

## **ERRATUM: Etat du Club; Reply of Cricket Section**

The *Etat du Club* document, released by the interim management committee on 9 November 2020, commented extensively on Cricket. We are gratified at so much interest (in a document which purported to focus on the key issues facing the Club) on a sport that represented less than 1% of Club revenues and costs in 2019. However, the commentary was overwhelmingly negative and almost entirely factually inaccurate. We are led to wonder why Management has singled out cricket for such an attack, and request the solidarity of Members in what is a multi-sport and social Club.

As Captain of the Cricket Section, I wrote to Management on the evening of 10 November 2020, detailing the errors and requesting that an immediate correction be issued, so as to limit the spread of misinformation. Having not received the courtesy of a reply, I am sharing this information with Members, in as concise a form as possible. There were 2 broad themes of errors in *Etat du Club* as pertaining to cricket:

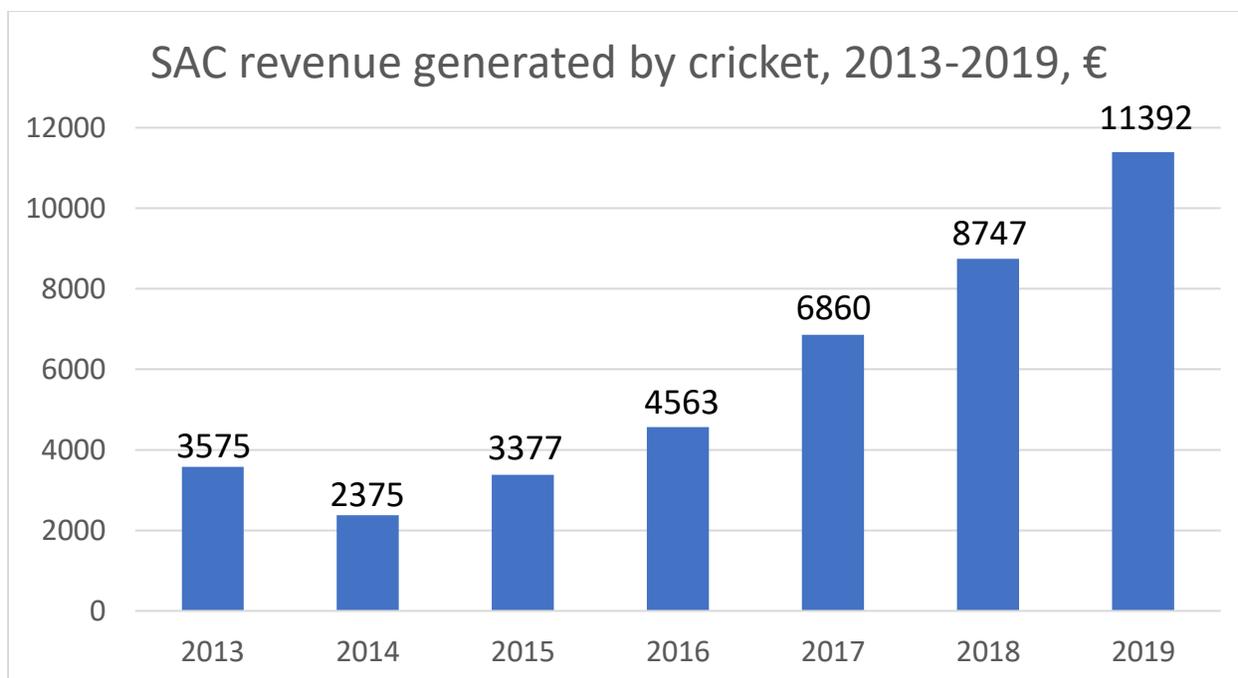
- 1) Statements implying that the Cricket Section does not contribute to the Club financially, is a drain of Club resources, and is generally poorly run.
- 2) Statements that the Section does not keep accurate records on Seasonal Members, and routinely fields teams with ineligible players.

