

Minutes of the 53rd AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, 21 March 2026

Members present (44): Philip Bailey, Ian Baker, Philip Banham, Pelham Barton, Stephen Blades, John Bryant (Chair), Martin Chandler, Peter Clausen-Thue, Marion Collin, Peter Cox, Paul Dyson, Jonathan Farmer, David Griffin, Peter Griffiths, Peter Hardy, Jenny Heald, Andrew Hignell (Secretary), David Kelly, David Kendix (President), Julian Lawton Smith, Neil Leitch, Jeremy Lonsdale, Adrian Mercer, Douglas Miller, Denis Moore, Adam Morehouse, Jonathan Myles, Huw Nathan (Membership Secretary), Derek Noakes, Mick Pope, John Reddish, Angus Rodger, Brian Sanderson, Steven Swain, Simon Sweetman, Rodney Ulyate, Garry Wallace (Treasurer), Keith Walmsley, Martyn Webster, David Whittingham, Derek Willis, John Wiltshire, John Winnifrith, Unidentified.

1. WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

The President opened the meeting at 10.05am and welcomed members, both longstanding and new from the UK and abroad. He said it was the seventh time the Association had held a virtual AGM and, although it was sad not to meet in person, it did enable the Association to show itself as the global body that we are. It also enabled eminent statisticians and historians from around the world to join the meeting. With his ICC hat on, the President considered that the role and prominence of the Association had never been greater in terms of the number of times it was consulted by governing bodies, tournament bodies and the ICC itself regarding the status of matches and classification of statistics. The ACS was internationally regarded as the authority on matters within our remit, which was a tribute to the many members who had put in so much effort over many years on behalf of the Association.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from the following 20 members: Chris Burgess, Mark Chaloner, Kevin Clement, Brian Cowley, David Frith, Jenny Griffiths, Alan Grove, Philip Hulme, Andrew Hunt, Harriet Monkhouse, Roger Moulton, Bryn Nathan, Serena Nathan, Christopher O'Brien, Richard O'Hagan, Brian O'Sullivan, Andrew Radd, Alan Simons, Mark Spooner and John Ward.

3. REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED MEMBERS

During the year it was reported that the following 13 members had died: Jim Baldwin, Robert Brooke, John M Brown, Chris Clynes, Barry Cox, Brian Croudy, Gary Dyer, Tony Laughton, David Lawrence, Eric Midwinter, Brian Rendell, Howard Stafford, Richard Wells. The meeting observed a period of silence. The President said it was particularly sad to lose several of the greats of the Association to whom tributes had been made in the past months.

4. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2025 AGM

The President reminded members that the Minutes had been circulated and appeared in the February 2026 edition of the Journal. No corrections or amendments had been requested, and after a show of hands the President announced that the motion for the approval of the AGM minutes (proposed by Angus Rodger and seconded by Huw Nathan) had been passed nem con.

5. TO RECEIVE AND, IF APPROVED, ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

John Bryant said he wanted to draw attention to a few matters. He mentioned that one of those who had died during the year was Robert Brooke. This was very sad, but he had left us with an excellent interview conducted by Rodney Ulyate. In that discussion, his character had shone through even though he had clearly not been well at the time. His personality had had an impact on the Association from the very start. Mr Bryant said that the report of the ACS General Committee (the Committee) covered specific developments that had taken place during the year as well as the direction of travel for the Association as the Committee attempted to keep it relevant to the changing game.

There were no questions for the Committee Chair. After a show of hands, the President announced that the motion (proposed by Jenny Heald and seconded by Mick Pope) had been adopted nem con.

6. TO RECEIVE AND, IF APPROVED, ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

7. TO APPOINT AND AGREE THE REMUNERATION OF AN INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT TO PREPARE THE ACCOUNTS AND TAX RETURNS OF THE ASSOCIATION

8. TO APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE YEAR 2026/27

Mr Wallace said this was the tenth occasion on which he had been called upon to present the Treasurer's Report, and he was pleased to say that this year's report continued the favourable trend of recent years. He said members would have had the chance to review the financial statements in detail, so he would concentrate on a few major issues.

