

Minutes of the 46th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held at Derbyshire CCC on Saturday 23 March 2019, starting at 11 am.

Members Present (51) – Philip Bailey, Philip Banham, Pelham Barton, Richard Bestall, John Brown, John Bryant, Kevin Clement, Philip Defriez, Jonathan Farmer, Jim Gibb, Peter Gilbert, Dave Griffin, Peter Griffiths, Jenny Heald, Roger Heavens, Andrew Hignell (Secretary), David Jeater, David Kendix (President), Julian Lawton Smith, Jeremy Lonsdale, Malcolm Lorimer, Adam McKie, Tony Martin, Harriet Monkhouse, Nicholas Morrison, Roger Moulton, Bryn Nathan, Huw Nathan, Serena Nathan, Chris O'Brien, Chris Overson, Tony Percival, Mark Rowe, Douglas Roxburgh, Brian Sanderson, Chris Saunders, Matthew Smith, Paul G Smith, John Starbrook, Willie Sugg, Simon Sweetman, Peter Tatton, Ralph Trippner, Barry Valentine, Cyril Waite, Garry Wallace (Treasurer), Keith Walmsley (Chairman), Tony Webb, Geoff Wilde, Robby Wilton and Peter Wynne-Thomas.

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The meeting began with the President welcoming everyone. He said how pleased he was to see so many friends and thanked the committee for organising the meeting and the afternoon speakers. Those present then introduced themselves and their county affiliation.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REMEMBERING DECEASED MEMBERS

Apologies had been received from the following members: Martin Bevan, Nigel Bratton, Robert Brooke, Chris Burgess, Howard Clayton, Stan Dawson, Ric Finlay, Roger Gibbons, Jenny Griffiths, Martin Howe, Richard Isaacs, Tim McCann, Douglas Miller, Mick Pope, David Pracy and Andy Scarlett.

Those present then stood briefly in silence in memory of the following members of the Association who had died during the course of the last twelve months: Stephen Allanson, Gerald Hudd, Ian Mills, Bill Oddie, Michael L Pearce and Peter Tinsley.

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

The minutes of the 45th AGM of the Association, held at Derbyshire CCC on 17 March 2018 were unanimously passed (Prop – Peter Griffiths, Sec – Simon Sweetman).

4. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Secretary reported that, in the absence of any other candidates for the four vacant places on the Committee, the following three members had been re-elected to the Committee:

- John Bryant (Prop – Peter Wynne-Thomas; Sec – Keith Warsop)
- Simon Sweetman (Prop – David Jeater; Sec – Eric Midwinter)
- Garry Wallace (Prop – Julian Lawton Smith; Sec – Roger Moulton)

Given the vacancy which had therefore arisen, the President stressed that anyone wishing to stand for the Committee at future elections or who wanted to put themselves forward to be co-opted should contact the Secretary.

5. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/11/2018

The Chairman drew the attention of those attending the meeting to the full report in the AGM Booklet. In particular, he drew everyone's attention to the amount of work undertaken during the past twelve months relating to financial matters, especially reducing expenditure. He briefly outlined the more rigorous process of assessing the financial viability of proposed publications via the Go/No Go analysis. The upshot may be a reduction in the volume of publications, but a healthier financial position.

He also reported on an excellent meeting with several publishers. Some sound advice had been shared with the Association, and following on from a suggestion made by Malcolm Lorimer, a voucher scheme was shortly to be introduced, replacing the free book sent annually to members. From 1 May, members would receive a £7 voucher to be used in a single purchase of the Association's publications during a single calendar year. He added that further explanations of the process would appear in a flyer accompanying the next mailing.

The Chairman also apologised for the delay in the publication of the Year Book and OFCA which had been caused by circumstances beyond the Association's control. He added that a decent trial had been given to a marketing agreement with The Cricketer and that the door was open for a repeat in the future.

Regarding membership, the initiative with The Cricketer had also seen a small increase in members and he confirmed that additional information on the volume of new members had been included in the committee report, as requested at the previous year's AGM. He closed by congratulating Peter Wynne-Thomas on the award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.