I reproduce the erroneous statements below, together with the cricket section's responses, drawing on facts from the SAC Accounts, the SAC website, and documents previously submitted to Management, which show that the depth and breadth of inaccuracy of the *Etat du Club* document.

### **Statements implying that the Cricket Section does not contribute to the Club financially, is a drain of Club resources, and is generally poorly run.**

- a) "Cricket [makes] no contribution to general Club running costs (grounds, maintenance, tractor and other machinery costs, management" (page 5, repeated on page 6).
- b) "Cricket uses 50% of the Club area in Summer".
- c) "Cricket Pavilion: Managed by the Cricket Section, this is in very bad condition" (page 7).
- d) "Poor and non-transparent financial management... Cricket Section". (p. 11).

The SAC Accounts (as audited and (with the exception of 2019, which is pending the delayed AGM) provide an uncontroversial set of data of the contribution of Cricket to the Club.



Source, SAC Annual Accounts; detailed annex on individual revenue items (2014, p. 14, 2016, p22, 2018, p. 22, 2019, p 22). Not available before 2012

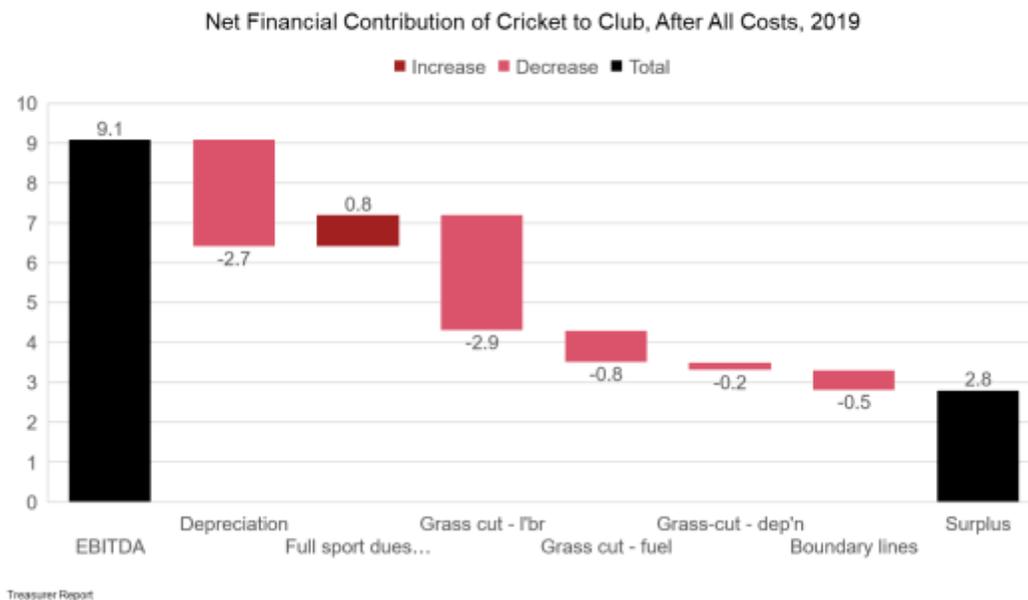
A few points are of note:

- The Club's Accounts (the Club's, NOT the Section's) are very much in disagreement with the *Etat du Club!*
- Moreover, these are contributions **over and above Full Member dues. To give a sense of the magnitude, for 2019, when 20 games were played, this averages €570 revenue per game. Or over €50 for each player in addition to all of our Full/Social Dues, which obviously go for Club overhead.**
- The confusion among Management may stem from the fact that these monies are collected by the Section, and then deposited in an account run by the Club (NOT the Section), labelled "Cricket". A similar practice exists in Golf. This account is a SAC account, with the primary signatories being the President and Treasurer of SAC.
- Interestingly, the Management Committee asked the Section to take on the role of collecting dues in 2015/2016, due to problems tracking this in the office. Before 2015 the revenues generated by cricket had never been above €4000. They are now over 3 x their previous level.
- These are Club revenues, just as the old Pavilion (50% used by cricket, 50% used by the grounds staff) are Club assets, maintained by the Club. The poor state of assets is a general Club problem which has poor finances at its root.
- In addition to Full Dues paying for overhead (as with every other sport), the Club has repeatedly, in consultation with Cricket, transferred funds for general Club use from the account that receives revenues from cricket:
  - €1000 in 2017 for a tractor.
  - €1000 in 2018 to repair replace a post by the pool/tennis courts.
  - Around €4900 in 2019 to repair the roof above the equipment used by the ground staff. The total cost for roofing the old clubhouse was €9760 which was paid entirely out of