In the year ending 30 November 2025, ACS operations had generated a net profit after tax of £6,717. Although the ACS reported a negative cash flow of £7,144, after adjusting for three unusual and non-recurring events, this turned into a positive net operating cash flow of £12,032. These three events were:

- Firstly, **the investment of £15,000 of surplus cash in further tranches of Legal and General units**. This had the effect of artificially deflating reported cash flow but otherwise had no impact on the financial health of the ACS. Our total holding of Legal and General units had also benefited from **a market appreciation of almost £22,000** over the course of the financial year. This was largely related to the very rapid increase in AI stocks within the managed investment portfolio. This potential gain is not recorded in the financial statements unless and until it is realised. This kind of gain can only be considered as a windfall since market turbulence can also generate adverse movements.
- Secondly, **the Committee had decided to partner with Triwizard Technologies in India** to develop a search engine to provide interactive access to a cricket database. The one-time **cost of the ACS's participation was £6,000** of which 50% had been charged in the 2024/25 accounts, and the balance has already been paid in the current financial year. Ongoing operating and maintenance costs will be covered by our partner. After an initial period of free user access, it is intended that this asset will be put behind a paywall with the ACS participating in the potential income stream.
- Thirdly, Mr Wallace said that members would recall that a one-time donation in excess of £18,000 was made by the Women's Cricket Associates to the ACS in 2024. This was selectively used in 2025 to subsidise the experimental hard-copy Women's International Yearbook and to support the maintenance of the Women's Cricket History website. **Total cost for the year was £1,176.**

Mr Wallace turned his attention to what he termed more regular sources of income:

- **Membership numbers** had stabilised and in fact increased by eight people in the year under review, so that subscription income remained essentially unchanged. The impact of inflation on administrative costs, especially postage, reduced the surplus in this area of the business by around £450 to £1,874.
- **Sales of publications** had performed better than in recent years, benefitting from an increase from 10 to 12 new books compared with the prior year. Distribution costs were reduced following the decision to relocate ACS Sales and Distribution services to a new supplier towards the end of 2024. As a result, the profit on publications increased by over £1,600 to £4,721.
- **Auctions** had continued to generate a positive financial contribution and engaged ACS members. During the year this income stream added in excess of £4,500 to the bottom-line results. This is significantly lower than the prior year and confirms that this is not a certain income stream and is completely dependent on further donations and continued buyer support.

Overall, Mr Wallace said that the balance sheet remained robust, and liquidity would meet all foreseeable obligations without any recourse to our financial reserves.

Mr Wallace said that all the figures quoted so far had compared the last two financial years. What was perhaps more interesting and significant was the longer-term development of the financial position of the ACS. He said that at the end of the 2018/19 financial year, the net worth of the ACS at book value stood at just over **£63,000**. Six years later in November 2025, the value had increased by almost **£76,000** or 120% to just over **£139,000**. Members might ask how this had happened. Mr Wallace said the ACS had clearly benefited from two pieces of good fortune: the WCA donation of over **£18,000** in 2024 and auction profits totalling almost **£21,000** since we introduced auctions in 2021.

He said the remaining improvement of **£36,000** had resulted from the way the Committee has run the business. During this period:

- we had changed our sourcing of typesetting, printing, mailing and distribution of ACS publications, in each case with significant cost advantages;
- we had managed print runs and stocks extremely efficiently, reducing the cost of holding and moving excess stocks;
- we had substituted the £8 discount voucher scheme to replace the expensive and not widely appreciated universal members' free book;
- we had eliminated free books for committee members;
- we had phased out the payment of royalties to authors; and
- we had substantially reduced administrative costs, not least by introducing Zoom meetings in place of face-to-face committee meetings and by prioritising electronic communications

Mr Wallace said all the figures quoted were based on book values and **excluded** the appreciation of the market value of our investments. If one looked at the net worth of the ACS at market value over the same period, this had almost doubled from over **£111,000** to **£221,000** before taking into account any capital gains tax that would be payable if, and when, the gains are realised.

