



THE QRIC



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News

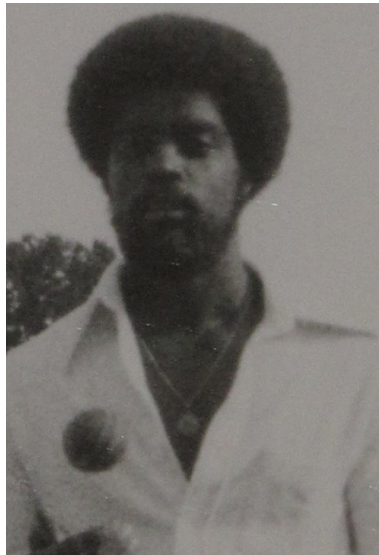
The QCF has scheduled a match against Ontario. The possible date is mid-July, with the match being held at the Atwater Reservoir.

<http://www.quebeccricket.com/>

Pirates of the St. Lawrence hold their weekly net training sessions every Wednesday evening in Howard Park. Kids are welcome too! Check their site for details, piratesofthestlawrence.com

There will be a free children's cricket intro course held at Association Recreative Milton Park (3555 St. Urbain) this Friday at 4 pm. Registration is required and space is limited.

If you have an interested child aged 7-11, please email cgrsaoirse@gmail.com for availability and information.



The hirsute version

Interview: Decourcey Bishop

Treasurer and Youth Development Officer for the Quebec Cricket Federation talks his views on the game, past, present and future.

Where are you from?

DC: Barbados. I emigrated to Mtl in 1970. I grew up playing cricket, it's the number one sport in Barbados, like most places colonised by the British.

In '73, when I worked for Rolls Royce, I was approached by gentleman who wanted to know if I played cricket. I answered I'm from Barbados, what a dumb question! I was playing the next week. We founded the Cavaliers Sport Club which operated until four years ago.

How long have you been with the QCF?

DC: I've been Treasurer since 1998, except for two years. I had been treasurer at my club, and felt it was an honour to be asked to do the same for the QCF.

What is your youth program about?

DC: I find here in Quebec there is a lot of focus put on maintaining the game for immigrants from cricket countries, but no-one puts much effort into junior cricket, with a couple of exceptions. Since I retired I found I had



Plundering since '07

Clubs: Pirates of the St-Lawrence C.C.

The most cosmopolitan cricket club in the world, and one of the very few in Canada with their own ground, The Candy Fields.

- Year est.: 2007 (during the WC)
- President: Angus Bell
- Cricket: Indoor, 3-hour, 6-hour, official Snow World Cup, children's sessions
- Members: 100+ annually
- piratesofthestlawrence.com

To date, 74 different nationalities have played for the Pirates, the most diverse club in the world. This underlines their philosophy: 'Cricket for Everyone, regardless of race, religion, creed, background, experience, sex, timetable and budget.'

Their style is a mix of English village and Australian backyard with a Québécois twist. Excellent company, grounds, cricket and chocolate at the Candy Fields. Wednesday net sessions at Howard Park, and Kids' cricket starts September at the new Ministry of Cricket in Marché Central.

satisfaction from introducing the game to kids and teaching, and I thought why not?

In the game structure one team sits on the bench doing nothing, but kids want to keep moving. We teach them basics while they wait, keep them as busy as possible, but it's very difficult without parents getting involved.

What are today's challenges facing cricket in Quebec?

DC: Short summers of course, but lack of space and facilities are a big problem. Cricket needs a certain amount of space, large gyms...the cost to rent those is a problem too. It isn't getting easier: when Lasalle stopped cricket at Raymond Park, it was a big blow for us.

Many cricket parents are first-generation working families, and transporting kids around the city to where cricket is happening is not the easiest.

When you have no exposure to the game, trying to teach things like bowling is not easy. Mixing skill levels is also very difficult for those starting out. But there are some kids who've been in the program for two or three years and have become pretty good.

One of the positive developments is 20-20 cricket: kids can watch a game in two hours, it's short, exciting, active, and keeps kids really busy.

Also, five to ten years ago, everyone going to cricket matches was male, especially outside of the West Indies, Australia, and England. But more and more women are in the stands now, crowds are really becoming mixed. Here in Canada, many families from traditional cricket-playing countries only have the males getting involved. This is something we've got to change.



QCF Tables

T35 Premier	Points	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Adastrians					
AAT					
Bangla					
Centennial					
Cosmopolitan					
Gujarat					
MCSO					
Blues					
Ryders					
Shere Punjab					
Super Riders					
St. V. Mets					
Verdun					
X-Boys					

Note: first 8 teams will qualify for the Cup Round



Artist's rendition of Jarry Park last weekend

T20 Charles W.	Points	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Adastrians	6	1	1	0	0
Cosmopolitan	6	1	1	0	0
Shere Punjab	6	1	1	0	0
Centennial	0	1	0	1	0
Ryders	0	1	0	1	0
St. V. Mets	0	1	0	1	0
MCSO					

T20 Arvind W.	Points	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Blues	6	1	1	0	0
Gujarat	6	1	1	0	0
Super Riders	6	1	1	0	0
AAT	0	1	0	1	0
Bangla	0	1	0	1	0
X-Boys	0	1	0	1	0
Verdun					

Note: first 4 teams from each ward qualify for the Cup Round

Results May 23-24:

1. Shere Punjab def. Ryders
2. Gujarat def. Bangla
3. Adastrians def. St. V. Mets
4. Blues def. X-Boys
5. Cosmopolitan def. Centennial
6. Super Riders def. AAT by forfeit

Opinion

Cricket has woken in Montreal and Quebec once again, as leagues get started and games pop up everywhere. This newsletter hopes to put a face and name, or even flesh and blood, upon the local scene. I have as a starting point my own ignorance: I am a newcomer to the game in every regard. That, however, hasn't stopped me from being utterly entranced with cricket in all its forms.

The World Cup hooked me (mostly due to my young daughter's fascination with the strange, brightly-coloured nightly highlights); a maiden season of IPL furthered the fascination; and I consumed far too much of the recent West Indies-England and Bangladesh-Pakistan tests (with The Ashes to come - can't wait), much to the detriment of too many things to mention here. This little collection is fuelled mostly by that passion.

The Canadian national scene is sorely lacking information for someone raised on the omnipresent outreach of North American sports. Naturally cricket has its own cultural as well as playing rhythm, but even accounting for that, the world of organised cricket here was practically shut and difficult to navigate, reduced to a mythical abstraction.

Through a little more digging around and the happy discovery of people like Angus Bell, administrators like Decourcey Bishop, and clubs like the helpful people at Gujarat CC, I found that indeed there was a shape to it all. There are leagues, independents, games, lessons, children's sessions, even practice nets, shops, all sorts of things for the enthusiast, the beginner, and everyone between and beyond. So out of my writing hobby, my involvement in youth coaching, and my love of sports, The Qric has come. I hope it will be a weekly, and will try to make it regular as possible.

What cricket needs to flourish here is evident: more and better facilities, outreach and involvement from the non-playing populace, and more evangelism from those that do participate. The problem is looking for the magic bullet: there isn't one. It takes time and effort to plant the grass roots from which to build. Montreal (and Quebec) has become over-saturated with soccer since the departure of the Expos and the long, steady, slow decline of baseball. Football is having it's problems, and not every kid likes soccer. Cricket appeals to those with a different sense of pace, sport, movement and approach.

Keep playing, keep following, get your kids involved, and keep having fun.

email theqric@gmail.com if interested in being on the mailing list, contributing, advertising, news tips, requests, or just getting involved

