

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2pm on Saturday 21st June 2012 at RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London.

John Baron, Chair of the ABPS Executive Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the 13 attendees.

1. **Apologies** : Phil Kenton, Nigel Gooch, Francis Kiddle, Chris King, John Dickenson.
2. **Minutes of the 2011 AGM** : The circulated minutes were approved and signed, including two corrections.
3. **Matters arising** : None which not covered in the following items.
 - 3.1. **Rev John Walden** : appointed as editor of the directory and as a Director of ABPS. Proposed by Susan Oliver, Seconded by Christopher Oliver and carried unanimously.
4. **Adoption of the Accounts for 2011** : Proposed by Ian MacPherson and seconded by John Baron and carried unanimously.
5. **Executive Chairmans Report on 2011** :

In welcoming you all to the Annual General Meeting I would like to thank you for your support over the past year. It seems strange to me that this AGM is not taking place at Congress but as that is later in the year we have taken the opportunity to utilise the Royal's premises this year. We thank them for accommodating us.

Once again it has been a year with problems but I believe that the majority of these have been overcome and we are ready for a new philatelic year of challenges and change. I am pleased that the Directory has at long last appeared with more advertising and good content. At our last Executive meeting Revd John Walden was appointed as the new Directory Editor and I am sure that he will look at the present format and work towards revamping this essential booklet for the Societies. I apologise for the delays during last year which was partly due to my miscalculation on the time it needed to be produced and partly due to my hospitalisation. Major thanks go to John Gledhill who formatted my draft and arranged publication. Thanks also go to Susan Oliver for the unenviable task of proof reading the document.

During the year we welcome to the Executive John Dickenson and John Walden who have accepted their roles and look forward to playing a part in the future development of ABPS.

At last years AGM we were challenged to look at the different roles of the Council and the Executive. Colin Hoffman agreed to look at this for us and his legal opinion is that the two committees are as follows.

During the past twelve months there have been no additional council meetings apart from the AGM and it is proposed that it is felt that the practical answer is to regard the AGM as a meeting which combines a meeting of Council and General meeting.

The way that this would work for the future would be that effectively there would be a Council meeting held at the same time as the AGM and if there was anything specific to put to Council this would be put to them in that

meeting and then that meeting would go on to become the AGM and the usual business of the AGM would then take place.

It will be proposed under item 7 on the Agenda, Elections that I become Chairman of Council and Executive and that Phil Gaywood becomes Vice Chairman of Council and Executive.

During the past year we have been looking at the wording of the Company's Articles of Association with a view to making a few changes to bring them into line with what we actually do.

The Articles imply but don't actually say that the Chairman of Executive and Chairman of Council should also serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Executive.

The Articles do say for all the other officers of ABPS that they are members of Executive. It is not very logical for all the officers except Chairman and Vice Chairman to be members of Executive and not the Council Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The electing of the current Chairman and Vice Chairman to the same positions on both Council and Executive will reflect the reality of how we are actually operating today.

There are a few other small changes which we wish to make but they will have to wait until the next AGM to enable us to give due notice of the proposals in advance of the meeting.

I intend to take soundings from various Federations as to the way that they wish to see Council operate in the future.

I would like to thank Colin for his work in this area

During the year Chris King has started to standardise judging standards and requirements and in this respect he has achieved a significant improvement. The Exhibitions are now planned for the next three years with invited entries to Stampex and Congress. Thank you Chris

We are also working towards the standardisation of Congress and the RDP ceremony making it a flagship of ABPS. This will take time but significant changes are envisaged. We are all looking forward to this years Congress at Perth and we still have some room for bookings for the event. It is supported again by Stanley Gibbons and we thank them for their sponsorship. 2013 see congress at Gloucester on the 27th – 30th June and the following year at the invitation of the Belgium Academy of Philatelists will take place in Ypres from 11-14 July. This event will commemorate the beginning of World War 1.

The web site has nearly reached finalisation and Paul will be looking to add dealers to the site over the next six months. This is an important information source to the Societies and non members and the number of visitors and positive comments continues to grow. The one area that we are continually short of information is in the news sector where we have to rely on the BPMA and Stanley Gibbons for

information. I am not looking for historic society information but items which will be of general interest to philatelists in general. Our long standing requirement for a web master has for the moment been resolved but I will appreciate others comments on the site. If we do not know where it is wrong then we will not correct it especially with the up to date information concerning Societies.

As you will see later the Association has had yet another successful year and we will discuss the accounts later. Like all organisations we have had to have a small rise in membership fees to keep up with inflation and to prevent the rise of previous years. One of the areas that we are closely examining is the opportunities that exist from increasing our income. If we can persuade other Societies, especially specialist societies, to invite more patron and friends, to be part of ABPS this will assist in our income. Advertising income covers the cost of the ABPS News and we are hopeful that it will begin to make a positive contribution to the web site.

I would like to thank Phil Kenton and Alan Griffiths for their contribution over the years and congratulate Phil on his award of the Congress medal which will be presented at Perth.

I have been ably supported by my vice chairman, Paul Gaywood and by Susan Oliver who acted as temporary secretary whilst Willie was taking care of his wife through her illness. We are all pleased that Isobel is well on the road to recovery and Willie has been able to resume his duties. The entire Executive have played their part in a successful year and I truly thank them for their efforts.

