

ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN



Minutes of AGM held at Damazan on 13th November 2010

Meeting started at 14:20 with Andy CRAWFORD, President, in Chair.

Present:

Committee: Andy Crawford ("AC"), Stephen Harrison ("SH"), Peter Townsend ("PT"), Neil Vasey ("NV").

Barrie Holland, i/c Umpiring ("BH").

Armagnac-Bigorre: Richard Law (President).

Bordeaux: Rupert Holderness (President).

Catus: Malcolm Grant (President, voting) & Ian Philby.

Damazan: Peter Mackenzie (Secretary, voting for John Ellerner).

Eymet: Tim Smith (President).

Mansle: Joe Larter (President).

Midi: Dominic George (Captain, voting for Colin Trickett) & Marc Dalling.

St. Aulaye: Stephen Harrison (President, voting) & Wynford Hicks (Fixtures Secretary).

Tarn: Andy Crawford (voting, as President)

Toulouse: Andy Gordon (President, voting) & Jeff Burridge (outgoing president).

In attendance: John Ayling, Damazan.

Agenda Item 1: Quorum: Verified (10/11 present). Proxy given by Noé-Gascogne to Tarn (AC).

Agenda Item 2: Welcome by AC: Including to the Adjoint to the Mairie of Damazan who sat in for a good part of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Apologies: Anbu Aroumont (Noé-Gascogne)

Agenda Item 4: Attendee introductions: Andy Gordon and Malcolm Grant newly-elected presidents of Toulouse and Catus, respectively.

Agenda Item 5: Minutes of AGM2009 : Approved as published on Web site. Reading not required. No matters arising. Approval proposed by Bordeaux; seconded by Catus. Signed and filed.

Agenda Item 6: President's report and review of Season 2010: Accepted as published on Web site. No matters arising. Noted.

Agenda Item 7: Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement 2010: Review of document published on Web site.

The meeting wholeheartedly endorsed SH's expression of gratitude to Siddalls for their continuing support for cricket in the region, noting that the provision for 2011 will show an even larger contribution.

SH noted the respective contributions made by France Cricket and by our umpiring community, where the use of tax credits is so useful that it should surely be more widely applied within individual clubs as a way of offsetting costs.

No matters arising.

Approval proposed by Catus; seconded by Eymet. By acclamation.

AC thanked SH for his continuing tight control over the accounts.

Agenda Item 8: Budget Proposal 2010: Review of document published on Web site.

SH reminded members that the accounts allow the annual membership fee to remain symbolic, at €5. He asked clubs to make life easy all round by paying for 2 years!

Responding to questions, SH explained that the Budget

- allowed for participation in female cricket programmes of the sort envisaged under FC's Grandes Ecoles programme;
- allowed for the possibility of a regional senior match, whether N-S or against (say) the S-E.
- provides for the cost of putting on 3 junior events, with some provision to help with transport and accommodation costs.

Approval of Budget, as amended in discussion, proposed by Armagnac; seconded by Bordeaux. By acclamation.

Agenda Item 9: Umpires Report: Review of document published on Web site.

BH reported no major problems in umpiring this season, other than that it was necessary to issue a reminder about the need to check licences. The newly qualified umpires from the November 2009 training course have provided sufficient umpires to the pool for the 2011 season, and no course is envisaged during 2011 in the SW.

Supported by AC, BH emphasised the value of having two scorers available at all times. Clubs were reminded that provision of a scorer is a requirement of the league regulations. Where this is not possible, the batting side should be prepared to provide two scorers. The suggestion by Midi to invite off-duty umpires to do some scoring will be looked at seriously; tax credits would be available as for umpiring duties.

In the area of pitch markings, BH asked for clubs to mark out longer creases to help umpires in run-out situations.

AC reminded clubs of the need to have their umpire(s) licenced for insurance reasons and for federal compliance. In general umpires should also be qualified, preferably with a qualification issued in France.

SH distributed copies of the 4th Edition Blue Books.

