



## ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

**No. 38 – November 2020**

### 2020 AGM

The 47th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians was held on Saturday 10 October 2020. It was unlike any others in the Association's history, taking place in a virtual format via ZOOM following the postponement of the meeting originally planned at Derby for 21 March 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The attendees were limited to the officers and members of the committee, together with two independent observers – Jenny Heald and Chris O'Brien – to ensure fair play on behalf of the rest of the membership. Some of the topics originally put on the Agenda were deferred until the 2021 meeting.

All of the motions on which members had been asked to vote were passed. Eric Midwinter was confirmed as the recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy for 2020 and Philip Bailey was unanimously approved for Life Membership of the Association.

The observers confirmed at the end of the meeting that they were very happy that the meeting had been conducted in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with members' wishes. The meeting was recorded with a copy placed on the Association's website so that members could see it if they wished, whilst a full set of minutes will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal.

### Annual Book Discount Scheme ('Voucher') for ACS publications

Members are reminded that the voucher code jim1990 for the current year will not be usable after 30 November 2020, and the voucher entitlement for 2019/20 will then expire. The £7 value of this year's voucher cannot be carried forward beyond 30 November, so members who have not already done so are encouraged to use their 2019/20 voucher as soon as possible.

The operation of the scheme is reviewed annually. The committee has decided that it will continue for the year beginning on 1 December 2020, and to allow members to share some of the benefit of our recent improved financial performance it has been decided that for 2020/21 the value of the voucher will be raised from £7 to £8. The voucher code for the year 2020/21 will be value21.

We hope that this modest increase in the value of the voucher will encourage more members to make use of it to buy ACS publications.

### Accessing our back catalogue

We have recently introduced two new means by which members can access some of our older publications, including many that are otherwise out of print.

Some of our more recent publications are now being made available for purchase as pdfs via Google Play. There are currently eleven titles available in this way – the full list, with links to each title, can be seen on a new page on our website. Google Play allows you to read a sample of each book before you decide to buy. Full instructions about how to make a purchase are given on the page dealing with each book. As time goes on, we plan to make more of our titles available by this means.

Secondly, between now and next March we will be uploading to our website digitised versions of three of our older series of publications: the statistical surveys covering each English season between 1863 and 1881; the guides to first-class matches in each country, first produced in the 1970s and early 1980s and which played such an important part in the Association's early task of drawing up an agreed list of first-class matches worldwide; and the series of 'county grounds' booklets. We are very grateful to Peter Griffiths for volunteering to digitise these important parts of our back catalogue.

### Online cricket bibliography

Another initiative from Peter Griffiths is the suggestion that the ACS – perhaps in conjunction with others – should undertake the preparation of a searchable online database of all cricket publications, including not just books but also other media such as films.

As Peter has said, this would be a massive project, but if we could pull it off it would produce a brilliant online resource.

This wouldn't be a project to be undertaken lightly. We would not want it to start with a bang but then fizzle out as enthusiasm wanes or as the resources for continuing it fall away, thus leaving the project as something hanging over the ACS's heads for the indefinite future.

Therefore, before taking this idea further, the committee wants to establish whether there are volunteers within our membership who would be willing to commit, perhaps over a long period, to sharing in the assembly of data for the database, and in preparing that data for uploading to the database itself.

If you think you might be interested in being a member of a team that takes on such a role, we invite you to get in touch with the Secretary ([secretary@acscricket.com](mailto:secretary@acscricket.com)). Thank you.

### Frequently Asked Questions

We have recently added to our website a series of 'Frequently Asked Questions' relating to the statistics and history of cricket. The 'Answers' given to these questions represent the ACS's agreed position on the matters raised.

We hope to add more Qs and As to this section of the website in due course. If members have any suggestions for further general questions which they think might usefully be added to the site (and we stress 'general questions', please: this isn't the place for detailed questions about specific players or specific records!), or if you wish to make any comments on the Answers already provided, please get in touch with us via [secretary@acscricket.com](mailto:secretary@acscricket.com)

## Committee Meeting Reports

**The third General Committee meeting of 2020/21** took place on a virtual basis on Friday 14 August (date changed from 15 August). This meeting effectively inaugurated the Committee's new approach of holding shorter, but more frequent, virtual meetings instead of longer, more widely spaced, in-person meetings as previously. The virtual meetings commence at 9.30am to allow Ric Finlay to take a full part from his home in Tasmania (where he is 11 hours ahead of GMT).

