

**Minutes of the 43rd AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held in The 3aaa Pavilion at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 19 March 2016, starting at 11.10 am.**

Present – Stephen Baldwin, Philip Banham, Pelham Barton, Nigel Bratton, Robert Brooke, John Bryant (Chairman), Mark Bryant, Stephen Chalke, Keith Gerrish (Treasurer), Jim Gibb, Roger Gibbons, Peter Gilbert, Alan Grove, Brian Heald, Jenny Heald, Roger Heavens, Andrew Hignell (Secretary), Michael Hill, Martin Howe, Dennis Lambert, Julian Lawton Smith, Malcolm Lorimer, Adam McKie, Tony Martin, Douglas Miller, Harriet Monkhouse, Nicholas Morrison, Roger Moulton, Bryn Nathan, Huw Nathan, Serena Nathan, Chris O'Brien, Chris Overson, Tony Percival, Mick Pope, Michael Ronayne, Mark Rowe, Douglas Roxburgh, Chris Saunders, Mike Smith (President), Paul G.Smith, Willie Sugg, Simon Sweetman, Peter Tatton, Cyril Waite, Garry Wallace, Keith Walmsley, Geoff Wilde, Robby Wilton, Peter Wynne-Thomas and David Young.

## **1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

The meeting began at 11.10 am with the President welcoming everyone, and thanking the Officers and Committee for their work on behalf of the Association during the past year. In light of England's record-breaking success the day before at the ICC World Twenty20 competition in India, he also made a few comments on the state of English cricket and the need to preserve the reputation and standing of Test match cricket.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REMEMBERING DECEASED MEMBERS**

After everyone present had introduced themselves (and their county affiliations), the Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the following members: David Allison, David Baggett, Jeremy Barlow, Neil Beck, Martin Bevan, Paul Bolton, Stan Dawson, Ric Finlay, David Frith, Iliyas Hussain, Tony Hutton, Richard Isaacs, David Jeater, Martin Jones, David Kendix, Tim McCann, Keith Mein, Terry Needham, Giles Phillips, Alex Potts, David Pracy, Norman Rogers, Ian Russell, Darren Senior, Richard Slater, Geoff Thomas and Tony Webb.

Those present then stood briefly in silence in memory of the following members of the Association who had died in the course of 2015/16: Edgar Appleby, Michael Coulson, Bob Harragan, Ken Hudson, Philip Jones, Martin Moseling, Paul A.Smith, Wayne Thomas, Colin Trenbirth, Mark Williams and George Woodbridge.

## **3. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

The minutes of the 42nd AGM of the Association, held at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 21 March 2015, were unanimously approved (Proposer – Pelham Barton, Seconder – Garry Wallace).

## **4. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

The Secretary reported that, in the absence of any external candidates, the following had been re-elected to the committee:

- John Bryant (Proposer – Peter Wynne-Thomas; Seconder – John Ward)
- Harriet Monkhouse (Proposer – Keith Booth; Seconder – Phil Hulme)
- Simon Sweetman (Proposer – David Jeater; Seconder – Douglas Miller)

The Secretary also announced that Garry Wallace had been elected to serve as Hon Treasurer (Proposer – Roger Gibbons; Seconder – Julian Lawton Smith)

## **5. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/11/2015**

The Chairman began his comments by saying how pleased he was that the facilities at Derby for the 2016 AGM were a significant improvement on those for 2015. He told members about the correspondence between the committee and Derbyshire CCC following the previous year's AGM and how the Secretary had gathered information and quotes from other possible venues. The Chairman also apologized for the problems with some aspects of the distribution to members of paperwork and notices for the 2016 AGM and Annual Lunch, as well as the closure of the Days Inn Hotel, adjacent to the ground, where members had informally gathered the night before the AGM over several years.

He drew the meeting's attention to several key issues within the Report, including the fact that the committee would be looking shortly at the level of subscriptions so that the Association could continue to operate in a sustainable way. He also noted the fact that the subsidy from the Minkley Fund was nearly exhausted and that it was likely the 2017 Annual Lunch would be the last to be subsidised from its funds.

The Chairman congratulated Peter Wynne-Thomas on his election as President of Nottinghamshire CCC. He believed that it was unprecedented for a county's Statistician to be honoured in such a way, and added that it was a massive compliment for the years of research and data gathering which Mr Wynne-Thomas had undertaken.

The Chairman then fielded questions from members, including one from Robert Brooke about the selection of the venue and whether consideration had been given to taking the AGM around the country. The Secretary reiterated that he had gathered a range of quotes, and that the facilities and accommodation offered by holding the meetings at Derby represented excellent value for money in an accessible location.

The Chairman duly proposed that the Report be adopted (Seconder – Dennis Lambert) and, after a show of hands, it was unanimously approved.

## **6. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2014/15**

The Treasurer briefly went through the Accounts, as shown in the AGM booklet, before answering a series of questions. He agreed with Geoff Wilde that there was a misprint in the figures for the Minkley Fund, before agreeing with Nigel Bratton that it would be helpful if an analysis of sales could be provided in future reports. Mr Bratton also asked if the issue with the postal equipment had been resolved, with the Secretary replying that the matter was still *sub judice*.

The Treasurer fielded a question from Douglas Roxburgh relating to the administrative fees, which chiefly related to the work of Neil Beck (ACS Sales). Douglas Miller also raised the issue of improving marketing rather than raising prices in order to cover the cost of publications and to boost sales. The Chairman agreed that the committee would welcome the help of someone who could co-ordinate marketing, whilst Malcolm Lorimer added that, because the Association specialised in short print runs, sometimes books were being offered to barely 40% of members.

Martin Howe and Mark Rowe each reflected on attitudes of booksellers and how ACS members worked very hard to promote and sell the Association's publications. Chris Saunders added that he believed selling books at full price, rather than at 45% to wholesalers, was the right approach, and he suggested that the committee gave consideration to the creation of an eBay shop. The Chairman agreed that the committee would discuss this issue at their next meeting.

Mr. Roxburgh and Dennis Lambert asked about the payments to Royal Holloway (University of London) for the research studentship. The Treasurer confirmed that the total sum of £30,000 was paid to Royal Holloway in February 2015 and recorded as a pre-payment. The charge to the P&L account was being split into three separate entries of £10,000. [The first entry was recorded in November 2015 and is reflected in the 2014-15 P&L account; the second and third entries totalling £20,000 will be charged against P&L in the 2015-16 financial year.]

The Treasurer then proposed that the Accounts be adopted (Seconder – Brian Heald). This occurred unanimously after a show of hands. The Treasurer concluded his comments by thanking everyone for their support and wishing Garry Wallace all the very best in his new role.

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF AN EXTERNAL ACCOUNTANT TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Treasurer proposed the appointment of CJCA Ltd of Leicestershire to act once again in this capacity. This was unanimously agreed (Seconder – Garry Wallace).

## **8. UPDATES**

### **(a) RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP**

Adam McKie gave a short presentation outlining the progress he had made since September 2015 on his MA by Research at Royal Holloway (University of London) into women's cricket during the inter-war period. He began by showing a series of photographs illustrating the traditional perspective of women's cricket as the preserve of the middle and upper classes, especially those who had attended private schools and teacher training colleges.

He then explained how he would be considering the impact of workplace cricket, and themes relating to the ideal worker, the ideal citizen and female empowerment, especially by using records from companies such as Huntley and Palmers, Fry's and Cadbury's, as well as archival material belonging to the Women's Cricket Association. After answering questions from Brian Heald, Dennis Lambert and Chris Overson, Mr McKie confirmed that the focus of his research was on changes within England. He concluded by inviting members to send him relevant information about women's cricket during the inter-war period in their own home areas.

### **(b) CLEARING HOUSE**

Keith Walmsley gave an update on progress with the Clearing House for biographical information, which had been running since 1 February in conjunction with CricketArchive, with around 150 items processed during the first six weeks. He stressed that the purpose of the Clearing House was to collate members' research and to ensure that incorrect information did not remain in the public domain.