No major topics were raised from the floor.

In approving BH's report, members endorsed Eymet's vote of thanks to the umpiring community.

Agenda Item 10: Youth cricket Report: Discussion centred on the document produced by Wynford Hicks and circulated to clubs ahead of meeting.

In the context of licensing of youngsters, Midi informed the meeting that they do not charge individuals for junior licences; the club bears the cost as part of its junior development plan. Bordeaux will be

restarting their youth programme with U11s, but this is likely to remain dependent on, and secondary to, the senior squad.

At the request of Eymet, PT outlined the legal requirements attaching to the playing of Juniors and Cadets alongside adults in senior competitions. The meeting noted that these legal requirements are fully fulfilled in the FFBS regulations, which FC are obliged to implement in competitions such as the National League, as are ACCSO in the Siddalls Cup.

At the request of Saint Aulaye, PT will pursue the possibility that the FFBS lowers its age thresholds by one year.

However it was emphasised that there are no restrictions on juniors playing alongside seniors in friendly matches: - the legal restrictions apply only to competitive games.

Following on, PT outlined the proposed procedure for handling surclassements in 2011. Clubs applying on behalf of their youngsters will need to attest that the safety of the candidate takes precedence over the result. All applications for double surclassements will require video evidence, followed by a personal assessment of technique by David Bordes, in the region and in good time to hit the start of the league season. Only after approval should parents arrange for the vital second medical certificate, to be approved by the FFBS, which will make the 120 days' validity of that certificate last longer into the season.

PT commended the new procedure to members, as being more straightforward and limiting the involvement of the FFBS to a minimum. The procedure was likely to be approved by the Comité Directeur of FC on 20th November and be incorporated in the rules for the 2011 championships. PT will continue to be available to member-clubs to handle all out-of-line situations.

The meeting took note.

Agenda Item 11: Planning for Season 2011

11.1. National League 2011.

AC invited members to express their initial position with respect to the papers presented by Saint Aulaye and by PT.

Catus confirmed that they will not take part in the 2011 League; idem Damazan, who said that they could look to pool resources with Catus as from 2012; Eymet reserved their position. All other clubs indicated that they inclined towards participation in the FC League.

This poll led to general agreement that two pools would be entered into the FC National competition, as follows:

- "North": Bordeaux-II, Eymet, Mansle, SAC.
- "South": A-BCC, Midi, N-G, Tarn, Toulouse.

PT took note for onward transmission to FC.

Wynford Hicks and Andy Gordon volunteered, with members' approval and thanks, to develop pool fixture lists.

The meeting agreed to offer to host the National final at the end of September and invited PT to carry this forward to FC. The regional final (= national semi-final) would be on the first Sunday in September. Members agreed to continue with the regional semi-finals. At the request of Mansle it was agreed that if possible Saturday games in the final phases would be avoided in the fixture planning as several clubs have players who are only free to play on Sunday. The committee will look at holding these on two separate week-ends, with an allocation to grounds as the season progresses.

Bids to host these four final phase matches will be invited.

11.2. Siddalls Cup 2011.

With the exception of Catus, all ACCSO clubs confirmed their intention to play in the 2011 competition. Bordeaux will enter two sides. Totally unconnected with this (!), Rupert Holderness announced that the

final would be at Giscours. In response to AC, he confirmed that the last Sunday in August would be good.

The meeting accepted with thanks the offer by Wynford Hicks to create a draw formula, which SH would execute.

11.3. Regional-level senior match(es).

The meeting agreed that introduction of an Aquitaine vs Midi-Pyrenees game would overstretch the fixture calendar, and that the league-playoff structure now provides sufficient opportunity for players from the two pools to meet. Entrecasteaux have suggested they may be available to tour the SW and the committee will try to organise this if an approach is made. Rupert Holderness reported favourably on this proposition following the recent Siddalls 6-a-side there. The Committee will need to take into account the licencing and insurance situation, to avoid a repeat of previous embarrassments.

