



Cricket in Silfiac

Jon We're here at the Central Brittany Cricket Club and I'm with John Evans who's the President of the Club.

John I am, yes.

Jon How are things shaping up this season?

John Oh, they're going very well. Pre-season we, we're having nets on Sunday afternoons at, uh, 2 o'clock.

Jon And there's one in progress right now isn't there?

John One in progress here at the moment. We have done various works to the Ground to get ourselves into a fighting position and hopefully everything's gone really well. We're hoping for a good, strong membership and new people are always welcome. I think people will find that we are a very, very friendly Club and we enjoy the social side as well as the playing side and we've got a lot to look forward to.

Jon Now I hear that age and ability is no barrier to this Club. Is that right?

John Age and ability, no, is no barrier at all. Yes, we have from age from 74 down to 12 years old and, and below because we have, our policy is that we encourage junior members as much as possible so that they can all learn about cricket because they are the future of the Club.

Jon And what about French people? Do you encourage them as well?

John They are included in the invite very definitely. We are an Anglo-French Club. We don't consider ourselves to be just English. The game may have started in the UK but, you know, we've brought it to France and, uh, and hopefully we can promote it by using French people too.

Jon Now what about the general public. Do they, sort of, give you some funny looks when they see this strange game?

John We have had some enquiries as to what we're doing and I think the French people that have been past in their cars wonder quite what's going on for such a long period of time on the pitch but, uh, we've had people come in and watch our practices and hopefully they'll all come to the games when we get going.

Jon Who actually owns this ground?

John Well, the ground is owned by the commune and the mayor has been extremely good to us. Uh, the ground has not been used for 10 years so it was in a pretty rough state. So we told him what we had in mind and took him a portfolio of our history and all the bits and pieces that we had done in the past and we were met with open arms and generally speaking the people in Silfiac have been most hospitable.

Jon Do you take responsibility to look after the ground and it's still communally owned is it? Do you share it with a football club?

John No, no. There's no football, organised football, played here at all. So we are left to keep our square marked off in the centre for our wickets and we are able to maintain a really good wicket because of that. All the works that have gone on at the ground that we have taken an interest in doing have been paid for by ourselves and we are only too pleased to improve the whole place for everyone.

Jon Now you say you try to encourage young people to join your club. I mean, do you have any kind of policy which goes into the village or the community?

John Very much so. We've got a very strong coaching policy and one of the main aims of the club is to introduce as many young people, both French and English, to cricket and we hold coaching sessions; we go into schools. In fact, now we have our own facilities we're hoping to ask more schools to come to us because we, for safety reasons, we have a very nice flat area to play now and one of the first schools that we will be working with is our own Infant School in Silfiac who we've already asked if they would like some dates and I believe they've said 'Yes' they would love to have us for some of their games lessons so we'll be doing that.

Jon Good, OK. Because cricket is now on the French curriculum, I understand.

John Yes luckily it appears that the French Government, because of the National French Team, which is coming along nicely, the French Government have deemed that it's necessary for cricket to be taught in schools and they're going to, they're spending money on, uh, uh, special training for the teachers because I think they realise that cricket has an etiquette which can be followed and they're rather keen on the fact that you clap people in - it's all about good manners too, as well as sport.

Jon They like the discipline.

John We have 17 fixtures this year so far with teams coming over from the UK so if anyone is interested, come to the Stad. You'll see the fixtures advertised locally.

Jon Thank you very much.

John Thank you.

