



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 42 – May 2022

Annual General Meeting – 19 March 2022

The 49th AGM of the Association took place virtually on Saturday 19 March, with 44 members in attendance. Approval of the annual report of the committee, of the annual accounts, and of the reappointment of Judy Leng as the Association's independent accountant were all the subject of separate votes, each of which was carried without any votes against. Similarly, the minor proposed changes to Rules 16.2 and 16.3 of the Association were also agreed without objection.

The Brooke-Lambert Trophy was awarded to Julian Lawton Smith, to mark his role in overseeing the Minor Counties project through to its initial end-date of 1914, in succession to Tony Webb who won the same award for inaugurating and leading the project in its first 13 years until 2012. A citation, prepared by Stephen Musk (a stalwart of the project), was read out, and Julian responded appropriately.

Two winners were announced of the new Peter Wynne-Thomas Award, which has been inaugurated in tribute to Peter's willingness to help others to learn more about cricket, and to help those who raised cricket-related queries with him. The winners were John Ward, for his contributions to many areas of the Association's work over many years, and most recently in researching and writing up the very popular '100 Years Ago' feature on our online forum; and Harry Watton, for his prolific role in researching and answering questions raised by members through the forum and by other means, and most notably for his continuing stupendous contribution to our project that looks into 'Major Feats in Minor Cricket'. In recognition of their awards, John and Harry will receive a modest entitlement to complimentary books from ACS Sales.

In answer to a question from the floor, it was explained that recent declining sales of, in particular, some of our hard copy statistical books was a reflection of the increasing amount of statistical material that is now available online, as well as reflecting the purchasing preferences of our newer members. Achieving the right balance between hard copy and online publishing is a matter that the committee will be addressing carefully in the coming months.

Hopes were expressed that the Association's 50th AGM, in 2023, would be able to be held as a 'hybrid' meeting, which members could attend and participate either in person or virtually. This too – and the way in which our 50th anniversary might be marked – will be considered in more detail by the committee in the months ahead.

Membership Subscriptions 2022/23

In the ACS booklet for the 2022 AGM, the following statement was included in the Treasurer's Report:

Based on the current positive cash position and the anticipated continued stability of cash flow in the immediate future, the Committee considers that there is no need to raise membership subscriptions for the 2022/23 membership year commencing 1 December 2022. This means that membership subscriptions will have been maintained at their current level for five years, having last been increased in 2018.

This significant statement was not specifically mentioned during the meeting but the Committee considers that it is worth repeating for the benefit of all members, since it indicates the real value of ACS membership, especially in these increasingly inflationary times.

In addition, members may be able to gain additional value from their subscriptions by taking advantage of one or more of the following:

- Changing to a **digital subscription** of £25 per annum, which will save £4 for UK and European members and £9 for other overseas members. Around 9% of ACS members have already availed themselves of this opportunity.
- Signing a **direct debit mandate** allowing the ACS to collect the annual subscription by direct debit on 1 December each year, which is convenient for both the ACS and the members, and for which members are granted a £2 reduction in the subscription rate. Around 65% of ACS members are already signed up to pay by direct debit and the remaining members are encouraged to do so.
- Exercising the **£8 discount voucher** on the purchase of an ACS publication. Around 25% of the membership typically take advantage of this opportunity and other members are strongly encouraged to do so.

New book series – Cricket Tours

The Committee is pleased to announce its intention to launch a new book series later in the year. The aim is to publish books about cricket tours – defined simply as teams playing away from their home country/region. The series is expected to encompass different types of tours. They could be men's or women's international tours (with or without Test matches) or those made by county/state sides abroad. They could be official or private tours. While the assumption is that the tours would be elite-level, less significant tours could also fall within the remit of the series where they help to illuminate interesting aspects of cricket history. Ideally, the series would feature tours which have not been covered before, but there may be good reasons for revisiting a tour if new material has become available or for taking a fresh look at a previously researched tour. The Committee is keen not to discourage authors from taking whatever perspective they think fits best. It is anticipated that two tours that will be covered early on in the series are the 1932 South American tour of England and the first MCC tour of India in 1926/27. Anyone wishing to propose a book in this series should contact Jeremy Lonsdale via jsjlonsdale@gmail.com

Committee Meeting Reports

The seventh General Committee meeting of 2021/22 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 16 October 2021. There was a discussion about how the vacancy left by Mr McKie's resignation from the committee might be filled. It was noted that we might need to seek members with particular skills. The position would be reviewed at future meetings. Mr Sweetman, the current Editor, said that he would be retiring from the Committee in 2022, although he subsequently indicated that he would like to continue editing the Journal until the end of that year in order to facilitate a handover.

