

Minutes of the 48th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held virtually via ZOOM on Saturday, 20 March 2021.

Members Present (82): Philip Bailey, Ian Baker, Philip Banham, Derek Barnard, Pelham Barton, Neil Berry, Martin Bevan, Steve Bindman, Richard Boddie, Anthony Bradbury, Martin Briggs, Roy Brockman, John Bryant, Chris Burgess, Brian Carpenter, Mervyn Carson, Martin Chandler, Kevin Clement, Philip Defriez, Paul Dyson, Rick Eyre, Jonathan Farmer, Ric Finlay, Roger Gibbons, Peter Gilbert, Mike Goulder, David Griffin, Peter Griffiths, Alan Grove, Peter Handford, Jenny Heald, H Anthony (Tony) Heath, Andrew Hignell (Secretary), Jonathan Hooton, Martin Howe, Robin Isherwood, Peter Jackson, David Jeater, Andrew P Jones, David Kelly, David Kendix (President), Graham Kent, John Kirkland, Julian Lawton Smith, Neil Leitch, Steve Leven, Jeremy Lonsdale, Malcolm Lorimer, Adam McKie, Eric Midwinter, Douglas Miller, Howard Milton, Harriet Monkhouse, Denis Moore, Jonathan Myles, Bryn Nathan, Huw Nathan, Brian O'Sullivan, Chris Overson, Mick Pope, Paul Pope, William Powell, David Pracy, Jonathan Rice, Ian Russell, Andy Scarlett, Graham Searle, Alvan Seth-Smith, Mel Smith, Paul G Smith, Don Starr, Simon Sweetman, Peter Tatton, Nick Tudball, Barry Valentine, Garry Wallace (Treasurer), Keith Walmsley (Chairman), Peter Watts, Brian Weir, Geoff Wellsteed, Robby Wilton and David Young.

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The meeting began at 1005 with the President welcoming everyone and saying how it was an unprecedented welcome as rather than meeting up in person, members were assembling in a virtual way from their own homes. Like everyone else, he never imagined that a year on from the cancelled AGM at Derby that members would again be unable to meet up in person.

The President added that given the terrible toll the COVID-19 pandemic had wreaked on the Association's demographic, he recognised that it was inevitable that many members would have lost close family and friends over the past year and, on behalf of the committee, he passed on his condolences.

He ended his introductory comments by adding that another break from traditional practice would follow in that those present would be unable to stand up and introduce themselves and their county/country allegiances. However, he was delighted to see an above average attendance and after scrolling down the list of attendees, he warmly welcomed those attending their first AGM, especially those from outside the UK.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Secretary stated that he had received apologies from the following members – Harvey Barrett, Nigel Bratton, Ivan Burges, Derek Carlaw, Pradip Dhole, Alec Dytham, Robert Godfrey, Jenny Griffiths, Roy Morgan, Roger Moulton, Serena Nathan, Andrew Radd, Polly Rhodes, John Townsend and Paul Ulrick. He added that two of the Association's Founder Members – Robert Brooke and Peter Wynne-Thomas – had also been unable to join the meeting. *[Christopher O'Brien sent his apologies by email during the meeting having been taken ill and being unable to attend.]*

3. REMEMBERING DECEASED MEMBERS

The Secretary read out the following names of members who had died since the AGM in 2019, with the meeting then observing a minute's silence in their memory: Eric Barker, Kit Bartlett, Neil Beck, Rev Cliff Bergdahl, Ron Blackman, John Brugnola, Eric Budkiewicz, Julian Clark, Robert Fletcher, Steve Greig, Peter Hustwitt, Ernest Jackson, Geoffrey Mander, Thomas Mulholland, Terry Needham, Robert Norton Smith, Ian Platt, David Powell, Peter Rothwell, Graham Sharpe, Bruce Sivewright, Fred Sky, Sir John Sparrow, Len Thornton, Peter Thompson, Geoff Wilde, Michael Wren and Richard Yeoman.

4. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM

The President noted that despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, the Association had been as busy as ever with the committee and officials working tirelessly and adopting new working methods in order that business continued as usual. This included a rescheduled AGM, held via ZOOM on 10 October 2020, as well as setting a means for online voting. He thanked Adam McKie for setting up these procedures, and also Jenny Heald for acting as the non-committee scrutineer.