11.4. Indoor tournament.

A-BCC confirmed willingness to host a southern event in Seissan in February 2011, with a Saint Aulaye event the same month. This may – or may not – form part of a national FC tournament for 2011. SH will write the rules and provide balls.

The host clubs will organise participating clubs, accomodation, etc.

11.5. Junior tournaments.

PT mentioned the possibility that FC could put up a junior Indoor tournament and will provide details as and when, earlier discussions with Saint Aulaye having proved positive.

Agenda Item 12. Elections.

AC confirmed that Peter Mackenzie had agreed to act as League Manager, co-opted onto the Committee. The meeting welcomed this.

To replace PT, at the end of his 2-year mandate (4 years in all), AC confirmed that BH had agreed to stand as S-G. There being no other candidates, SH proposed and Bordeaux seconded the nomination.

The meeting approved the election of BH.

The meeting recorded its thanks to PT for his diligence and contributions over the past 4 years.

AC confirmed his willingness to stand for another 2-year mandate as president. There being no other candidates, AC was re-elected, by acclamation.

13. AC invited PT to inform the meeting of events and trends in the world of cricket outside the region.
- At the ICC level, the power struggles continue: the test-playing and high-performance countries are still trying to get a stranglehold on major funding. The renewed focus on anti-corruption continues to gather pace.

The ICC has decided to open up the promotion path to embrace both T20 and 50-over formats. Having just missed out on a promotion opportunity in 50-overs, France will in 2011 be involved in a major T20 tournament. It is highly likely therefore that T20 will make its formal appearance in the domestic championships, just as the Super Ligue may well shift to 50-over format (subject to start times!) and PowerPlay (if we can find a way to mark out the ground at Vincennes!). More seriously, this could involve specific S-W umpiring skills being needed in 2011/2.

The French national squads acquitted themselves more than honourably in 2010. Regrettably, there is no official U15 tournament in 2011: fixture congestion and shortage of host countries is becoming evident. In domestic competitions, we already know of Noé's very good showing against a big-hitting Stains side in the Nationale final. The Super Ligue final was won by Gymkhana (well-known to B-GCC) in a match foreshortened because of the inability on the part of the clubs to meet a finish time respectful of the presence of the Député-Maire of Dreux.

The club of Drancy won all three junior championships: a club with no ground to call its own and no player above the age of 19....

Organisationally, France Cricket is in rather better shape than 12 months ago. Adrien Geille (General Manager) has made good progress in identifying and getting close to several sponsors, whose funding could reduce the cost of our international teams and thus release more monies for club, junior and women's cricket development. On the Communications front, however, FC has not moved forward, with a new Web site taking a long time to come on-line and a real – and acknowledged - gap in the information process. The Club survey is about to be re-launched. Clubs are invited to participate fully – the only risk is that they might get access to further sources of funding!

The 4th Edition of the Laws has been translated into French and should be printed in a usable format by season-start. Apart from its usefulness outside the south-west where the common language is French, this effort has a single goal: to enable cricket to be played in stand-alone environments, far from any club, for example in one of the many primary schools currently active in a programme concentrating on 4 or 5 départements.

PT reminded clubs that the “agrément” ticket is on its way out, to be replaced by “labellisation”. This is all necessary to guarantee continuing access to funding from the likes of the CNDS. The first stage of this process is totally painless: it requires clubs to ensure that the “Fichier Club” on iClub is up-to-date: to show the details of a president, a secretary and a treasurer. Simple (for once!).

Agenda Item 14. AOB. None.

The meeting closed at 18:05, with thanks to John Ayling for tea and coffee and for organising the room.

Prepared by outgoing ACCSO Secretary Peter Townsend and checked with Barrie Holland (incoming).

**Approved for distribution by ACCSO President Andy Crawford.
16th December 2010.**

Distribution:

1. Attendees
2. Club presidents not present (John Ellener of Damazan; Colin Trickett of Midi)
3. Anbu Aroumont, Noé-Gascogne
4. ACCSO Web site.