The Secretary reported that feedback regarding the Peter Wynne-Thomas tribute meeting had been very positive. He reported on discussions with Nottinghamshire CCC about plans for the Wynne-Thomas Library at Trent Bridge. Options included making it an archive and research centre. Planning had started for the AGM. Derbyshire CCC had confirmed that they could host a hybrid meeting if necessary. The Zoom polling procedure trialled at the recent EGM had worked well and it was suggested that it might be trialled again at the next meeting of members.

There were further discussions about the Chairman's letter to members about electronic membership, about proposals for an online Exchange and Mart for members, and on the new ad hoc award, which would be made, at the committee's discretion, in recognition of services to the ACS.

The Treasurer circulated a Performance Scorecard for the ten months to end September 2021. Sales and profitability continued to show a positive trend. Three discount packages bundling together related publications were agreed.

It was agreed that, as the ACS and Professor Odendaal in South Africa were both intending to publish books of scores of non-racial first-class matches in South Africa 1971/72 to 1990/91, discussions should be held, with no commitment at this stage, about possible collaboration.

The eighth General Committee meeting of 2021/22 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 20 November 2021. The committee discussed several matters relating to the service for members. The idea of a 'members' marketplace' was considered through which members would be able to advertise and sell unwanted cricket-related

printed material. A simple database would be developed, and an announcement made in the New Year. Mr Hardy also reported that the committee's Social Media sub-group had discussed putting the ACS on Facebook and Instagram to help build up the ACS's digital membership. The former would allow longer postings than Twitter and the latter would enable greater use of photographs. An announcement would be made to members and a request put out for assistance in making regular postings.

There was a discussion about the format of the 2022 AGM in the light of the ongoing pandemic, which again made it uncertain whether an in-person meeting was feasible. The Secretary had had discussions with Derbyshire CCC about their ability to support hybrid meetings where some would be present in the room and others participated online. He agreed to report back once he had seen the county club's explanatory video on running such meetings.

The Secretary reported that David Kendix had agreed to stand as President for a further five years. He also had proposers and seconders for Mr Bryant, Mr Lonsdale and Mr Wallace, who were standing for the committee again. Due to the delay with the issue of the members' bulletin, which contained a reminder of the election deadline, it had been extended to 30 November 2021. The Treasurer noted that the membership of the ACS Investment sub-committee had been reduced to three following the death of Peter Wynne-Thomas. Mr Hardy agreed to join the sub-committee, which oversees the ACS's investment portfolio. A vacancy on the ACS grants sub-committee, which awards small grants to researchers, would also be filled as soon as possible.

The committee discussed the timing of several publications. Work on a book on Northamptonshire grounds by Andrew Radd was under way, with November 2022 as a provisional publication date. A proposal for a book on the 1926/27 MCC tour of India by Jeremy Lonsdale was approved, with publication expected in 2023. Mr Walmsley asked whether it would be appropriate to establish a new book series on tours given the India book and other work under way including his planned book on the 1932 South American tour of the UK. The committee agreed, with further details to be announced in the New Year.

The ninth General Committee meeting of 2021/22 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 18 December 2021. It was reported that Julian Lawton Smith and Jenny Heald had agreed to join the Grants sub-committee. The Secretary reported that in view of recent developments regarding Covid he was working on the basis that the March 2022 AGM would be held virtually. A final decision on the format of the AGM would be made by Genco on 15 January.

The Treasurer reported on proposals for a revised quarterly mailing timetable, which should ensure that members receiving their mailing in either digital or hard copy format receive them both more or less at the same time. The delay for hard copy overseas members should be reduced by two or three days. The next stage in the process would be to develop a timetable that includes a realistic target number of working days for each step of the mailing process.

It was suggested that, in line with the practice now adopted by some first-class counties, the accounts distributed for the AGM could be sent out online (or made available on the website), with hard copy for those not online. Online members could still request a hard copy. It was agreed that, subject to checking compliance with the Rules, this practice would be adopted.

