

Minutes of the 40th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held in The Gateway Centre at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 23 March 2013, starting at 11.25 am.

Present – Mr P.J.Banham, Mr P.M.Barton, Mr N.D.Bratton, Mr R.W.Brooke, Mr J.C.Bryant, Mr H.Clayton, Mr A.Coppard, Mr D.E.J.Frith, Mr J.Gibb, Mr R.A.Gibbons (Treasurer), Mr P.Gilbert, Dr A.K.Hignell (Secretary), Mr M.Howe, Mr D.C.Kendix, Mr D.A.Lambert, Mr J.N.Lawton Smith, Mr T.J.McCann, Mr D.H.Miller, Miss H.F.Monkhouse, Prof R.P.C.Morgan, Mr R.H.L.Moulton (Chairman), Mr D.B.L.Nathan, Mr H.I.D.Nathan, Mr C.D.O'Brien, Mr C.R.J.Overson, Mr M.Pope, Mr G.L.Prior, Mrs L.M.Prior, Mr M.S.Rowe, Mr C.G.D.Saunders, Mr R.W.Slater, Mr M.J.K.Smith (President), Mr P.G.Smith, Mr S.Smith, Mr P.G.Tatton, Mr M.G.Taylor, Mr C.R.Waite, Mr G.L.Wallace, Mr K.S.Walmsley, Mr A.J.Webb, Mr G.S.Wilde, Mr M.Wilson, Mr R.Wilton and Mr P.Wynne-Thomas.

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS

The President welcomed everyone, especially given the inclement weather and snowfall which had prevented 20 people from travelling to Derby. The Chairman then confirmed the schedule for the meeting before those attending introduced themselves and their county affiliations.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the following members – **Mr D.J.Baggett, Mr P.J.Bailey**, Mr D.E.Barnard, **Mr C.J.Bartlett**, Mr S.A.Bilton, Mr P.Bolton, Mr K.G.Campbell-Woodford, **Mr L.S.Dawson**, Mr D.H.Donovan, Mr R.J.Finlay, Mr D.R.Gallagher, Mr K.T.Gerrish, **Mr P.D.Griffiths, Mr A.A.Grove**, Mr N.Hancock, Dr P.R.Handford, Mr B.Heald, Mrs J.A.Heald, Mr R.Heavens, Mr M.F.Hill, Mr S.I.Hussain, **Mr A.P.Hutton**, Mr R.V.Isaacs, **Mr D.A.Jeater**, Dr M.A.Jones, **Mr B.M.Lawton**, Mr A.J.Ledbetter, **Mr A.J.Martin**, Dr I.C.Maun, Mrs J.K.Moulton, Mr T.Moulton, Miss S.V.J.Nathan, **Mr J.T.Needham, Mr A.B.Percival, Mr G.A.Phillips, Mr S.Pickles, Rev G.A.Potts**, Mr G.F.Powell, **Mr D.J.Pracy, Mr N.W.Rogers**, Prof A.I.Stainer, Mr K.W.Sugg, **Mr S.J.Sweetman**, Mr J.H.Thomas, Mrs C.A.Welch, **Mr A.West and Mr R.D.Wilkinson**.

(Those who were unable to attend because of the weather are in bold.)

3. IN MEMORIAM

Members shared a few moments' silence in memory of the following 16 members of the Association who had died during the course of 2012/13: Mr K.B.Albone, Mr I.H.S.Balfour, Mr H.S.Barr-Hamilton, Mr J.Brookstone, Sir C.A.Burton, Mr P.E.Byrne, Mr L.A.Collins, Mr S.Hicks, Mr J.W.Ive, Mr W.H.H.Lewis, Mr R.D.Mann, Mr C.D.A.Martin-Jenkins, Mr E.J.Peet, Mr P.A.Snow, Mr M.C.Spurrier and Mr M.S.Todd.

4. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the 39th AGM of the Association held in the Gateway Centre at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 31 March 2012 were approved (Proposed – Bryn Nathan; Seconded – Richard Slater).

5. ELECTION OF THE HON. TREASURER

Martin Wilson, as the sole candidate for the position of Honorary Treasurer (Proposed – Keith Warsop; Seconded – Peter Wynne-Thomas) was duly elected.

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were three vacancies on the committee but, with David Jeater deciding not to seek re-election and no further nominations having been received, no election took place. Harriet Monkhouse (Proposed – Alan West; Seconded – Philip Hulme) and Simon Sweetman (Proposed – Douglas Miller; Seconded – Richard Lawrence) therefore continue to serve on the committee.

7. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2011/12

With the Annual Report, as contained in the AGM booklet, having been circulated to all members, the Chairman made a few general comments, starting by thanking Huw Nathan for his splendid work as Membership Secretary. The London meeting in the Autumn of 2012 had been a great success and the committee would be shortly discussing the format of the gathering in 2013. He reminded members to send in suggestions for the organisation of meetings at other venues, and at other times of the year.

