

ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN NO 4 - SEPTEMBER 2009



Free Book

You should have received with the previous membership mailing a copy of the Free Book for this year, on Minor County List A cricketers. This book valuably captured the identity and records of many players who didn't quite reach first-class level but did play a competitive List A match against a first-class county.

From feedback received, it is clear that this book fell short of the high standards the Association and its members rightly expect of all our publications. Two distinct issues were identified that the Committee has taken steps to address.

The first was the result of an error in the computer program that transferred player records from the impeccable CricketArchive electronic database into text for the publication. For each player who had also played first-class cricket, the dates and teams represented at first-class level were duplicated when showing the player's List A dates and teams. Reprinting the entire publication was felt to be an excessive use of members' funds, but it was also felt important that those members who wish to have a corrected set of biographical details should be accommodated. Accordingly, we will in the coming months produce a suitable supplement that will be freely available on request. More details will follow in the December mailing.

The other issue related to the book's introduction. With hindsight, it is clear that there should have been some suitable scene-setting, identifying how and when the various non first-class teams came to play List A matches. Peter Wynne-Thomas was not only one of those members who noted this omission, but in a splendid example of constructive criticism offered to write it. It is enclosed with this mailing and you may wish to keep it with your copy of the List A book.

It is important that we learn lessons from this experience and your Committee will indeed look for improved processes for reviewing, editing and checking. Suggestions from members in this regard, including offers to be part of the solution, will of course be gratefully received.

David Kendix

Committee Meeting

The second meeting of 2009/10 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday, 20 June. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay and Simon Sweetman.

Chairman David Kendix welcomed Roger Moulton to the first meeting since his co-option.

It had been noticed that the recent John Shepherd book had been listed at £10 instead of £12 on the order form; the committee agreed that members remitting £10 should have the option of paying the balance or cancelling their order.

A number of places had been reserved for ACS members at the ICC's History Conference at Oxford in July, with others on a waiting list. The ACS would be allowed to include flyers in the attendees' packs, and expected to run a stall selling publications.

John Bryant circulated extracts from the new Overseas First-Class Annual, providing full scorecards from 2008/09 and 2009 including balls, minutes and boundaries. This was on schedule to be published in September.

Tony Barker had sent a report on the highly successful launch of 'Cricket's Wartime Sanctuary: The First-Class Flight to Bradford'.

John Ward had agreed to act as editor of the County A-Z series.

There had been some response to the appeal for paid help with the website, but more feedback would be welcome.

The dates for the next committee meetings are 22 September and 28 November. Any member wishing to raise any matter should contact the Secretary.

Harriet Monkhouse

ICC Centenary Conference – St. John's College, Oxford July 22nd-24th

2009 was the centenary of the ICC, and in mid-July several members and officers of the ACS attended, and participated in, their Centenary Conference at Oxford University, alongside the leading officials of the ICC plus cricket administrators from all over the world, including the ECB's David Collier and Giles Clarke.

The conference explored a number of themes – in particular looking at how the game of cricket has evolved at the global scale since the creation of the ICC in 1909. There were a number of panels which debated in stimulating fashion the challenges and issues facing the ICC in the 21st century, with the discussions being enriched by the contributions of a number of former Test stars including Bob Willis, Angus Fraser, Clive Lloyd, Bishan Bedi and Sourav Ganguly.

Several papers were given by cricket writers, sporting historians and academics from universities in the UK, India, Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies. Presentations were also made by David Kendix, the ACS Chairman and ICC Cricket Committee member, as well as Andrew Hignell, the ACS Secretary. A full synopsis of the three-day event will appear shortly in the Association's Journal.

It is hoped that the ICC will organise further Conferences in the course of the coming years which members of the Association will be able to attend.

ACS Research Grants

The Secretary has been delighted to recently receive enquiries about, and applications from members for, the Research Grants which are available from the ACS. Full details are available on the Association's website and the Secretary looks forward to receiving further applications.

Andrew Hignell

Committee Nominations

Elections for three committee places, plus the post of Treasurer, will take place at the 2010 AGM. Any member wishing to stand for election to the committee or this post should contact the Secretary in writing, together with nominations and names of a proposer and a seconder, by November 30th. Both the proposer and seconder must be current members of the Association.

Binders

We have in stock a number of binders which we need to clear to make space for new books. They are blue with gold lettering on the spine and each holds 12 issues of The Cricket Statistician. They are available at £2 each or six for £10 until the end of 2009, at which point they will be destroyed. So if you want to smarten up your collection of journals, please send a cheque to ACS Sales at the usual address.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members

Mr H.W.Allen of Pitchcombe, Gloucestershire
Mr A.A.Chalk of Lambourn, Berkshire
Mr J.I.Clark of Swindon, Wiltshire
Mr R.Eastaway of London SE22
Mr G.Edlington of Newark, Nottinghamshire
Mr D.A.Gaunt of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire
Mr C.Hirst of Sedbergh, Cumbria
Dr M.A.Jones of Haywards Heath, West Sussex
Mr D.Kaye of Blackrod, Lancashire

Mr K.H.Makin of Chipstead, Kent
Mr C.J.W.Owen of Appleford, Oxfordshire
Mr M.A.Pepper of Newmarket, Suffolk
Mr A.Savjani of Northwood, Middlesex
Mr A.J.P.Strand of Wokingham, Berkshire
Mr K.W.Tomlinson of Felixstowe, Suffolk
Mr B.Valentine of Holywood, Co. Down,
Northern Ireland
Mr T.A.White of Alveley, Shropshire

We extend a warm welcome to the following returning members:

Mr M.J.Cobb of Midsomer Norton, Somerset
Mr D.J.Noble of Bath, Somerset

Mr S.R.Rickett of Chelmsford, Essex

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members:

Mr D.L.Firmin formerly of
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey

Mr R.H.Holland formerly of
Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake, Leicestershire

A current address is required for the following members:

Mr D.Crane formerly of Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire

Mr J.R.Lodge formerly of Morcombelake, Dorset