

business such as finance, communications and membership matters primarily on a quarterly cycle. The Committee heard an update on work on the ACS website and also on the success of ACS Auction 12. This had seen the highest number of people registering and bidding of any recent ACS auction. A discussion also took place on membership numbers and the follow-up of lapsed members.

The fourteenth General Committee meeting of 2024/25 took place on Saturday 22 February 2025 on a virtual basis. The Committee was updated by Don Starr on progress with the ACS First-Class Counties Second Eleven Annual. This was followed by a demonstration of the ongoing work to enhance and expand the ACS website. The committee was very supportive of developments and discussed how this work could be progressed as quickly as possible and how more volunteer input could be secured. The committee also discussed improvements to the handling of its monthly meetings, which will be introduced in the coming months, and considered a paper analysing current membership numbers and subscription payment methods. There was further discussion about the proposed new stand-alone 'ACS Women's International Cricket Year Book' and how it could best be marketed to secure a successful launch. The committee heard very satisfactory results from the latest auctions and discussed certain changes for future auctions in the light of lessons learned.

The first General Committee meeting of 2025/26 took place on Saturday 22 March 2025 on a virtual basis. The meeting re-elected John Bryant as Chair of the Association and confirmed the appointments for all committee roles and responsibilities.



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

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Brooke-Lambert Trophy

At the AGM on 22 March, Andrew Radd was awarded the Brooke-Lambert Trophy 2024, for his distinguished work as a broadcaster, historian and author.

Membership Numbers

The committee has recently decided to allocate Membership Numbers to all current and future ACS members. Don't worry – we're not going all 'The Prisoner' on you – we will very much continue to deal with all members as people and not as numbers! The initial purpose behind this is to simplify and thereby help to improve the efficiency of the running of the Association, by enabling us to bring all our membership records together. But this change would also bring the benefit to members of enabling them to use their unique membership number to access all our auctions, rather than having to register separately for each auction.

We will contact members later in the year to let you know what your individual number is, and to explain more fully how and when you can use it.

Help the ACS

At the AGM on 22 March, Peter Griffiths asked for help on several projects that we are currently working on. In no particular order, these are:

A. Online Cricket Bibliography

As many will be aware there is an on-line bibliography on the Cricket History website at <https://crickethistory.website/bibliography/index.html>. The committee of the ACS has agreed to take over this project and move it completely to the ACS website. We need help in three areas for this:

- a) from those who have material that can help add new information and items to the bibliography [We'd particularly be interested in discussing with anyone who has yearbooks or periodicals or match programmes, etc.]

- b) from people who would be willing to type information from Padwick's published bibliography and others into a spreadsheet to be uploaded
- c) from anyone who feels that they could spend some time helping to manage this huge project

B. Researching Women Cricketers

When preparing material for the forthcoming ACS Women's Cricket Annual, Philip Bailey found that over 400 of the women who played for major teams in England in 2024 had no biography (date, place of birth, batting/bowling style). This position is even worse as you go further back. We are looking for anyone who could help in filling in any missing details; or from anyone who could help us contact current or previous county organisers of women's cricket; or could help in any other way.

C. IT Project

We are currently looking at a redesign of the ACS website and would welcome short-term help from anyone with website skills, particularly with CSS knowledge or experience to help build the new design.

There are also opportunities for people to help maintain the website regularly.

D. Indexing Content

As part of the new website design we are looking at building an online search of content on the ACS website. We are adding many pages every month (over 9,000 pages of information in the last 30 days) and believe the search will help users to find pages more easily. We are looking for people to help build indexes of content into a spreadsheet.

E. Auctions

We have many items at our partner's store in York. We are looking for people to go to York and create a spreadsheet catalogue of many items that have not yet been looked at. Note that this has to be done in York.

F. Communications

With so many items being added to the website regularly, we think that it would be good to publicise these additions outside of the membership on social media, and some help to do this would be welcome.

In all instances, please contact Peter Griffiths at pete@bluebell.house

Discount Voucher Scheme for ACS Members

The committee would like to remind members that the £8 discount voucher for 2024/25, which can be used towards the purchase of any ACS publication, was issued on 1 February and will expire on 30 November 2025. Details of the current year's scheme, and the password to be used, were sent to members with the February mailing.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Manish Achuth, Keshav Athreya, Indrani Bandyopadhyay, Phillip Bennett-Richards, Andrew Boyle, Mike Campbell, Peter Cox, Alfie Cridge, Anthony Doe, Richard Done, Mark Dyson, Robin East, Martin Fears, John Fletcher, Toby Goodman, Tim Henry, Andrew J Hunt, Mike Long, Ian McKay, Adrian Mercer, Barry Nicholls, Sarah Noman, Stephen Rushe, Aaron Sales, Sean Smith, Niall Taylor, Sven-Erik Wallin, Kamran Wasti, Alan Watson, and Les Wood.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of the recently-deceased members Steve Bignell, Howard Clayton, Roger Gibbons, Ian Scholefield, Cyril Waite and David Yorath.

Committee Meeting reports

The eleventh General Committee meeting of 2024/25 took place on Saturday 16 November 2024 on a virtual basis. The Committee heard a progress update on the First-Class Counties Second Eleven Annual for 2025 from Don Starr, who is leading the work this year. A discussion also took place about the ACS website, and a sub-group was established to examine how it can be developed further. A new communications sub-group was also formed to lead on social media and membership matters, and it was noted that there had recently been a significant increase in followers to the ACS's Bluesky account in line with the wider development of this platform. The committee Chair led a discussion on the timing, frequency and effectiveness of committee meetings with a view to ensuring that the committee has more time in future to consider in detail the wide range of current projects, as well as manage the Association's routine business. The committee also agreed to make a donation of £200 towards the cost of the work being undertaken to restore the grave of WH Ferguson.

The twelfth General Committee meeting of 2024/25 took place on Saturday 21 December 2024 on a virtual basis. The Committee was briefed by Don Starr on progress with the First-Class Counties Second Eleven Annual, and marked the recent sad death of Howard Clayton, who had been a major contributor to this annual in the past. The committee discussed preparations for the AGM in March, including hearing updates on the Treasurer's draft report and financial statements, and progress with the AGM booklet. Feedback was received from sub-group meetings on the ACS website and on ACS communications. There was also a discussion about any possible relevance of new product safety requirements which have been concerning some book publishers and sellers. The committee also noted progress on a number of forthcoming ACS publications for 2025.

The thirteenth General Committee meeting of 2024/25 took place on Saturday 25 January 2025 on a virtual basis. The Committee was updated by Don Starr on progress with the First-Class Counties Second Eleven Annual. There was a discussion about improving the management of committee meetings, and the Committee agreed to holding detailed discussions of routine