

ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN



1st November 2009

Umpire's Report 2009

A diminishing group of aging umpires travelled the length and breadth of the region to provide legitimacy to the 55 official ACCSO games played in the 5 month season this year. Many give their time and expense freely as part of their contribution to cricket in France, for which they should be thanked, and many others use the excellent French Government approved tax certificate system for the benefit of ACCSO and their own personal tax payment. Whilst standards vary and they are only human, it is my firm belief that all perform their role with honesty and integrity.

The regional disciplinary committee was called into action on one occasion this year and pronounced its ruling within 5 days of the incident. This was subsequently adjusted slightly on appeal to the France Cricket body. The situation on disciplinary matters is highly unsatisfactory with France Cricket restrained by the Federation from having its own system specific and relevant to cricket and subject to a slow and unnecessarily complex procedure centred on Paris. Whilst on-field discipline is generally not a problem in the SW, the lack of ability to deal with relatively minor matters locally is regrettable.

The system of donation of expenses and provision of a certificate for tax deduction has saved ACCSO about € 1600 this year and is to be encouraged.. For 2010 it is suggested that the cash travel rate remains at € 0.15 as fuel prices seem to be stable and a hotel/meal contribution of €60 for travel over 3 hours is retained.

With the support of France Cricket and AFNEC I have organised an ECB ACO Level 1 training course to be held in Bordeaux from 27 – 29 November, with Ray Holyer, one of ICC Europe's best trainers, leading the sessions. I am very encouraged by the response with a potential 12 new umpires for the SW and 6 joining the course from other regions. As of the time of writing only Armagnac Bigorre CC are without a candidate. This should provide a larger pool and fresh blood into our umpire group for 2010 and hopefully reduce some of the long distance travel. I hope to organise training for scorers in 2010.

I am pleased to announce that Barrie Holland has agreed to take over responsibility for organising the umpiring schedule for next year – I will remain available for matters concerning rules and regulations.

Malcolm Ward, who has been a stalwart of the umpiring community for at least the past 6 years, is soon returning to the UK – we give him our thanks and wish him and Valerie, who has been the Bordeaux scorer, good health and happiness nearer to their children and grand-children. We also wish Keith Garner, who is in the midst of a series of operations, all the best for a full and speedy recovery.

Stephen Harrison
Umpire Representative ACCS-O