

The third General Committee meeting of 2025/26 took place on Saturday 26 April 2025 on a virtual basis. The committee received a further demonstration of proposed changes to the ACS website designed to improve navigation and overcome certain limitations to what can currently be displayed. The committee supported continuation of the work. It also gave approval to the proposal that Russ Houldin take over as an Email Forum Moderator and that Rodney Ulyate act as ACS spokesperson for media work. The committee was advised that plans were being developed for another ACS London meeting, probably in early October, with further details available soon. On publications, the committee discussed publicising the new ACS Women's International Year Book and the future management of the ACS Second XI Annual. There was also discussion about possible future publications including a new series of ACS grounds books.

The fourth General Committee meeting of 2025/26 took place on Saturday 17 May 2025 on a virtual basis. The committee began with a period of silence and reflection in tribute to Robert Brooke, who had died on 15 May. The committee discussed how Mr Brooke's enormous contribution to the Association should be marked, including in the Journal. A number of matters relating to future ACS publications were then considered including new arrangements for the preparation of the Second XI Annual, which will be edited by Morgan Barrell. The committee heard that the May publications had generally been selling well and was updated on progress with the latest book auction. A discussion about prioritisation of current committee projects also took place. Following recent postings on the ACS Forum on the subject of the continuity of records for women's county cricket, the committee considered its response in the light of a range of precedents but did not reach a firm conclusion at this stage.



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

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Handling Charges for Manual Orders

Over the last ten years the use of cheques to make purchases of publications, Journals and other items from ACS has declined from over 50% of transactions to around 5%. The committee is most grateful to the vast majority of members who make their purchases electronically via the ACS Shop. This is effective for the customer who does not have to complete a paper order form and pay postage costs and also avoids delays and losses in the postal process. From an ACS perspective it avoids having its outsourced distribution service provider needing to devote time and effort to processing orders and banking cheques. In fact, our service provider has recently cited this time and effort as one reason for needing to raise the commission chargeable to ACS. In recognition of this situation, the ACS committee has agreed to raise the handling charge for manual orders with cheques from £4 to £6 with effect from 1 November 2025.

We want to make it clear that, for the immediate future, ACS will continue to accept manual orders with cheques but members who still use this method are strongly advised and encouraged to consider one of the following possibilities which will be a win-win for both the member and ACS:

- If you have a personal computer or laptop, please consider logging into the ACS Shop <https://shop.acscricket.com> to place your order online. The process also allows you to use PayPal (if you are a subscriber) or credit or debit cards, whichever suits your convenience. If you need any assistance, please contact an ACS committee member.
- If you do not have a personal computer or laptop, please consider contacting a family member or friend who does and getting them to make the purchase on your behalf. The younger generation are especially adept at making such online purchases!

By using the online purchasing tools you will save yourself time and money and will contribute to the administrative efficiency of ACS.

Thank you.

Hard to Get Scores

Some members may recall that back in 2015 the ACS conducted a survey asking about (among other things) future publication projects for the Association. An issue to emerge from that survey was the continuing importance for many members of access to printed scorecards, and, arising from this, the great difficulty, and sometimes impossibility, of obtaining printed scores for first-class matches that for one reason or another were not captured in any of the usual sources.

It was in response to this finding that the Association embarked on what has come to be known as the 'Hard to Get' series. It was launched in 2016 with a volume filling the awkward two-season gap in Australian scores between the final edition of *Wisden Australia* (covering 2004/05) and the commencement in 2007/08 of the publication of all overseas first-class scores by the ACS. Subsequent volumes have filled similar gaps in the record for West Indies, India and Pakistan. We take particular satisfaction from the recent volume, published in association with Cricket South Africa, covering the non-racial matches played under apartheid and retrospectively declared first-class; members may have seen the very positive review in the 2025 *Wisden*. In all, the twelve previous 'Hard to Get' volumes have covered well over two thousand first-class scorecards, most of which have hitherto been difficult or impossible to find in book form.

We are now pleased to announce the publication of the thirteenth and final volume in the series.

This volume, subtitled 'Loose Ends', completes the process on which we set out in 2016 by providing a further 210 scorecards that did not fall within the scope of any of the previous volumes. But the new book does more than this: it also functions as a guide to sources of first-class scores for each cricketing country. An appendix provides background notes on the various sources cited. These include numerous ACS publications, of course, but also annuals and compilations covering particular countries and, of course, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*.

It is hoped that this will be of assistance to anyone seeking to build or extend a collection of first-class scores in print, either for a specific country or globally.

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, will expire on 30 November 2025. Many members have already made use of their voucher entitlement, but a significant majority have not.

Members Online Meeting

We intend to hold an online members' meeting on Saturday 4 October. There will be a number of speakers presenting on different cricketing topics, as well as interactive interviews and tests of cricket knowledge. Further details will be sent out via email once they have been finalised.

Membership Update

We extend a warm welcome to our new members Morgan Barrell, Jack Franklin, Charles Gardner, Ross Hardie, Steven Horsley, William Johnson, Trevor Lawrence, Michael Lefebvre, Abdul Polani, John Price and Chris Wyver.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of the recently-deceased members Robert Brooke, Barry Cox and Brian Rendell.

Committee Meeting reports

The second General Committee meeting of 2025/26 took place on Saturday 29 March 2025 on a virtual basis. For the first time, the Committee used a new format for its meeting, which involved more detailed examination of the key issues of ACS finance, communications and membership. This will be repeated on a quarterly basis. On finance, the committee discussed the long-term trends which had seen the net worth of the ACS increase considerably over the last six years. It also examined the financial performance of publications over time and the more recent financial contribution of auctions. On communications, the committee heard about the enhancement of the ACS's social media presence in recent years and talked about ways of raising the Association's media presence. On membership, the committee considered recent trends and discussed how to improve the application processes. The committee also agreed to implement the idea, mentioned at the recent AGM, of allocating each member a unique membership number to help with administration including participation in auctions. During the meeting, the committee discussed future publications and in particular, how to make the launch of the new Women's International Year Book as successful as possible. The committee also decided to retire the term 'Statistician of the Year' and to restrict the name of our main annual award to the 'Brooke-Lambert Trophy'.