



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN No. 44 – November 2022

Committee Elections

Nominations from members who wish to stand for election to the ACS General Committee must be received no later than 15 November 2022. Four committee places will be up for election at the 2023 AGM, and a ballot will be held if more than four people put themselves forward.

The committee now meets regularly via Zoom, enabling those from outside the UK to participate fully in its meetings. So please do not let distance discourage you from putting yourself forward.

Nominations should be sent, either in writing or in a signed scanned letter, to the Secretary, Andrew Hignell, at 41 Ramsons Way, St Fagans, Cardiff CF5 4QY, UK, or by email to secretary@acscricket.com. They must include the names and signatures of a proposer and seconder, who must also be current members of the ACS. To ensure that the Committee, as a body, is seen to be strictly neutral in the matter of elections, the Committee has a longstanding policy of requesting serving Committee members to refrain from nominating or seconding candidates for election.

Discount Voucher Scheme for ACS Members

As the 2021/22 membership year draws to a close, the committee would like to remind members that the £8 discount voucher for 2022, which can be used for the purchase of any ACS publication, **will expire on 30 November 2022**. Many members have already utilised their voucher entitlement, but a significant majority have not. We currently have over 50 titles in stock and nine of these are offered at discounted prices of £8 or less. So you have the chance to acquire an ACS publication at little or no net cost to you. Members who order by post are requested to submit their orders to arrive at ACS Sales at least one week before the 30 November deadline to ensure that they still qualify for the discount.

We also wish to draw the attention of members to the fact that we have very low stocks remaining of the following ACS publications:

- ACS International Yearbooks for 2016, 2019 and 2020
- Cricket Witness: The Daffodil Blooms
- Cricket Witness: A Tale of Three Managers

- Cricket Witness: Fly at a Higher Game
- First-Class Cricket Matches 1951
- Hard To Get Scores volumes 4, 6 and 8 (Pakistan); and volume 9 (West Indies)
- Lives in Cricket: Lionel Palairet
- Overseas First-Class Annual 2018

All the above books would be eligible for the £8 voucher discount. Members who are interested in purchasing any of these books are urged to do so quickly to avoid disappointment.

ACS Membership Renewal 2022/23

Annual subscriptions for the year 2022/23 become due on 1 December. Members are reminded that, as an alternative to postal membership, 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 80 members, representing 9.4% 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) as soon as possible, so that arrangements can be put in place in a timely manner.

Oxford University Cricketers

In July, one of the ACS's long-running projects came to fruition when we published on our website brief biographies and statistics of all male cricketers who played in a first-class match for Oxford University between that side's first such match in 1827 and its last in 2020. The project also covers cricketers – both from the University of Oxford and from Oxford Brookes University – who in more recent years have played first-class matches for sides named Oxford Universities, Oxford UCCE or Oxford MCCU.

The research for this project has been carried out by a team co-ordinated by Graham Bullock, with major inputs from Graham Searle, Roy Telfer and Philip Defriez, with contributions from others. We are indebted to them for their efforts over a long period.

The output of the project has been posted at https://acscricket.com/?page_id=7002. As well as the player biographies, it also includes a specially-compiled list of the first-class cricketers who studied at Oxford but who never appeared in a first-class match for the University XI, and some brief statistical facts and figures relating to Oxford University cricket and cricketers.

The documents published so far are referred to as an 'initial draft'. ACS members are invited to submit additions, corrections and updates to any of the material for this project that is currently on the website. Any such information received will be incorporated in future revisions to the current project files. New or corrected details can be sent to contact@acscricket.com at any time.

Committee Meeting Reports

The **fifth General Committee meeting** of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 25 June 2022, commencing at 9 am. The Committee heard about the successful transfer of ACS business to a new mailing distributor following the demise of its previous contractor. It was agreed to publicise again the need for a new Journal editor, and to approach potential candidates for co-option to the two on-going vacancies on the committee. The Treasurer gave an update on the financial position, noting the low book stock and increased voucher usage. Options for the 2023 AGM were discussed, including the possibility of a hybrid meeting. The Committee discussed the future of the OFCA and Hard to Get series in view of the low sales. It was also advised of increasing social media interest, with the number of ACS Twitter followers up by 200 since the last report.

The **sixth General Committee meeting** of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Tuesday 5 July. The Committee discussed matters relating to the website.

The **seventh General Committee meeting** of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 30 July. Rodney Ulyate, who had agreed to be co-opted, was welcomed to the Committee. This still leaves one vacancy on the Committee. The Committee was reminded 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. This is a matter of some urgency. Mr Griffiths provided an update on his work to produce a list of women's matches to provide comparability with the classification of men's matches. Mr Hardy reported that the number of ACS Twitter followers had recently briefly exceeded 5,000. The Association's finances were largely in a satisfactory state (although the current economic position might have adverse future effects). The Treasurer was pleased to note that the proportion of book sales paid by cheque was now only 13%. This helps contain the workload for ACS Sales. The Membership Secretary reported that the Autumn mailing had been concluded successfully by our new distributors Mail Options. At the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of Vic Isaacs, recalling in particular his service for the Association.

The **eighth General Committee meeting** of 2022/23 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 27 August. It discussed the present position with regard to recruiting a new editor for The Journal. It received a report from the Publications Sub-group about forthcoming publications and about proposals that had been received for possible future topics. The number of followers of the ACS Twitter site continues to increase and now exceeds 5,000. The Social Media Sub-group is considering making use of YouTube to publicise its activities and give authors the chance to discuss their publications. The Treasurer reported that the Association's financial position remains largely favourable, although sales are down so far this year compared with last. Initial consideration was given as to how the Association's Golden Jubilee next year might be marked.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Andrew Cole, of Shepherdswell, Kent
Peter Lamb, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Sean McGivern, of Edinburgh
Mark Sands, of Grappenhall, Lancashire
Khalid Siddiqui, of Huron, Ohio, U.S.A.
Tony Watts, of Cambridge

We require new postal addresses for the members

Shivam Chawla and Jim Fort.

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

Stan Dawson, lately of Alwoodley, West Yorkshire
Tim McCann, lately of Havant, Hampshire