The report was unanimously adopted (Prop – Chairman; Sec – David Jeater)

6. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/11/2018

The Treasurer began his lucid report by saying how delighted he was that there was light at the end of the tunnel after some difficult years. He noted how losses had fallen by £2,000 whilst the cash outflow had improved by £15,000, before pointing out that the impact of the recent increase in membership subscriptions would be revealed in the accounts for the coming year, enhancing further the financial situation.

Despite the increase in the rates for membership, the bulk of members had renewed and he was pleased that many people were using either direct debits or electronic means to pay their subscriptions and purchase books. With around 800 members on email, administration efforts had also been reduced.

He reminded the meeting that from August 2019 authors would no longer be receiving royalties, besides pointing out that research grants were still available. The Treasurer closed his oral report by outlining how stock levels had been reduced by two-thirds, in addition to the greater level of scrutiny given to the decision-making processes for publications and their print-runs. Whilst a break-even position was the target, he added that the Association was still prepared to subsidise certain publications, especially those which meet the principal objectives of the Association.

Malcolm Lorimer congratulated the Treasurer and the committee for their work, especially for the introduction of a voucher scheme. He also asked about reprints of the Grounds booklets, with the Secretary responding by outlining the potential offered by online publications, similar to the recently uploaded A-Z of Kent cricketers. After the President had added his personal congratulations to the Treasurer on his efforts during the past twelve months, the Annual Accounts were unanimously approved. (Prop – Philip Banham; Sec – Chris O'Brien)

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

The Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of Judy Leng to act once again in this capacity. This was also unanimously passed (Sec – John Bryant).

8. RULE CHANGES

The Treasurer continued by summarising, on behalf of the committee, the rationale for the suggested changes to Rule 4 covering membership and Rule 8 covering subscriptions. The proposed additional / modified wording is shown in **bold** type.

RULE 4: MEMBERSHIP

Admission of members shall be by election by the General Committee. A candidate for election who receives the votes of the majority of the General Committee or as may otherwise be decided shall be declared elected subject to payment of the current annual subscription. **Membership will deem to have commenced seven days after the application has been communicated to the General Committee unless, before the end of the seven-day period, any Committee member requests that the application be referred to the next Committee meeting for consideration and decision. In the case of an applicant under the age of 18, confirmation of Junior membership at the concessionary rate is subject to the provision of written evidence as to the age of the applicant.**

RULE 8: SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of members following a recommendation of the General Committee. Subscriptions for the ensuing financial year shall become due on 1st December and the membership of any member whose subscription remains unpaid on **1st February** following shall lapse. No member shall be readmitted unless that year's subscription is paid. **In the event that a lapsed member has not paid the current year subscription by 30th November of the current financial year, any subsequent request for reinstatement will be subject to the membership application process laid out in Rule 4.** The General Committee shall have the power to recommend a change in subscription at any time, subject to the Association's approval given at the Annual General Meeting.

In the absence of any questions, both amendments were unanimously approved. (Prop – Treasurer; Sec – Roger Moulton).

9. STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD (BROOKE-LAMBERT TROPHY)

The Chairman announced that the Association's Statistician of the Year was Jeremy Lonsdale. Mark Rowe then, with great humour, presented the following citation on behalf of the committee:

As a young man, Jeremy Lonsdale was able to sift through the scrapbooks of his first subject for a cricket book: Brigadier General RM Poore, The Army's Grace, published by the military publisher, Spellmount, in 1992.

As that choice showed, and as his later work has shown, Jeremy has had the ability and the self-confidence to go wherever his interest in history has taken him.

For his recent works published by the Association he has returned to his home county of Yorkshire. His history of Yorkshire between 1822 and 1893, A Game Taken Seriously: The Foundations of Yorkshire's Cricketing Power, was described by the British Society of Sports History's reviewer as 'a considerable achievement'. The book made the final shortlist for that Society's Lord Aberdare prize for sports books published in 2017.

