

## Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Peter Allen, Jim Baldwin, Rudraneel Roy Chowdhury, Tony Constantino, Stuart Laws and D Ian Smith.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of the recently-deceased member Glyn Powell.

## Committee meeting reports

The **fifth General Committee meeting of 2024/25** took place on Saturday 22 June 2024 on a virtual basis. The Committee welcomed Derek Noakes to the committee. An exploratory discussion took place about possible options for future printing models for low print run books, based on a paper by Mr Noakes. The committee discussed the format of the online members' meeting on 6 July and various supplier matters, and was also updated on recent auctions, which had continued to be successful and generate income for the Association.

The **sixth General Committee meeting of 2024/25** took place on Saturday 20 July 2024 on a virtual basis. The Committee discussed the response to the Members' online meeting on 6 July and the recent Members' Survey, which had provided useful insights. Developments on a proposed ACS Archive at Trent Bridge were discussed, which will include a comprehensive collection of ACS books and other material. The committee was updated on progress with recent auctions and it was noted that these initiatives were now generating around 50% of ACS profits. The committee discussed current social media activity and agreed to encourage more members to contribute material to the ACS Substack blog.

The **seventh General Committee meeting of 2024/25** took place on Saturday 17 August 2024 on a virtual basis. The Committee discussed ongoing development of the ACS Archive at Trent Bridge, as well as the migration of ACS Sales to York Publishing Services, who will take over at the start of September. The Committee heard further positive news relating to the most recent ACS auction, an initiative which continues to generate valuable income. Possible topics for the Committee's September Strategy meeting were discussed, and there was an update on progress with the 12 October Members' meeting to be held in London. The Committee confirmed that the Committee Chair would attend the British Society of Sports History (BSSH) conference on 22 August, where the ACS was to receive the Howard Milton Award for Cricket Scholarship, awarded jointly by the BSSH and the Cricket Society.



## ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN No.50 – November 2024

### Honorary Secretary

Earlier this summer our Honorary Secretary Andrew Hignell fell seriously ill. He is undergoing a programme of treatment that will continue for the rest of the calendar year and into the New Year.

The latter will coincide with one of Andrew's busiest times of the year from an ACS point of view, especially with the arrangements for the AGM, scheduled to take place as a virtual meeting on 22 March, as well as the preparation of the annual report booklet and other associated paperwork. Given his roadmap of treatment, Andrew will be unable to perform these specific duties for the 2025 AGM, and following a discussion by the committee, it has been agreed that all member-facing activities relating to the AGM, including nominations for the committee, bookings for the meeting and tendering apologies will be dealt with solely by Huw Nathan, the Membership Secretary. Further information will be sent shortly by Huw regarding these arrangements.

We know that you would like to join the committee in sending best wishes to Andrew at this difficult time for him and his family, besides hoping that the treatment process goes well and allows Andrew to return to full health in the not-too-distant future.

### Committee elections

Nominations from members who wish to stand for election to the ACS General Committee **must be received no later than 15 November 2024**. Four committee places will be up for election at the 2025 AGM, and a ballot will be held if more than four people put themselves forward. The committee 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. Please also note that the committee is always looking for a range of different skills and experiences amongst its members, and believes that many ACS members will have secured relevant skills during the course of their working lives.

Nominations should be sent, either in writing or in a signed scanned letter, to the Membership Secretary, Huw Nathan at 36 Runton Road, Poole BH12 1NX, 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.

## Change to the administration of ACS Sales

Earlier in the year, the ACS committee decided that all our operational sales activities – that is the processing of sales orders for ACS publications and ties, and the management of auction logistics together with the related storage and distribution services – should be consolidated with a single supplier. We therefore agreed with our longstanding major supplier, City Press Leeds (CPL), to wind up the existing arrangements, and we transferred all these activities to a new supplier, York Publishing Services (YPS). YPS have successfully handled our recent auctions, and we are confident that, as the new managers of ACS Sales, they will be able to provide the same quick and efficient service to members that CPL provided over the past seven years.

### What does this change mean for members?

The new arrangements came into effect from Sunday 1 September 2024. From that date –

**If you buy our publications online through the ACS Shop**, the process for doing so will be unchanged. All that will happen is that your online orders will be automatically routed to YPS rather than to CPL.

**If you buy our publications by post**, from 1 September your orders and cheques should be sent to the new address of York Publishing Services, 64 Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe, York, YO31 7ZQ, and marked for the attention of Paul Saville.

If you have any queries about orders or delivery status you should henceforth contact YPS rather than CPL. Paul Saville will be our prime contact at YPS, and he can be contacted as follows:

**Email:** [sales@acscricket.com](mailto:sales@acscricket.com)

**Telephone:** 01904 431213 (+44 1904 431213 from abroad)

**Mobile:** 07423 629477 (+44 7423 629477 from abroad)

We are pleased to advise that the planned migration of ACS sales and the transition of activities from CPL to YPS went smoothly during September and the new arrangements are now working well.

Finally, we would like to place on record our gratitude for the excellent service that CPL have provided to the Association and its members over the past seven years. Although they will no longer be responsible for managing ACS Sales, we look forward to continuing to work with them in their core-business roles of typesetting and printing in the years ahead.

## SubStack update

We are very pleased to announce that the ACS SubStack, launched just four months ago, now attracts almost 10,000 reads each month. This significant milestone would not have been possible without the dedication and insight of our regular contributors John Ward and Brian Sanderson. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for spearheading this effort, and invite other members to follow their lead. If you have an itch to write something that, for reasons of immediacy or some other factor, is not a good fit for the journal, SubStack is the platform to share it with our engaged community. We thank you for your continued support and contributions.

If you have not already subscribed to our Substack platform (there's no charge!), you can do so by visiting the site at <https://acscricket.substack.com/>

## 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 2023-24, which can be used towards the purchase of any ACS publication, **will expire on 30 November 2024**. Many members have already made use of their voucher entitlement, but a significant majority have not. So for one month only you still 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.

Details of the discount voucher for 2024-25 will be announced early next year.

## ACS Membership Renewal 2024/25

In these inflationary times members are reminded that the ACS offers digital membership to those who are willing to receive all our regular quarterly papers, including the Journal, in digital format only. Digital membership is 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). Overseas members in particular may appreciate receiving the Journal and other material on the first day of each sales quarter, rather than possibly waiting two or three weeks through the postal system. To date 109 members, representing 13.6% of the total ACS membership, have taken up the option of digital membership. A further £2 can be saved if the subscription is paid by direct debit, reducing the effective cost of membership to £23. 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.