

Minutes of the 41st AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held in The Gateway Centre at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 22 March 2014, starting at 11.15 am.

Present – D.J.Baggett, P.J.Bailey, P.C.Banham, P.M.Barton, S.Bindman, N.D.Bratton, R.W.Brooke, J.C.Bryant, M.W.Burton, H.Clayton, K.T.Gerrish (Treasurer), J.Gibb, R.A.Gibbons, P.Gilbert, P.D.Griffiths, A.A.Grove, A.R.Haile, M.Hawksworth, B.Heald, Mrs J.A.Heald, Dr A.K.Hignell (Secretary), M.Howe, D.A.Jeater, D.Kendix, D.A.Lambert, J.N.Lawton Smith, Rev M.G.Lorimer, T.J.McCann, A.J.Martin, D.H.Miller, H.F.Monkhouse, A.C.N.Morrison, R.H.L.Moulton (Chairman), D.B.L.Nathan, H.I.D.Nathan, Miss S.V.J.Nathan, J.T.Needham, C.D.O'Brien, C.R.J.Overson, A.B.Percival, G.A.Phillips, G.A.Potts, D.J.Pracy, G.L.Prior, L.M.Prior, M.P.Ronayne, M.S.Rowe, D.S.Roxburgh, A.W.Samson, C.G.D.Saunders, M.J.K.Smith (President), Paul G.Smith, Steven Smith, K.W.Sugg, S.J.Sweetman, P.G.Tatton, G.L.Wallace, K.S.Walmsley, A.West, G.S.Wilde, R.Wilton, P.Wynne-Thomas and D.B.Young.

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The meeting began promptly at 11.15 am with the President welcoming everyone and commenting on the sizeable turnout. He then thanked the Officers and Committee for their work again on behalf of the Association in the past year, besides thanking Douglas Miller for his outstanding efforts in compiling a volume on him in the Lives in Cricket series. The President would not have agreed to assist with a biography had it been for any other organisation than the Association, and he believed that the volume is an example of the high standards of research and authorship by the Association's members.

Those attending then introduced themselves and their county affiliation.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the following members:
Dr D.J.Allison, R.S.Baldwin, C.J.Bartlett, M.J.Bevan, P.Bolton, R.J.Finlay, D.E.J.Frith, N.Hancock, R.J.Harragan, R.Heavens, M.F.Hill, S.I.Hussain, R.V.Isaacs, Dr M.A.Jones, M.Pope, A.W.Rodger, N.W.Rogers, A.P.Scarlett, R.W.Slater, Prof A.I.Stainer, G.D.Thomas, J.H.Thomas, C.R.Waite and K.Warsop.

3. IN MEMORIAM

Members then stood briefly in silence in memory of the following members of the Association who had died during the course of 2013/14: P.A.H.Crofton, B.M.Lawton, J.D.Mace, P.A.Martin, R.E.Tilbury and P.M.Ward.

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

The minutes of the 40th AGM of the Association held in the Gateway Centre at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 23 March 2013 were unanimously approved (Proposed – D.A.Lambert; Seconded – D.Kendix).

5. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

There were four vacancies on the committee, and with David Kendix deciding not to seek re-election, and no further nominations having been received, no election took place with the following being re-elected: Philip Bailey (Prop – B.A.C.Croudy; Sec – P.D.Griffiths); Ric Finlay (Prop – D.J.Starr; Sec – R.Smith). The Secretary congratulated Giles Phillips (Prop – R.Heavens; Sec – K.W.Sugg) on successfully standing to serve for the first time on the committee. This left one co-opted vacancy to be filled.

6. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2012/13

With the Annual Report, as contained in the AGM booklet, having been circulated to all members, the Chairman made a number of general observations. He began by thanking Huw Nathan for his work with the re-designed membership flyer and he urged members to assist in the distribution of this document and the recruitment of new members.

The Chairman then drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that a total of 13 publications had been issued in the past year, and he thanked all of the authors and editors involved for their excellent efforts. He also highlighted the great success of the Lives in Cricket series and paid tribute to the outstanding work of David Jeater, who had been unable to attend the meeting last year because of the poor weather. The Chairman added that the Association were aiming to continue publishing up to four volumes a year in this series, although they may not necessarily be one each quarter as in previous years.

