

ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN NO 6 - MARCH 2010



Committee Meeting November 2009

The fourth meeting of 2009/10 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday, 28 November. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay.

After the favourable response to the new Overseas First-Class Annual, the committee decided to publish overseas first-class scores for 2007/08, possibly followed by 2006/07, in a slightly less detailed format. Members' views would be sought on other score-based projects.

The eighteenth-century group had reached consensus on a list of 236 "great" matches from 1772 to 1800, to be discussed by members at the AGM.

The format of a supplement of corrections to the career statistics in the Minor County List A Book, to be issued to all members requesting it, was agreed.

Rules on awarding research grants were amended so that applicants could not be paid unless and until they had been members for three years continuously or their research was ready for publication.

Reasonable expenses could be paid for research on ACS books not incurring royalties, but they must be approved in advance.

The 2010 AGM had been booked for the Gateway Centre at the County Ground, Derby on 27 March. There would be a London meeting on 20 February, at the Yorkshire Grey on Grays Inn Road.

Committee Meeting January 2010

The fifth meeting of 2009/10 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday, 30 January. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay and Harriet Monkhouse.

The author of a book in the 'Lives in Cricket' series had raised serious concerns about a journal article concerning his book, and a notice had been agreed for inclusion in the March journal. The Committee reviewed the Association's procedures in the light of this incident.

The Committee finalised arrangements for the AGM at Derby on 27 March and agreed the

annual accounts, noting that these showed a small surplus rather than the small loss that had been budgeted for.

The Committee accepted with regret the decision of Keith Gerrish to relinquish his role as compiler of the First-Class Counties Second XI Annual after the 2010 edition.

Terms were agreed for the renewal of the Association's contract with Limlow Books for a further two years.

The wording was agreed for the consultation with members about score-card based publications, to be inserted in the March membership bulletin.

The Committee noted that Keith Bradshaw, Secretary of MCC, had agreed to speak at the London meeting in February and agreed in principle to hold a further such meeting in November.

The dates for the next committee meetings are 27 March (at the end of the AGM), 10 April and 10 July. Any member wishing to raise any matter should contact the Secretary.

ACS Tie

It has been suggested that the Association should produce a tie for members. The likely price might be £10-12. If you are interested contact the membership secretary, Huw Nathan (membership@acscricket.com).

Index to *The Cricket Statistician*

The summer edition of the journal will be the 150th, and we would like to prepare a full index to go on the Association's website (and then to be kept regularly updated). So we are looking for a volunteer – please contact the editor (editor@acscricket.com)

Editor, *First-Class Counties Second XI Annual*

Keith Gerrish wishes to relinquish the role of editor of the First-Class Counties Second XI Annual after the 2010 edition, so we are looking for a volunteer to continue his fine work. Please can anyone who may be interested contact the Secretary.

Correction to Charlesworth Book

Because of a technical problem at the printing stage, three lines of text were omitted from the top of page 17 of this book, published by the Association three months back.

The lines which were left out read: '... consciousness – was a second grade player. Allan Edwards recalled that McMullan's father, Jim, was a union official, a committed member of the Midland-Guildford club and the practice ...'

Our apologies have been sent to the author, Tony Barker; to Ric Charlesworth, the book's subject; and to the gentlemen referred to in these lines.

Score-card Based Publications

In recent months, the Committee has been reviewing the production of score-card based publications by the Association: that is, publications whose principal content consists of match score-cards (although they may also include an element of narrative, other statistical material, etc).

Two important developments have prompted this review:

- 1) The Ledbetter series, which has provided full scores of all first-class matches worldwide, working backwards from 1939, has concluded with the recent publication of the 1926 book. Meanwhile, the "Green" series of first-class scores has now reached 1921, meaning that, at the current rate of publication, it will close the gap with the Ledbetter series in December 2011.
- 2) The first edition of the ACS Overseas First-Class Annual, providing full coverage of the 2008/09 season, was published in September 2009 and was very well received by members. The second edition, covering 2009/10, will follow in September 2010.

The sales of the "Green" series, and the welcome accorded to the new Overseas Annual, indicate that there are many members to whom it remains important to have scores available in print. This is despite the fact that virtually all scores of importance are now available on line, particularly on CricketArchive.

A number of members have contacted the Association to welcome the launch of the Overseas Annual and to suggest other score-card based publications the Association might usefully produce. These suggestions tend to confirm the interest in publications of this kind; however, it will be necessary to decide between them since there are practical limits to the number of projects the Association can undertake.

At its meeting in November 2009 the Committee decided the following:

- 1) In view of the support shown for the Overseas Annual and the concerns expressed about the unavailability in print of many recent overseas scores, the Association will publish, in June 2010, a volume covering all first-class scores in the 2007/08 season. Since this will be a substantial book aimed at a relatively specialised market, it will not be of the same production standard as the Overseas Annual; the format will be more like the Sri Lanka/Zimbabwe/Bangladesh scores series, except that it will, of course, be much larger.
- 2) Subject to satisfactory sales, this will be followed by a similar publication covering 2006/07 which is pencilled in for March 2011.
- 3) Regarding other possible projects, a note will be placed in the March 2010 membership bulletin setting out the options that have been put forward and asking for members' views about which of them would be most useful. Members should, of course, feel free to suggest other options as well.

Among the score-related projects suggested by members are the following:

- ▶ Recent overseas first-class scores generally
- ▶ West Indies, India and Pakistan first-class matches covering seasons when the respective national annuals did not appear
- ▶ First-class scores during the Second World War and the early post-war period (i.e. in effect continuing from the “Green” and Ledbetter series which between them will soon cover everything up to 1939)
- ▶ As the preceding option, but covering overseas matches only (since all matches in England are published in *Wisden*)
- ▶ SACBOC/SACB matches from 1971/72 to 1990/91, retrospectively declared first-class a few years ago
- ▶ ICC Inter-Continental Cup and Shield matches
- ▶ Recent List A scores, including English ones from the time *Wisden* stopped publishing them in 2004
- ▶ Current and future List A scores (i.e. a List A equivalent of the Overseas Annual, but including England)
- ▶ Current and future Twenty20 scores

Members’ opinions are therefore sought on whether the publication of books of scores remains of value now that matches are available on the internet; and, if so, what the priorities are.

Members are asked to bear in mind that all publications should be financially viable; that there are practical limits to the number of books the Association can produce; and that any publication (like any other publication) depends on identifying someone with the capacity and interest to oversee it.

In addition to the note in the March membership bulletin, this subject will be raised on the ACS members’ on-line discussion group and at the 2010 AGM at Derby on 27 March. Members are invited to comment at either of these forums or by email or post to John Bryant at bryantjc@hotmail.com or to 20 Wilton Square, London N1 3DL.

The Committee will consider the outcome of this consultation in the second half of 2010, when it will also have available the initial sales figures for the 2007/08 volume of overseas scores.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following eight new members:

Mr K.G.Campbell-Woodford of Chafford
Hundred, Essex
Mr R.J.Cook of Chesham Bois, Bucks
Mr D.J.L.Frumkin of St John’s Wood, London
Master W.Gent of Rothley, Leicestershire

Mr L.E.Hurst of Maresfield, East Sussex
Mr B.D.Shearman of Virum, Denmark
Mr M.A.Taylerson of Hartlepool, Cleveland
Mr M.J.A.Todd of Oxford

We extend a warm welcome to the following returning member:

Mr D.C.Evans of Amblecote, West Midlands