The Secretary then announced that the motion for the approval of the 2020 AGM minutes (proposed by Jenny Heald and seconded by Chris O'Brien) had been passed unanimously with all 58 votes in favour .

5. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The President reminded the meeting that three nominations had been received for the three places to be filled; accordingly, no election was necessary and the following would continue to serve on the committee, with the Secretary continuing in his role:

Andrew Hignell	Proposer – Jenny Heald. Seconded – John M Brown
Adam McKie	Proposer – Philip Bailey. Seconded – John Winniffrith
Huw Nathan	Proposer – Alan Stainer. Seconded – Martin Jones

6. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/11/2020

The Chairman began by saying that it had been a hectic year, sometimes in difficult circumstances, but the committee had kept things going, besides creating new initiatives which they hope members will feel are beneficial, especially the collaborative projects scheme, plus the virtual meetings held in November 2020 as well as in February 2021.

He expressed his particular thanks to City Press Leeds who, in their capacity as the Association's primary typesetters and printers, besides overseeing the sales and distribution, had operated throughout the pandemic despite various tiers of lockdown to ensure that it was business as usual for members.

The Chairman drew attention to the report's comments about the need for greater involvement by members in matters both within and outside the committee. He added that he was very pleased by the positive response to the recent message sent out via email, entitled 'The ACS Needs You'. The committee would be shortly discussing their response to these offers of assistance, but it was very gratifying to see the many offers of help.

The Secretary then announced that the motion for the adoption of the Annual Report (Proposed by the Chairman. Seconded by David Jeater.) had been passed unanimously with all 58 votes in favour .

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30/11/2020

The Treasurer was delighted to report that the Association, as outlined in the accounts, had a surplus of £8,446 plus a positive cashflow of £9,702. He then made a few observations relating to the continued improvement in the Association's accounts, including thirteen initiatives which the committee had pursued over the course of the past five years to improve the efficiency of the Association's operations, each with the full support of a number of stakeholders.

Members had accepted a rise in annual subscriptions and had welcomed the introduction of a voucher scheme rather than a free book decided upon by the committee. Authors had foregone royalties, but

continue to produce excellent manuscripts, whilst City Press Leeds had agreed to new terms of business whilst still maintaining their high level of service. The committee had also played a role by not accepting free books, whilst holding meetings in a virtual way had saved around £2000 in space rental and travel costs.

The Treasurer then drew the attention of the meeting to further initiatives regarding publications, including reducing stock levels, holding discount sales, making print runs more realistic, based on a Go/No Go procedure with bench-marking analysis and the consideration of sales of similar titles. However, he added that the committee were not completely driven by making a profit from all titles, and several publications were given the green light even though a loss was projected. However, the new procedures have allowed losses and any associated risks to be minimised.

The Treasurer concluded that all of this work has allowed the committee to recommend that subscription rates remain unchanged. The Secretary then announced that the motion for the adoption of the Annual Accounts (Proposed by the Treasurer. Seconded by Mick Pope.) had also been passed unanimously with all 58 votes in favour .

8. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND TAX RETURNS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Secretary announced that the motion for the appointment and remuneration of the independent accountant (Proposed by the Treasurer. Seconded by Roger Gibbons.) had been passed unanimously with all 58 votes in favour .

9. RULE CHANGES

The Chairman made some introductory comments relating to the way the committee had been undertaking a thorough review of the Association's rules. More information would be presented to members in due course but an initial batch of changes were being put to the meeting as the committee believed they were urgently required.

(i) Digital membership and subscriptions (Rules 4 and 8).

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the topic of digital membership and subscriptions had been first discussed at the virtual meeting of members in November 2020. The proposals, as outlined in the AGM booklet, had generally found favour but one member had raised a query as to why he could not opt to receive both paper-based and digital mailing. The Chairman explained that the committee, whilst mindful of wanting to keep the administration as simple as possible, were also aware that offering digital mailings could be a first step towards digital-only membership.