Mr Wallace said he hoped members would agree that the ACS was in a sound financial position and capable of meeting any future headwinds. This position has been assisted by the continued efficient support of our Accountant, Judy Leng, who, in addition to preparing the monthly accounts and annual financial statements, also prepared and submitted the VAT and Corporate Income Tax returns to HMRC

on behalf of the ACS on a timely basis. The Committee proposed the re-appointment of the Accountant for the next 12 months. Her current annual fee of £3,230 was approved by the 2023 AGM. After three years unchanged, the Committee was now proposing an increase of 10.5% to £3,570 for 2026.

Finally, Mr Wallace said that, based on the current positive cash position and the anticipated continued stability of cash flow in the immediate future, the Committee considered that there was no pressing need to raise membership subscriptions for the 2026/27 membership year starting 1 December 2026. This meant that membership subscriptions would be maintained at their current level for a ninth consecutive year, having last been increased in 2018.

In summary, the Committee proposed the following three resolutions:

- Approval of the 2024/25 Accounts, as presented.
- Re-appointment of Judy Leng as ACS Accountant for the next 12 months at an increased annual fee of £3,570.
- No change in the membership subscription rates for 2026/27 as compared with those for 2025/26.

No questions were raised, and the President thanked the Treasurer for maintaining such comprehensive records and for the quality of the management information, which he knew was much appreciated by the Committee.

After a show of hands the President announced that the motion for the Annual Accounts (proposed by Douglas Miller, seconded by Neil Leitch) had been passed nem con; that the motion for the reappointment of Judy Leng at an increased fee of £3,570pa (proposed by Neil Leitch, seconded by Peter Cox) had been passed nem con; and the motion to maintain membership subscription rates at the existing level for 2026/27 (proposed by Neil Leitch, seconded by Angus Rodger) had been passed nem con.

9. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The President said there was no requirement for a vote as Peter Griffiths and Derek Noakes had been re-elected unopposed. He said he wanted to pay tribute to Ric Finlay and Keith Walmsley who were standing down from the Committee. Between them they had 30 years of service: Ric 19 years and Keith 11 years, including three as Chair. On behalf of all Association members, he thanked Keith and Ric, and was delighted to report that both intended to support the ACS in different ways. The President said the Committee was now two members short, which meant there was an opportunity for others to join.

10. PRESENTATION OF THE BROOKE-LAMBERT TROPHY

The President called upon Peter Griffiths, twice winner of the title, to deliver the following citation, announcing the winner of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy. Peter said:

The criteria for winning the Brooke-Lambert Trophy say: 'for outstanding services to cricket statistics and historical research, usually in the past year, but sometimes taking into account a lifetime's achievement'.

The winner of this year's award falls very much into the lifetime achievement award part of that. Marion Collin played cricket at school and on leaving in 1962 she joined the famous Redoubtables Women's Cricket Club. She played for the club for nearly 35 years and was scorer, umpire, committee member and chairman. Marion also played for Surrey. She is a qualified umpire and scorer and has officiated in club matches, four Test matches and several ODIs.

In 1973 Marion took over the role as Women's Cricket Association honorary statistician from her club colleague. Early retirement from her job in local government meant that she had more time for cricket, and the International Women's Cricket Council appointed her as its first official statistician in 1994. Entering all the information into a computer database, she has kept records of all official matches since then.

As ECB statistician, Marion has compiled records for the Women's County Championship and other women's domestic competitions and shared this information with anyone who asked for it.

As Archivist for the WCA, Marion was instrumental in helping to source material for the archival website womenscrickethistory.org and continues to talk to people about providing archival material, as well as continuing to provide statistical information on women's cricket to other websites like CricInfo, Cricket Archive, Cricket History, and, of course, the ACS (her latest contribution being in January this year).

There is much more that could be said about Marion's contribution to the history of the women's game, but I don't have enough time.

