



The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians

Dear ACS Member

Notification of the 2020 AGM

I am writing to confirm that the ACS's rearranged AGM will be held on Saturday 10 October 2020.

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, your Committee has concluded that it will not be practicable this year to convene the customary face to face meeting. It has therefore been decided that this year's AGM will take the form of a brief formal meeting via Zoom, which will be attended only by the President, the members of the General Committee, and perhaps one or two other members of the Association to act as observers. It was not considered practical for this year to convene a virtual meeting open to all Association members, nor or to cover all the items on the original agenda. However the Committee still needs to ensure that all ACS members have an opportunity to vote on the six key items on last March's agenda on which a formal decision is required. These are as follows; the 'item numbers' refer to the agenda from last March:

- (i) Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM (item 3)
- (ii) Approval of the Annual Report of the Committee for 2018/19 (item 5)
- (iii) Approval of the Annual Accounts for 2018/19 (item 6)
- (iv) Approval of the annual subscription for the year beginning 1 December 2020 (contained within item 6 – see below)
- (v) Approval of the appointment and remuneration of our independent accountant (item 7)
- (vi) Approval of the award of Honorary Life Membership of the ACS to Philip Bailey (item 10).

The committee has decided to postpone the discussion on the non-urgent rule-change that was to be considered in March (as item 8) until the 2021 AGM.

In order to facilitate membership participation on the limited scale outlined above, included in this mailing is a voting paper setting out the resolutions that require members' affirmation or otherwise. We ask, please, that you return this to reach the Secretary **no later than 2359 BST on Saturday 3 October**.

Fuller details about the voting process, and about other issues relevant to the AGM, are given in the following Questions and Answers.

Why has the Committee already decided to hold the AGM as a 'virtual' meeting rather than 'face-to-face'?

To ensure that sufficient AGM notice is given to members, yet avoiding the significant costs of a separate mailing, we have needed to make this decision by mid-July. As things stand, there can be no certainty that indoor gatherings of 40-50 people, such as our AGM, will be allowed by October, nor that Derby will be able to host such a meeting (with or without the provision of the annual lunch). We are also conscious that the age profile of our membership strongly suggests a need for caution over such matters. Deciding to hold the AGM as a virtual meeting addresses these issues. Moreover, if we were to take a chance and announce now that the AGM will be held face-to-face, that decision would have to be kept under constant review in the light of changing circumstances over the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee considers that it is far better for a definite, final decision on this matter to be taken now; and that the proper decision this year is to hold the AGM virtually.

Why will this year's AGM be a small-scale, closed meeting?

As described above, the business of the AGM will be limited to those matters on which a decision of the membership is required in order that the Association's business can proceed. The Committee has concluded that the process of dealing with these formal, procedural matters – brief and very business-like as they are – is in itself unlikely to be of great interest to members, so long as members have the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process before that formal business is transacted.

However, we will record the virtual AGM on 10 October, with the intention of placing the recording in the Members' area of the website, so that it is available for all members to view.

How do I cast my votes?

The voting paper with this mailing sets out the six resolutions on which members are asked to vote. You are asked to put a cross (X) in the box indicating your view on each of these items, or on as many of them as you would like to cast a vote. The voting paper can also be seen in the Members' area of the website.

You can return the voting paper by one of three means:

1. By post to Andrew Hignell, 41 Ramson's Way, St Fagans, Cardiff CF5 4QY, UK
2. By scanning the voting paper and sending it as an email attachment to secretary@acscricket.com
3. By downloading a copy of the paper from the members' area of the ACS website, and sending it as an email attachment to secretary@acscricket.com

In all cases, the voting paper should reach the Secretary **no later than 2359 BST on Saturday 3 October**, to give time for the votes to be checked and counted ahead of the formal AGM one week later.

Why do you ask for personal details on the voting paper?

Voting at our usual 'in-person' AGM is carried out by a show of hands of the members present, and not by a secret ballot. So in asking you to put your name on the voting paper, we are not departing from our normal practice. Asking you to provide your name also allows us to make sure that only members have voted, and that no member has voted more than once. The other details requested (postal address and email address) are sought simply to ensure that our records are kept fully up to date, so that there is no avoidable delay in contacting members on other matters relating to the Association.

Where can I find out more about the six items on the voting paper?

These matters are set in more detail in the AGM booklet that was circulated to all members last February.

What are the proposals for next year's subscriptions?

They are set out in the 'Conclusions' on page 9 of February's AGM booklet. The Committee considers that there is no need to raise membership subscriptions this year, and so the proposal is that all subscription levels for the year beginning 1 December 2020 should remain exactly the same as at present.

Why is an award of Honorary Life Membership being proposed?

The award of Honorary Life Membership is made, at the Committee's request, to a member who has undertaken exceptional service to the Association over a lengthy period. Philip Bailey, who has just stood down after over 40 years' service on the Committee and whose enormous contributions in many areas over that time have contributed hugely to making the Association the respected body that it is today, is considered by the Committee to be wholly worthy of this award, and we are very pleased to be able to propose him for it.

What if I have questions on any of the items on the AGM agenda?

We know that before they decide which way they want to cast their votes, some members may have questions on some or all of these six matters. We therefore invite members to raise any issues, concerns or questions by contacting the Secretary (addresses above). Your questions, and the Committee's responses, will be made available for all members to see on our website before the date by which your votes must be received. With that in mind, please submit any such questions to the Secretary no later than Saturday 26 September 2020.

Will all future AGMs be held in the same way as this year's?

No. We hope that it will be possible for the 2021 AGM to be held in the usual 'face-to-face' format next March, and a date for it has already been set (20 March 2021). If circumstances relating to the pandemic make that still impracticable, we hope to hold the meeting virtually, but open to all members joining remotely, and covering the full range of business and other matters that our AGMs usually cover.

With that in mind, the Committee is planning to convene a virtual meeting, open to all members, in November of this year. This will be an informal meeting, at which it is hoped that a range of topics relevant to the Association or to cricket in general can be discussed. We will be sending out by email more details of this nearer the time. As well as enabling members to get 'together' socially – which we recognise is a very important part of our usual AGMs – this meeting will also act as a 'dry run' of the technology etc in case we are obliged to hold the 2021 AGM by virtual means. But we very much hope that that will not be the case.

Thank you for supporting the ACS in the past year. We look forward to your participation in this year's rather unusual AGM, and beyond.

Keith Walmsley
ACS Chairman
July 2020