

**Minutes of the 47th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held on Saturday 10 October 2020, starting at 1100 am.**

Members Present (12) – John Bryant, Ric Finlay, Jenny Heald, Andrew Hignell (Secretary), David Kendix (President), Jeremy Lonsdale, Adam McKie, Huw Nathan, Chris O'Brien, Chris Overson, Garry Wallace (Treasurer) and Keith Walmsley (Chairman).

**1. President's Welcome.**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it is one that is unlike any others in the Association's history as for obvious reasons we cannot meet in person, and that it therefore takes place in a virtual format following the postponement of the meeting originally planned for 21 March 2020.

The attendees had been limited to the officers and members of the committee, plus two independent observers - Jenny Heald and Chris O'Brien - to ensure fair play on behalf of the rest of the membership. He also reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded so that a copy could be placed on the Association's website, and that the agenda had been pared back to cover only what was required for the effective running of the Association.

**2. Apologies for absence**

The Secretary reported that he had received apologies from Simon Sweetman and that all of the officers and other committee members were present.

**3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the 2019 AGM.**

The Secretary announced that the motion to approve the minutes (proposed by Chris O'Brien; seconded by Julian Lawton Smith) had been passed, with 94 votes in favour, none against and 3 abstentions.

**4. Committee Elections**

The President confirmed that there had not been a committee election, with three nominations (Keith Walmsley, Chris Overson and Ric Finlay) having been received for the four places. He also confirmed that the Executive Committee had ratified this decision at their meeting on 8 April with the three being re-elected for a term of three years

**5. To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report of the Committee for 2018/19.**

The Chairman confirmed that the report, covering the committee's activities for the period until 30 November 2019, had been published in the booklet prepared for the planned AGM on 21 March. The Secretary then announced that the motion to approve the Report (as proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Tony Percival) had been approved with 96 votes in favour, none against and one abstention.

**6. To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Accounts for 2018/19.**

The Treasurer summarized the Report on the Association's annual accounts, which show a surplus of £1,119 and a positive cash flow of £1,930. The Treasurer added that both were pleasing news to report. The Secretary then announced that the motion to approve and adopt the Annual Accounts for 2018/19 (as proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by David Jeater) had been passed with 96 votes in favour, none against and one abstention.

The Treasurer also outlined the proposal for the annual subscription rates for the year beginning 1 December 2020 being held at £29 for UK residents and £34 for overseas, with a £2 deduction for those who join using the direct debit facility. The Secretary announced that the motion (as proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Jenny Heald) had also been passed with 96 votes in favour, none against and one abstention.

**7. To appoint, and agree the remuneration of, an independent accountant to prepare the Association's Annual Accounts.**

The Treasurer reminded the meeting of the role of an independent accountant to prepare the Association's Annual Accounts and the remuneration which was involved. The Secretary announced that the motion to appoint Judy Leng (as proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Bryn Nathan) had been passed with 95 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

**8. Rule Changes.**

The President confirmed that the committee had decided to carry forward this item to the 2021 AGM to allow the membership to participate in a full discussion of the proposed changes.

**9. Brooke-Lambert Trophy.**

The Secretary confirmed that Eric Midwinter had been the recipient of this Award for 2020 and reminded the meeting of the citation below, which had been published on the Association's website on 21 March:

*According to the words of the well-known Christmas carol, Midwinter is bleak, anodyne and tundra-like with a monochrome environment where snow has fallen snow on snow. In contrast, the writings of the Association's very own Midwinter are (no pun intended!) the polar opposite – full of warmth, colour and interest.*

*It is towards Eric Midwinter that I am directing these words in a citation for the Association's prestigious Brooke-Lambert Trophy awarded this year to the doyen of cricket historians and statisticians, and a man who over the course of the past couple of years has authored two outstanding books in the Cricket Witness series.*

*'Class Peace' and 'His Captain's Hand' are outstanding examples of the craft of one of the most prolific wordsmiths the Association has ever known. As Statisticians we have the likes of Ashley-Cooper, Frindall, Wynne-Thomas et. al. As Historians we have the writings of a man who is perhaps the polymath's supreme polymath. Someone who is at complete ease whether it is writing about either the round ball or red ball at Old Trafford, the state of the country's education system, local history, law and order in Liverpool, public transport in and around the London conurbation, the rights of pensioners, conjuring and comedy.*

*The list goes on and on and I warmly recommend the book, published in 2015, entitled Variety is the Spice of Life: The Worlds of Eric Midwinter if anyone wants to know more about the diverse range of interests held by this year's recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy.*

