



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 30 – May 2018

A Message from the Chairman

The AGM at snowy Derby on 17 March marked the end of John Bryant's three-year stint as ACS Chairman. His wise guidance from the chair will be greatly missed, but he has not left us altogether – instead, he has returned to the committee's 'back benches', so we will continue to benefit from his experience and wisdom for a good while yet. Thank you for all your efforts over the past three years, John!

The two main topics of discussion at the AGM were our publications strategy, and the membership subscription for next year.

It has sadly become clear that financial constraints mean that we will not be able to publish as many printed books in the years ahead as we have done in the recent past. At the AGM the committee explained the new harder-nosed approach that we shall be forced to take. Most of our existing series of books will continue, though in some cases with stricter supervision of the titles that we agree to publish. In all cases, books proposed for publication will be subject to a formal 'Go/No-Go' assessment, which our Treasurer Garry Wallace has helped to introduce to enable us to give a proper assessment of a book's likely viability before we agree to publish it – or decline to do so.

There will be further developments on the publications front as the year proceeds. In particular, we look forward to gaining much from the experience of book-publishers Malcolm Lorimer, Stephen Chalke and Chris Saunders, who have kindly offered to give us their advice on ways of improving the marketing of future ACS publications.

There was much discussion at the AGM of the committee's proposal to make a significant increase to the annual subscription. In the end, those present overwhelmingly agreed that the new rates – which we hope to be able to hold for a number of years – are a necessary part of getting the Association's finances back on a more even keel. The increase will not take effect until December 2018, when the full annual sub for UK members will rise to £29 (or £27 if paid by direct debit), with a smaller increase for our overseas members. The committee took no pleasure in proposing this increase to the AGM, but was very grateful to the meeting for their support for the proposed approach. We hope to be able to announce some other measures during the year, which may help to offset the increase, so keep watching this space!

Keith Walmsley

Committee Meeting Reports

The fourth meeting of 2017/18 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday 25 November. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay and Mark Rowe.

The committee discussed the continuing losses on most ACS publications. Some books were considered so important to the Association's aims – to promote and publish statistical and historical research – that they could be subsidised up to a point, but others should not be accepted unless expected to break even, and each book should be assessed on its costs and likely sales. The committee discussed methods of increasing sales outside the membership and reducing the costs of production. They felt that, subject to existing commitments, the ACS could no longer pay royalties except perhaps if sales were particularly high. Discounts should be offered for bulk orders rather than trade orders. The possibility of a form of membership offering only electronic versions of publications was revisited.

The recently signed 12-month marketing contract with *The Cricketer* offered an important opportunity to address the situation by publicising the ACS and improving sales.

In a further discussion on the problem of storing and digitising members' research materials, the committee decided that the ACS's role was to support members in preserving their research, rather than to take over the job; the rules on research grants might be adapted to help members with this.

The committee agreed a revised version of the ACS Style Guide, to replace that adopted in April 2011. The new Guide would be posted in the Members Area of the ACS website.

The fifth meeting of 2017/18 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday 20 January. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay and Harriet Monkhouse.

The Treasurer, Garry Wallace, reported that the ACS had generated a net loss of £11,380 over the year ending 30 November 2017, and that sales were declining. The committee discussed the viability of each of the ACS's regular series, and agreed that each book scheduled for November 2018 onwards should be assessed individually.

The committee reviewed the terms for applying for research grants, as no applications had been received for two years; it was agreed that they should be redrafted to make it clearer what they could cover, including travelling to archives and buying photographs.

Andrew Hignell reported that the ECB Association of Cricket Officials had settled on new free software to be used for scoring all professional and recreational cricket.

The committee noted that Peter Griffiths had found a volunteer to scan Tony Webb's Minor Counties research, in accordance with the policy that members should be encouraged to make their own plans to preserve their research.

It was agreed that, while committee members should retain the right to receive free copies of most publications, they would in future be asked which they wanted to claim.

At his final committee meeting, Roger Moulton was thanked for his long service, including four years as Chairman.

The first meeting of 2018/19 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday 24 March. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay, Mark Rowe and Simon Sweetman.

Keith Walmsley was elected chairman. The committee thanked John Bryant for his leadership over the past three years; he would remain on the Executive Committee, and was also asked to organise a

subcommittee to advise on marketing. Other committee duties and non-committee roles were assigned for the coming year.

The committee discussed the problems arising from the three-month deadline for membership renewals falling on 1 March, after the date when AGM papers had to be posted, and agreed to recommend that the membership of those not renewing after two months, i.e. by 1 February, should lapse (though they would still be free to renew after that date).

