

ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN NO 2 - DECEMBER 2008



Chairman's notes

Welcome to the second issue of our membership bulletin. The innovation you will notice this time is the design of *The Cricket Statistician*. This has followed the decision to retain a professional designer and typesetter to produce the journal. We hope you find it striking and appealing; if there are any glitches, please let us know and we will try to improve next time. I am sure the contents will be as informative and erudite as ever.

For many years, the journal has been typeset by one of our members Mick Pope and his wife Tracy, who fitted this into their spare time. We appreciate hugely their past efforts and hope they will now find less arduous ways to fill their evenings.

Our previous request for members to join the committee or help maintain our website achieved modest feedback. Even though the deadline for standing at the next AGM has now passed, we remain keen to hear from anyone who feels they can play a more active role in the affairs of the Association.

The Committee has accepted the kind offer of former committee member Pete Griffiths to take on the role of Honorary Publication Production Manager. We are delighted that Pete will remain at the heart of our activities.

The scheme to offer publication grants recently became reality for three members who received ACS cheques to help fund their original research. With our new financial year just starting, there are four further grants available. Any members interested in applying or wanting a reminder of the scheme's rules, please contact the Secretary.

In past years we have held a members' meeting in London during the winter, on a number of occasions in the Long Room at The Oval. Sadly the costs of returning there are prohibitive and we have not found a suitable alternative. If any members know of a central London venue suitable for a Saturday afternoon meeting, quiet

enough to host a guest speaker but also able to offer catering and a cash bar, please let me know.

David Kendix

Marketing Matters

This autumn, on the initiative of our President MJK Smith, the ACS embarked upon an ambitious membership drive through the first-class counties. Members may recall receiving a recruitment leaflet in the September mailing, and our hope was that some of the counties might circulate this leaflet to their individual members. With this in mind, Mike Smith attempted to reach all Chief Executives pleading our case as a body of cricket enthusiasts serving the interests of the game at large with no thought of personal reward. In almost every case, Mike found the counties willing to help us in some way.

Eight counties, including four of the largest with Test-hosting grounds, agreed to circulate our leaflet in their next mailing. Other counties have posted details on their websites or offered to place leaflets in their receptions. In this commercial age it was refreshing to find that no county sought to charge us a fee. The minor counties have also been approached and eight have agreed to circulate leaflets.

Several of the mailings were scheduled for November so we still await the outcome. But with over 45,000 leaflets going out, we are hopeful that we can take the total ACS membership to a record level. If we succeed, there will be long-term benefits for all if we can spread our publication costs across the higher print runs that a wider membership base should make possible.

Meanwhile we reiterate to members that they have only to ask and we can supply leaflets to place on the seats at local cricket lovers' meetings. Our Treasurer, Roger Gibbons, has done just that - with worthwhile success.

Douglas Miller

Huddersfield Meeting

On Saturday, 25 October, two dozen members of the Association, plus a dozen non-members, attended a Conference at the University of Huddersfield. Entitled "From Centre Vale to The Oval, via Halifax and the West Riding", the Conference was a cricketing journey looking at some of the themes explored by Dr. Peter Davies and the members of his research team engaged on the Cricket Heritage Project.

With funding from the University and the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dr. Davies and his colleagues have spent the past four years engaged in some fascinating original

research – one of the core values of the ACS – and the members of the Association who attended the function were able to share a plethora of findings from the enthusiastic team.

The Conference began with Brian Heywood outlining the history of Todmorden CC, starting with its foundation in 1835. Dennis O’Keefe then spoke about the strong links between churches and religious organisations in promoting cricket in the Calderdale area in the Victorian and Edwardian eras – a period when over 180 church-related teams were formed. Many were casual and ephemeral, but around 20% went on to become fully-fledged, and independent, clubs.

Dr. Rob Light talked about 19th-century cricket in the West Riding, looking in particular at the way grand challenge matches, some for quite sizeable stakes, had helped to boost civic pride and regional status at a time of urban and industrial growth.

Duncan Stone then spoke about the development of regional identities in Yorkshire and Surrey, highlighting some of the perceived and stereotypical differences between the two counties, as well as significant variations in the structure of cricket.

Dr. Davies and I then rounded off the day by looking at future developments, including the possibility of further collaborative research in the lead-up to the 2012 Olympics, when national celebrations of sports heritage are planned.

This was an excellent advertisement for the ACS, and a fine example of the sort of local-scale events the Committee is keen to organise.

Andrew Hignell

John Ward

For many years John Ward has been a valued member serving the interests of cricket statisticians through his efforts to provide news of cricket in Zimbabwe. At present John is in the UK with the situation in Zimbabwe making it impractical for him to return. He is living with friends in the Taunton area and would love to find any kind of work to tide him over the winter.

Meanwhile John has offered to revive the ACS Statistical Surveys series and asks if any member could lend him copies of ACS First-Class Scores from 1882 or the magazine Cricket from 1888.

If you are able to help John in either of these ways, please make contact with him at jw76jw@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Update

Membership subscriptions are due on 1 December 2008 and run for one year until 30 November 2009. If a subscription remains unpaid by 1 March 2009, then membership will lapse. The current UK subscription rate is £16 (£9 for Under-18s, £20 for overseas members). Subscriptions are renewable by cheque or direct debit. Overseas members may also pay by Banker's Draft or PayPal.

We welcome the following new members

S.J.Brenkley of South Harting, West Sussex
A.Bull of Knowle, Bristol
A.F.Carter of Radcliffe, Manchester
D.W.Clutterbuck of Bournemouth
P.A.Crook of Shenfield, Essex
D.L.Fay of Itchen Abbas, Hampshire
R.A.Hemmings of Worcester
Dr B.P.L.Hitchen of Ashton-on-Ribble,
Lancashire

G.J.Levett of London N4
D.L.McLauchlan of Kingswood, Bristol
N.A Osborn of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire
D.J.Otway of Wilmslow, Cheshire
C.Paish of Chigwell
A.D.Rodbard of South Harrow
G.W.Rowe of Sale
A.A.Watson of Stanwix
J.Winnifrith of Walthamstow

We regret to announce the death of the following members: Mr G.Allman of Essington, West Midlands; A.Barker of Blackburn, Lancashire; E.J.Smith of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Current addresses are required for Mr J.R.Lodge, formerly of Morcombelake, Dorset, and Mr I.T.Shepherd formerly of Seaforth, Merseyside.

Committee Report (excluding material already covered elsewhere)

The fourth meeting of 2008-09 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday, 6 September. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay and Simon Sweetman.

Following the resignation of Richard Isaacs from the General Committee, due to pressure of work, David Jeater was elected to replace him on the Executive Committee.

The committee considered three tenders for typesetting the Journal and accepted that of Zahra Ridge. Limlow Books' tender to typeset other ACS publications was also accepted.

The committee agreed in principle to produce an overseas first-class match scores annual, to be published in September-October 2009.

Harriet Monkhouse