



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No. 47 – November 2023

Committee elections

Nominations from members who wish to stand for election to the ACS General Committee must be received no later than 15 November 2023. Four committee places will be up for election at the 2024 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 elections@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 long standing policy of requesting serving Committee members to refrain from nominating or seconding candidates for election.

ACS Membership Renewal 2023/24

Annual subscriptions for the year 2023/24 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, 97 members, representing over 12% of the total ACS membership, have taken up the option of digital membership.

The £2 discount for subscriptions by direct debit is also available to adult members who prefer to receive their quarterly papers by post. 518 members, or almost 65% of the total ACS membership, have taken advantage of this discount. Members who subscribe by other methods are urged to consider switching to direct debit to obtain the saving and to contribute to reducing the administrative workload for the committee.

Anyone interested in making the change to digital membership and/or to direct debit 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.

Whilst the overwhelming majority of members settle their annual subscriptions promptly, either by direct debit or by other means, a significant minority fail to do so and cause additional work and cost to the ACS. The committee has decided to reduce the grace period for payment of subscriptions from two months (31 January) to seven weeks (18 January). If members pay no later than 18 January, we can ensure that they are included in the 1 February quarterly mailout, which is handled as a bulk assignment by our very efficient mailing contractor who passes on highly competitive mailing rates to the ACS. The mailing to those members who fail to meet the 18 January deadline will inevitably be delayed by having to be handled individually and manually by ACS Sales and this will also incur additional postage and packing costs for the ACS. Prompt settlement of subscriptions no later than 18 January will therefore be a win-win outcome for all concerned.

Discount Voucher Scheme for ACS Members

As the current membership year draws to a close, the committee would like to remind members that the £8 discount voucher for 2022-23, which can be used for the purchase of any ACS publications, will expire on 30 November 2023. Many members have already made use of their voucher entitlement, but a significant majority have not. We currently have over 50 titles in stock and several 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 2022
- Overseas First-Class Annuals (OFCA) for 2018, 2021 and 2022
- First-Class Counties Second Eleven Annuals for 2020 and 2022
- First-Class Cricket Matches for 1951 and 1952
- Hard To Get Scores volumes 2 and 3 (India) and volumes 4, 6, 8 and 10 (Pakistan)
- Minor Counties for 1910 and 1911
- Lives in Cricket: George Raikes
- Cricket Witness: The Daffodil Blooms
- Young Bradman

All the above books are 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.

Subscriptions to Cricket Archive by ACS Members

When ACS members make an annual subscription by direct debit to Cricket Archive, they will be charged the full rate of £49.99.

ACS members remain eligible to benefit from a one-third discount which has been offered for several years by Cricket Archive. However, the Cricket Archive system is unable to distinguish ACS members from other subscribers, so the discount is not applied automatically. ACS members are reminded that they have to claim the discount (amounting to £16.49 per annum) by sending an email (or letter) to Cricket Archive (email@cricketarchive.com), or by post to The Cricketer Publishing Ltd t/a Cricket Archive, Office Units 7 & 8, 35-37 High Street, Barrow-upon-Soar, Loughborough LE12 8PY.

Committee meeting reports

The first General Committee meeting of 2023/24 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 25 March 2023. The Committee had a detailed discussion about the handling of the match between Railways and Punjab in December 2022. The original match was abandoned on the second day due to a dangerous pitch and a second two-day match held. The BCCI decided that the abandoned match was not considered first-class, and would not count for the Ranji Trophy but the second one would. It also determined that the second match was to be considered to have been a four-day match during which there was no play on the first two days. The committee agreed to prepare a paper on the wider implications of this situation to submit to the ICC. As it was the first meeting since the AGM the committee approved the list of committee roles and responsibilities. It also conducted a 'readiness review' of all items to be circulated to members at the start of May, and discussed the development of enhanced arrangements for handling future bequests and donations.

The second General Committee meeting of 2023/24 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 15 April 2023. The Committee discussed the implications for the definition of a first-class match of the recent abandonment after two days, because of a poor pitch, of the Railways v Punjab Ranji Trophy match. It agreed a paper on the issues to be forwarded to the President for him to pass on to the appropriate authorities. It was agreed that, because the Association is a worldwide organisation, the Journal's title should revert to referring to the month of publication rather than the UK season. Although the immediate schedule is fairly full it was noted that more publications, especially in the Lives in Cricket series, will be needed in the longer term. The Committee agreed a new stock rationalisation plan, aimed to reduce administrative work and generate some income from older publications. There were further discussions about the Golden Jubilee event at Leicester in October.

The third General Committee meeting of 2023/24 took place on a virtual basis on Monday 29 May 2023. The Committee was informed by the Treasurer that sales of the five ACS books published in May had been very successful, and the monthly sales receipts at

around £9,000 were the highest in at least seven years. The Committee discussed the plans for the Golden Jubilee Lunch in October, which will be advertised later in the summer, and considered possible arrangements for the 2024 AGM. The Committee also heard feedback from a recent meeting with The Cricketer/Cricket Archive, and discussed improvements to book publication processes.

The fourth General Committee meeting of 2023/24 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 24 June 2023. The Committee heard that John Barclay would be the guest speaker at the October Golden Jubilee event. It was provisionally agreed that the 2024 AGM would be held on 16 March at Leicester. The Treasurer reported that sales of publications had been very strong in May. Arrangements were finalised for the sale of the book collection of the late Tony Webb. Two imminent additions to the website: a revised third edition of Major Feats in Minor Cricket, and a new series about performances between men's first-class teams in England and Wales, Australia, New Zealand and the West Indies.

The fifth General Committee meeting of 2023/24 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 29 July 2023. The Committee discussed the lessons from the recent Tony Webb book auction. More than 90 members had participated, and bids had been made for more than 75% of items offered. The Committee heard that although successful, the auction had been challenging to administer; for example, 75% of bids had made in the last three hours, which had put the online system under stress. The Committee also discussed whether there were implications for the ACS arising from the recent report by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, and received an update on arrangements for the Golden Jubilee event in October.

The sixth General Committee meeting of 2023/24 took place on a virtual basis on Saturday 26 August. The Committee received further updated reports on the success of the auction of the book collection of the late Tony Webb. It also considered plans for future auctions. The Committee discussed the Golden Jubilee event to be held at Leicester on 14 October. Members who have not yet indicated that they will be attending will be reminded to do so in good time.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Steve Blades, Alex Blithe, Noel Bullock, Sean Cardall, Scott Dinnes, Rob Durand, Richard Gasson, Kent Hannam, Russ Houldin, Pranav Kalidindi, Colm McElroy, Ray Phillips and Glenn Schache.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of the recently-deceased members Adrian Collier, Chris Larkin, Alan Moore, Kevin Motley and Ken Woolfe.