The committee would be giving further thought to this topic, but one solution for those wishing both paper-based and digital mailings might be for a member to take out a digital membership and then to purchase hard copies of the Journal via the ACS Shop, rather than having to take out a 'second' subscription.

The Secretary then announced that the motion for this rule change (Proposed by the Committee. Seconded by Philip Banham.) had been passed by a majority of 56-1, with 1 abstention.

(ii) The Powers of the Association (Rule 3.4).

The Secretary announced that the motion for this rule change (Proposed by the Committee. Seconded by Roger Moulton.) had been passed unanimously, with all 58 votes in favour.

(iii) Committee Meetings (Rule 12.1).

The Secretary announced that the motion for this rule change (Proposed by the Committee. Seconded by Philip Defriez) had also been passed unanimously with no abstentions.

(iv) General Meetings (Rules 13 and 15).

The Secretary announced that the motion for this rule change (Proposed by the Committee. Seconded by Tony Percival.) had been passed by a majority of 57-0, with 1 abstention.

(v) Interpretation of Rules (Rule 20).

The Secretary announced that the motion for this rule change (Proposed by the Committee. Seconded by Robin Isherwood.) had been passed unanimously with no abstentions.

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

The Secretary stated that Derek Carlaw was the recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy as Statistician of the Year for 2020, and read out the following citation:

As a nation during the long COVID months of 2020, we were buoyed and heartened by the superb efforts of Captain Sir Tom Moore who, at the age of 100, raised millions of pounds for the NHS. Following Captain Tom's sad death during February 2021, many heart-felt tributes were made to his outstanding fund-raising efforts with one of them saying "age is no barrier to doing good and making a contribution to the benefit of everyone."

Here in the ACS we can echo these sentiments as we continue to honour the outstanding efforts of our members. At the 2020 AGM we paid tribute to the works of an octogenarian as Eric Midwinter in his 89th year and here at the 2021 AGM we can raise a virtual glass to a nonagenarian as Derek Carlaw, a man in his 92nd year, has been the unanimous choice of the committee of the Association as the recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy.

Derek has been following cricket since 1939 and was at Lord's for all three days of the match between England and the Dominions at Lord's in 1945. From his home in Metropolitan Kent, he had always been a supporter of county cricket but he was able to follow Kent more seriously after moving to Canterbury during 1978. His work as a freelance copy writer for technical journals also allowed him to carefully organize his diary in order to be present on a regular basis at the St. Lawrence ground as well as the other venues which the county used for their Championship and List A matches

As a young man, Derek played cricket to a decent standard and appeared during the 1950s for some of the wandering clubs in the area. He was delighted to have also been coached at Alf Gover's Cricket School, and, in more recent times, he has been able to put his experiences of club cricket to good use and write with great confidence about the techniques and skills of players, not to mention reading the state of pitches when describing their performances in certain matches.

Added to this practical know-how is Derek's considerable breadth of general knowledge, allowing him to place individual players into their correct historical context as well as coming up with some remarkable gems. For example, who else would have known that the late Victorian batsman Haldane Stewart, who played with distinction for Kent and the MCC, was the father of Johnnie Walker, the television producer who created the Top of the Pops programme on BBC TV in January 1964.

Before embarking on the Kent Who's Who project, Derek's extensive knowledge of Kent cricket history had been chiefly confined to the county's annual. His name appears with others on four publications, including the last official Kent history, although quite perversely, the only previous publication of which he was the sole author was the 100 Great Cricketers series on Derbyshire.

Derek's main historical Kent interest lies in the Victorian era from 1870 until 1901 and, as many ACS members are aware his favourite cricketer, is "Nutty" Martin, the Kent opening bowler who took 1,317 wickets with his variety of left-arm deliveries.

I'm very grateful to Howard Milton for many of these details about Derek's contribution to recording the history and achievements of Kent players, as well as Derek's painstaking work for the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust. I am also very grateful to Howard for the following words about Derek's outstanding work on the Kent Who's Who project. I quote –

"Derek was into his late 70s when he began the Kent Who's Who, openly assuming he would get so far before he was incapable to continue or actually died. He is now 91 and has been through it compiling and revising it no less than three times. To those who know him, we strongly believe had he not got the interest, he would have died long ago. His brain is as active as ever, even though on occasions, he will say that he wished he had never started it."