*Eric Midwinter, OBE was born in Sale, Cheshire in 1932 and during his distinguished career he has, in no particular order, been a social historian and policy-maker, a professor of Education at Exeter University, besides being the co-founder of the University of the Third Age. From 1980 until 1991 Eric was Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing, besides being Head of the Public Affairs Unit at the National Consumers Council. From 1977 until 1996 he was the Chair of the London Regional Passengers Committee, in addition to being Chair of the Health and Social Welfare Board of the Open University.*

*Eric has written over 50 books on education, social reform, consumer advocacy, British comedy, literary history, football and cricket, whilst as far as our own Association is concerned, in 1997 Eric succeeded Richard Streeton as our President – a position he filled with his typical gravitas and erudition until 2004. For six years, Eric was also Chairman of the judges for The Cricket Society/MCC Book of the Year.*

*To this outstanding list of achievements, I am delighted, on behalf of the committee, to add the words recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy and in closing, I would like to turn to the recent words of Bernard Whimpress in the Journal of the Australian Society for Sports History. In reviewing Eric's latest two works for the ACS, Bernard wrote:*

*"Eric Midwinter is the most distinguished social historian to turn his hand to sports history.... One of the pleasures of reading Midwinter on sport is to discover so much from other spheres. His effortless employment of social and literary scholarship, translated with warm humour. 'Class Peace' and 'His Captain's Hand' are a brilliant addition to his oeuvre and a sparkling contribution to cricket history and literature."*

The Secretary also read out the response below from Eric which had been sent to accompany the online citation. The Secretary added that Eric hoped to be in attendance at the 2021 AGM when he could elaborate on these comments and talk more about his work on cricket.

*A compound of surprise and delight suffused me as I excitedly read that I had been awarded cricket scholarship's Oscar. I said to my wife. 'did you ever think in your wildest dreams that I would ever be so honoured?' She replied, somewhat coolly, 'I'm afraid you don't appear in my wildest dreams!'*

*Suitably humbled domestically it also occurred to me that I have always seen myself as a social historian with an interest in cricket rather than a cricket historian, knowing full well that, in any gathering of ACS members, I would be the least knowledgeable about cricket per se. In any such assembly I would be like a rather mangy lion flung into a den of sagacious Daniels.*

*However, I do believe that no one could outdo me in my firm belief that cricket is so important that its place in the history of Britain, and other regions as well, is paramount and*

*salient, deserving of genuine recognition in that regard. All my work in respect of cricket has been motivated by that concept.*

*I am very conscious of the significance of this award, decided upon by colleagues and fellow-tillers in the cricket field of study, and named in honour of two esteemed and much respected cricket researchers.*

#### **10. Honorary Life Membership.**

The President confirmed the recommendation of the committee for Philip Bailey to be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association. The Secretary added that the motion (as proposed by the Committee and seconded by Mick Pope) had been unanimously agreed in the members' vote, with no abstentions.

The President stated that he had drafted a citation about Philip which would have been read out at the AGM in March 2020, but whilst he was happy to do so at this particular meeting, he thought it would be better to wait until Philip was able to be present and to hear the tribute in the presence of his peers.

The President agreed to file this tribute away until March 2021 and instead mentioned just three statistics that Philip has never published – that he served on the ACS committee for an astonishing 41 years, that he edited The Cricket Statistician for 17 years, and that he has edited the ACS International Year Book for 34 years. The President believed that it is simply staggering that one person could have made such a contribution to our Association across its 47 year existence, with this particular meeting marking our formal recognition of his honorary life membership, but with the celebration of his work and a hoped-for Oscar style acceptance speech to follow next March

#### **11. Collaborative Research Projects**

The President confirmed that following the postponement of the AGM in March, this topic had been covered by an article in the Summer 2020 Journal, and that several of the projects in question were now well under way. He thanked everyone who had contributed so far and looked forward to hearing an update on progress at the 2021 AGM.

#### **12. AOB**

The Secretary confirmed that no items had been received.

#### **13. End of meeting**

The President made some concluding comments, starting with a reference to the virtual meeting for members which is scheduled for 21 November and when some of the matters, originally planned to take place in the afternoon session on 21 March, would be discussed.

He thanked the committee for their sterling efforts in keeping the Association running effectively over the past seven months through regular Zoom calls, before wishing everyone a safe continued passage through this pandemic and hoping that by March 2021 the Association would be able to arrange a real life meeting.

He also thanked the observers for their attendance with Chris O'Brien adding that he was very happy that the meeting had been conducted in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with members' wishes.

The President closed the meeting at 1120 am.