In addition, the Chairman commented on the County Grounds series and asked for assistance from the membership in completing the series with the publication of the volumes on Sussex and Northamptonshire. Thanks were passed on to Keith Gerrish for stepping in at short notice to act as Treasurer following Martin Wilson's resignation, whilst comments were also made about the results of the committee's Strategy Meeting in September, with the likelihood of a research project with an academic partner. The Secretary subsequently reported on the preliminary discussions which had been undertaken with Royal Holloway, University of London.

In response to questions from Robert Brooke and Brian Heald, the Chairman re-iterated that the intention of the Lives in Cricket series was that they should be 'warts and all' biographies. The Report was unanimously adopted (Prop – G.L.Wallace; Sec – K.W.Sugg)

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2012/13

The Treasurer drew the attention of the meeting to the accounts as published in the AGM booklet and he praised the work undertaken by Martin Wilson and Judy Leng. In response to questions regarding the investment account, the Treasurer and David Kendix confirmed that no income was currently being drawn down from these investments. Any income from dividends or coupons is being automatically reinvested in the two Legal & General unit trusts that are being administered by Hargreaves Lansdown.

In response to a question regarding the franking machine, the Chairman stated that legal advice had been taken, that the matter was now in the hands of the Police and that he was therefore unable to comment further at this time. The Accounts for 2012/13 were unanimously adopted (Proposer – A.B.Percival; Seconder – R.A.Gibbons).

8. 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. Garry Wallace questioned whether it was proper for CJCA Ltd, which assisted with the accounts throughout the year, also to be responsible for their annual audit. In response, the Treasurer and David Kendix stressed that the proposed role of CJCA Ltd is to prepare the accounts, not to audit them; the ACS is too small for its accounts to require a formal audit. The proposal was passed unanimously (Proposer – S.J.Sweetman; Seconder – P.M.Barton).

9. STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The President announced that Andrew Samson had been recognised as the Association's Statistician of the Year and David Kendix then read the following citation:

'Andrew Samson joined the ACS in 1980 and has been a member ever since. For the past 25 years he has been a radio, and occasionally TV, scorer and statistician. English listeners may first have come across him during the 1995/96 tour to South Africa, when SABC did a joint broadcast with *Test Match Special*. He also scored for *TMS* during the 2003 World Cup. More recently, he has been hard to avoid, being the *TMS* scorer/statistician for England's last two Ashes tours, and their recent series away to Pakistan, India and New Zealand. In total, he has attended 175 Test matches to date. Is there anyone here who can even come close to that?

'So that's the scoring, but what about the statistics? He has been Official Statistician for Cricket South Africa for the past 20 years, providing *Wisden* with South Africa's stats throughout that time. He has also acted as Official Statistician at four global ICC events. What, I think, is his most notable achievement is his creation of a database containing scorecards of all first-class, List A and T20 matches and his ability to run queries and extract pertinent information while scoring.

'He has, through his versatility, raised the standard of the media scorer/statistician to a new level. By combining diligent pre-match preparation with an ability to spot the interesting and unusual, he is able to come up regularly with statistical observations that genuinely inform the listener, adding context and insight. Listeners who would not normally be interested in the usual bland statistical utterances are hearing Andrew's input and realising how statistics, when used selectively, can be part of the story, not just a footnote to it.

'A good umpire does what is needed – when called upon, he gets things right without trying to become the centre of attention. Andrew is the scoring equivalent – he delivers his input without trying to upstage the commentator or become a celebrity. If we want the public to get a good impression of what a cricket statistician is and can do, then, listening to *TMS* for the last couple of years, Andrew would be the role model. The Committee of the ACS are therefore delighted, not only to announce Andrew Samson as their Statistician of the Year, but that Andrew has flown from South Africa to the UK in order to receive the award.'

On receiving the Trophy, Andrew said that he was very honoured to have been chosen by the Association, with whom he has been a member for over 30 years. He added that in his work with the media he has valued the role of the Association and thanked its many members for their research and findings which he has been able to disseminate to the media.

10. THE DON AMBROSE MEMORIAL PRIZE

The President announced that Keith Warsop had been recognised as the winner of the Don Ambrose Memorial Prize for 2013. Simon Sweetman then read out the following citation for Keith's article:

'The aim of the Journal is to encourage a wide variety of writing on all aspects of history and statistics from the earliest days to the modern age, so selecting an article for the Don Ambrose prize is very like comparing apples and oranges. Not every article can find something so crucial as Keith's evidence for the morphing of the "New Cricket Club" of 1784 into MCC. It may not mean much to followers of the IPL or the T20 World Cup, but it does settle a long-running argument where most of our articles seem more likely to start one. Giving this year's prize to Keith emphasises the importance we would like to place on original research and putting things together intelligently.'

