



## ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

**No. 37 – August 2020**

### From the Chair

Members will understand that the past few months have been a very busy period for the ACS committee, as we try to ensure that the Association's business goes ahead more or less normally in these very abnormal times. As a measure of how busy we have been, the committee normally meets five times a year in London, but since March the General or Executive Committees have already met by audio conference, or latterly by Zoom, on seven occasions, with more to come.

Our most important recent activity has concerned the arrangements for the rescheduled AGM, postponed from last March. The decision has now been taken to hold the AGM as a small-scale 'virtual' meeting of General Committee members and a small number of others on 10 October. This meeting will only transact the most essential items of the business that would have been covered if we had been able to meet face to face in March.

However, we are keen that all members are able to play a part in this meeting. This can be done by raising any questions that you have about the six issues that it will be dealing with, and by sending in your votes on those six matters.

Enclosed with this mailing is a lot more information about the decision to hold the AGM in this manner this year, together with a voting paper and an explanation of the matters on which your votes are requested, and how to raise questions ahead of the AGM.

We would encourage all members to contribute to the Association by sending your votes to us, please. You can do this at any time from now up to Saturday 3 October. Details of how to record your votes are also included in this mailing.

I should just like to pick out two points from the rather lengthy letter of explanation.

First, may I reassure members that the decision to hold the 2020 AGM as a small-scale, closed meeting is very much a one-off, devised to deal with the exceptional circumstances prevailing worldwide this year. We very much hope that the 2021 AGM next March will be able to be held once again as an 'in person' gathering of members. But if that is not possible, we will again hold it as a 'virtual' meeting, but this time covering the full agenda of a normal AGM and, importantly, open to all our members.

And second, in November this year we are planning to hold an informal 'virtual' meeting, open to all members, to consider a range of topics relevant to the Association or to cricket in general. We hope that members will see this as a good way of keeping in touch with the Association and with fellow-members, and all being well further such meetings will be arranged in the future.

More details of the November meeting will be issued nearer the time, but meanwhile, if there is any particular topic that you would like to be aired at the meeting, please let the Secretary know as soon as possible. His contact details can be found later in this Bulletin. Thank you.

*Keith Walmsley – Chairman*

### Committee elections

This is to give early notice that nominations from members who wish to stand for election to the ACS General Committee must be received by 15 November 2020. Four committee places will be up for election at next year's AGM, and a ballot will be held if more than four people put themselves forward.

The committee now meets regularly via Zoom, enabling those from outside the UK to participate fully in its meetings. Therefore we would particularly encourage members from outside the UK, as well as those closer to home, to start thinking about whether you would like to put yourselves forward to join the committee.

Nominations should be sent, either in writing or in a signed scanned letter, to the Secretary, Andrew Hignell, 41 Ramsons Way, St Fagan's, Cardiff CF5 4QY, UK, or by email to [secretary@acscricket.com](mailto:secretary@acscricket.com). They must include the names and signatures of a proposer and a seconder, who must also be current members of the ACS.

### Reduced subscriptions for ACS members

A reminder that members of the ACS are entitled to substantial discounts on subscriptions to the unsurpassed Cricket Archive website and database, and to the wide-ranging CSW databases run by our committee member Ric Finlay. You can read more about these offers, and how to take advantage of them, in the Members Area of the ACS website.

### ACS Online Records site

The website also includes the most comprehensive and up-to-date collection of cricket records currently available anywhere in the world. In recent weeks, many additions and enhancements have been made to the site, including – but by no means limited to – additions to the sections on women's cricket and to those that include 'minor cricket'. We would encourage all ACS members to visit the Records site from time to time, to see the great range of information that it contains (which is still being regularly added to), and to make use of it in their own researches.

### ACS Second Eleven Annual 2021

In light of the amended and curtailed domestic season in the UK for 2020, the ACS committee has taken the decision that there will not be a 2021 edition of the *Second Eleven Annual*. Any matches which are played during 2020 will however form a supplement to the *2022 Annual*, with any biographical and statistical information following the normal format. Members are reminded that copies of the *2020 Second Eleven Annual* are still available from ACS Sales.

## ACS Annual Book Discount Voucher 2019/20

In 2019, ACS introduced the discount voucher scheme in place of the previous arrangement of issuing a standard free book to all members. The objective was to offer members a greater choice in book selection and better value for money. In the 2018/19 financial year over 200 members took advantage of the scheme and utilised their £7 discount voucher. In the first half of the current ACS year, only half this number have exercised this option. The Committee wish to encourage members who have not yet utilised their £7 voucher to do so since it represents good value for money for the member and supports sales of ACS publications. Members are reminded that their right to this year's voucher will lapse after 30 November 2020 and are urged to act before this date to secure their discount.

## Committee Meeting Reports

The **first General Committee meeting of 2020/21** took place on a 'virtual' basis on Saturday 20 June, followed by the **second meeting of 2020/21**, on a similar 'virtual' basis, on 4 July. Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, these were the first meetings of the General Committee since 25 January. Between them, the two meetings, each of which was limited to 2 hours 15 minutes, covered the business that would otherwise have been transacted by the in-person meeting originally scheduled for 4 July.

A welcome feature of both meetings was that Ric Finlay was able to take a full part from his home in Tasmania.

The General Committee endorsed all the actions taken by the Executive Committee since the onset of the pandemic, including the re-election of Keith Walmsley as Chairman for 2020/21, the assignment of other Committee functions, and the postponement of the 2020 AGM from 21 March to 10 October, when it will take place on a 'virtual' basis transacting only essential business. The Committee also decided that there will be a 'virtual' members' meeting held before the end of November at which issues of interest or concern can be discussed.

The Committee agreed that because there will be little or no second-eleven cricket in 2020, the *Second Eleven Annual* will not appear in 2021.

The provision of complimentary copies of ACS publications was comprehensively reviewed and, among other changes, it was agreed to end the long-standing practice of issuing free copies to Committee members.

The Treasurer reported that cash flow was good, and that as of 30 June the Association was running ahead of its target of breaking even during the year. The Association's investments had recovered much of the value lost because of poor market conditions at the onset of the pandemic.

The Committee agreed that it would continue a pattern of more frequent, but shorter, 'virtual' meetings. This arrangement would apply long-term, not just for the duration of the current emergency; in-person meetings may still be organised, on an exceptions basis, if this will assist the transaction of particular items of business. The next meeting is on 15 August, and it will agree a programme of meetings for the rest of 2020/21. **The 2021 AGM is scheduled for 20 March**; a decision will be taken nearer the time whether this meeting will be in person or 'virtual'.

## Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr John Adams of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England

Mr Charlie Clark of Liberton, Edinburgh, Scotland

Mr Grahame Hughes of Llay, Clwyd, Wales

Mr Roy Hyde of Battle, East Sussex, England

Mr Shriranga Kulkarni of Punggol, Republic of Singapore

Prof David Leal of Austin, Texas, U.S.A.

Mr Peter M Matthews of Lower Largo, Fife, Scotland

Dr Robert Muller of Blackwood, South Australia, Australia

Prof Stefan Szymanski of Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

Mr Derek G Woodhouse of Bisley, Surrey, England

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and friends of the recently deceased members:

Mr Robert Fletcher of Coppull, Greater Manchester, England

Sir John Sparrow of Padbury, Buckinghamshire, England