

On behalf of France Cricket, it is with great pleasure that I invite your team to take part in the European women's cricket tournament 2019 in the fantastic city of Nantes.

After previous successful tournaments in Germany, Jersey, Denmark and Belgium, France Cricket in conjunction with the Nantes Cricket Club are organising the tournament this year and would very much hope that your team will be able to attend. The townhall of Nantes is also backing this project. The tournament will take place over four playing days from Wednesday 31st July to Saturday 3rd August. We advise teams to arrive on Monday or Tuesday and to leave on Sunday. There will be an end of tournament gala party on Saturday evening.

We have contacted 12 countries in Europe in total with seven expressing interest (Germany, Greece, Austria, Belgium, Jersey, Guernsey and yourselves). The exact organisation of matches will depend on the total number of participating teams. Most matches will be played on grass wickets. We aim to finish games in under three hours and envisage three games per day.

As in previous tournaments, there will be a captains/ coaches /umpires meeting on the evening before the start of the competition.

We are currently looking at catering options for lunch and evening meals on site for players and staff. More details on this will be available by the end of March.

The ground itself is located in Parc du Grand Blottereau, a beautiful old French colonial-style park, known for its tropical botanical gardens and exotic plants. The ground is overlooked by Chateau de grand Blottereau built in 1753. There are changing rooms on site. It's a sizeable ground with a good grass square as well as an artificial wicket.

#### **TRANSPORT:**

Nantes has a major international airport, receiving flights from destinations throughout Europe. Shuttle buses run regularly from the airport to the city centre and take 20 minutes. It also has a regular TGV service from Paris Montparnasse which takes under 2 hours.

The ground is seven or eight tramway stops from the city centre, so there is no real need to hire minibuses, as it is extremely easy to get to the venue from your accommodation.

#### **ACCOMMODATION:**

There are plenty of reasonably priced hotel options in the city. Visiting cricket teams usually, stay at '**l'hotel Amiral**'. They do a cheaper price for visiting cricket teams, it offers great value, a twin or double room will be in the range of 55-57 euros (breakfast is extra 11 euros per person). Other hotels that have put up cricketing teams in the past and which are also aware of the women's tournament are Hotel le petit Dusquesne, around 60 euros per twin room (without breakfast), also Hotel Ibis styles, 79 euros/twin (breakfast included). You can negotiate group rates with all of these. There are many other hotels in the city centre.

You can also book rooms for 3 to 6 persons at Nantes Hostel, which is at a 15-minute tram ride from the ground. Another possibility is Nantes Campsite, which offers 1 to 3-bedroom cottages, but it is a 35-minute tram ride to get to the ground.

We can provide you with all the details of these hotels and accommodation should you require it.

#### **THE CITY:**

Regularly quoted in newspapers as being one of the nicest cities in France, Nantes is also renowned for being a rich, lively and innovative city. Its economic power makes Nantes France's 3rd largest industrial city and 2nd most successful city in terms of employment growth. Nantes strikes a remarkable balance between historical heritage, innovation, the way of life, economy and culture.

Located at the mouth of the Loire river, Nantes is, by nature, a welcoming, creative and forward-looking city. (Source: <http://en.nantes.fr/>) To learn more about Nantes, you can check the website of the city, and that of Le Voyage à Nantes, its yearly summer-long art and culture festival.

Thus, on behalf of France Cricket, I would like to extend this official invitation to your lady cricketers and we hope you can attend and support, what we believe will be a great tournament / celebration of cricket and an advertisement for the women's game in Europe.

Spaces will be limited, therefore to confirm your participation we would ask you to either send a cheque of 700 euros to France Cricket at 4 Quai de la République, 94410 Saint-Maurice, France, or money transfer for the same amount to France Cricket (bank details attached) **by Saturday 30th March**, final deadline. If it is your intention to attend, could you inform us before the 17th of March, please?

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

John Blake  
Team coordinator of the tournament  
**On behalf of France Cricket**