In the absence of Keith Warsop, Peter Wynne-Thomas duly collected the award and passed on Keith's thanks to Ian Maun for his work on 18th-century cricket.

11. OTHER PRESENTATIONS

A presentation was made to Roger Gibbons, who had retired the previous year as Treasurer, before the Chairman made a special presentation to David Kendix, who was retiring from the committee. This award marked David's outstanding service on behalf of the Association, including his time in office as Chairman besides his work with the ICC.

The Chairman's citation read as follows: 'David Kendix has served on the ACS committee for nine years. First elected in 2005, he succeeded Douglas Miller as Chairman in 2008, in which role he served for three years. A further three years later, and very much to the regret of his colleagues, he has decided to retire from the committee.'

'David has been an excellent committee member, always willing to take on things – even something as humdrum as editing the Bulletin. His calm and logical approach to the issues, problems and awkward questions which tend to come up in any committee meeting has been invaluable.'

'Apart from his term as Chairman, during which time he guided the committee through a number of tricky problems, probably his most important role has been in liaising with the ICC and the ECB. It is very largely due to David that the ICC and other bodies turn to the ACS for advice on statistical issues and problems with the status of matches. It should also be remembered that he took on the editorship of *The ICC InterContinental Cup* at very short notice, but still managed to ensure that it appeared on time. He has also been responsible for obtaining a number of excellent speakers at the November gathering.'

'Speaking personally, and as David's successor as Chairman, I have found his advice on all matters to be most invaluable and helpful. He is blessed with a tremendous sense of humour which has enlivened committee meetings and also stopped us from taking ourselves too seriously. David, of course, also scores for matches at Lord's as well as finding time to be a Middlesex Board member. There are some who think that David is a cricket administrator pure and simple, but such is his energy and enthusiasm for life that he does actually have a day job as well.'

After receiving the award, David thanked the Chairman for his kind words and said that it had been a privilege to serve on the committee for the past nine years. He had enjoyed working with a host of people during this time and was now happy to return to the back benches in the knowledge that the Association was in good hands. He ended by encouraging other members to stand for committee and to become involved in the excellent work which was being undertaken.

12. RECORDS SECTION ON THE ACS WEBSITE

John Bryant then went through the proposals for an online cricket records section on the ACS website. Plenty of books, most notably the Frindall volumes, had been published in previous years, but no updates had taken place for several years. He explained that the committee felt that the most appropriate way to fill this void was the creation of an online section on the Association's website rather than in book format.

He then gave a brief demonstration of the capabilities of the new facility, adding that further work needed to be done, especially on the esoteric and unusual records. At the present time, the Test and first-class section had almost been completed, with a section on List A and Twenty20 cricket following in future months, besides a section for members' individual research to be added. Using the list of first-class double-hundreds, he demonstrated the functionality of the new site and its ability to sort by numerical order, by chronological order, or by country.

In response to several questions, John stressed that the intention was to add further information including League cricket, 18th-century and early 19th-century games, as well as something aggregating all 'senior' county cricket. Peter Griffiths added that if data was available below county cricket, it could be added to the CricketArchive database from which the Records section

was derived. John Bryant also stressed the need to have the best available version of scorecards on CricketArchive and how some delays had occurred to the launch of the new feature, especially partnerships, as checks were still being made for second-innings batting orders.

Following a question from Brian Heald, John Bryant confirmed that the intention was for the site to be free of charge, and that there would be embedded hyperlinks from the record pages to the player pages and relevant match scorecards elsewhere on the CricketArchive site. Additional questions were then asked by Garry Wallace, Robert Brooke, Dennis Lambert and Douglas Miller about the updating of these pages, and the acquisition of accurate and correct data. Peter Griffiths replied that, whenever a scorecard was added to CricketArchive, the records and statistics pages would be automatically updated. He also stressed the need for correcting inaccurate data which had subsequently been published and he outlined the mechanisms via the scores@cricketarchive.com email address.

