

**Minutes of the 42nd AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held in The Marquee at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 21 March 2015, starting at 11.05 am.**

Present – Mr D.J.Baggett, Mr P.J.Bailey, Mr P.M.Barton, Mr N.D.Bratton, Mr R.W.Brooke, Mr J.C.Bryant, Mr M.R.Bryant, Mr N.W.Davies, Mr L.S.Dawson, Mr K.T.Gerrish (Treasurer), Mr J.Gibb, Mr R.A.Gibbons, Mr P.Gilbert, Mrs J.J.Griffiths, Mr P.D.Griffiths, Mr A.A.Grove, Mr B.Heald, Mrs J.A.Heald, Dr A.K.Hignell (Secretary), Mr M.Howe, Mr A.P.Hutton, Mr D.A.Jeater, Mr D.C.Kendix, Mr D.A.Lambert, Mr J.N.Lawton Smith, Rev M.G.Lorimer, Mr T.J.McCann, Mr A.J.Martin, Mr K.Mein, Miss H.F.Monkhouse, Mr A.C.N.Morrison, Mr R.H.L.Moulton (Chairman), Mr D.B.L.Nathan, Mr H.I.D.Nathan, Miss S.V.J.Nathan, Mr C.D.O'Brien, Mr A.B.Percival, Mr G.A.Phillips, Mr M.Pope, Mr M.S.Rowe, Mr D.S.Roxburgh, Mr B.K.Sanderson, Mr C.G.D.Saunders, Mr M.J.K.Smith (President), Mr P.G.Smith, Mr K.W.Sugg, Mr S.Sweetman, Mr C.R.Waite, Mr G.L.Wallace, Mr K.S.Walmsley, Mr G.S.Wilde, Mr R.Wilton, Mr P.Wynne-Thomas and Mr D.B.Young.

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

The meeting began at 11.05 am with the President welcoming everyone, and thanking the Officers and Committee for their work again on behalf of the Association during the past year.

## **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: Dr D.J.Allison, Mr P.C.Banham, Prof A.J.Barker, Mr D.E.Barnard, Mr C.J.Bartlett, Mr N.Beck, Mr M.J.Bevan, Mr P.Bolton, Mr B.A.C.Croudy, Mr R.J.Finlay, Mr D.E.J.Frith, Mr R.Heavens, Mr S.I.Hussain, Mr R.V.Isaacs, Dr M.A.Jones, Mr D.H.Miller, Mr J.T.Needham, Mr C.R.J.Overson, Rev G.A.Potts, Mr G.L.Prior, Mrs L.M.Prior, Mr N.W.Rogers, Mr A.P.Scarlett, Prof A.I.Stainer, Mr R.W.Thomas, Mr A.J.Webb and Mrs C.A.Welch.

Those present then stood briefly in silence in memory of the following members of the Association who had died during the course of 2014/15: Mike Ashton, Gordon Burling, Martin du Sautoy, David Elam, Gary McPhee, Philip Martin, Geoffrey Robinson, R.C.Robinson, J. Hugh Thomas, Alan West, Stephen Williams and Martin Wood.

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

The minutes of the 41st AGM of the Association, held in The Gateway Centre at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 22 March 2014 were unanimously approved (Prop – Dennis Lambert, Sec – Roger Gibbons)

## **4. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

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

- Andrew Hignell: Proposer – Mick Pope, Seconded – David Jeater
- Roger Moulton: Proposer – Dennis Lambert, Seconded – Peter Wynne-Thomas
- Mark Rowe: Proposer – David Jeater, Seconded – Stephen Musk
- Huw Nathan: Proposer – Caroline Welch, Seconded – Martin Jones

He also added that Keith Walmsley had been co-opted and that the committee was now up to full strength.

## **5. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2014/15**

With the Annual Report, as contained in the AGM booklet, having been circulated to all members, the Chairman amplified several points. He began by apologising about a technical issue which had affected ACS Sales following its transfer from Screddington to Pevensey. He added that the difficulties in the posting of publications to members had also been compounded by the delay of three out of the four titles from the printers, but that the delayed volumes would shortly be available, and with the mechanical problems with the franking machine being rectified, all outstanding orders should be despatched shortly.

