

## **AGM MINUTES - 2011**

**The 38th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians was held in the Gateway Centre at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 26 March 2011, starting at 11.15 am.**

**Present** - David Baggett, Pelham Barton, Robert Brooke, John Bryant, Kevin Campbell-Woodford, Howard Clayton, Stan Dawson, Jim Gibb, Roger Gibbons (Treasurer), Peter Griffiths, Alan Grove, Michael Hawsworth, Brian Heald, Jenny Heald, Andrew Hignell (Secretary), David Jeater, David Kendix (Chairman), Dennis Lambert, Brian Lawton, Julian Lawton Smith, Malcolm Lorimer, A.Lowe, Tim McCann, Tony Martin, Ian Maun, Douglas Miller, Harriet Monkhouse, Roy Morgan, Roger Moulton, Bryn Nathan, Huw Nathan, Terry Needham, Chris O'Brien, Chris Overson, Tony Percival, Giles Phillips, Mick Pope, Alex Potts, David Pracy, David Roxburgh, Brian Sanderson, Christopher Saunders, Richard Slater, M.J.K.Smith (President), Paul Smith, R.Staniforth, Willie Sugg, Simon Sweetman, Cyril Waite, Keith Walmsley, Tony Webb, Geoff Wilde, Martin Wilson, Robby Wilton and Peter Wynne-Thomas.

After a welcome from the President, the meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of the following eight members of the Association who had passed away during the course of the year - Don Ambrose, R.F.W.Cook, S.G.de Clermont, C.F.Fricker, C.E.Roe, D.C.Ruggins, R.J.W.Scowen and G.A.Smith.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

The Secretary reported apologies had been received from the following members - Ian Balfour, Philip Banham, Derek Barnard, Kit Bartlett, Paul Bolton, Keith Booth, Mike Charman, Peter Clare, Barry Cox, Paul Dyson, Ric Finlay, Keith Gerrish, Roger Heavens, Martin Howe, Richard Isaacs, Ian King-Holford, Jim Ledbetter, Serena Nathan, Peter Powell, William Powell, Norman Rogers, John Ward and Roger Wright.

### **2. Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held at Derby on 27 March 2010 were unanimously approved (Proposed - Richard Slater; Seconded - Dennis Lambert).

### **3. Election of Committee Members**

The Secretary reported that four vacancies existed, and that four nominations had been received. No election had therefore taken place, with Philip Bailey, John Bryant, Ric Finlay and David Kendix continuing to serve on the committee.

### **4. Annual Report of the Committee for 2009/10**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, drew the meeting's attention to the Annual Report, as contained in the AGM booklet, and commented on several key points. It had been once again another hugely busy year, with the range and quality of the publications, including the Journal, as impressive as they have ever been, reflecting the input from the people who research, write, photograph, proofread and sell almost all of our output.

He also drew the meeting's attention to the fact that, while the historical series continue to flourish, sales of many of the score-based publications have fallen steadily, with the stage being reached when the committee have to consider whether, and if so by how much, the Association should use its members' money to subsidise these publications. He reminded the meeting of the availability of Research Grants, for which applications had started to dry up, as well as royalties to authors which remain a suitable incentive to members and a reward for those who do their bit to keep the Association so active.

The website had been successfully redesigned, with online membership applications being received together with online orders for publications. More work still needed to be done, but the Association was no longer disenfranchising those who prefer such online facilities. The email forum also remained a popular vehicle for helping people answer obscure questions or allowing equally obscure new records to be spotted, besides helping to bring together the ACS community and providing an area for lively debate.

At the 2010 AGM, a point had been raised about the classification of players' county of birth. David Jeater had subsequently written a paper, summarising the 'house view' that the committee would expect to adopt for ACS publications. Similarly, revisions had taken place to the Style Guide for authors, allowing the Association to have a consistent approach to spelling team names, abbreviations, hyphenations, scorecard layout etc.

In November 2010 a London meeting had been organised, with Angus Fraser as the guest speaker, and a similar function would be planned at a similar time in 2011. The Chairman added that the committee would be delighted to hear if a member wanted to arrange an ACS meeting in any other major city, and could find a suitable venue and guest speaker, with the Association assisting with publicity and, within reason, underwriting the costs.

The Chairman highlighted how the profile of the ACS has continued to grow, with the ICC, MCC and ECB all asking at various times for views on matters where they recognise the Association's expertise, independence, and discretion. He then thanked the Officers of the Association for their continued sterling work, besides thanking Howard Clayton - who had completed his first year as editor of the *Second Eleven Annual* - Simon Sweetman, David Jeater and Peter Griffiths for their work with other publications.

The Chairman also highlighted the work of Roger Gibbons as Treasurer, besides informing the meeting that Roger would not be seeking re-election for this post in 2013. The Chairman hoped that any members interested in serving as ACS Treasurer would contact Roger to discuss any issues. The Chairman finished his address by saying that he himself would also be standing down as Chairman with effect from the committee meeting following the AGM. His commitment with other cricketing bodies, in particular Middlesex and ICC, combined with a full-time job and young family, meant that his ACS attention span was becoming ever more squeezed, but he would be remaining on the Committee for another three years and would fully support his successor.