In 2018, his biography of the Yorkshire Victorian all-rounder Tom Emmett was number 50 in the Association's Lives in Cricket series. He takes the history of Yorkshire cricket further in a work due out shortly, A Game Sustained.

He finds the time to watch Hull football club and to watch Yorkshire in Yorkshire, as a member.

His works are impeccably researched, sourced and referenced, as you would expect from an auditor, his day job. For what he has written and the way he has written it, he is a deserved choice for the 2019 Brooke-Lambert Trophy.

After thanking the committee for the award, Jeremy responded by saying that he had been a member of the Association since 1978, but had never previously attended an AGM. He added that his books on Yorkshire cricket had been labours of love over the past twenty years, with his research being greatly aided by the availability of online newspapers rather than having to wade through a mountain of paper-based volumes from the Victorian era, many of which were in a fragile and crumbling condition.

10. PRESENTATIONS

(a) Honorary Life Membership

The Chairman announced that the committee had unanimously proposed that David Jeater should receive Honorary Life Membership of the Association. Roger Moulton read the following citation:

A member of the ACS since 1981, David joined the Committee in 2007 and became the first editor of the Lives in Cricket series. This was an entirely new concept which replaced the Famous Cricketers series. Not only was David responsible for the design and layout of the books, but for the first four years under Douglas Miller's encouragement as Chairman, he was the series editor, overseeing 16 books from the first draft all the way through to publication – a process which involves dealing with authors (who all too often have some very unrealistic ideas), proof readers, indexers, and printers as well as reporting to Douglas and the rest of the Committee on the progress of the book.

David enjoyed all this, so much so that at one time he managed to edit six books a year. Nothing was too much trouble: as befits an Oxford graduate, he is a stickler for correct grammar, punctuation and syntax as well as a good writing style. Peter Wynne-Thomas – author of William Clarke – once referred to the editorial process as being Jeaterised.

David was good at obtaining illustrations – he was always prepared to send his brother on photographic expeditions to various places in the Midlands. David enjoyed captioning pictures and was always prepared to go to great lengths to make certain that all team photographs should have full names and initials.

Lives in Cricket has only been a part of David's contribution to the ACS. He was an active and invaluable member of the Committee from 2007 to 2013 and it was a very sad day when he decided not to seek re-election.

David has written a number of journal articles over the years – two stand out: one listing the 1946 umpires (Wisden failed to record them) and the other an exhaustive treatise on the geology of county cricket grounds. David is responsible for Sundry Extras – that superb biographical resource which is to be found on the ACS website.

Sadly, David's proposed life of Tommy Cook has never seen the light of day, but in 2006 David produced PA Perrin – No 95 in the Famous Cricketers Series – which provides a great deal of extra biographical information about that extraordinary character in addition to all the standard statistical material associated with that series.

Not long ago, David returned to his roots in Sussex and it did not take him long to find his way back to the County Ground, Hove and into the Sussex Museum. He is very involved there and last year he wrote A Failed Experiment? – the story of Sussex as a Minor County (1948 to 1951). He is currently engaged on biographies of Sussex committee members and Sussex cricketers from 1946 to 1963.

The committee's recommendation was unanimously approved (Sec – Roger Heavens). David then responded by thanking everyone for their kindness, especially in suggesting subjects for the Lives in Cricket series. He added that he had greatly enjoyed his time as series editor, and acknowledged the assistance he had received from Stuart Brodtkin, John Ward, Peter and Jenny Griffiths, Peter Wynne-Thomas, plus Roger and Jenny Moulton. He concluded by saying that the success of the series was an example of a great team effort by the Association.

(b) Retiring Committee Member

The Chairman had announced that Harriet Monkhouse was standing down from the committee after 22 years of service. The President then paid tribute to Harriet, including an appreciation of her work as the minute-taker at committee meetings. After receiving a piece of engraved glassware, Harriet added that it had been a great honour to serve the Association, having been co-opted during 1996 to replace the late Derek Lodge. She added that one of the constants during her time on the committee had been receiving updates on the progress of the still-unfinished Northamptonshire grounds booklet, and she whimsically added that she hoped that she had not been the jinx in its delay!