On a positive note, the Chairman was able to outline the great headway with the Research Partnership at Royal Holloway, University of London as well as the wide number of publications which the Association had brought out during the course of the past year. He noted that, owing to an author's illness, the next mailing would not contain a volume in the Lives in Cricket series, but he added that this was the first time since the initiation of the series that nothing had appeared, and he reassured members that there were plenty of further titles being prepared.

The Chairman expressed his delight at the volume on Ewart Astill in the Lives in Cricket series being long-listed for the MCC/Cricket Society Book of the Year Award, and he hoped that the volume would be short-listed. He then noted how the sales of statistical publications, especially the Greens, had declined, and he said that the committee would discuss the future of this series at the Strategy Meeting in September. He also urged members to make their views about such publications known to the committee, and subsequently added that a questionnaire would be sent to all members in the next mailing, which would help inform the committee ahead of the Strategy Meeting.

He reported on the progress being made with the digitisation of *Cricket – A Weekly Record*, and added that all issues, as well as the many supplements, would be covered in what should prove to be an invaluable research tool for the Association. Nothing further could be said about the previous issue with the franking machine as the matter was still *sub judice*, whilst no meetings of ACS members had been held in the past year, despite the willingness of the committee to promote and advertise them.

The Chairman then thanked Peter and Jenny Griffiths for their excellent work with ACS Sales since taking over the operation of this arm of the Association's activities in 2006. He personally thanked them for their great assistance and said that the members owe a great deal to them for their many long hours of work on behalf of the Association. He added that it was very fortunate that Neil Beck of Castle Books, based in Pevensey, had agreed to take over and he noted how the Association would now have a presence at county grounds through Neil's business in selling second-hand books. The Chairman also said that PS Mailings of Sherborne, Dorset, who act on behalf of The Cricket Society, would now be undertaking the mailshots for the Association.

He closed by thanking the committee for their support and added that he would be standing down as Chairman at the next committee meeting. It had been a great privilege to act in this capacity and, despite a number of issues, he had thoroughly enjoyed his time at the helm of the Association.

Questions relating to the future of the Greens were raised by both Peter Griffiths and Robert Brooke. The former raised the point that the price of these volumes could be subsidised from the Association's financial reserves, whilst the latter wondered whether the series should continue, in the absence of any additional material compared with what was available online through CricketArchive.

The Annual Report was then unanimously adopted. (Proposer – Garry Wallace; Second – Jenny Heald).

## **6. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2013/14**

The Treasurer drew the attention of the meeting to the accounts as published in the AGM booklet and he praised the work which had been undertaken by Judy Leng, as well as by Peter and Jenny Griffiths of ACS Sales in relation to the sale of the Association's publications.

In response to a query from Dennis Lambert about the VAT refund, the Treasurer replied that it had not yet been received. In the absence of any further questions, the Treasurer concluded by saying that, owing to his wife's illness, he would not be able to continue in this role beyond March 2016, and he urged anyone interested in taking over these duties to make contact with the Secretary.

The Annual Accounts were then unanimously adopted (Proposer – Peter Griffiths; Second – Dennis Lambert).

## **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 also unanimously agreed (Second – David Kendix).

## **8. RULE AMENDMENT**

The Chairman explained to the meeting that the committee wished to amend Rule 12.1 of the Association regarding 'attendance' at committee meetings to allow for committee members, or others invited to contribute to discussions, who cannot attend the meeting in person to participate via Skype or a telephone conference call. He noted how this was common practice in many other organisations, and that it would be easily possible for the Association to implement given the wi-fi facilities at The Space Centre in London, where the committee currently meet, as well as the use of laptops and other similar devices by committee members and officers.