With 14 publications having been produced since the last AGM, the Chairman reminded members that the Association remained the world's largest publisher of cricket books. He thanked members who had, in advance, committed to buying the most recent *Overseas First-Class Annual* and he reported that plans were in hand for the next volume.

The Chairman thanked Julian Lawton Smith for taking over from Tony Webb as the co-ordinator of the Minor Counties Project, besides thanking Simon Sweetman for his work as Editor of the Journal and maintaining an excellent mix of stimulating articles.

He then reminded the meeting that three books published in 2012 as part of the Lives in Cricket series had been long-listed for the MCC/Cricket Society Book of the Year Prize. He also congratulated Robert Brooke on being short-listed in the competition for books published in 2011, before paying tribute to the excellent work of David Jeater in master-minding the project and establishing a very high standard of publication, as testified by these award nominations.

As far as forthcoming developments were concerned, the Chairman reported that John Bryant was overseeing preparations for the Association having an online records and statistical section on its website. He also announced that work was taking place on the commencement of a digitisation project which, following discussions by the committee at a strategy meeting in September 2012, would shortly see volumes in the Grounds and Famous Cricketers series being available on the website in an electronic format.

The Chairman also reported that initial discussions had taken place with The Cricket Society about a joint conference or research symposium in 2014. In addition, the profile of the Association had benefitted from requests by two national radio stations for interviews on statistical matters, whilst he congratulated David Kendix on his re-election to the ICC cricket committee. Thanks were passed on to Richard Shaw of City Press for their work in printing the Association's publications, especially in light of problems following a fire at their premises in Leeds, whilst the Chairman also thanked Peter and Jenny Griffiths for their sterling work as ACS Sales.

The Chairman made a few brief comments on the problems with the old email forum for members and thanked Harriet Monkhouse and Huw Nathan for their work in getting the new forum off the ground. He also thanked other editors and proof-readers for their ongoing work before concluding by thanking Roger Gibbons and David Jeater, the two retiring committee members, for their outstanding work on behalf of the Association as Treasurer and Editor of Lives in Cricket respectively. He finished by urging anyone interested in joining the committee to make contact with the Secretary.

The committee's report was unanimously adopted (Proposer – Tim McCann; Seconder – Cyril Waite).

8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2011/12

The retiring Treasurer drew the attention of the meeting to the accounts as published in the AGM booklet. He made a few observations including the amount raised from membership subscriptions and the revenue from publications. He also drew the attention of the meeting to changes in postal charges and the fact that further increases would be taking place in the course of the next few months.

A question was raised about reducing postal costs, to which John Bryant replied that some research had been previously undertaken and that the committee would keep a close eye on future developments and alternatives.

The retiring Treasurer concluded by thanking the committee and fellow officers for their support, as well as thanking Peter Griffiths for providing a monthly breakdown on sales, which had significantly helped when discussing print runs and book prices.

The Accounts for 2011/12 were unanimously adopted (Proposer – Pelham Barton; Seconder – Julian Lawton Smith).

9. PROPOSALS FOR AN INCREASE IN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The newly-elected Treasurer made a few comments about the proposed increase to annual subscriptions. He began by reminding the meeting of the suggestion at the previous AGM for increasing subscriptions from £16 to £20. The committee had decided in the first instance to raise subscriptions to £18 for 2012/13, and it was now planned to raise them again to £20 for 2013/14. Both decisions had been taken in the belief that membership income should fund members' activities.

A question was asked about whether a larger increase was needed in light of the future plans, especially for digitisation, as outlined by the Chairman. It was pointed out by the Officers that it had been planned that these proposals would be funded from the investment account rather than subscriptions.

The suggested increase to £20 (Proposer – Roger Gibbons; Seconder – Martin Wilson) was passed unanimously.

10. APPOINTMENT OF AN EXTERNAL ACCOUNTANT TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The newly-elected Treasurer outlined his suggestions for the appointment of an external accountant to prepare the annual accounts and overseeing other administrative tasks.

A question was raised as to whether this out-sourcing of the financial work would add to the Association's costs – the newly-elected Treasurer confirmed that there would be an increase, but that the need for out-sourcing of the basic book-keeping had become essential, given the fact that he was still in full-time employment, and their work would significantly assist him in undertaking his new duties for the Association.

The appointment of JBLA Ltd of Leicestershire (Proposer – Martin Wilson; Seconder – Dennis Lambert) was passed unanimously.

11. STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Secretary announced that Peter Wynne-Thomas had been recognised as the Association's Statistician of the Year following the publication during 2012 of his work *Cricket's Historians*. Martin Wilson then read out the following citation:

'For many people, and for many years, Peter Wynne-Thomas has been the public face of the ACS. He was present at the first meeting 40 years ago, and has missed the AGM only once since that time. He served as Treasurer from 1973 to 1974, then began a 32-year stint as Secretary. He was deeply involved in the many ACS publishing enterprises, contributing a number of volumes himself as well as undertaking the typesetting for many of the early booklets, and for years he checked, sub-edited and did the art work for these productions.

'More than that, Peter has been at the forefront of the game's researchers for some four decades. Peter's first book – *Nottinghamshire Cricketers 1821-1914* – was published in 1971 and won the Cricket Society's 'Book of the Year' award. It may come as a surprise to many that Peter has not previously won the ACS Statistician of the Year Award in his own right, although in 1984 he did share the award with Philip Bailey and Philip Thorn for the *Who's Who of Cricketers* (Newnes, 1984), a 1,144-page epic which gave biographical details of all participants in British first-class cricket from 1864 as well as the most prominent of earlier players. In all, Peter has written (or so he thinks) more than 50 books on cricket, whilst his published articles are countless. Importantly, he has always been prepared to share his knowledge and findings with others, and has been particularly supportive of new writers and researchers.

'This award, however, is not for lifetime achievement – it is, explicitly, for the Statistician (or Historian) of the Year. And it was in this year that Peter produced what is probably the most financially successful book in the history of the ACS, and the only one in 40 years to have been produced in both paperback and limited editions – *Cricket's Historians*. This attempts to deal, and by and large succeeds in dealing, with all those who have written on cricket's history and statistics over the last couple of centuries. For some, there was too great an emphasis on the last 40 or 50 years, with the ACS itself being prominent. For others, though, that simply reflects life – over the last 40 years the ACS has assumed a pivotal role, thanks in the first instance to those who attended the initial meetings (and are here today), and thanks in large part to the continuing efforts of Peter Wynne-Thomas, a worthy recipient of the Statistician/Historian of the Year Award.'

After receiving the award, Peter Wynne-Thomas responded by applauding the members of the Association for their generous assistance and collective pool of knowledge, especially at grassroots and the local level. He said that he felt truly humbled by the level of support he had received whilst researching *Cricket's Historians*, and he was indebted to all those present for their efforts and kind help.

12. THE DON AMBROSE MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Secretary announced that Keith Walmsley had been recognised as the winner of the Don Ambrose Memorial Prize for 2012. In the absence of Simon Sweetman, he then read out the following citation from the Journal Editor for Keith's article published in the Autumn 2012 edition and entitled *First of the Season*.

'This is the second award of the Don Ambrose prize for the best article published in the *Cricket Statistician* over a calendar year. "Best" of course is a difficult word, and perhaps should be replaced here by "most stimulating" or "most thought-provoking", or one which simply enables you to look at figures in a slightly different way.

'Keith, who has been a regular contributor of statistic-based articles to the Journal and is the Statistical Officer of the Cricket Society, has looked at the "seasonal firsts" – the first to 1,000 runs, to 100 wickets, and even to the Double, though the latter feat was last performed in 1988 and had not been achieved by an Englishman since 1967.'

After receiving the Prize, Keith confirmed that he had been inspired to write the article by Nick Compton's feat in 2012 of very nearly reaching 1,000 first-class runs by the end of May – another achievement which had not happened since 1988.

13. ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

The Secretary announced that David Frith had been proposed as an Honorary Life Member of the Association, and the Chairman then read out the following citation:

‘David Frith’s contribution to the world of cricket in general and its history in particular is enormous. Books such as *The Fast Men*, *The Slow Men*, *Bodyline Autopsy*, *The Silence of the Heart*, *England versus Australia*, *Pageant of Cricket*, biographies of Archie Jackson, A.E. Stoddart and Ross Gregory, countless articles and obituaries in the cricket press, the Golden Greats videos, the historical articles and illustrations in *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, which he founded, are a testimony to his love of the game and its history.

‘He has willingly helped countless authors with their research and their books, and has always been happy to share his knowledge with them. I am therefore delighted to propose that David Frith be made an honorary life member of the ACS.’

The proposal, which was seconded by Andrew Hignell, was carried unanimously by the meeting. David then briefly spoke to thank the Association for bestowing the great honour upon him. He believed that the game of cricket did not have a more important organisation than the ACS, and he had been very proud to have been a member of the Association for 39 years.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Howard Clayton spoke briefly about the increase in the number of academies attached to first-class counties. He suggested that a *Who’s Who* of these Academies should either be incorporated into future issues of the *Second Eleven Annual* or that there should be a separate publication solely devoted to Academies. He added that he was prepared to undertake the collation of this information and the Secretary added that this item would be discussed again by the committee at their next meeting.
- (b) The Chairman spoke about future plans for the Lives in Cricket series following David Jeater’s intention to stand down as Series Editor. He pointed out that David had agreed to continue overseeing publications during 2013 and assist his replacement to ensure that a smooth handover took place, including the hosting of a training day with authors and editors.