Questions then followed from Martin Wilson regarding the members who had not renewed their membership, and secondly, the drop in sales of the *Overseas First-Class Annual*. The Chairman replied that the Membership Secretary had a system in place by which lapsed members were contacted about their subscriptions, whilst a promotion was also in place for those people who had not as yet purchased Volume Two of *OFCA*, whereby they could obtain a heavily discounted copy of a book from the *Lives In Cricket* series if they purchased *OFCA*.

Robert Brooke asked about the future of score-based books, especially when so much information was available on the Internet. The Chairman responded by saying that further discussion would occur in the afternoon session, especially over whether a tipping-point had been reached with this style of publication. Brian Heald also suggested a questionnaire to members canvassing their views.

Kevin Campbell-Woodford enquired about the possibility of developing applications for mobile phones, or kindle-based books, whilst Malcolm Lorimer asked about the number of members currently in the Association. After a response to the latter question from the Membership Secretary, the Annual Report was unanimously adopted (Proposed – Brian Heald; Seconded – Douglas Miller).

## **5. Annual Accounts for 2009/10**

The Treasurer drew the members' attention to the Financial Report in the AGM booklet. He highlighted three key points – the shortfall of £5,821, the tailing-off of applications for Research Grants, and the Association's investments. He also reiterated the Chairman's comments about welcoming approaches from members who were interested in succeeding him in 2013.

Martin Wilson then asked if the Accounts could, in future years, show income on publications as well as expenditure – something which the Treasurer replied would be straightforward to produce as such a breakdown was prepared for committee meetings. Peter Griffiths added that it would also be important to show the number of free books issued, as these varied between publications, whilst Douglas Miller reminded the meeting that, whilst costs were always within one financial year, the sales spanned more than one year.

The Annual Accounts were then unanimously adopted (Proposed – Peter Griffiths; Seconded – Martin Wilson).

## **6. Appointment of an external accountant to prepare the Annual Accounts**

The Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of Ian Barwick of Gerard and Co. in Stroud (Seconded – Peter Griffiths). This was agreed unanimously.

## **7. Statistician of the Year Award**

The Secretary announced that Martin Wilson had been recognised as the Association's Statistician of the Year and he read a citation highlighting Martin's immense contribution to the work of the Association's 18th-century group, as well as his other contributions to our knowledge of the history and development of the game, including his books on the history of cricket in North America down to 1820, and the earliest references to cricket in each English county and other parts of the world. Above all, this award celebrated Martin's work on 18th-century cricket, his painstaking thoroughness and scholarly attention to detail, besides locating the full score of a 'great' match between Surrey and Hampshire, which had been lost for over 200 years since its original newspaper publication in 1778.

After accepting the award, Martin thanked several members of the Association for their assistance and support, including John Bryant and Keith Warsop of the 18th-century group, Peter Wynne-Thomas for his guidance on research and Christopher Saunders for his assistance with publishing the fruits of his labours.

## **8. Inauguration of the Don Ambrose Memorial Prize**

The Chairman then announced a new initiative, with an annual award named in honour of Don Ambrose, one of the Association's most industrious, admired and well-loved members, who had died the previous year. This involved a prize of £250 for the best article – either historical or statistical – published in *The Cricket Statistician* each year, with the Editor compiling a shortlist from which the committee would make a selection.

Malcolm Lorimer added that he had been sorting out Don's personal papers to ensure that the material went to a good home, whilst Don's book collection would be going to auction with Trevor Vennett-Smith. Brian Heald also added that he had worked closely with Don on a who's who of cricketers for the pre-1864 period which could also be a fitting publication in Don's memory. John Bryant added that, because Don's work involved a collation of previously published material, there were some copyright issues to be considered before any publication could be undertaken.

## **9. Any other business**

The Secretary had received in advance of the meeting matters for this item from two members. First, Robert Brooke raised a query about inconsistencies in the recently-published *New Zealand Cricketers* book for which the author had received a research grant. The Chairman responded that grant-aided publications should not have to meet higher standards than 'normal' publications, whilst Dennis Lambert added that the grants were awarded for their potential rather than their end product.

Robert then commented about the use of both 'Beldam' and 'Beldham' in the Association's book on Great Matches in the 18th century. John Bryant, as the book's Editor, stressed that this was not a proofreading issue, but was an editorial decision on using 'Beldham' as the standardised version. The spelling of 'Beldam' had appeared in a quotation based on a contemporary illustration, and a decision had been taken not to correct such sources. John apologised for the lack of a footnote explaining such a decision.

Martin Wilson asked if the card-based index to *The Cricketer* magazine, compiled by Peter Wynne-Thomas, could be computerised. The Chairman replied that the committee would be discussing this topic at their next full meeting at the end of April. Martin also asked about the index to the Association's Journal, and Tony Martin reported that it should be completed by the end of April.

## **10. End of meeting and annual lunch**

The President closed the meeting at 12.25 pm and, after a short interval, the Annual Lunch followed, at which the Secretary proposed a toast to the retiring Chairman, before the President made a short address talking about, amongst other items, his reminiscences of touring India, as well as of Fred Titmus who had died earlier in the week.

## **11. Afternoon session**

Between 2.45 and 4 pm, a discussion took place about Publications, with Christopher Saunders and John Bryant each making short presentations. The Chairman duly closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance.