

ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN NO 15 - DECEMBER 2012



London Meeting

Around 30 members gathered at the Yorkshire Grey pub in Holborn for the London Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 20 October. Following a buffet lunch, the guest speaker Lawrence Booth was introduced. It was noted that, not only did he become early in 2011 one of the youngest ever editors of *Wisden*, but that he had already achieved great success as a cricket writer for *The Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*. Indeed, it was explained that the London meeting had been brought forward from its traditional slot in November since Lawrence was about to head off to India to cover the England Test series for the *Daily Mail*.

Lawrence then gave an interesting and wide ranging talk in which he admitted to being something of a statistician in his younger days. As a devoted Northants follower, he would compile and fret over the career averages of his favourite players.

He explained that, although being *Wisden* editor was not a full-time role, he may be the first to combine it with such a heavy daily workload as a reporter. However, once the Almanack enters the final weeks of production at the start of each year, it certainly becomes an all-consuming activity.

He described the perennial challenge of *Wisden* editors to keep the total number of pages within manageable bounds. He recalled how a predecessor, Matthew Engel, compared it to a tropical garden, as without regular pruning it soon grows out of control. The records section was one such victim, with readers being referred to the *Wisden* website for more extensive listings. The Laws too could no longer merit reproduction; they change little from year to year and are freely accessible elsewhere.

Speaking more generally about press coverage of cricket, Lawrence noted the significant decline in national and local newspapers' coverage of county cricket. He spoke with some feeling about the way Test cricket reporting has shifted away from events on the field of play towards politics, speculation and character profiles.

He also revealed how, such is the reputation of *Wisden* as a journal of record, the editor sometimes comes under pressure from the authorities seeking to influence content.

After his warmly received talk, he took a number of questions from the audience, mainly about the role, reputation and future of *Wisden*, including being asked to speculate about what *Wisden* might look like in 20 years' time.

John Bryant, who had kindly organised the meeting, then thanked Lawrence on behalf of the ACS for a stimulating and enjoyable talk.

AGM Arrangements

The 40th Annual General Meeting of the ACS will be held at the County Ground, Derby on Saturday 23 March 2013. The agenda and full details will be circulated with the next mailing.

As in previous years, we have arranged preferential rates for those wishing to spend the Friday night in Derby. ACS members can stay at the Days Inn, adjacent to the County Ground, for just £49 room only or £52 B&B. To take advantage of this 'Early Bird' price, members should ring the hotel directly on 01332 363600 and quote "ACS" to obtain these preferential rates.

We also invite members, whether staying at the hotel or not, to meet for an informal three-course dinner at the hotel on Friday 22 March. Full details will accompany the AGM agenda.

We are delighted to announce that our guest speaker at the AGM will be David Frith, one of the world's most renowned cricket writers and historians as well as a long-standing ACS member.

Membership Forum

For several years the ACS has had an email forum, where members can discuss topics of interest, but earlier this year it was hit by high volumes of spam. This prompted the committee to seek a solution that filtered such messages. Since October, we have been trying a new forum on Yahoo. More than fifty members have joined from the old list, but we welcome members new to the forum too.

The Yahoo version has some features which may suit members not in the old forum. You can choose to receive messages individually, or in a daily digest. You can opt for no mail at all (if you're on holiday or prefer reading on the website). You can request only official ACS announcements without the day-to-day chat. Past messages are stored on the site (visible only to members).

You don't need a Yahoo ID – you can interact entirely by email – but if you have one you can interact via the webpage. Either way, you can switch between options for messages yourself.

How to subscribe:

If you have a Yahoo ID, go to <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/acscricket/> and click Join This Group. If you prefer to subscribe by email, send a blank message to acscricket-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Once your application is approved, you should receive an email explaining how to post messages, change your options, and unsubscribe.

Please do try it out and give us feedback. With the majority of ACS members now on email, this opens up a wide range of opportunities for us to pose questions and share ideas with other members, complementing our quarterly journal.

Lives in Cricket

One of the undoubted successes of the ACS in recent years has been the *Lives in Cricket* series. The person who must take the greatest credit for this success is the series editor, David Jeater.

However after delivering nearly 30 titles so far, David has decided to step down during 2013 and let someone else take on this important role.

The editor's main tasks are managing the publication programme in accordance with agreed timetables; encouraging authors to produce books meeting the established format; editing books so that they meet good standards of readability and accuracy; then liaising with typesetters, proofreaders and picture suppliers to deliver the final product.

If no one person wants to take on this job, it could well be split with two or more series editors sharing these duties. If you think you might be interested in continuing the *Lives in Cricket* success story, please contact David at davidjeater@yahoo.co.uk, who will explain more about the role.

Committee Meeting Report (excluding items covered elsewhere in this bulletin)

The fourth meeting of 2012/13 was held at the Space Centre, London, on Saturday 22 September. Apologies were received from Ric Finlay, Roger Gibbons, David Jeater and Martin Wilson.

David Jeater had announced that he would leave the committee at the 2013 AGM and give up editing the *Lives in Cricket* series. The committee thanked him for his tremendous efforts in developing the series; a successor was urgently required.

The afternoon was devoted to discussing long-term strategy, including the role of the Treasurer, what electronic records should provide, whether old ACS publications could be uploaded to the website, and the possibility of joint symposia with the Cricket Society.

The dates for the next committee meetings are 1 December, 26 January and 6 April. Any member wishing to raise any matter should contact the Secretary.

Committee Membership

With two existing committee members standing down at the next AGM, it was hoped that other members would be willing to take their places. Sadly, no new nominations have been received. Therefore not only will there be no election in 2013 but the committee will soon be two below full strength. It goes without saying that the future health of the Association depends on being able to find members who are prepared to help run it, not just attending meetings but carrying out the wide range of other administrative duties that often go unnoticed. Although it is now too late to be nominated formally at the next AGM, the

Chairman or Secretary would still like to hear from any members who may wish to join the committee at some later date.

Subscription Reminder

Your annual Membership Subscription became due on 1 December 2012 and runs for one year until 30 November 2013. The rate is £18 in the UK and £24 overseas (with a junior rate of £10 for members below the age of 18). If you have not already renewed, please complete and return the form (which is included within your mailing) to the membership secretary with a cheque payable to 'ACS'.

Subscriptions can also be renewed online using PayPal. Please visit the ACS Shop at http://acscricket.com/?page_id=45&category=5

If you are not intending to renew, will you please still return the form, so we can amend our records. If your subscription remains unpaid on 1 March 2013, your membership will lapse with immediate effect.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following 10 new members:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Mr F.N.Asare | Accra, Ghana | Mr D.Gay | Mitcham, Surrey |
| Mr S.Briggs | Bishop Auckland, Co Durham | Mr A.A.Kazi | Milton, Ontario, Canada |
| Rev J.Cooper | Whitby, North Yorkshire | Mr A.Siddiqui | Carmel, Indiana, USA |
| Mr A.Douglas | South Elmsall, W Yorkshire | Mr A.Smith | York, North Yorkshire |
| Mr A.Frankowski | West Ealing, London | Mr M.D.Smith | Towcester, Northants |

We require a change of address from the following members:

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Mr P.T.Cresswell | formerly of East Harling, Norfolk | Mr J.Stanyer | formerly of Exeter, Devon |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|

We regret to announce the death of the following member:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Mr S.Hicks | formerly of Sneinton Dale, Nottinghamshire |
|------------|---|