After clarifying a question about the inclusion of co-opted committee members, he formally proposed that Rule 12.1, which currently states 'Six members of the General Committee shall form a quorum.' should be amended to read 'Members of the General Committee may attend meetings either in person or by means of remote access in a manner agreed by the Committee. Members attending in person or through an agreed means of remote access shall count towards the quorum. The words "those present" in other parts of Rule 12 shall include those taking part by remote access.'

This was unanimously agreed (Proposer – Garry Wallace; Second – Huw Nathan).

## 9. STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Chairman announced that Mick Pope was the Association's Statistician of the Year for 2014 in recognition of his long and distinguished work for the Association. He then read out the following citation:

'An active member of the ACS since the 1980s, Mick Pope joined the Committee in 1994 and served until 2007. During his time on the Committee he was Marketing Manager for four years. Mick originally made his mark as a cricket historian with *The Laughing Cricketer of Wombwell* – a biography of Roy Kilner – and then with *Tragic White Roses* which tells the stories of Alonzo Drake and Major Booth. In addition he produced *Yorkshire County Cricket Club* in the Archive Photography series. He co-wrote two books with Paul Dyson – *Yorkshire County Cricket: 100 Greats* and *Yorkshire County Cricket Club: Classic Matches*. 2013 saw the publication of the extremely well researched *Headingley Ghosts* – an acclaimed book of three strands – Yorkshire, cricket and tragedy.

'A meticulous researcher, it was Mick who found the full scorecard of the famous Sheffield and Leicester v Nottingham match at Darnall in 1826. This discovery gave us the earliest instance of a full bowling analysis. In recent years Mick has written eight articles for the Journal, in one of which he reproduced Old Ebor's forgotten interview of Charlie Ullathorne. Another article brought to light the history of the scandals that marred the life of C.F.Buller. Enthusiasm for cricket, diligent research and attention to detail are all essential qualities required by any serious cricket researcher. Mick possesses these in abundance which makes him such a worthy winner of the trophy awarded to the Statistician of the Year 2014.'

After receiving the Trophy from the President, Mick stated that he was both privileged and honoured to accept the Award, and he thanked Robert Brooke and Peter Wynne-Thomas for their encouragement when he had first undertaken research back in the early 1980s. He also put on record his appreciation of the work and advice provided by the late Tony Woodhouse, besides noting that one of the perverse joys in undertaking historical research was the obscure avenues and places that he had visited, whether it be graveyards, in search of the final resting places of former players, or the car parks of supermarkets which had been built over grounds of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He closed by saying that researchers of the 21st century were so fortunate to have a superb platform of online records on which to base their activities.

## 10. AWARD OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Following on from his earlier comments about the outstanding work of Peter and Jenny Griffiths as ACS Sales, the Chairman proposed that they should be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association. This was seconded by Dennis Lambert and unanimously agreed upon.

After receiving a small presentation to mark this award, Peter reminded members that they were Nos 9 and 10 to receive this honour, and they both thanked various members and officers of the Association for their assistance over the years whilst undertaking the work of ACS Sales from their home in Screddington.

## 11. OTHER PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the committee, the Secretary then made a small presentation to the retiring Chairman, thanking him for his advice and unfailing support over the course of the past few years.

In the absence of Howard Clayton, the Editor of the *Second Eleven Annual*, the Secretary also announced that Chris Piesley of the MCC Young Cricketers had won the Association's award as Second Eleven Player of the Year for 2014.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A number of other matters relating to the Association and its business had been raised by members, either by email or in writing in advance of the meeting.