A team of editors was in place but an overall Project co-ordinator was required, especially to liaise with prospective authors. Mark Rowe subsequently expressed a willingness to become involved.

- (c) Andrew Coppard, a sports journalism student from Brighton University, then made a short address, outlining his work on a project entitled ‘Cheating in Sport’ and his wish to canvass the views of the Association’s members on this topic. He had already undertaken research on athletics and cycling, and was now eager to consider issues from cricket such as match-fixing and other issues relating to performance-enhancing drugs and recreational drugs. In particular, he was interested in gauging members’ interest in whether career statistics or records should be amended accordingly in light of any transgressions.

David Kendix replied that because cricket was, unlike cycling or athletics, a team game it was very difficult to amend records for specific individuals, although it would be possible – as in other sports – to amend titles or team achievements. Harriet Monkhouse added that it would be a curious reward if the career records were improved for anyone found to have deliberately under-performed in a match.

- (d) Jim Gibb raised a related issue about the status of the games between Australia and an ICC World XI in 2005/06 and their status as Test Matches and One-Day Internationals. David Kendix responded by outlining the background to how the ICC had reached this decision, as well as outlining the knock-on effects of retrospective re-classification of matches, and the need to retain the credibility of statistics and landmark achievements.

John Bryant added that the ICC had contacted the Association about their views on the status of these matches prior to the games taking place, and that, having been consulted by the governing body, it left the Association in a difficult position not to accept their decision. David Frith also reminded the meeting about the 1970 series between England and the Rest of the World and the request from sponsors prior to the series taking place that they should be regarded as Tests, even though the ICC's original constitution dating back to 1909 stated that such games can only take place between Full Member countries.

- (e) Robert Brooke raised a number of points about ACS publications, including a recent article in *The Cricket Statistician* that was very similar to an article by another author published by the Association in 1995, yet did not refer to, or quote, this previously published work.

He also drew attention to errors in, and amendments required to, an article on Awards and Decorations to cricket people, in addition to a series of apparent proof-reading errors in the latest issue of the Journal. Martin Wilson confirmed that a number of errors had been picked up by a proof-reader. In the unfortunate absence of Simon Sweetman, who had been unable to travel because of snow, the Secretary stated that these points would be discussed with the Journal Editor at the next committee meeting.

Robert also enquired about the apparent delay with the publication of Brian Croudy's book on the Halifax Cup. In the unfortunate absence of Philip Bailey (the book's editor) who was also prevented by snow from travelling to Derby, the Secretary and Chairman explained that a small amount of checking was still required, especially with some scorecards.

- (f) A suggestion was also made by Nigel Bratton that the names of the President, Officers and committee should be included at the start of the AGM booklet.
- (g) Douglas Miller reminded the meeting that the President was the subject for a forthcoming volume in the Lives in Cricket series, and he briefly outlined plans for the President and himself to address various cricket societies.

15. COMMEMORATIVE PHOTOGRAPH OF FOUNDER MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

After the President had closed the AGM at 1.14 pm, a special commemorative photograph was taken of the following seven, out of the 13 surviving Founder Members – Philip Banham, Robert Brooke, Dennis Lambert, Godfrey Prior, Martyn Taylor, Tony Webb and Peter Wynne-Thomas.

16. AFTERNOON SESSION

After the Annual Lunch at 1.15 pm, an informal session began at 3 pm with David Frith speaking about a selection of the eminent cricketers he had met and interviewed during his career as a cricket writer and journalist. During his entertaining address David mentioned, amongst others, Jack Gregory, Wilfred Rhodes, Sydney Barnes, Frank Woolley, Gubby Allen, Andy Sandham, Bert Oldfield, George Geary, Eddie Gilbert, Bob Wyatt, Arthur Shrewsbury and Don Bradman. In David's own words, the talk was 'a fascinating voyage through this wonderful game'.

David also answered a number of questions from members on a wide range of topics including Tony Greig and the evolution of World Series Cricket; the non-selection of Basil D'Oliveira for the MCC tour to South Africa; Archie Jackson; the West Indian pace quartet of the 1970s and 1980s; the use of the decision referral system in Test cricket; the stewardship of the game by governing bodies and the possible outcome of the forthcoming Ashes Tests.

He concluded by paying tribute to the ACS who he believed to be 'the ultimate cricket organisation with the statistics providing the skeleton and the history adding the flesh'. After a vote of thanks to David Frith and the President from John Bryant, the meeting closed with afternoon tea and coffee at 4.25 pm.