



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 43 – August 2022

Get involved with the ACS

As a voluntary organization, the ACS relies on its members to help develop our activities. And, as Chair, I would like to express my appreciation of the sterling work done by so many of our members – not just those who serve as officers or on the Committee but those who contribute in other, sometimes less obvious, ways, for instance by editing or proofreading publications or by helping to maintain and extend our presence on social media.

So if you were thinking of increasing your role in the Association, there is an opportunity for you now, and I would warmly encourage you to take the plunge. But I would like to draw members' particular attention to a role where volunteers would be especially welcome.

This opportunity concerns the editorship of our quarterly journal, *The Cricket Statistician*. This is one of our most important and longest-running publications, now approaching its 200th edition. It includes articles submitted by members covering a fascinating range of topics. It is currently in the very capable hands of Simon Sweetman but after a most distinguished tenure of some fifteen years Simon has decided the time has come to hand over the reins. Please get in touch with our Secretary Andrew Hignell (secretary@acscricket.com) or me if you are interested in taking on the editor's role, and we would be happy to set up a conversation with Simon so that he can outline in more detail what the role involves.

John Bryant, Chair

Quarterly Communications with ACS members

Over the past nine months, the Committee has taken various initiatives to improve the timeliness of communications with members. Introduction of stricter timetables has aimed to get the quarterly mailing to non-digital UK members by the first working day of each sales quarter. Emailing of the Membership Bulletin, sales flyer and AGM booklet to the vast majority of ACS members who are contactable by email has advanced communication, especially for overseas members, who now receive this important material around four weeks earlier than hitherto. In addition, the reduction in printed material is consistent with the ACS's environmental policy as well as contributing a modest reduction in cost.

Our efforts at improving efficiency in this area were challenged when our long-term mailing distributor went out of business just weeks before the Summer 2022 mailing. Fortunately, our partners at City Press Leeds came to the rescue at very short notice and managed to send out the mailing on time. We would like to place on record our appreciation of the supportive efforts of the management at City Press Leeds over this period.

We are pleased to advise that we have completed our supplier selection process for a new mailing distributor, who will be on board to handle the Autumn mailing for the ACS.

Members may wish to provide the committee with feedback on our efforts in this area.

Discount Voucher Scheme for ACS Members

The discount voucher scheme was introduced in 2019 to provide members who purchase ACS publications with a better-focussed benefit than the annual free book (selected by the committee) which was considered by many to be cost-ineffective and offer little value to members. In the first three years of operation, the voucher scheme attracted around 25% of members, leaving over 600 members who did not avail themselves of a scheme now worth £8 or around a quarter of their annual subscription. In the first six months of the current year, the voucher scheme attracted 137 members and we would urge all members to take advantage of this scheme both to obtain good value for themselves and to support ACS publications.

ACS Membership Renewal 2022/23

Members are reminded that the ACS offers digital membership at a reduced global rate of £25 per annum, compared to the regular rate of £29 (UK and Europe) and £34 (Rest of the World) to those who are willing to receive all our regular quarterly papers, including the Journal, in digital format only. A further £2 can be saved if the subscription is paid by direct debit, reducing the effective cost of membership to £23. So far, 76 members representing 9% of the total ACS membership have taken up the option of digital membership. Anyone interested in making the change to digital membership for the forthcoming membership year should contact the Membership Secretary (membership@acscricket.com) before 30 September 2022, so that arrangements can be put in place in a timely manner.

Committee Meeting Reports

The first General Committee meeting of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 19 March 2022, following the Annual General Meeting. The Committee spent most of the meeting confirming the assignment of duties and responsibilities for 2022/23. These included that John Bryant would continue as Chair, and that the current membership of the Executive Committee (Mr Bryant, Mr Hignell, Mr Wallace, Mr Griffiths and Mr Nathan)

would remain the same. Also confirmed were the editors of the various book series, the members of a number of committee sub-groups and sub-committees, and the names of those responsible for liaison with external contractors and other organisations.

The second General Committee meeting of 2022/23 took place on Sunday 27 March. It was agreed that the AGM held the previous week had been a success despite the challenges presented by it being held on a virtual basis. The possibility of holding next year's AGM at Derby on a hybrid basis was being investigated. The Association had been well represented at the Women's Cricket Symposium held earlier in the month at Lord's and a number of copies of ACS publications *Enid Bakewell* and *Women at the Wicket* were sold.

There was a discussion about how the two existing committee vacancies might be filled, and in particular, what skills the Committee needs. The Committee received reports from its various subgroups. Mr Lonsdale reported on forthcoming publications and noted that more volunteers were needed to act as editors and as proofreaders. For the Statistics Logistics subgroup Mr Hignell reported on proposals about how multiple players involved in run outs, and designated wicket keepers, should be identified in scorebooks. For the Social Media subgroup, Mr Hardy reported that the number of ACS Twitter followers (now 4,699) continued to increase and that postings have started to the Facebook and Instagram pages.

The third General Committee meeting of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 23 April. The Committee discussed ideas for developing the Association's statistical offer, which will be considered further in the coming months. It also approved changes to a number of procedural documents and agreed on the need for a wider range of policy documents to be included on the ACS website. The Chair reported on the recent very satisfactory announcement that the 2022 *Wisden* had aligned its records with those of the ACS. The Treasurer gave an update on the financial position and highlighted the importance of addressing the declining sales of historical and biographical titles, including through use of better value printing firms. There was also a discussion about how to respond to the closure of the company which has distributed the Association's regular mailings. The Committee considered the future publications schedule, and heard positive news about increased ACS social media activity.

The fourth General Committee meeting of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 21 May. The Committee was reminded that it had two vacancies, and that a new Editor will be required after Mr Sweetman stands down at the end of the year following publication of the 200th edition of the Journal.

The Chair thanked Mr Wallace and Mr Nathan for the work they had carried out urgently following the sudden closure of PS Mailing, our regular quarterly mailing distributors.

The diversity and inclusion statement produced by Mr Lonsdale was approved for publication on the website.

The Treasurer reported that the Association's financial position continued to be healthy, although recent sales had been disappointing with a number of publications not yet meeting anticipated demand.

The Secretary reported on his continuing investigations into the logistics of a possible hybrid AGM at Derby next year.

There were encouraging early indications that the fall in membership numbers may be levelling off.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Ian Atkin, of Macclesfield, Cheshire
Rowland Cotterill, of Moseley, Birmingham
Richard Curtis, of Clayton-le-Dale, Lancashire
Colin Evans, of Worcester
Matt Harris, of Hertford
Richard Knott, of Clevedon, Somerset
Mark Merchant, of London N19
Nick Moschetta, of Marryatville, South Australia
Charles Smith, of Bromley, Kent
Gordon Todd, of Woodthorpe, Nottinghamshire

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

Michael Morton, lately of Surbiton, Surrey
David Sherwood, lately of Hove, East Sussex