As part of the project to raise the ACS's public profile, an article about the Association had been published in the April issue of *The Cricketer*, and advertisements would follow in future issues.

The committee considered various suggestions made by members at the AGM to reduce losses on books, such as print on demand and electronic forms of publication. Other ideas put forward included vouchers instead of the annual free book, attempting to publicise the ACS through county museums, and a social media presence. Suggestions would be considered further in discussions with Malcolm Lorimer and others regarding ACS publications strategy

The viability of planned publications over the next year was considered, with the help of a new Go/No-Go analysis form designed by the Treasurer to predict which would break even.

The date of the next AGM was set as 23 March 2019.

The dates for forthcoming committee meetings are 7 July, 29 September, 24 November, 26 January and 30 March. Any member wishing to raise any matter should contact the Secretary.

Cricket Archive Renewals

A reminder to members that Cricket Archive are, once again, providing a discount to members of the Association who subscribe to their website. Please note that to take advantage of this special offer, members need to initially complete the online subscription at the normal rate before contacting Cricket Archive via email to request a refund of the difference.

Proposed Rule Change

The ACS committee would like to give members advance notice that, at the 2019 AGM, they will be recommending changes to Rules 4 and 8 of the Association. These rules relate to membership and subscriptions, and the aim of the changes is to clarify the process and timings for activation and lapsing of membership and the process for reinstatement of past members. The topic has arisen because the current arrangements give rise to an anomaly whereby, to meet the notice periods laid down in the Rules, the mailing out of AGM material has to be initiated before the last allowed renewal date of 1 March. This has given rise to some administrative confusion and led to a significant amount of non-value added work. Among the changes that the committee will be proposing is a change of the deadline for paying membership subscriptions from 1 March to 1 February, at which time membership will be deemed to have lapsed. The committee considers that a 62-day grace period (from 1 December to the following 1 February) is adequate for members to respond to the request to renew their subscription. It is opportune to remind members that if they sign up to pay their subscription by direct debit they will always be sure to meet the due date.

Social Media Announcement

The ACS is now on Twitter, as @ACScricket

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr Elgan Alderman of Camden, London
Mr Jerry Alderson of Leigh, Greater Manchester
Mr Philip Ashby of Frethun, Pas-de-Calais, France
Mr Christopher Banner of Whitstable, Kent
Mr Benedict Bermange of Bishopston, Bristol
Mr Chris Brind of Down Hatherley, Gloucestershire
Mr Padmarag Chirmuley of Canterbury, Victoria, Australia
Mr Oliver Clarke of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey
Mr Tom Culley of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire
Mr Michael Davison of Sutton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire
Mr Michael Deacon of Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire
Mrs Sue Drinkwater of Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire
Mr Robert Drummond of Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland
Mr Gary Fisher of Timperley, Greater Manchester
Mr Neville Flood of Walkerville, South Australia, Australia
Mr Jon Gemmell of Aldermaston, Berkshire
Mr Ken Grime of Tottington, Greater Manchester
Mr Greg Growden of Lane Cove, New South Wales, Australia
Mr Jim Hindson of West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire
Mr Stephen Hope of West Ealing, London
Mr Ray King of Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire
Mr Stephen King of Guston, Kent
Mr Batch Loftie-Eaton of Windhoek, Namibia
Mr Lachlan MacCorquodale of Beaumaris, Victoria, Australia
Mr David Moore of Hanbury, Staffordshire
Mr Andrew Needs of Horfield, Bristol
Mr Jonathan Northall of Mount Cotton, Queensland, Australia
Mr Robin Nower of Crawley, West Sussex
Mr Roger Oakden of Solihull, West Midlands
Mr Pushkar Pushp of Ranchi, Karnataka, India
Mr Paul Smee of Croydon, Surrey
Mr John Spain of Merton Park, London
Mr Michael Stimpson of Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire
Mr Martin Sumpter of Taunton, Somerset
Mr Andrew Wring of Elm, Cambridgeshire

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

Mr Peter Bebbington, lately of Wrenbury, Cheshire
Mr Richard Cousins, lately of Tooting, London
Mr Richard Dean, lately of Walthamstow, London
Mr Robert Elliott, lately of Chandler's Ford, Hampshire
Mr Ian Mills, lately of New Elvet, Durham
Mr Maurice Sills, lately of Whetstone, London
Mr Craig Stevens, lately of Stirling, South Australia, Australia
Mr Clifford Taylor, lately of Macclesfield, Cheshire
Mr John Waddington, lately of York, North Yorkshire