Semi-finals and Final
- ❖ No League matches to be scheduled during Ramadan
- ❖ SAC Proposal circulated in advance of AGM was accepted. This is to have matches to be no more than 75 over in total. The team batting first cannot bat for more than 40 overs but may declare at any time. The team batting second will bat until either a) they are bowled out within the total of 75 overs, b) they reach the target set or c) the match is drawn/tied.

#### **Points.**

- ❖ Win **10 points**
- ❖ Lose **0 points**
- ❖ Winning draw (Batted first but unable to bowl out other team) **7 points**
- ❖ Losing draw (fewer runs batting second) **3 points**
- ❖ Tie **5 points**

#### **ACCSO BF T20**

- ❖ All matches to take place during Ramadan
- ❖ Pools to be 3 teams where possible based on geographical criteria and 2018 pools
- ❖ A new trophy ( to be held by the winner for one year) in memory of Keith Garner who became well respected for his work for cricket in the region, but sadly passed away in 2018. Action by Treasurer

#### **BF Cup**

- ❖ To be reintroduced as before 2017, the Grand Final being the event for the Sponsor to invite their clients, (subsequent to the meeting BF have confirmed this is to be Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019)
- ❖ No matches to be scheduled during Ramadan.
- ❖ Match format 35 overs per team
- ❖ A Plate competition to run in parallel, except for the Plate final which will not be on the same day as the Cup final.
- ❖ The proposal to have the BF Cup be considered as a pool of FC Coupe de France with one quarter and one semi final in our region, the BF Cup winner being automatically qualified, thus not have having to travel. This was generally felt to be a good idea but with all the above going on fresh in 2019, FC should be thanked for the offer but the feeling explained along with the wish that ACCSO clubs would like to be considered for such a proposal for 2020.
- ❖ The regions clubs have been invited to bid to host the CdF Final, however, the deadline has now passed.

**Proposed changes to Tournament Regulations for 2019** Document circulated 2<sup>nd</sup> October and pre-published on Web site. The proposed changes were accepted by all present and will be formally published once all the above decisions are included. Action by Secretary.

### **Players in a team.**

With one club entering two teams in the competition concern was expressed that there should be some monitoring of the make up of their teams. In particular to avoid dramatically changing one team by including players who usually play for the other team from the same club. It was accepted that the FC regulation that, once a player has played in 25% of matches of a competition they cannot play for the other team in the same competition should apply.

### **Notification of players in a team.**

To help with monitoring and generally improve information for umpires and scorers, it was agreed to introduce the regulation that the FFBS iRoster document (part of the licences system), suitably annotated to show who is in the team for the match, is to be presented to the umpires at the toss. This is for all ACCSO Competition matches. Action: Instructions by Secretary, Implementation by Clubs (Captains).

### **Colour and Quality of Balls**

No real consensus was apparent so it was decided clubs should be able to choose their preference for home matches and communicate this together with any order for balls in addition to the 3 boxes ACCSO provide for competitions to the Treasurer. This needs to be done by 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019. Action by Clubs

### **Agenda Item 17: Review of options/possibilities to improve club player numbers:**

- ❖ All clubs agreed the problem exists for all and needs addressing locally and regionally. **IB** stated that ECC committee were in process of preparing advertising in various publications. It was asked if it would be possible to widen the catchment area to the whole region and share the costs of putting out this advertising. (Subsequent to the meeting ECC response is that they prefer not to be the co-ordinator of this and will pursue their own plans).
- ❖ **CB** said that Mansle had some success ( 3 new players) by exhibiting at local events / markets.

### **Agenda Item 18: Training requirements for 2019**

Umpire training will be scheduled for February 2019. Action Treasurer / Umpire Manager. **PT** suggested to **SH** that he contact Tony BANTON (Lille CC), who has up-to-date material. Action by Treasurer.

**IB** agreed to circulate a document he used at ECC to help new players understand club expectations of them.

Action by Secretary

### **Agenda Item 19. Elections to Committee**

**President** - **PT** affirmed to the AGM that whilst he is prepared to stand again for this two year term definitely be his last. He was nominated by Mansle; seconded by St Aulaye and Unanimously approved, by acclamation.

**Vice-president, charged with Development:** No nominations, the post remains vacant.

**Secretary:** Ian Brown nomination proposed by B-GCC; seconded by Mansle. Unanimously approved, by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item 20: AOB**

**MG** asked that, if circumstances required, such as high temperatures, umpires should be permitted unilaterally to reduce the number of overs for a match on the grounds of safety. As the person legally responsible for the health and safety at all ACCSO matches, **PT** fully supported this request. AGM agreed. . Action by Secretary, to include in tournament regulations.

**No further other business being proposed, the President thanked all the attendees for their time and attention and the meeting closed at 17:02.**

Prepared by Ian Brown

Approved for distribution by **PT**.

21 November 2018.

### **Distribution:**

- Attendees
- Damazan president Gagan Singh
- Toulouse president Philippe Fermanel
- Rupert Holderness, Blevins Franks
- Web site.