I am pleased to be able to be the one to tell you, briefly, about this year's Brooke-Lambert Trophy winner – Marion Collin.

The announcement was warmly applauded by those attending the meeting and Marion Collin responded with the following words.

I feel very honoured to be awarded the Brooke-Lambert Trophy for the job I have done for about sixty years now. In the early days, every record was recorded by pen and paper, but the series were few and far between, so we were able to update the records easily, and that record book is at Lord's at the moment.

In 1993, when I gave up work, I contacted the IWCC and asked them if I could start compiling the records for all countries playing women's cricket at the time. Of course, at that time there were only Test matches and ODIs being played. I contacted the countries and asked them to send me scoresheets for all their internationals. I used a database which I still actually use for ODIs and Test matches, and I now use CricketStats as well. I started by inputting all the World Cup competitions and then the rest, and it took nearly three years to put them in manually from some very difficult scoresheets, which at times had to be viewed under a magnifying glass.

I prepared a media pack before each tour, but now there are so many I don't do that any more and it is all online anyway. I used to send these to all the participating countries before the tour started. I have had help from Tariq Ali from India and I used to address queries to him 'under the banyan tree' and that was presumably where he lived, and without his help I would not have the information on India which I have today.

I officially retired as Official Statistician to the ICC and ECB in 2017 after the World Cup. I now enter into my database all matches, of which there are now around 600 being played in a year, by 95 countries. I import the scores from Cricinfo and check them with CricketArchive, and if any questions and difficulties arise, I go to them and we try and sort them out. I would like to thank you once again for this great honour. Thank you.

The President thanked Marion Collin and added his congratulations. He said that in his ICC role he had been one of the many beneficiaries of the diligent work that she had carried out in collating historical scores of women's cricket matches. Many others had benefited and shared in the delight at her winning the trophy.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President asked Jeremy Lonsdale what matters of AOB had been received. Mr Lonsdale stated that the only item was one put forward by the Committee. He said the Committee was very grateful to everyone who gave their time to the work of the ACS, and he then highlighted a series of ways in which others could contribute in the future. These were by: joining the Committee, undertaking proofreading of publications, acting as a book editor, helping with website maintenance and online library indexing, assisting with social media updating and posting, and monitoring the quality of the new search engine. If any member was interested in helping, he asked that they make contact via secretary@acscricket.com to find out more.

The President ended the meeting with some closing remarks. He said John Bryant was standing down as Chair of the Committee at the end of today's meeting, and Andrew Hignell was standing down as Secretary. He paid tribute to the work of both officers, who had done an amazing job in their respective roles over many years. John had been Chair for three years, had then taken a pause for breath, and later returned for a further five years. Andrew's tenure as Secretary had been for 20 years. When he had succeeded Peter Wynne-Thomas in 2006 it was seen as a hard act to follow, but he had reshaped the role and became the media-friendly public face of the Association, and often the first point of contact for those discovering the ACS online. He said it was difficult to underestimate the importance of Andrew's role to the Association as Secretary over the last 20 years. He invited those present to pay tribute to the two men. The President then passed over to Andrew Hignell.

Andrew thanked the President and noted that during his term in office there had been eight Prime Ministers, nine England men's Test captains, eight captains of the England women's cricket team, and six ACS Chairs, three Presidents and five Treasurers. However, he said that throughout the 20 years there had been one thing missing in his life, which was Glamorgan playing in Division 1 of the County Championship. He was delighted to say that he was hoping in two weeks to be able to describe himself as a 'First Division county scorer'. Andrew said he had taken over from Peter Wynne-Thomas 20 years ago when meetings had sometimes taken place at the Trent Bridge ground and sometimes in the Trent Bridge Inn, and then subsequently in the Space Centre in London. The advent of Covid had seen the Committee switch to monthly online meetings. He said he had been very grateful for this as it had ended the problematic journeys from Cardiff to London and back, during which he often explored other parts of the country.