Following a question from Robert Brooke, he stressed the need for sources of information to be included in order that future researchers could be guided towards the correct information and away from inaccurate or erroneous sources.

### **(c) RECORDS SECTION ON THE ACS WEBSITE**

Keith Walmsley then gave a short update on the operation over the past three years of the Records section on the ACS website, again in conjunction with CricketArchive. He admitted that the registration process had caused a few problems, but said that the committee would be reviewing these procedures at their next meeting.

Robert Brooke brought the meeting's attention to several errors in the Records section, especially relating to what he believed were inaccuracies and inconsistencies in batting orders and dates of birth/death. Mr Walmsley stated that he had checked various lists, specifically those for a player carrying his bat – he believed that some batting orders were incorrect, whilst on others supporting evidence from newspapers at the British Library was inconclusive and uncertain.

Garry Wallace and Dennis Lambert added that it was important for scorecards on CricketArchive to carry footnotes which flagged up some of the issues relating to accuracy, besides giving clarification over the correct sources. Brian Heald suggested that it would be

helpful if time could be allocated at the 2017 AGM for a presentation from CricketArchive about the procedures for updating scorecards and biographical details.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Storage – A discussion took place relating to points raised in advance of the meeting by Brian Heald and David Jeater regarding the storage of members' records and assorted paperwork. The Secretary said that the committee were already looking into the issues, following an approach from Tony Webb for the safe housing of his records for Minor County cricket between 1895 and 1950. Royal Holloway (University of London) had been approached, but the current rebuilding of their Library and Archives Department meant that their stores were full.

The Secretary added that the issue had been raised at a recent meeting of County Archivists at Lord's, in the hope that MCC might be able to assist. Roger Gibbons confirmed that a discussion had taken place at Lord's, though the focus had been on the state of paper records and the conservation of fragile material.

- (b) Neville Cardus Archive – Malcolm Lorimer briefly mentioned forthcoming activity in relation to the Cardus Archive, as well as a Sports Book Festival at Nantwich.
- (c) Presentation to the Retiring Treasurer – The Secretary presented a tankard to the Treasurer as a token of appreciation from the committee for his efforts over the past few years.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12.35 pm for the Annual Lunch.

## 10. STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

With this item having been deferred ahead of the afternoon talk by Stephen Chalke, the Chairman reconvened the meeting at 2.20 pm and announced that Mr Chalke was the Association's Statistician of the Year. He then paid tribute to Mr Chalke's outstanding contributions towards the history of the game, especially in collating the biographies of county cricketers from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, and capturing the memories and achievements of those players who were the veritable heartbeat of the county game.

In making this glowing citation, the Chairman added that Mr Chalke's work – under the imprint of Fairfield Books – had amassed some seminal and pre-eminent books which future researchers will find essential reading, in particular the recent *Summer's Crown* – his well-received and encyclopaedic history of the County Championship, which had been shortlisted for several national awards.

The President presented the Statistician of the Year Trophy to Mr Chalke before the Chairman closed the AGM at 2.25 pm.

Mr Chalke subsequently talked with great aplomb and no little humour for the next hour. He began by outlining how he had come to research and write *Summer's Crown*, besides gathering its rich history and working with several ACS members, especially Peter Wynne-Thomas, Robert Brooke, Douglas Miller and Peter Griffiths.

Mr Chalke also spoke of how in 1993 – largely through his links with Ken Biddulph – he had started to collate the magical stories and reminiscences of a number of county cricketers. He explained how this had led to several biographies, and shared anecdotes relating to his books on Geoffrey Howard, Tom Cartwright and Bob Appleyard.

After Mr Chalke had answered questions, the Secretary concluded proceedings by thanking the catering staff from Derbyshire CCC for the splendid Annual Lunch, besides commenting favourably on the facilities in the 3aaa Pavilion in contrast to the Spartan ones offered the previous year in the Marquee. He closed the meeting at 3.55 pm, at which point afternoon tea and coffee were served.