Following Mark Rowe's resignation as editor of the Lives in Cricket series, Simon Sweetman was confirmed in his place. The Committee thanked Mr Rowe for his services as series editor.

Plans were advanced both for the virtual AGM on 10 October and for a virtual members' meeting in November, which will not only afford members an opportunity to discuss matters of interest and concern but also serve as a dry run if it proves necessary to hold the 2021 AGM on a virtual basis.

A more formal procedure was agreed for addressing any discussion on the online forum that moves on to subjects unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the game of cricket.

A 'Statistics Logistics' sub-group will be formed to consider technical questions relating to match protocols and scoring. The sub-group will report to the General Committee.

The Treasurer reported that the improved financial performance had been maintained and the Association remains on course to achieve its target of breaking even during the year.

It was agreed to increase the use of Twitter to promote publications and the work of the ACS generally.

**The fourth General Committee meeting of 2020/21** took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 12 September. The meeting formalised the new meeting pattern, agreeing to schedule business so that detailed consideration of financial matters and forthcoming publications takes place four times annually, freeing up time at other meetings for consideration of other business.

The date of the virtual members' meeting was confirmed as Saturday 21 November, commencing at 10am.

The members' meeting on 21 November should not be confused with the 2020 AGM, now scheduled for 10 October, which will be a brief affair confined to the transaction of essential formal business. Final arrangements were also made for this meeting.

Still on constitutional issues, the Committee discussed arrangements for the forthcoming annual election, for which nominations are required by 15 November.

The Committee noted that June 2022 will see the 250th anniversary of the first match now considered first-class and discussed how this event might be marked.

**The fifth General Committee meeting of 2020/21** took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 10 October immediately after the 2020 AGM, which was also held on a virtual basis.

Much of the meeting was occupied by consideration of the virtual members' meeting on Saturday 21 November, including the arrangements to inform members of the topics for discussion at the meeting, how to register to attend, and various practical issues. The Committee discussed the possibility of further virtual members' meetings if the event on 21 November is a success.

A further discount sale of old stock was agreed, and it was decided to increase the value of the publication voucher to £8 with effect from 2020/21.

The Treasurer drew the Committee's attention to further increases in the already very heavy costs of overseas postage, especially outside Europe.

It was agreed that the long-awaited publication on Oxford University Cricketers will be made available on the Association's website rather than as a printed book.

The next meetings will be on 16 November, 12 December and (provisionally) 16 January. The 2021 AGM is scheduled for 20 March; in view of continuing uncertainty about the course of the pandemic, a final decision will be taken nearer the time about whether to hold it in virtual format or in person.

## Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Ms Jane Compton of Surry Hills, New South Wales, Australia  
Mr Neil Dewart of Bedminster, Bristol  
Mr Peter Ellis of Moortown, West Yorkshire  
Mr Arpan Ghatak of Kolkata, West Bengal, India  
Mr Robert Grant of London NW11  
Mr Anthony Hyde of Over, Cambridgeshire  
Mr Peter Kettle of Balwyn, Victoria, Australia  
Mr Ben Malouf of North Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia  
Master Billy Milne of Ipswich, Suffolk  
Mr Garry L Morgan of Sheffield, South Yorkshire  
Mr Clive O'Donnell of Weston, Staffordshire  
Mr Rajiv Radhakrishnan of Hatch End, Middlesex  
Mr Doug Schoppert of Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.  
Mr Neil Simpson of Broughton, Lincolnshire

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

Mr Ronald Blackman of Norwich, Norfolk  
Mr Eddie Budkiewicz of Lingdale, North Yorkshire  
Mr Thomas Mulholland of Chadderton, Greater Manchester  
Mr Robert Norton Smith of Sulgrave, Oxfordshire  
Mr Ian Platt of Langton Matravers, Dorset  
Mr Bruce Sivewright of Mentone, Victoria, Australia  
Mr Len Thornton of Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire

We require a change of address for the following member:

Mr Bill Moyle, formerly of Huntington, Herefordshire