- (a) Enumeration of women's cricket – Peter Griffiths stated that one of the prime aims of the Association when it was founded was the production of a definitive list of first-class matches. He believed that the Association should now turn its attention to women's cricket and the preparation of a similar list of major matches. At the present time, only a list of international games exists, and he offered his services in co-ordinating the compilation of a list of major matches played by women. The Chairman noted his suggestion and offer, and said that the committee would discuss this at their next meeting.
- (b) Oxford University Cricketers – Peter Griffiths also asked when the publication of the volume on Oxford University cricketers would take place. The Secretary replied that the ECB had been undertaking a series of reviews into the structure of the domestic game, and that it might be wise to delay the publication of this volume until any recommendations had been implemented. Mr Griffiths replied that this had been the situation for several years and that it was surely time for the volume to be published, irrespective of any possible changes. After a show of hands overwhelmingly in favour of Mr Griffiths' proposal, the Secretary confirmed that the committee would add this to the publication schedule at their next meeting.
- (c) Pre-1939 cricketers – After withdrawing another item connected with online biographical details, Robert Brooke stated that he had been undertaking research on those players who were still alive who had played first-class cricket in various countries prior to the start of the Second World War. After discussing with the Chairman an agreed date for the start of the War, Mr Brooke said that he would prepare a list which could be published in the Journal. The Chairman added that Tony McCarron was also undertaking biographical work on a number of South African cricketers whose details, at present, were missing, whilst Harriet Monkhouse raised the point about the viability of undertaking interviews with these quite elderly gentlemen so that their memories could be recorded for posterity.
- (d) The origins of cricket – The Chairman stated that John Eddowes had been in contact with both him and the Secretary about various matters relating to the origins of the game. He stated that he did not feel that these, as presented by Mr Eddowes, were strictly a matter for discussion at the AGM, but he added that Mr Eddowes would be invited to prepare an article for the Journal.

- (e) The Journal – Simon Sweetman, as Editor of the Journal, raised a number of points about articles for submission to the Journal and he invited feedback from members; in particular about the length of the Journal, the number of articles in each issue, and the balance between articles with a historical and statistical theme. He reiterated that these issues would be included in the aforementioned questionnaire and he looked forward to hearing the views of members.
- (f) As the Chairman was closing the meeting, Nigel Bratton raised the issue of the poor acoustics in The Marquee and said that it had been difficult to hear sections of the meeting. The problem had been exacerbated by the fact that some members at the rear of the seating area had been talking amongst themselves. The Secretary apologised for the lack of a microphone, given the switch of rooms at the County Ground, and he also reminded the meeting of the courtesy and respect that should be afforded to those speaking, rather than members having their own conversations amongst themselves.

The Chairman closed the AGM at 12.15 pm, and thanked everyone for their attendance and their contributions to the discussions. The Annual Lunch then followed before a most fascinating and, at times, very humorous discussion chaired by the Secretary with the President and Enid Bakewell, one of the outstanding all-rounders in the England Women's team.

After the Secretary had noted how fortunate the Association were in having two former and distinguished England captains at their meeting, Mrs Bakewell and the President reminisced at length, and with great wit, about their international careers. Mrs Bakewell also commented about how Tony Lock and Peter May had been her heroes as a young girl, whilst the President paid tribute to the late Bob Appleyard who had died during the week preceding the Meeting. Both speakers answered various questions from members, covering a number of topics including the recent portrayal of the England Women's team in a fashion shoot at Lord's, the integration of men's and women's teams, and the current role models within the modern game.

The post-lunch session then concluded with a short presentation about the Association's Research Partnership with Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL). After a few words by the Secretary about the genesis of the Partnership with the university's History Department, Dr Stella Moss gave a brief outline of the proposed topics for research, especially the inter-war period in the UK and the use of archive material held by the Women's Cricket Association at Taunton.

Dr Moss also introduced Adam McKie, who had graduated with a first-class degree in History from the University of Sheffield, and who had been the successful candidate at the interviews conducted at RHUL during February for the MA by Research which would be commencing in September 2015 for one year and which would be funded by the Association. Details of how to contact Dr Moss and Mr McKie were shared (including by email to [Crickethistoryproject@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Crickethistoryproject@rhul.ac.uk)), whilst the Secretary closed this section of the forum by outlining how updates would be provided in the Bulletin and Journal, as well as Mr McKie giving an update on his progress at the 2016 AGM.

After thanking all of the participants in the post-lunch forum, the Secretary then closed the meeting at 4.15 pm, at which point afternoon tea and coffee were served.