The Treasurer reported that, overall, 2020/21 had been a successful year financially and that cash flow had continued to increase in line with the previous year.

Suggested topics had been sought for the next online virtual forum for members. A number had been proposed. As it was agreed that the members forum would not be held until after the AGM, decisions on the inclusion of these topics were deferred.

Despite Mr Bryant's indisposition, *OFCA 2021* had been published in December. Mr Bryant wished to place on record his thanks to Mr Walmsley for taking over his role at very short notice and ensuring that publication was not delayed.

For the Social Media sub-group, Mr Hardy reported that there were now 4,511 followers of the ACS Twitter Account. Instagram and Facebook pages have been set up and postings will start in the next few days. Mr Nathan had provided a detailed membership report. At 18 December, membership stood at 843, of whom 729 were contactable by email.

The tenth General Committee meeting of 2021/22 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 15 January 2022. The committee agreed the details of the agenda of the March AGM, which will again be held on a virtual basis, and finalised the printed material for circulation in advance of the meeting.

The committee gave the go-ahead on a pilot basis for an 'ACS Marketplace', which would allow members to advertise and sell cricket-related printed matter. The success of the pilot would be assessed after four months. The committee also agreed that all non-digital members who had provided email addresses would in future receive all routine communications other than the hard copy Journal in electronic format. This would provide them with a faster service and help to reduce postal and printing costs.

The committee discussed the progress with a number of publications and gave approval to print runs for a number of forthcoming books. The committee also discussed the recent increase in approaches to the ACS from cricket clubs and other organisations, asking for help publishing their histories. The committee agreed that this was an attractive development, consistent with the purpose of the ACS, but needed to be managed effectively given the potential scale of this type of work. It was agreed that some simple guidance would be made available via the ACS website to help those thinking of writing their club history. There was also a discussion about arrangements for printing ACS books and the need to balance quality and cost at a time of rising paper costs.

The eleventh General Committee meeting of 2021/22 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 12 February. The Committee was reminded that it still had one vacancy and also that Mr Sweetman would be standing down at the AGM. He would however still be going to continue as Editor of the Journal until the end of the year in order to take it up to its 200th edition and to help his replacement, for which a volunteer is still urgently required, take over.

Arrangements for the AGM were finalised. It will be held virtually with voting by a show of hands.

The quarterly mailing timetable produced by the Treasurer was agreed. This has been developed in order to ensure the timely and efficient distribution of quarterly documents to all members, including those receiving them digitally. A similar procedure would now be developed for publications.

The Secretary reported that there would be a delay in the availability of the 2022 *Second Eleven Annual* because next season's fixtures were still being finalised. He also said that ECB was beginning to develop a policy on the environment and sustainability and he would consider how the ACS's work in this area could be synchronised with it.

The new ACS Marketplace, set up to enable members to advertise books for sale, was now live. Take-up so far was very slow, but it was hoped that in time and with further publicity it would become a valuable resource for members.

The Treasurer said that the healthy financial position reported at previous meetings was being maintained. It was agreed that, as soon as the availability and cover price of the 2022 *ACS Year Book* was determined, email contactable members should be sent a communication advising them of the requisite details, together with a list of titles close to running out of stock and reminding them about the discount voucher.

The Secretary was involved in discussions with Nottinghamshire CCC about the future of the Peter Wynne-Thomas Library. A number of possible areas for development were being considered.

Mr Hardy reported on further social media developments. The ACS now had 4,659 Twitter followers. Recent posts had concentrated particularly on recent significant matches such as the women's and men's Ashes and this resulted in a good level of interaction. Instagram and Facebook pages have been set up and postings have started.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

David Anderson, Randolph Baller, Christine Bartram, Kieran Birkner, Steve Ferrier, Glenn Finkelde, Chris Griffin, Michael Holden, Lawrence Hourahane, Michael Kearney, Jay Kennedy, Vikas Luthra, Jonathan Mitchell, Ollie Park, Kalarab Ray, Ali Saad, Suraj Singh, Blake Stove, Mike Turner, Paul M Williams.

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

David Andrews, Ian Croxall, David Edney, Peter Jackson, John Lee, Michael Pearce, Bill Rutter and Gordon Wishart.