these funds in the account that receives revenues from cricket; only half of this was used for cricket assets.

The *Etat du Club* report also refers to poor and non-transparent financial management. Members can find the detailed accounts of the Cricket Section going back several years on the Section's web page. We are unaware of any other part of the Club, or indeed, the overall Club, which provides such transparency. As for "poor", we leave this to Members to decide. Revenue has increased by over 300% since the current Cricket Committee formed in 2016. Moreover, Cricket is profitable for the Club even after factoring the costs of groundstaff (mowing, line painting) and all equipment depreciation. The details are also to be found on [www.saclub.org](http://www.saclub.org), on the Cricket page.

## In 2019 Cricket was a ~€3K net contributor, after all costs



You can see here the €9000 cash surplus the section generated for the Club in 2019 (coming from the €11.3K revenues mentioned above):

- Less depreciation of cricket assets (wicket, clubhouse, sight screen ...)
- Plus the "sports" part of the dues of full members playing cricket
- Less the labour to cut the field (20 days at €145 a day, fully-loaded)
- Less the fuel and depreciation of the tractor
- Less 3 days of work on painting the boundary lines over the season.

**Statements that the Section does not keep accurate records on Seasonal Members, and routinely fields teams with ineligible players**

- a) "A lack of monitoring of the Seasonals, particularly for Cricket, since 2018" (page 4).
- b) "39 adults including 2 Full Adults, 12 Seasonals, 25 Guests ... For 50% of matches the team is incomplete" (page 6).
- c) Annexe 3; page 23. An entire page with fictional matches and players!

These statements are so ridiculous as to beggar belief. Seasonal Membership revenues since 2015 are:

Year	Seasonal subscription revenues (€)
2015	3377
2016	4563
2017	3925
2018	4670
2019	5235
2020	3150

Source: Cricket Section accounts 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (posted on Club website. Club accounts (audited version), 2015, 2016. Note the reduction in 2020 as 60% of the season was lost to Covid.

There were 20 Seasonal Members in 2019, and 17 in 2020. This list of Seasonal Members and their names is posted on saclub.org Cricket Page and was provided to Management over 6 weeks ago.

The related claim that there are multiple players who are not contributing is completely false. There are 3 main sources of error in *Etat du Club*

- The cricket team played 10 games, not the 15 listed by Management in the Appendix.
- There are 17 Seasonal Members, not the 12 mentioned by Management
- The source of the player list used by Management is unclear. It is likely a combination of potential player lists sent round during the season and the guest dues book. It includes, most amusingly, the 12 year old son of the Section President, 2 opposition players, and several people we have never heard of.

Essentially the *Etat du Club* error was an argument based on mis-labelling players who are Members as guests, and counting fictional matches and fictional players. The Section does follow Club policy in allowing guests to try out our facilities before joining – this is how we attract new members. Try-outs are capped at 3 games, and such players also pay a €10 guest fee per game.

In summary, the Section keeps full records, and is a true custodian of the finances of the Club – this is precisely why revenues have tripled in the last 5 years, despite a reduction in the Member pool coming from the countries where Cricket is traditionally played.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to correct the erroneous impression given by the *Etat du Club*.

Alastair Thomas

Cricket Section Captain, on behalf of the Cricket Committee.