

ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN



President's Report - Bilan Moral 2009

The ACCSO constitution defines our role as the administration and development of cricket in the SW.

To assess how ACCSO has performed in 2009 I have chosen to look at six factors:

Firstly, the number of clubs. At the end of 2009 we are effectively in the same position as at the end of 2008 with 11 active clubs. One of ACCSO's objectives for 2010 should be to ensure that we maintain, or even increase the number of clubs and to make sure there is enough cricket at all levels to satisfy all our clubs.

Secondly, players. Despite some clubs losing players because of the recession, the number of senior players is about what it was a year ago (222, to be precise) and it is hard to see this number increasing without either adding second teams to existing clubs or starting new clubs. The number of junior players is 42, half of which are at Toulouse. Given the economic difficulties over the past year, I think this is a good outcome.

Thirdly, the level of play. This is necessarily subjective, but I think the standard of play has improved over the last year in many of our clubs. The winners of both pools of the League were not decided until the very last match. This does however raise the problem of leaving behind players who do not aspire to a higher-level competitive game.

Fourthly, the grounds. We have seen considerably progress and improvements in many grounds, including three new grounds at Angoulême, Toulouse and Seissan, and new pitches at Damazan, Midi and St Aulaye.

Fifth – attracting French players. I don't have any figures, but I suspect that, despite efforts in some of our clubs, the number of French players (defined as not of expatriate families) is still in single figures. As an association we need to decide – do we have the means to reach out into the French community and make converts? And when it comes to attracting youngsters from within schools, are we even qualified to do so? And what of France Crickets rôle in this area?

Sixth the administration. The ACCSO administration, from website to league organising, from umpires to communications from treasury to secretariat is of the highest standard.

This summary leads me to conclude that we have the framework of a well organised cricket infrastructure with the grounds, clubs and officials in place serving expatriates' needs. In my view this is the most important starting point for any development plan – without the clubs securely in

place we cannot hope to provide games for the next generation of junior players, or for any French nationals wanting to try out the game.

It is interesting to see that the France Cricket constitution has similar objectives to ours, yet there are very differing priorities in the action plans. There seems to be plenty of scope for discussion with France Cricket.

Review of Season 2009

We are sorry that Malcolm Ward has hung up his umpire's coat, after umpiring in the SW for very many years. Malcolm brought a personal touch of class to many matches, with table and chairs and a proper picnic lunch. We'll also miss Val's stints in the scoreboard: never shy about telling an umpire that the over is or is not over yet! We wish them well on their return to the UK.

THANKS

I would like to thank Stephen Harrison for his work as treasurer, and organiser of umpires/scorers, and Peter Townsend for all the administration. Peter has taken on the demanding role as France Cricket Secretary General and is planning to continue with his ACCSO role as well. Something about keeping feet on the ground?

Not forgetting umpires & scorers, groundsmen, makers of teas and supporters

And a special mention of thanks to Siddalls for their continued and generous support to cricket in the SW.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Bordeaux (who topped the Aquitaine league) played Tarn (Midi-Pyrenees league winners) for the title of SW league champions. This was a rerun of the 2008 match, with the same result – a win for Bordeaux. However this year Bordeaux went on to beat St Brice in the national final to become the first ever SW winners of the national League title.

Tarn won the Siddalls cup for the third successive year, beating Noe (only three Tarn players played in all three finals).

We have had a better season getting our teams out – 3 matches forfeit against 7 last year, 12 sides with less than 11 players, against 23 last year. We might cautiously conclude that the innovation of allowing each region to schedule its own matches has helped.

The closest finish of the season was undoubtedly in the Siddalls cup quarter final in which Eymet 187-4 beat St Aulaye 187-7. Even Wynford Hicks had to check the rules about the side losing fewer wickets.

INDIVIDUALS

Batting –

In the Midi-Pyrenees league, the highest score was Rob Bowyer of Midi with 118*, on the day when Midi were knocking up the trifling total of 318-2.

In the Aquitaine league Usman Manawar's score of 214* was the highest ever in French domestic competitions, and he also made 108 in his season's total of 558. Other centuries were by Simon Palmer with 122 and Nigel Jones 110 (both of Eymet), and Adrian Raynor with 114 for St Aulaye.

In the Siddalls Cup, Clinton Ferreira scored 117 for Bordeaux and for Tarn Mujtaba Agha scored 114 and Rizwan Zulfiqar 100* (in the same match).

Bowling –

In the Midi-Pyrenees league the best were Mujtaba 5-9, Tamiz 5-19 and Ken Miller 5-27 for Midi

In the Aquitaine league Anis Manawar 5-31 for Angoulême

And in the Siddalls cup, Mujtaba 5-19 for Tarn

Man of the match award in the Siddalls Cup final – Preetham (Tarn) with 60 and 2-16

Winners of the Siddalls Players-of-the-Year awards for season 2009:

- Best batsman: Usman Manawar of Angouleme with an average of 93 ahead of Adrian Raynor of St Aulaye,
- Best bowler: Mujtaba Agha of Tarn with an average of 5.6
- Best junior player: John Harding of St Aulaye

JUNIORS

The juniors of Aquitaine still have the upper hand over their friends from the Midi-Pyrénées; but, again, the most important thing is that our juniors have had several opportunities to play at the regional level.

This year, one of the meetings had an extra importance: it was for youngsters from the SW to take part in the selection for the French U15 squad to play in Bologna. Finally, 5 of our players made the trip and played: John Harding, who was made team captain; Kit Harding; Sam Evely; James Dawkins; and Oli Mawdsley. Five south-westerners out of a squad total of 13, and more still knocking at the door. Congratulations to them, and to their coaches, with special thanks to Tim Williams of St Aulaye who drove down to Bologna and helped manage the squad.

And St Aulaye held another successful Junior Week.

Ladies cricket – We have two players - Suzy Singh of Damazan and Linda Stratford of Eymet . Still some way to go before we can organise a match.

EVENTS

The final stages of the league were held at Damazan. The Siddalls Cup final was at Eymet

In mid-July the France U-19 team came to Damazan as part of part of the club's 20th anniversary celebrations. They had several training sessions and played two matches against teams from each of

our regions – the results are less important than the opportunity for the U-19 team, and also our regions, to play games at a representative level.

Unfortunately the match between Midi-Pyrenees and Aquitaine planned for mid September could not take place – a disappointment as we do not have many opportunities to play other than at club level.

ACCSO and FC/FFBS

All ACCSO clubs were represented at FC's AGM early in 2009 – a good indication of the SW continuing interest in the success of France Cricket

Tony Banton (president of Lille CC) was elected as France Cricket President with a mandate to implement the Development Plan which set out the future of FC after a questionnaire last year

In the elections, Stephen Harrison left his job as Treasurer with many thanks for his work over the years, being replaced by Vincent Buisson, president of Saumur CC .

Eddie Cannon, Peter Townsend, Simon Palmer and Marc Dalling (of Midi CC) were elected to the Comité Directeur. Eddie remains as vice-president, with responsibility for development, and Peter took over from him as Secretary General.

So, the SW is very well represented in the Bureau, with 2 of the 6 posts.

John Ayling becomes president of the Grounds sub-committee, with Simon Palmer continuing as president of the Discipline sub-committee. Stephen Harrison is a member of the Financial and Umpiring sub-committees. Keith Garner a member of both Umpiring and Discipline sub-committees to represent the interests of the SW. Marc Dalling does likewise on the very important Youth sub-committee.

Some clubs in the Aquitaine administrative region were encouraged to take up the slots allocated to cricket on their Comité Départemental.

And all 5 clubs who are part of the Midi-Pyrénées region had a welcome surprise upon being told that they had federal monies allocated - which they had to spend, in a hurry and on kit. Worth all the hassle with iClub?

Andy Crawford
ACCSO President
October 2009