



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 26 – November 2016

Committee Vacancy

As reported in bulletin 24, a vacancy has arisen on the committee. If any member wishes to stand for election, please note that time is of the essence, as all nominations must be **received** by 15 November. Please send, in writing, any nomination – together with names and signatures of a proposer and a seconder (who should also be ACS members)- to the Secretary at 41 Ramsons Way, St Fagan's, Cardiff CF5 4QY.

More cricket less admin ...

Your ACS Committee has undertaken an audit of Association business and has concluded that significant time is spent on inefficient administrative processes at the expense of our core business, that being cricket history and statistics. Many ACS members already help us out by doing business in a way that minimises administration such as:

- Ordering ACS publications using the ACS on-line Shop
- Paying their ACS annual subscriptions by electronic means, rather than by cheque
- Furnishing an email address to enable timely and cost-free communications

It is our aim to have as many members as possible using the above tools, not only for the benefit of ACS but also to save time and cost for themselves and to avoid errors that consume valuable time to correct. All three of the above tools will save the inconvenience, delays and cost of postage for the members and ACS. Ordering publications via the Shop gives members the choice of paying by various means including credit and debit cards, direct deposit and PayPal. PayPal is used in over 200 countries, allowing our growing overseas membership to use the on-line Shop for their purchases. We will also continue to abide by the Direct Debit

Guarantee that members will always be notified in advance before any change to the direct debit amount is made, so that they have the ability to cancel their direct debit mandate if they do not wish to continue their membership.

Mailing of cheques to pay for publications also gives rise to unnecessary administrative effort when the amount sent differs from the cost of the ordered publication. For this reason, the ACS Committee has decided that any overpayments of less than £5 will in future not be refunded unless specifically requested, but will be considered to be contributions to ACS funds.

Members may be interested to know that we have successfully initiated a similar efficiency programme with suppliers and trade customers. All regular suppliers now send their invoices electronically and are paid by bank transfer exactly on the due date. ACS has not issued a manual cheque since the last AGM seven months ago! Similarly trade customers will in future only enjoy discounts and credit terms if they undertake to pay ACS by electronic means.

Your Committee looks forward to the full support from members to embrace the three improvements that we are seeking for our mutual benefit.

Cricket Witness

Cricket Witness is a new series which will look at a variety of historical themes – both ancient and modern. A number of topics have been suggested: outstanding/successful county teams; decades; prolific opening partnerships; great wicket-keepers, short-legs or cover fielders; opening bowling partnerships; spin pairings; a series of outstanding or dramatic matches at a particular ground (e.g. a festival ground) or a selection of great players (from a club, a League, a decade, or those born at a particular place). The above list is far from comprehensive, and all ideas will be considered on their merits. Several titles are already in the pipeline. If anyone would like to offer another title – or manuscript – for this series, or has ideas for a possible theme, please contact the Secretary on secretary@acscricket.com

A Call for Editors

Given the ever-increasing number and variety of ACS publications, there are several intriguing book projects that currently lack an editor. If you are interested in offering your services, please contact the Secretary on secretary@acscricket.com

Committee Meeting Report (excluding items mentioned elsewhere):

The third meeting of 2016/17 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday 24 September. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay and Simon Sweetman.

The Chairman, John Bryant, reported on the measures taken to keep ACS Sales going after Neil Beck had had to step down for health reasons. Mick Pope was managing orders received and issuing instructions to City Press, who were storing books and despatching orders. These contracts currently ran until March 2017. No orders had been shipped in August, but the system was now working again.

The Treasurer, Garry Wallace, made further proposals for the better organisation of ACS business, including the maintenance of a central list detailing all books in stock, clarification of policies on discounting and the disposal of old stock, and a further shift towards conducting financial transactions by electronic means.

The committee considered a logjam of books scheduled for the next year, partly because several had not been ready on time in 2016. It was agreed that it was not normally practical to publish more than five every quarter, as it put pressure on a small number of editors and the congestion could affect sales. Authors would be advised that publication of some works now in preparation might have to be delayed.

The dates for the next committee meetings are 24 September, 3 December, 14 January, 25 March and 10 June. Any member wishing to raise any matter should contact the Secretary.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr A.Mukherjee of Kolkata, India
Mr C.O'Reilly of Mississauga, Canada
Mr S.Sankaran of Bangalore, India

We regret to announce the death of the following members for whom we offer our condolences to their families and friends:

Mr J.B.Box, late of Hertford, Hertfordshire
Mr R.B.Combes, late of London SE25
Mr D.F.Steedman, late of Wallasey, Cheshire
Mr C.R.Walker, late of Scarborough, North Yorkshire

Please note that Members' ties are now available by post from the Membership Secretary at £12.00 (plus postage and posting). Please contact Huw Nathan either by email on membership@acscricket.com or by post for further details:

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