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Chris O'Brien thanked the committee for providing the data for the improved quantification of new members, as contained in the committee's annual report following his request at the previous AGM.
- (b) Regarding new publications, Willie Sugg suggested approaching authors from the academic world, besides fostering greater links with seats of learning.
- (c) Barry Valentine spoke briefly about the recent work he had undertaken on ball-by-ball details of Ashes Test matches. He also spoke briefly about a manuscript he would be offering to the Association as an online publication on the members' section of the website.

After the President had closed the formal business of the AGM at 12.15 pm, members enjoyed the Annual Lunch at which the Secretary thanked the catering staff of Derbyshire CCC for their splendid meal and friendly service.

Afternoon Session

A series of short presentations were made, starting with Julian Lawton Smith who reflected on the twenty years of the Minor County project – the largest-ever in the history of the Association, covering 44 county teams, with 74 contributors. He began by paying tribute to the work of the instigator of the project, Tony Webb, and others including Tony Percival, Kevin Preston, Peter Wynne-Thomas, Peter Griffiths, Douglas Miller, Colin Munford, Stephen Musk, Roy New and the late Don Ambrose.

He explained how the group, under Tony Webb's leadership, had identified four primary objectives, namely the collation of full scores from games since 1895, the calculation of seasonal and career averages, and the identification of records and milestones. Thanks to Tony Percival an additional objective, relating to the publication of books of year-by-year scores and averages etc had been added, and to date had resulted in 18 booklets.

Julian then outlined the process by which these publications had been completed, besides showing the various sources which had been used, especially regional and local newspapers. He used the example of Lincolnshire's matches in 1912 whereby a dozen different newspaper titles had been consulted in order to collate full scores. He then highlighted the involvement of 30 England Test cricketers, plus two South Africans, in the various Minor County games before the First World War, before concluding by saying that the work of Tony Webb in assembling over 90,000 press cuttings was, in his opinion, equivalent to the work of Arthur Haygarth and FS Ashley-Cooper. He also appealed for a permanent new home for Tony's many, many files, some of which had already been digitised for future researchers.

David Griffin, the Heritage Officer of Derbyshire CCC, outlined his work for the Peakites and the Club's plans for a Museum and Learning Centre. He began by saying that ever since watching his first Derbyshire match in the early 1970s he had been fascinated by statistics. He had compiled his own database and, following the creation of the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation in 2013, he had also been collecting the oral history of cricket within the county.

With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, 268 recordings had been undertaken, including interviews with five Test cricketers, and a myriad of people from the grassroots of the game. This rich material had been placed on the Foundation's website as well as on YouTube. The next phase in the project was converting rooms on the ground floor of the old pavilion into a Heritage Learning Centre.

The Secretary finished the session by outlining, with the aid of PowerPoint slides, his work on behalf of Glamorgan CCC via the CC4 Museum of Welsh Cricket which during the Autumn of 2018 had become the first Cricket Museum in the UK fully accredited by the Arts Council. Besides outlining funding streams, and echoing the sentiments of Dave Griffin, the Secretary outlined how engagement in cricket-related activities and heritage-related projects had been possible through interaction with school groups.

After describing how stadium tours and electronic displays had been integrated into these activities, he explained how the use of QR-coded plaques had brought alive the various walks around the Sophia Gardens ground. He also highlighted the integration of cricket statistics and other memorabilia into projects based on well-being as well as other initiatives that were tackling issues relating to mental health, isolation and loneliness. He concluded by suggesting a presentation at the 2020 AGM by the Sporting Memories Network, who had helped the creation of 'memory clubs' at various cricket and football clubs.

The Chairman duly closed the meeting at 3.35 pm, at which point afternoon tea and coffee were served.