



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 39 – May 2021

2021 AGM

82 members attended the 48th AGM of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians held virtually via ZOOM on Saturday 27 March 2021.

After opening comments and a welcome by the President, those present observed a minute's silence in memory of those members who had died since the AGM held at Derby in 2019. Andrew Hignell, Adam McKie and Huw Nathan were re-elected to the committee with Mr Hignell continuing in his role as Honorary Secretary.

The Annual Report of the Committee for the year ended 30 November 2020 and the Treasurer's Report were both approved unanimously. Subscription rates from December 2021 will therefore remain unchanged. All the proposed rule changes, including those relating to digital membership, were passed by the meeting.

Derek Carlaw was announced as the recipient of the Brooke-Lambert Trophy for 2020 in recognition of his outstanding work on the Kent A-Z. The President gave a citation to mark the award of Honorary Life Membership to Philip Bailey. This award had been formally agreed at the 2020 AGM.

The Secretary confirmed that the Committee were hoping that virtual meetings of members could continue in the meeting, although it was hoped that the 2022 AGM would be held in the normal way. Before closing the meeting, the President thanked Keith Walmsley for his three years as Chair and for all of the excellent work he had initiated and overseen during his tenure. The full minutes of the AGM are included in the latest edition of *The Cricket Statistician*.

ACS Digital Membership

At the AGM, members approved a change to the ACS Rules that now allows members the option of digital ACS membership.

Those members opting for digital membership will receive their quarterly mailing by email which will contain electronic copies of the ACS Journal, the Membership Bulletin, the sales flyer, and (once a year) the AGM material, plus any other miscellaneous communications that the committee may choose from time to time to send out.

From December 2021, there will be a common global subscription rate for digital membership of £25. This compares with the current rates of £29 for UK members and £34 for overseas members, and effectively passes on the postage cost savings arising from the digital process to members taking up the digital option.

What does this mean for ACS members?

- **For members who wish to continue receiving the Journal and other material in the quarterly hard copy mailings**, no action is needed and nothing will change. Membership renewal for the 2021-22 ACS year will continue as before, at the existing approved rates.
- **Members wishing to change to the digital option** will need to notify the Membership Secretary by email or by post no later than 30 September 2021.

The following points should be noted:

- The digital option will be applicable for a complete subscription year. Members are at liberty to revert from digital membership back to regular membership for the following membership year if they wish to do so, by giving written notice to the Membership Secretary no later than 30 September of the current membership year and thereafter paying the regular subscription rate.
- The £2 incentive for payment of annual subscriptions by direct debit will remain for all classes of membership (other than Junior membership), including for digital members who can therefore pay a reduced global rate of £23.
- Members who wish to start receiving electronic versions of the quarterly mailings immediately (effectively for the August and November 2021 mailings) in place of hard copies are entitled to request this option from the Membership Secretary right away. But no reduction in subscription rates can be applicable until the next membership year, which begins in December 2021

Members are encouraged to contact the Membership Secretary if they have any further questions regarding digital membership.

Revision of ACS Rules

The revision of the ACS's Rules, as mentioned at the recent AGM, is proceeding apace. Accompanying this Bulletin is a booklet containing the details of a complete revision of the Rules, as agreed by the Committee as a basis for early consultation with members.

Once this consultation has been completed, and any resultant changes have been incorporated in the proposed Rules, a further copy of the new Rules will be included in the next mailing to members, in August. That version of the Rules will be put for formal approval to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association in the coming autumn. Whether held in person or virtually, it is intended that this EGM will form a discrete part of a members' meeting covering other cricketing matters as well. The first page of this accompanying booklet introduces the revision to the Rules in more detail. Please note that comments on the details of the new Rules as currently put forward should reach the Secretary no later than 18 June 2021.

An Evening with David Frith

Following the success of the recent meetings of members via ZOOM, another virtual event has been arranged for ACS members on Saturday, 12 June starting at 1930. 'An Evening with David Frith' will see the eminent writer and historian of Australian cricket in conversation with Andrew Hignell about his life in cricket. Further information about this event, arranged to coincide with the publication of David's revised autobiography, will appear on the ACS website. Members wishing to attend this event should send an email to secretary@acscricket.com

‘The ACS needs you!’

As the Chair outlined at the 2021 AGM, the Association relies on the time and effort - given on a voluntary basis - by members themselves in running the ACS. Without this assistance, the committee might have to consider cutting back on the activities of the Association. We are delighted to report that the appeal for helping hands, distributed via email during March, has elicited an excellent response, with offers of assistance in a number of areas including marketing, social media, website matters and general administration. If you would also like to assist the ACS in any of the areas highlighted in that appeal, please send an email to secretary@acscricket.com

Accessing our back catalogue

The Committee continues to gradually make older and out-of-print ACS publications available to purchase cheaply as eBooks on Google Play. More publications are uploaded each month, with the aim of improving our online presence and providing a better service for authors and members. Customers can read a sample of each book before deciding to buy. The full list is available on the ACS website where links can be found to each book.

Last chance to buy!

We will periodically highlight to members those books whose stock levels are in single figures so that they may buy a print copy before they sell out. As the old adage goes: ‘buy now while stocks last’.

ACS publications that are currently in this category include the following:

- ACS International Year Books: 2016, 2019, 2020
- Overseas First-Class Annual 2018
- Lives in Cricket No.44: Lionel Palairet – Stylist ‘Par Excellence’
- Lives in Cricket No.52: Schooled in Cricket – The Johnny Lawrence Story
- Cricket Witness No.8: A Tale of Three Managers
- Hard to Get Scores vol.4 Pakistan 1975/76 to 1979/80
- Hard to Get Scores vol.5 Trinidad and Guyana
- Hard to Get Scores vol 7 West Indies 1989/90 to 1998/99
- The Minor Counties Championship 1914

Committee Meeting Reports

The sixth to tenth General Committee meetings of 2020/21 took place on a ‘virtual’ basis on 16 November, 12 December, 9 January, 6 February and 6 March. In view of the lapse of time since the last report, covering the meeting on 10 October 2020, the meetings are grouped here for convenience and to save space.

The Committee sought ways of engaging with members despite the impossibility, in current circumstances, of conventional meetings; and two ‘virtual’ members’ meetings were successfully organized, on 21 November and 27 February, which demonstrated that this approach was viable. The 2021 AGM was arranged on 20 March on the same basis. Additional ‘virtual’ events were arranged to launch ACS biographies of Nigel Plews and Johnny Lawrence, the latter with a very special guest in the form of Sir Geoffrey Boycott. Both events were well supported by ACS members and also attracted many non-members, and the resulting book sales were impressive.

The cost of postage, especially overseas but to an extent also in the UK, was frequently discussed by the Committee and in respect of European countries the overseas uplift was cut to 20% after an analysis of costs showed that in respect of these countries the usual 30% overseas uplift was excessive. Also to save postage and production costs, it was agreed to allow the option of ‘digital’ membership, meaning that the Journal and other regular mailings would be sent electronically rather than in hard copy; although it was recognized that most members prefer paper copies and agreed that they will continue. In view of the new ‘digital’ option, it was agreed (settling a long-running controversy) that the Journal should continue at four copies a year (and not be cut to three) since the extra postage and printing costs could be reflected in the ‘paper’ (as opposed to ‘digital’) subscription rate. Following the Committee elections in November, there were two vacancies on the Committee; but one of these was filled on 12 December by the co-option of Peter Griffiths. The Committee undertook a thorough review of the Association’s rules during this period, the results to be put to a special general meeting later in 2021.

The first General Committee meeting of 2021/22 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 27 March. The meeting started by electing John Bryant as Chair for the forthcoming year, replacing Keith Walmsley who stood down after three years in the role, and allocated other roles and responsibilities. There were no other significant changes in personnel or responsibilities, other than Peter Griffiths replacing Mr Walmsley on the Executive Committee.

The Committee considered plans for the 250th anniversary of men’s first-class cricket, and decided to mark the occasion with a special edition of the Journal, and potentially opportunities to collaborate on other planned festivities. The format of the AGM was discussed, specifically regarding voting procedures, and the committee agreed to trial ‘live’ voting on Zoom in response to feedback from members. An appeal for additional help resulted in 20 members volunteering their services, and the committee agreed to contact these individuals regarding roles suiting their expertise. Two potential co-optees onto the Committee were also discussed, and it was agreed to appoint one at a future meeting.

The statistical status of The Hundred was considered and it was agreed this matter would be given some urgency by the Statistics Logistics sub-group.

The Committee decided to nominate Jeremy Lonsdale’s *A Game Divided* for the British Society of Sports History’s Lord Aberdare Sports History Prize 2020. It also noted that the 50th anniversary of the Association will take place in 2023.

The next meetings will be on 5 May, 12 June and 10 July.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

David Barbone, David Bates, Roy Chatto, Michael Collins, Wez Donze, Philip Emery, Peter Fisher, Michael Hughson, Kalyan Kumar, Chris Marshall, Brian O’Sullivan, Alan Relph, Vic Rigby, Joydeep Roy, Vijitha Senaratne.

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

Rev Cliff Bergdahl, John Brugnola, Julian Clark, Steve Greig, Peter Hustwitt, Ernest Jackson, David Powell, Peter Rothwell, Fred Sky, Peter Thompson, Richard Yeoman.