



## **Cricket Society and MCC Book of the Year Award 2020**

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Release time: Immediate

- Six books, with a vibrant mix of writing about cricketing personalities present and past, cricket history, and the sport's stories and trivia form the short list for the coveted Cricket Society and MCC Book of the Year Award 2020
- The Award winner and related arrangements will be announced in due course

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The 2020 Cricket Society and MCC Book of the Year Award shortlist is announced today. Contrasting forms of biography feature strongly with books about recent England captain Sir Alastair Cook, former Award Chairman Vic Marks, and the legendary writer Neville Cardus.

Completing the list are books about early Indian cricket, a look back at the cricketers of 1939, and an unusual compilation of cricketing miscellany.

Chair of judges Robert Winder said: "This is an eclectic list. As always there was a lively debate about the shortlisted books, which meant that several strong candidates narrowly missed out. There was a minor log-jam on the road to the winner, but we got there in the end."

The competition, run by the Cricket Society since 1970 and in partnership with MCC since 2009, is for books nominated by MCC and Cricket Society Members, and is highly regarded by writers and publishers. Last year's winner was Geoff Lemon's *Steve Smith's Men: Behind Australian Cricket's Fall*, Hardie Grant.

The arrangements for the winner, and certificates for all the shortlisted books, will be announced at a later date. The original awards evening was due to take place at Lord's in April, but unfortunately had to be postponed.



## **Notes for editors**

The six books on the shortlist (alphabetically by author):

**Berkmann's Cricket Miscellany:** Marcus Berkmann, Little Brown

**Alastair Cook: The Autobiography:** Sir Alastair Cook with Michael Colvin, Michael Joseph

**The Great Romantic: Cricket and the Golden Age of Neville Cardus:** Duncan Hamilton, Hodder and Stoughton

**Cricket Country:** An Indian Odyssey in the Age of Empire, Prashant Kidambi, OUP

**Original Spin:** Misadventures in Cricket, Vic Marks, Allen and Unwin

**The Final Innings:** The Cricketers of Summer 1939, Christopher Sandford, The History Press

The other 14 books considered (alphabetically by author):

**Bowl, Sleep, Repeat:** Inside the World of England's Greatest Ever Bowler, Jimmy Anderson with Felix White, Cassell

**Billy Murdoch:** Richard Cashman and Ric Sissons, Walla Walla Press

**Through the Remembered Gate,** Stephen Chalke, Fairfield Books

**Wizards:** The Story of Indian Spin Bowling, Anindya Dutta, Westland

**Mind over Batter:** Mental Strategies for Sport and Life, Graeme Fowler, Simon and Schuster

**Bernard Hedges:** The Player from 'Ponty', Stephen Hedges, St David's Press

**Five Trophies and a Funeral:** Stuart Rayner, Pitch Publishing



**The Stories of Cricket's Finest Painting:** Kent v Lancashire 1906, Jonathan Rice, Pitch Publishing

**Sense of Humour, Sense of Justice:** Fred Rumsey, Fairfield Books

**Keeper of Style, John Murray:** the King of Lord's, Christopher Sandford, Pitch Publishing

**Who's Who of Warwickshire Cricketers:** Stephen Sheen, self-published

**The Judge:** More Than Just a Game, Robin Smith, Yellow Jersey

**On Fire:** My Story of England's Summer to Remember, Ben Stokes with Richard Gibson, Headline

**The Test Match Special Diary:** The TMS Team, Simon and Schuster

The twenty books – nominated by either Cricket Society or MCC Members (not publishers) – considered by the judges were whittled down to six. The judges are Robert Winder (Chairman), Mike Selvey, Emma John, John Symons and Chris Lowe. Nigel Hancock, Chairman of The Cricket Society, is the competition's administrator.

### **About the Cricket Society**

The Cricket Society – [www.cricketsociety.com](http://www.cricketsociety.com) and Twitter @CricketSociety is 75 years young this year. It encourages a love of cricket through playing, watching, reading and listening. It supports young cricketers, makes annual awards, holds regular meetings, publishes an acclaimed Journal and Bulletin and has its own cricket team.

It is a national organisation with 1,700 members across the UK and beyond. It also has branches based in Bath, Birmingham and Durham.

### **Notes to editors:**



## **About Marylebone Cricket Club**

MCC is the world's most active cricket club, the owner of Lord's Ground and the guardian of the Laws and Spirit of the game. Founded in 1787, it is recognised as the sole authority on the game's Laws and moved to its current home in St John's Wood in 1814. There are approximately 18,000 Full and 5,000 Associate Members of MCC.

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