Derek – we as an Association are so pleased that you started this monumental piece of research and we are so delighted that you have seen it through to the online publication of the first two sections, the first from 1806 until 1914, and the second covering the period from 1919 until 1939. We also hope that you will be able to meet your target of seeing the rest of the project through to the end of the 20th century. We also acknowledge the great assistance you have received from John Winniffrith who has helped to compile the statistics for these first two volumes and who, I know, is also assisting you with the next volume covering the post-War period.

Your attention to detail and desire to leave no stone unturned in ascertaining information about the most obscure of players, especially those one-match wonders, has been commendable and we hope that your Who's Who will be a lasting legacy of your research efforts as well as being a superb model for other much younger researchers to follow with the remaining first-class counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to put your hands together to congratulate Derek Carlaw as the recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy.

Derek was unable to be present at the meeting but sent the following message of thanks which was read out by the Secretary:

I must apologise first of all for not being present, even via Zoom. I'm afraid that, as the years pass, it is often hearing that succumbs first and some aspects of modern means of communication can sometimes be a trial. At my age I rarely find myself surprised by anything but the award of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy could not have been more unexpected. I am, or have been, many things but a statistician is certainly not one of them. Any of the ancient and fast-dwindling group of people who know me will, I'm sure, tell you so.

To be frank, I feel a bit of a fraud, not least because I have taken such an unconscionably long time about the whole business. Even with Howard Milton, David Robertson and John Winniffrith contributing some of the entries, I have still not quite finished Part Three (1946-1999). As for statistics, it is on Howard Milton, and of course the indispensable Cricket Archive, that I have, for the most part, relied.

Deserved or not, I am deeply grateful to the ACS committee for the Award, more perhaps than I can easily express. Over the years I had talked to all sorts of county cricket aficionados about a Kent A to Z or something like it. There was much support for the idea but

it never travelled beyond talk. It was only through the ACS initiative and with their guidance that the A to Z ever became a reality.

Perhaps the most important contribution from the ACS was in accepting, and then facilitating, production of the A to Z in on-line format rather than book form. There were over 800 players to be written about from the start and the number has grown alarmingly since. Established players obviously needed full coverage. Lesser lights, including 'one match wonders', also deserved their five minutes of fame. If they made the first team at all they were in all probability damn good cricketers. The printed page was never viable.

If in some cases, a few entries seem a bit too long, I apologise. The project was never seen as being for reading from cover to cover. For most of the more significant players I have endeavoured to follow the sadly discontinued ACS Famous Cricketers Series and study the subject's career season-by-season, innings-by-innings. At any event it has been fun to do, particularly the first hundred years, and once again I thank all concerned.

11. PRESENTATION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The President reminded everyone that Philip Bailey had been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association at the 2020 AGM but given the nature of that meeting, it had been agreed to hold over the formal presentation to Philip until the 2021 AGM when Philip could be present and hear the tribute in the presence of his peers. The President duly read out the following citation:

I have been given the honour but also the challenge of delivering the citation for our latest and perhaps greatest Honorary Life Member. I didn't want to rely on my memory, so I did what all serious biographical researchers do and looked up the Wikipedia profile of Philip J Bailey

It says he was born on May 8th 1951 (sounds about right) in Denver, Colorado.(slightly surprising) He is most noted for his four octave vocal range and distinctive falsetto register. As lead singer of Earth, Wind and Fire, he has won no fewer than seven Grammy awards.

Now many of us do have real lives away from our hobby of cricket statistics, but even our Philip can't be that versatile. So Plan B, let's look instead at what the cricketing world says about Philip.

Philip joined the ACS Committee in its first year, 1973, and served for three years. Following a six year gap, he rejoined the committee in 1982 and was an ever present member of the committee until last year, so that's an unbroken spell of 38 years, rarely missing a meeting and never less than totally committed to the Association's activities and goals.

