



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 36 – May 2020

A new English season should be well under way by now, and no doubt many ACS members are suffering acute withdrawal symptoms, with no cricket to play, watch or follow anywhere in the world.

But cricket's lockdown provides new opportunities for members to indulge in their love of the game. Already in recent weeks, we are delighted that many members have joined the ACS's email forum for the first time, and that many of the newcomers are taking the opportunity to initiate, or to join in, threads in the forum. If you have not joined the forum yet, but think this might be an interesting addition to your cricket activities in the coming weeks, you can read all about it in the Members' area of the website.

Another way of keeping up your involvement in the game is through the Collaborative Projects venture, set up in March as a way both of improving the content of our website and thus its value to all cricket-lovers, and of encouraging members to take an active role in ACS activities. Thanks to the initiative and hard work of Peter Griffiths, this venture has got off to a very promising start. But there is still plenty of scope for members to suggest new projects that might be undertaken, or to participate in those that are already under way. Please see the Research section of the website for more details.

One major project that we hope to launch shortly is an attempt to locate scorecards of 'major performances in minor matches' – and if that mysterious phrase whets your appetite, please keep an eye open for more details in the next few weeks.

And don't forget that, if it's reading matter you're after, you can still order our publications through ACS Sales – and if you haven't already done so, don't forget to use this year's £7 'money off' voucher when ordering!

I should say a word about the AGM. I am sure that members understand why we had to cancel the scheduled date at short notice, and I hope that no one was too badly inconvenienced as a result. The committee intends to rearrange the 2020 AGM to be held, still at Derby, as soon as practicable once the world has opened up again. The rearranged meeting will be subject to the same notice provisions as apply to our normal AGMs, and we hope that it will as usual be preceded by the regular Friday night get-together for members, guests and friends.

These are difficult times, not least for the committee as it seeks to keep our business going with as few perceptible changes as possible. I must express my personal gratitude to all committee members for their co-operation in this process. But we are not just trying to keep the Association up and running – we are looking to the future as well. In this connection, among other things we are taking the opportunity to explore new ways of conducting the committee's business, with a view to making the ACS a more efficient organisation, able to respond more rapidly and effectively to members' needs and concerns in the months and years ahead. Meanwhile, may I thank all members for your continued support of the ACS, and wish you and your families the very best of health in the weeks ahead.

Keith Walmsley – Chairman

Thank you, Philip!

After serving on the ACS's General Committee for a total of 41 years, Philip Bailey has now stood down from that position – for the time being at least.

Philip will be known to many of our members as the statistical power behind many thrones, both inside and outside the ACS. There is no doubt that without his efforts over all this time the ACS would not be the flourishing and respected organisation that it is today.

We feel sure that all members would like to join with the Committee in giving our grateful thanks to Philip for all that he has done for the Association over the years.

He is not leaving us altogether, though, and we are very pleased that he will continue to undertake all the many tasks, outside his committee role, that he carries out on the ACS's behalf.

A fuller thank-you to Philip, and a suitable presentation, will be made at the rearranged AGM in due course.

MCC women's exhibition postponed

The planned launch of the Evolution of Women's Cricket exhibition in the Lord's Long Room on Saturday 4 April 2020 has been postponed until Saturday 13 March 2021, with the exhibition now likely to run for 24 months. The MCC Museum is exploring ways of creating a temporary online exhibition during the closure, but ticketholders are able to receive a full refund by emailing Charlotte Goodhew (Charlotte.Goodhew@mcc.org.uk) or may choose to hold on to their tickets, which will still be valid for the 2021 opening.

Adam McKie

ACS Overseas First-Class Annual

We are sorry to report that sales for the *Overseas First-Class Annual 2019*, which came out in December, have shown so far a worrying dip compared with the previous few years. The Annual represents a major contribution by ACS to the statistical record of the game, but of course its existence relies on continued member support.

For members unfamiliar with the Annual, it contains full scores for all first-class matches worldwide in the previous overseas season (i.e. 2018/19 in this case). This means that a full printed record of contemporary first-class scorecards may be maintained by making only two purchases each year – the ACS *Overseas Annual* and *Wisden*.

Although the cover price of £70 inevitably reflects the specialized nature of the Annual, and its bulk (704 pages in 2019), we believe it reflects real value; moreover, use of the Association's voucher scheme can reduce the price to £63, a saving of 10%.

We strongly urge members to support this publication.

John Bryant

The 1920 County Championship

We do not yet know whether there will be any Championship cricket in 2020, but on the ACS Twitter account we have gone back in time to 1920. The County Championship is hitting its stride again after the war, with three-day matches restored after 1919's two-day experiment, and the competition building up to a thrilling climax. There are no tourists, but the county players are hoping to win a place on England's tour to Australia in 1920/21 for the first Test series in nearly seven years. Follow us at @ACScricket with the hashtag #1920cricket for day-to-day updates as the 1920 season develops! (In addition, you may find out which bowler took two hat-tricks in the season and which team won despite being dismissed for 22.)

Chris Overson

Committee Meeting Reports

The fourth meeting of 2019/20 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday 30 November 2019.

Apologies for absence were received from John Bryant, Ric Finlay, Adam McKie and Simon Sweetman.

The Committee noted that the email forum had been successfully migrated to Groups.io following Yahoo's decision to close Yahoo Groups. The new 'Ask the ACS' site is now bringing together on the website statistical Q and A s answered by the ACS over the years.