Andrew said his world had changed in May 2024 while scoring for Glamorgan against Leicestershire at Grace Road. He had been admitted to hospital with a sepsis-like virus which had seen his kidney function drop to a life-threatening level. This had been restored to normal and the virus eradicated, but following exploratory operations it had been revealed that he was suffering from prostate cancer. Andrew said he had then started on a programme of medication, scans and blood tests. He had had daily radiotherapy for a time, but his consultants had set him various positive targets which had involved finishing off several writing projects, including for the ACS, and scoring for Glamorgan in certain games. However, he had had to give up some T20 and Hundred matches as well as internationals at Sophia Gardens.

Andrew explained that he had also had to give up ACS secretarial duties and was very grateful to Jeremy Lonsdale, Keith Walmsley and Huw Nathan for stepping into the gap. He said he had never wanted to let anyone down and so wanted to focus on what was achievable and not put adverse pressure on his mind or body. He had advised the Committee Chair and Committee members back in October 2025 that he intended to retire 'not out' at the 2026 AGM. He thanked the fellow officers and Committee members for their understanding and patience about his situation. He said he had good days like today but last Saturday he had felt so unwell that he had slept through most of Wales's rugby victory over Italy.

Andrew said he was being weaned off the strongest medication and was about to start the next phase of his recovery.

He hoped to remain involved with the ACS as an author and as chair of the StatsLog subgroup, and as an advisor/expert on all things to do with cricket in Wales past and present. Andrew said this was not the way he had intended to stand down as Secretary. He thanked his fellow officers and other members of the Committee, as well as all the members of the Association, many of whom had sent some very kind messages for his recovery. He said he had always tried to do his best and serve the members and their interests. He finished by saying 'diolch yn fawr iawn' [thank you very much].

Andrew was given a warm round of applause by those present and was thanked for his 'astonishing' service as Secretary by the President, who wished him all the very best for his continuing recovery.

The President declared the formal meeting closed at 10.52am and handed over the chair to John Bryant to conduct an informal discussion.

In introducing the discussion, John Bryant added his own words of thanks and said that Andrew Hignell had been a superb servant of the Association for many years. He also noted that this was his own swansong as Chair of the Association's General Committee but said he intended to be an active member on the Committee for years to come.

John Bryant asked for any matters which members wished to discuss. In the absence of any immediate suggestions, he recalled that Simon Sweetman had raised the subject of AI at last year's AGM. He said that AI was developing at an astonishing speed, and it was becoming more sophisticated, even if not more reliable. He had shared Charles Davis's astonishment in a recent ACS Forum post that it was necessary when researching to include an instruction not to include anything 'for which you cannot cite a source', something that was obvious to a human researcher. Simon Sweetman advised that any use of AI in the preparation of articles for the Journal should be clearly noted. During the discussion, Douglas Miller suggested that the editor of the Journal might commission an AI-generated article on an agreed subject and publish it without any alterations so that members could gauge its accuracy. John Bryant said this was a matter for the editor, but the idea could be passed on to him.

John Reddish said he had been very impressed by the organisation of ACS auctions and wondered whether we should publicise more what was involved to explain how people like himself might make a donation of surplus books to be auctioned off. Peter Griffiths asked Mr Reddish to contact him about a potential donation.

Peter Griffiths said a lot of work had gone on to digitise material for the ACS website. He asked whether members had any suggestions for what might be added to the digitisation project. Recently they had been working through ACS books and the Tony Webb archive, and he had just taken possession of the Des Lee archive. Simon Sweetman asked whether *The American Cricketer* could be digitised, and Peter Griffiths said he had had a discussion with the MCC about borrowing their copy. He had not yet got formal agreement to do this from the relevant sub-committee. Rodney Ulyate said that the first volume of *The Australian Cricketer* would be available soon.

Peter Griffiths said he was still looking for assistance with the search engine. The work involved indexing everything that went online so that the search engine could find the material easily. He welcomed anyone who could spare any amount of time, and Rodney Ulyate emphasised that little to no computer expertise was needed.

Mr Bryant brought the discussion to a close at 11.11am.