

# ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

*Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

For the last few years, the ACCSO AGM has discussed the relationship between FC, FFBS and ourselves, with the objective of creating the best environment for the development of cricket in the SW. This year, in the aftermath of the T20 vs 40-overs confusion, will be no exception.

To set our debate in the correct context, we should consider whether development of cricket means maximising the number of players, or the number of clubs, or the number of junior players, or French players, or the quality of the game. A number of clubs have expressed concerns about reduced numbers of players, difficulties raising teams and increasing average age of players. We now have an analysis (thanks to Peter Townsend) which shows the evolution of our player numbers (senior plus junior) for the period 2005-2011, and it makes interesting reading. From 2005 with 91 playing licences to 2011 with 183 seems like significant growth - however the total peaked in 2007 with 237. There are several conclusions to be drawn:

The average number of playing members per club is in the range 17-22 in each of the years - we can assume that to increase the numbers of players in the SW we have to increase the number of clubs, since existing clubs seem to have difficulty growing over 22 for more than a season or two.

In terms of ageing, the total of the "in prime" players aged in their 20s/30s/40s as a percentage of total senior players has been remarkably steady at around 68% so overall it seems we are replacing our older players with enough youngsters.

Of course there are more than one way to play with the statistics (for a full set see the ACCSO website), but for me the interesting question is how we managed to grow from 4 clubs in 2005 to 11 in 2007.

The season was marked by an unusually low number of games disrupted by weather (I think only one, and that was heat, not rain), but rather too many affected by lack of players, including, very disappointingly, St Aulaye who were unable to raise a team to play in the national final after beating Noé in the SW final. This shows that, despite the above regional statistics, individual clubs still face significant difficulties in consistently raising a team.

Congratulations to Bordeaux on winning the Siddalls cup for the second consecutive year (beating Toulouse) and in scoring some creditable victories in the SuperLigue competition.

Finally, I would like to thank Neil Vasey and Peter Mackenzie for all their efforts and participation - both will leave the committee at the AGM.

Andy Crawford

October 2011