



ACS MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

No.68 – 5 April 2026

ACS Online Events from April to July 2026

The History of the County Championship

11 April, 10:00 BST

We are excited to welcome Peter Cox for a special presentation on his new book, *125 Summers*, a sweeping reflection on the history and evolution of the County Championship. With the 2026 season on the horizon, Peter's insights will provide timely context, tracing the competition's development and its enduring role in cricket's grand narrative. This talk promises to blend historical depth with contemporary relevance, offering members a richer appreciation of the Championship's place in the game we love.

Nationalism, 'mediacricket,' and Indian hegemony

25 April, 19:30 BST

Dr Chris McMillan of the University of Auckland's School of Social Sciences for an online lecture on his important paper "A mediated collision: nationalism, mediacricket, and Indian cricketing hegemony," available to read [here](#). Dr McMillan examines cricket's enduring bond with place and nationhood, and how it has been unsettled by the rise of "mediacricket," in which brand identity eclipses territorial representation. Dr McMillan looks at how this deterritorialising force intersects with the resurgence of populist nationalism to reshape global cricket's hierarchies. This promises to be a thought-provoking overview of the cultural and political currents shaping the modern game.

Windrush Cricket

12 May, 19:00 BST

Here we host Dr Michael Collins, author of the acclaimed *Windrush Cricket: Imperial Culture, Caribbean Migration, and the Remaking of Postwar England*. In this illuminating talk, Michael will explain how the arrival of Caribbean migrants reshaped the game in Britain, highlighting both the challenges they faced and the triumphs they achieved, both on and off the field. His insights promise to deepen our understanding of cricket's cultural transformation and the enduring legacy of the Windrush generation.

Big Bash as Mass Deception: Understanding the dumbing-down of cricket

24 May, 20:00 AET (Melbourne time), 10:00 GMT

Join us on May 24 for an ACS event that tackles cricket's commercialisation head-on. Drawing from their recent article in *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* and updated to reflect the latest developments in Big Bash League privatisation, Professors Sam Duncan and Tom Heenan will probe how spectacle, profit motives and media packaging are reshaping cricket's cultural meaning and ethical standing.



The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians

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The early history of cricket in Sri Lanka

6 June, 10:00 BST

Step back into the formative century of cricket in Sri Lanka with Dr Nimal Chandrasena's richly detailed presentation, "The Early History of Ceylon Cricket: The First 100 Years, 1832 to 1932." This talk traces the game's journey from its colonial beginnings to its establishment as a cultural force, weaving together archival discoveries, forgotten matches, and the personalities who shaped the game on the island. Dr Chandrasena shows us how cricket became both a pastime and a mirror of social change.

The Myth of Left-Right Batting Partnerships

20 June, 12:00 BST

For this event we are joined Prof. Johan Fourie of Stellenbosch University in South Africa, who will present insights from his provocative new paper, "Invisible Handedness: The Myth of Left-Right Batting Partnerships." Challenging one of cricket's most enduring tactical assumptions, his research explores whether partnerships between left- and right-handed batsmen truly confer the advantages so often claimed for them. Prof. Fourie invites us to reconsider how tradition, perception, and evidence intersect in cricketing strategy.

150 Years of Essex County Cricket

11 July, 11:00 BST

To mark its sesquicentenary, David Pracy's illuminating lecture traces the journey of Essex CCC from its formative days, bringing to life the triumphs, cultural moments, and most of all the personalities that have shaped it across the generations. Whether you are a devoted follower of the county or simply intrigued by the broader sweep of cricket history, this is an unmissable opportunity to celebrate a century and a half of sporting tradition and community spirit. For background, do read Pracy's path-breaking *Gentlemen and players of Essex: the amateur and professional cricketers of Essex County Cricket Club, 1876-1979*, [available free on the ACS website](#).

Joining Details

All events will be hosted online. Links and access information will be circulated to members closer to each date. In the meantime, please register your interest with the membership secretary, Huw Nathan, at membership@acscricket.com.

We look forward to your participation in these conversations, which extend the ACS's long tradition of blending scholarship, history and cultural appreciation.