

ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD OUEST

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN



Minutes of the AGM held at Damazan on 19th November 2011

The Meeting started at 11.00 with Andy CRAWFORD, President, in the Chair.

Present:

Committee: Andy Crawford (AC), Stephen Harrison (SH) & Barrie Holland (BH).
Peter Townsend (PT) (Development Manager)

Armagnac-Bigorre: Richard Law (President).

Bordeaux: Rupert Holderness (President) (pm only).

Catus: Martin Kavanagh (President).

Damazan: Marcus Harris (President).

Eymet: Tim Smith (TS) (President & voting) & Sam Harrell (Captain).

Mansle: Joe Larter (President).

Midi: Colin Trickett (President, voting) & John McBurnie (Captain)

Noé-Gascogne: Andy Crawford (voting by mandate).

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

Toulouse: Andy Gordon (President)

In attendance:

John Ayling, Damazan.

Alex Larter (AL), Mansle (FC web correspondent)

1. Quorum: All clubs were represented.
2. Welcome by the President: including to the FC (France Cricket) web correspondent.
3. Apologies for Absence: were received from Neil Vasey (outgoing Vice-President), Andrew Powderley and Anbu Aroumont (Noé-Gascogne).
4. Introductions: from Martin Kavanagh, Marcus Harris & Keith Randell, present for the first time as Presidents of their clubs.
5. Minutes of the 2010 AGM: were approved as published on the web-site. Proposed by Eymet; seconded by Mansle.

6. President's Report and Review of Season 2011:

6.1 Announcing the imminent formation of a new club in Toulouse – the Tigers, the President remarked on the increase in the number of clubs in the period from 2005 to 2011 (statistics had been published on the web-site) but pointed out a reduction in the total number of licenced players over the same time. However, the number of players in the 20/30/40 year age group has stayed constant, indicating a continual regeneration. Midi pointed out that in order to expand the playing membership it would be necessary to target the expatriate communities in those conurbations where the majority of potential cricketers are to be found. Wynford Hicks announced that he hopes to see a club formed in Périgueux in 2013. On the question of whether the objective should be to encourage a Second XI in a club or to create new clubs, Bordeaux observed that with a membership of 40+ they sometimes struggled to field two teams. Currently, average membership per club has stabilised at around 20 players, which would preclude an emphasis on 2nd XIs. Toulouse reminded the AGM that the extra workload in running 2 sides should not be under-estimated.

6.2 The main focus of the Committee in recent months has been relations with France Cricket, a subject debated under Agenda Item 10.

6.3 He was pleased to note that three players from ACCSO clubs (Alyzée Bodet, Daniel Nott, and Hugo Pinsent) had been selected to play at International level.

6.4 2012 sees the 20th anniversary of ACCSO, which should be celebrated in some way. See Item 10.

The Report as published on the web-site was approved. Proposed by Eymet; seconded by A-BCC.

7. Financial Statement 2011:

The Treasurer presented the Profit and Loss Statement (previously published on the web-site). Income benefitted again from generous support from Siddalls, and FC had refunded some of the costs incurred by the Leagues and Juniors coaching training. He emphasised that we are still heavily dependent on umpires accepting tax certificates in lieu of cash and thought we should consider ways of reducing travelling. SH advised clubs which have a deposit account to follow the example of ACCSO and convert to Livret A, which enjoys a higher rate of interest and is free of all tax problems.

The Report as published on the web-site was approved. Proposed by Eymet; seconded by A-BCC.

8. Umpiring Report:

8.1 Three aspects were highlighted; the number of match cancellations due to shortage of players, the reduced number of umpires available at the end of the season and a perceived increase in the number of complaints about the standard of umpiring in the SW.

8.2 No official complaints had been made about umpiring but off-the-field comments have been reported. Midi affirmed that the level of umpiring is 'appropriate' to the level of cricket in the region but the meeting thought that efforts could be made to improve. There is no appetite for an umpire assessment to be made after each match but a single appreciation of each umpire at the end of the season by all the Captains would be beneficial. The clubs were asked to check with their Captains if this could be done retrospectively for 2011, rather than waiting implementation in 2012. For further feedback, a yearly meeting of umpires was proposed, if the logistical and funding problems can be solved.

8.3 Reference was also made to the increasing tendency for 'chatter' during the game and the energetic level of appealing. On this point it was emphasised that there should be no dissent and that Captains must exercise proper control over the comportment of their players.

The Report as published on the web-site was accepted.

9. Youth Cricket:

9.1 The minutes of a meeting held between ACCSO and FC on 25th September 2011 had been published on the web-site. The essential elements were that the three ACCSO clubs most involved had different approaches to youth cricket, depending on their primary source. A significant constraint has been the time necessary for training the youngsters, but this has been partially resolved by a recent DF1 training course.

A major project has been launched with USEP whereby around 200 primary schools will be targeted in five geographical regions; the SW will be the last to be rolled-out. This will be independent from FC and ACCSO and it remains to be seen how the clubs can take advantage of this initiative.

There were three actions outstanding from this meeting and the clubs concerned are asked to advise PT on progress.

- Mark Moodley had committed to provide, by 19/11, dates for the final rounds for 2012, together with age bands. The clubs concerned had not received this information. PT will pursue with FC.
- SAC, TCC and Midi had agreed to commit to Marc Dalling, by 19/11, to provide teams for 2012 inter-regional matches, together with dates for ring-fencing. This had not yet been done and the clubs concerned were asked to do so.
- Marc Dalling had been asked to follow up on the idea of a S-W junior indoor tournament during the close season. PT will prompt MD to finalise.