A Game Sustained is now available for purchase on Google Play as an eBook. *A Game Taken Seriously* will be uploaded next and this will be followed by *The Summer Field*, *Brief Candles* and *Brief Candles 2*.

The RHUL/MCC women's cricket conference will take place in the Long Room at Lord's on 4 April 2020 (not 7 March as previously reported). The line-up of guest speakers is being finalised. Twenty places will be allocated to ACS members.

The ICC had thanked the ACS for its valuable input in regard to the treatment for record purposes of replacement umpires.

The Treasurer reported on the success of the voucher scheme. Just over one fifth of members had made use of the voucher opportunity. As about 300 members regularly purchase ACS publications, over 60% of likely potential purchasers have therefore used the scheme.

The pros and cons of reducing the frequency of the Journal from four to three per year were discussed. The Committee agreed that this issue would be discussed at the AGM. Comments made then by members would inform the Committee's subsequent decision.

The Treasurer reported that for the first eleven months of the current financial year ACS shows a small net loss, but that it is likely that it will achieve a small surplus over the whole year. A number of publications were making a profit, or a smaller loss than before, showing the benefit of the Go-No-Go approach now adopted. It was noted that fewer members were coming forward with proposals for publications, particularly for the Lives in Cricket series.

The fifth meeting of 2019/20 was held at the Space Centre, St Pancras, London on Saturday 25 January.

Apologies were received from Ric Finlay. Jeremy Lonsdale was co-opted as a Committee member.

The Committee's annual report and the Treasurer's report were signed off, and final arrangements were agreed for the AGM on 21 March and the informal get-together the evening before.

The Committee was pleased to note that arrangements have been made for the ACS's collection of material relating to minor counties cricket to be housed at a private cricket library in Hampshire where ACS members will have access for research purposes. The Committee particularly thanked Mr Julian Lawton Smith for his role in setting up this arrangement, which has resolved a long-standing concern about how and where this material might be stored in a secure manner whilst allowing members to have access to it.

It was noted that there is a strong possibility that University sides will cease to be first-class after the 2020 season. The Committee agreed to monitor the situation and consider what publications may be appropriate to mark this development.

It was agreed to make further publications available on Google Books and to explore other options for electronic publication.

A full meeting of the Association's Executive Committee took place by conference call on Friday 20 March 2020. All five members of the committee participated – Messrs Bryant, Hignell, Nathan, Wallace and Walmsley.

The meeting was convened principally to consider unresolved matters from the postponed AGM and to make arrangements for the management of the Association's business in the current exceptional circumstances.

The committee took an interim decision to approve various matters that would normally have been decided at the AGM, including adoption of the accounts, and the appointment and remuneration of the Association's independent accountant. These approvals are subject to ratification by the 2020 AGM when it can be rearranged.

It was agreed to monitor closely the performance of the Association's investments in the present uncertain financial situation, but that no immediate action was needed in this area.

It was agreed that the Collaborative Research Projects venture, due to have been launched at the AGM, could be initiated and publicised with immediate effect.

The postponement of the MCC Women's Cricket Conference from the scheduled date of 4 April was noted.

Subject to the approval of General Committee members [subsequently given], it was agreed that for the foreseeable future formal decisions on operational matters would be taken by the Executive Committee, informed in all cases by the views of General Committee members.

Arrangements were made for the next meeting of the General Committee, due on 28 March, to be undertaken through an exchange of written papers, with any necessary decisions being taken by the Executive Committee in a conference call on 8 April.

It was agreed that for the time being the Executive Committee would meet (either in writing or by conference call) on a weekly basis, to review the situation and to consider important new or urgent matters.

The first General Committee meeting of 2020/21 was scheduled to be held at the Space Centre, St Pancras, London on Saturday 28 March. However, owing to the coronavirus outbreak it became clear that this meeting could not take place. The Executive Committee accordingly cancelled it and, having consulted all General Committee members by email, held a virtual meeting on Wednesday 8 April to transact the business that would normally have been dealt with by the General Committee.

All Executive Committee members telephoned in to the meeting, together with Chris Overson, who was invited to attend because of his role as Publication Scheduler.

Keith Walmsley was re-elected as Chairman and other responsibilities were assigned.

The Executive Committee reviewed the interim arrangements adopted so that the Association can continue to function, and discussed possible rule changes to cover any future situation in which *force majeure* prevents the normal operation of the Association's rules.

The Treasurer reported that the Association's cashflow was good, despite the crisis, but that the value of investments had declined sharply because of poor market conditions. He also reported on the successful disposal of old stock through discount sales.

It was agreed to maintain in the diary the scheduled dates of forthcoming General Committee meetings, which are 4 July, 26 September, 28 November 2020 and 23 January, 27 March 2021. The Executive Committee will keep under review the practicality of holding these meetings, including the possibility that they might take place remotely. A new date for the 2020 AGM will be arranged as soon as conditions permit, and the 2021 AGM is scheduled for 20 March.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Aakash Ahmed, Alex Bindloss, John Broom, Dale Brown, Mark Chaloner, Matthew Cheek, Caroline Ellis, David Graveney, Barry Greenbank, Jayaprakasa Rangaswami, Stephen Saunders, Phil Sharp, Roy Telfer, Andy Thurogood and Geoff Williams.

We also regret to announce the deaths of members Graham Sharpe, Geoff Wilde and Michael Wren.

We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.