John Bryant concluded by thanking Keith Walmsley for his advice and assistance on the various categories and sub-divisions on the records website, before Chris Saunders added the importance of the biographical section on the player pages and the need to add additional details to these pages.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Simon Sweetman spoke briefly about the planned publications to commemorate the Great War, including books on the 1914 season, cricket played during the War, and something about the resumption of cricket in 1919. He appealed to members to undertake research in their home areas in order to assist with this project. Following questions from Brian Heald and Douglas Miller, he added that there was a forthcoming publication by Andrew Renshaw which would be updating the biographies published in *Wisden*, but that there might be scope for having a section devoted to wartime deaths in these ACS books.
- (b) Howard Clayton outlined several ideas about changing the format of the records section of the *Second Eleven Annual* to include information on Academies. He believed that it was well nigh impossible given the fact that there was no standardised format across the country. He believed though that, like the England Under-19 statistics, it was a fruitful line for research by the members of the Association. Peter Griffiths suggested that, in order to save space, the biographical format of the Annual could be changed to an alphabetical one, rather than county-by-county. The Secretary added that Brian Rose was undertaking a review of Second Eleven cricket for the ECB and that perhaps further discussion about these changes could be taken by the committee later in the year, pending the findings of the Rose Report and suggested changes, such as combined county games.
- (c) John Bryant and Malcolm Lorimer then raised various points about the timing of the London Meeting and the AGM, especially the latter's clash with meetings held by the Cricket Memorabilia Society. As far as the London meetings were concerned, the members present were happy with the *status quo*.
- (d) Robert Brooke raised the issue of the location of the AGM and asked whether members would prefer a different venue every year rather than regularly meeting up at Derby. In the ensuing discussion, several points were raised about the convenience and accessibility of Derby, as well as the higher cost involved in hiring alternative venues at other locations. Whilst there appeared to be a majority present who were content with Derby as a venue, the Secretary agreed to collate figures on the numbers attending the AGMs in recent years at Derby, compared with other locations, and to report back to the committee at its strategy meeting in September when this matter, as well as (c) above, could be discussed in further detail.

- (e) Robert Brooke also raised a question about the recent issue of the Journal having 31 pages devoted to the career of Sachin Tendulkar and he asked whether a separate tribute booklet would have been a better option. Simon Sweetman, as the Editor of the Journal, also spoke about the creation of this issue, with the Secretary adding that Simon had received the full support of the committee when preparing this volume. John Bryant added that the articles had been balanced rather than just glorifying the feats of the Indian batsman. During the discussion which followed, several members also stated that they liked the fact that the occasional volume might have a special theme.

The meeting was then adjourned for the Annual Lunch which took place from 1.05 pm to 2.35 pm

- (f) After re-assembling, Keith Walmsley spoke about the mechanisms for updating statistical and biographical information and the need for having a clearing house which could liaise with CricketArchive, allowing members to see and track changes. Peter Griffiths briefly spoke about how sadly a mass of emails had been lost following Roger Tilbury's death, before the Secretary spent a few minutes outlining some of the ideas for the collaborative research project with Royal Holloway and the creation of a website where cricket research could be stored and collated.
- (g) Malcolm Lorimer briefly spoke about the forthcoming Cardus Lunch at Old Trafford, and the ongoing research on the Cardus Archive. He suggested that other great names in the game, such as John Arlott or W.G.Grace, could be honoured in a similar way elsewhere.

The President then closed the AGM at 3.05 pm and thanked everyone for their attendance and their contributions to the discussions.

14. POST-LUNCH LECTURE

After a short break, the Secretary introduced Dr Dean Allen of Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town, who then gave a fascinating talk entitled 'Empire, War and Cricket in South Africa: Logan of Matjiesfontein'. His talk explored how James Logan, a Scottish-born immigrant, made his fortune during the late 19th century in South Africa – having originally left the UK bound for Australia – through business, politics and cricket.

The illustrated lecture focussed on the way Matjiesfontein was specifically developed and promoted by James Logan into a renowned health resort attracting the rich and famous of the late 19th century, besides outlining how Logan was instrumental in developing the game of cricket in South Africa, especially the controversial 1901 tour to England – a venture which was funded by Logan himself, and all in the midst of the Anglo-Boer War.

The stimulating and well-presented talk was followed by a question and answer session, before there was a vote of thanks to Dr Allen by the Secretary, who then closed the meeting at 4.15 pm, at which point afternoon tea and coffee were served.