9.2 FC are thought to be going to allow Juniors born before 1997 to play in Senior competitive cricket. Those born in 1997 will be subject to evaluation. To facilitate the agreement of FC to an ACCSO regional competition, it was proposed to general agreement that ACCSO adopt the same age restrictions.

9.3 Additional opportunities for young players include the possibility of an event for 10/11 year-olds; and the St Aulaye cricket week in the first week of August will focus on Junior cricket. Eymet announced that they are in the process of forming a cluster of 6-10 year-olds and, recognising that this is not a "standard" age group, ask other clubs with similar youngsters to think about joining forces with Eymet.

10. Planning for 2012:

10.1 AC summarised the current situation. The clubs had become confused and annoyed over indications from FC that the league format, rules for young players and other requirements would change for the 2012 season. He explained that the ICC has imposed requirements on FC in terms of Junior and Women's cricket in exchange for funding; and that existing FFBS rules on affiliated clubs playing against non-affiliated clubs have not yet been implemented. All this was leading to a fear that ACCSO autonomy is being reduced. Furthermore, the main interest of FC is to improve the results of the national teams, via an enhanced SuperLigue, and the SW is seen as a low priority.

ACCSO had prepared a briefing document as a consequence of the FC vagueness on their intentions for 2012

The principal concern of the clubs was the Fédération (FFBS) regulation which is loaded against matches between affiliated and non-affiliated clubs, and the FC attitude to its enforcement. FFBS regulations require that prior approval be sought and, verbally, the FC President had indicated the following:

- matches versus non-French touring teams would be approved
- matches versus potential new affiliations would be approved
- matches against existing or about to be non-affiliated clubs would be questioned.

When asked why some clubs wished to stay in FC, Bordeaux replied that it was of interest to them because of the possibility of selection to the national team. PT pointed out that a player who is a member of a non-affiliated club can be selected for the national team and there are current precedents whereby eligibility has been obtained through a licence from a cooperative affiliated club.

The probability that five clubs will decide to let their FFBS affiliation lapse means that the ACCSO league and the Siddalls Cup will match affiliated clubs against non-affiliated clubs. The clubs consider that agreement to this is crucial and essential to the way forward for 2012. The President will advise FC of this and await their reaction.

10.2 The league format was discussed. Subject to FC's decisions on 19/11, the National League matches will probably continue as 40-over games in 2012, with the possibility of changing to 20 overs in 2013 (similar to the Super Ligue in 2012). ACCSO will create a regional league outside of the National League and all clubs except Damazan decided that they will take part (the new Tarn Tigers club having already decided against league cricket). This adds Catus to the eight teams participating in 2011 and it was proposed to allocate them to the South pool. BH will verify that this is the more feasible option from an umpiring point of view. St. Aulaye and Toulouse will develop the fixture list, to be published at end-December. An attempt will be made in the scheduling of the final phases to avoid the usual 'dead' period in September: this will be helped by not having to plan for a match against the Paris group winners. Bids will be requested for hosting the final phase matches.

10.3 The Siddalls Cup will be played under its usual format and all clubs present said they would take part. The Committee will approve the fixtures based on a draw to be constructed by Wynford Hicks and executed by Mme Harrison (as in 2011). The final will be at Eymet on the last Sunday in August, with the semis at Damazan.

10.4 FC are planning a regional 50-over tournament in May 2012, with a slot open for an ACCSO side. If the SW decides to take part then a captain, selectors and a co-ordinator will have to be appointed. Similarly for a Juniors match in Paris which is under discussion.

10.5 Indoor tournaments will be held at St. Aulaye and Seissan; the clubs will advise on dates.

10.6 To celebrate the 20 years of ACCSO, a six-a-side tournament will be held over a weekend at Damazan in September. The club will indicate free weekends.

10.7 There will be no North-South fixture in 2012.

11. Budget Proposal for 2012

The discussion on the league and cup formats gave the Treasurer sufficient information to prepare a proposal, which he will submit to Committee.

12. Insurance

The 'briefing document' outlined the obligations for insurance and gave details of an offer from AXA to cover the ACCSO clubs if they decided to leave FFBS. This offer was based on cover for all clubs and terms may change if only some sign up. PT will question AXA on this eventuality and advise.

13. Modification to the Internal Regulations:

13.1 A revision will be made to open membership of ACCSO to both affiliated and non-affiliated clubs. The AGM gave Committee authority to make the necessary modifications. Proposed by BGCC; seconded by Eymet.

13.2 The new Tarn Tigers club was unanimously voted into membership.

14. Election of Officers:

The following were elected: -

Treasurer: Stephen Harrison was re-elected, by acclamation

Secretary: Peter Townsend, to complete the vacant one year term.
Proposed by Mansle; seconded by Eymet.

Vice-President: Barrie Holland. Proposed by Midi; seconded by BGCC.

Others will be co-opted during the year to look after specific projects.

15. Any Other Business:

15.1 Development: it is recognised that there is an urgent need to attract new players and encourage the formation of new clubs in the region. It was also repeated that SW clubs are insufficiently represented at national level. AL outlined his proposals for loading the FC web-site with comprehensive information on each club; he will contact the club presidents to collect the details.

He will also release information to the press at local and regional levels.

This initiative was welcomed by those present.

- 15.2 Following actions by St Aulaye and Eymet it was proposed that each club contact the local 'foyer' for 'sans papiers' to see if residents can be interested in cricket. This will also represent a contribution to the 'vie sociale' expected from sporting associations.
- 15.3 An ACCSO development fund, launched by a contribution from the 'old' Tarn club, welcomes further donations.
- 15.4 TS volunteered to manage the sharing of information on touring clubs that might be looking for fixtures in our region.

The meeting closed at 18.10.