Our first president Richard Streeton, wrote a history of the ACS way back in 1993, so I looked up what Richard said of him at the time: "Bailey, a quiet, retiring man, and a perfectionist by nature, would be nominated by most of his peers as possessing the most phenomenal brain for cricket statistics in the business. His mind invariably seems more agile than anyone else's where figures are concerned and his memory is extraordinary"

28 years and four ACS Presidents later, little has changed. Peter Wynne-Thomas, whose 32 years as ACS Secretary appears almost flirtatious by comparison, also talked about Philip in his book, Cricket's Historians. Peter said: "Philip Bailey is certainly the outstanding cricket statistician of his generation and in my opinion of all time" If Peter, who has written the definitive book on 200 years of cricket's statisticians and historians has reached that conclusion, I'm certainly not going to argue.

Philip was named the ACS's Statistician of the Year in 1987. The then Chairman Tony Woodhouse described Philip as "the quiet man of the ACS Committee" and that he was "undoubtedly the finest brain engaged at present on cricket statistics".

Six years later, Philip became the first person to win this title twice, for the monumental Who's Who of Cricketers, along with Philip Thorn and Peter Wynne-Thomas and which Peter tells me is still the most popular book in the Trent Bridge library.

I think you're getting the pattern now but just perhaps, in the spirit of Life of Brian, you might still ask "yes what has Philip Bailey ever done for us?" Well there's 17 years as editor of the Cricket Statistician and 35 years as compiler of the ACS International Year Book.

But he's also created two completely new things that are now an essential feature for anyone following cricket statistics. With Pete Griffiths and others, he has designed and built Cricket Archive into what is arguably the most comprehensive and authoritative record of any sport, in effect the manifestation of what the ACS's founders could only have dreamt.

He also created, with a typically understated name that has nevertheless become universally adopted, something called List A. He defined and still maintains this List and remains, so far as I know, the only person in the world who is specifically named within the ICC's regulations.

Finally, let me give you a quote from outside the cloistered walls of the ACS. I asked the editor of Wisden if he can give me a quote on what Philip means to him. Lawrence Booth replied as follows: "Philip Bailey is one of Wisden's unsung heroes. He has been involved with the Almanack since 1987, and has been our chief statistician for two decades. Without his terrifying eye for detail and numerical expertise, the book would not be what it is now, and I've been incredibly grateful for his input ever since I became editor in 2012. I'm delighted he's receiving this award from the ACS."

I'm sure we are all as delighted as Lawrence is. In normal times, I would have invited Philip to step forward and say a few words to mark his ascension to Honorary Life Membership of the ACS. But instead, his stepping forward must be virtual, but I hope he can still say a few words.

Philip replied to acknowledge the award of Honorary Life Membership. Philip began by saying that the President had asked him if he would like to make an Oscar-style speech. Philip said that he had opted instead to pose the question of how many Test cricketers have the name Oscar?

He added that 41 years on the committee may appear to be a very long time, but it had been a most pleasurable experience. He added that any members with aspirations of joining the committee need not worry that it was compulsory to serve for such a long period of time and that any help over a shorter period would be gratefully received by the committee.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary reported that one item had been received in advance, from Malcolm Lorimer, who had asked whether virtual meetings could continue when COVID-19 restrictions come to an end and face-to-face meetings resume. The Secretary replied that the committee were discussing the topic at their next meeting and were looking at a number of possibilities for further virtual meetings in the coming months and years. With the matter of virtual meetings in mind, the Secretary also made a request for feedback from those attending the meeting on the arrangements for the AGM as well as voting procedures.

Steve Bindman then asked why voting had taken place prior to the meeting, especially as he liked the spontaneity relating to the meeting. The President replied that it was quite normal for voting to take place in advance at meetings held by other organisations, but that the committee would consider his point when planning future AGMs.

Before closing the meeting, the President mentioned that Keith Walmsley had indicated that he would be standing down as Chairman at the next committee meeting but would be remaining on

the committee. The President thanked Keith for his three years as Chairman and all of the excellent work he had initiated and overseen during his tenure.

Following a request from Harriet Monkhouse, the President finally asked all attendees to switch on their cameras so that a couple of screenshots could be taken by her to accompany the news item on the website about the AGM. The President then closed the meeting at 1105 and hoped that members would be able to meet up in person at the 2022 AGM.

The President closed the formal business of the AGM at 1105