JB

6. **Election of Officers and their Reports** : As existing officers had indicated willingness to continue they were elected en bloc.
 - 6.1. **Chair of Council** : No report received.
 - 6.2. **Vice Chair of Council** : No report received
 - 6.3. **Executive Chairman** : Report above – item 5.
 - 6.4. **Secretary and Membership Report** : Emails continued at low level. Once 2012 directory was sent out three complaints received so date. All satisfactorily resolved and key updates will be listed in ABPS news. More contact anticipated as non-member societies are reduced to a heading on the website. First has already been received and has been answered. At present only one small local society is listed as unpaid, three have closed and two resigned. Discussion on helping small societies – under 10 members to be continued. Two major specialist societies outstanding and were being followed up by Dane Garrod.
 - 6.5. **Company Secretary and Treasurer** : Accounts were approved – item 4.
 - 6.6. **Chair of Communications** : Chris Oliver :
 - 6.6.1. **Leaflets** – Ten leaflets are now issued. Future leaflets will include “How to conduct a Society Auction”; “What is Cinderella Collecting”; “Post Card Collecting”.
 - 6.6.2. **Specialist Societies : Meeting hotels. Dane Garrod** : Data has been received from a number of societies and can be distributed to affiliated societies by request. It was also decided to have a small note listed in ABPS news suggesting that societies seek information from Dane Garrod and also reports requested on hotels being used.

- 6.6.3. **Federations Liaison Officer : John Dickenson :** Currently contacting federations and the detailed report is being considered by the executive committee. WK requested to ensure in Federations where ABPS liaison officers were appointed that these were included in all communications to federations.
- 6.6.4. **ABPS Handbook & Website:** The now-published handbook will show member societies that something is happening. Inevitably the new editor will be swamped by - I hope – corrections. It is important that these can be quickly applied to the website to show that if changes are notified they will be actioned.
- 6.6.5. **Federation Website:** It s good to see that the ABPS website has been updated to provide links to all existing federation websites. Wiltshire & District is not listed though appearing in the Handbook. They do have a basic website. There are four federations without websites and the continuing non-availability of the Essex site is becoming an embarrassment. It would be helpful if federations were presented in the same way as local societies, with a list of officers/contacts and a link to their website if any.
- 6.6.6. **Relationship of Federations & Specialist Societies:** Some “local” specialist societies are already federation members but at least one medium-sized national specialist society, which has lost membership, is planning to link up with federations to provide local bases for its membership and as a means of interesting others in its speciality. As most collectors specialise at least a basic level there might be some wider application for this.
- 6.6.7. **ABPS / NPS joint stands** – National P.S. Exhibitions Officer has resigned.
- 6.6.8. **National P. S.** – Michael R. Thompson is now President; Simon Richards and Nicholas Kerridge are vice-presidents. C.E.O. continues as National P.S. representative to the A.B.P.S. and will be arranging speakers for the Society until December 2012. He remains on N.P.S. Council. We may have to cancel the September seminar due to unforeseen circumstances at the venue and the Society will have a new postal address from 1st October 2012.

6.7. **Chair of International :** A full listing of all international exhibitions with their venues and dates through to 2016 are listed on the ABPS website. Also noted where applicable are the commissioners with listed closing dates and any special information.

6.8. **Chair of National Exhibitions and Seminars :** The full updated listings are available on the website and are fully covered by ABPS News and the Philatelic press. Particular reference was given to forthcoming national exhibition in Perth and the national exhibitions held at Stampex.

6.9. **Chair of Awards :** Susan Oliver :

Congress Medal 2012

This year it is awarded to Phil Kenton

Awards of Merit 2012

Given to John Barker, Graham Chadwick, Rob Holley, Jean Osborne, Peter Phipps, Barbara Priddy, Graeme Stewart and Michael Thompson.

At present I hold 2 nominations for the Congress Medal for 2013 and 1 for an Award

of Merit. Obviously the Committee needs more nominations for these Awards so please publicise them and find suitable collectors to nominate.

Our Committee consists of Brian Sole, Professor John West, Pat Rothnie, Frank Soutar, and our new recruit John Jackson of Melton Mowbray

Discussion

Questions were raised concerning who was eligible to propose recipients for awards of merit. Following discussion it was agreed that clarification was necessary. Following further discussions the following motion was submitted.

“Nominations for an award of merit can be accepted from Federations, affiliated Specialist Societies or affiliated Local Societies and, specifically in respect of services to those respective bodies and philately.”

Proposed by Dane Garrod,
seconded John Gledhill.

The motion was agreed and approved .

6.10. Stamp Active Network : John Davies

6.10.1. **Finance.** Finances remain satisfactory. The Dealer Patron Scheme has raised £1,150 so far in 2012. “Friends of Stamps Active” is also being promoted for individuals with an annual donation for £20 suggested.

6.10.2. **Kidstamps :** Members now exceed 1,000. Run by Tom Maureen Cory but further assistance is required because of the workload.

6.10.3. **Planetstamp Website :** In view of the lack of additional funding it has been agreed to continue to focus resources on filling the gaps in the current website. This is still being updated by David Rossall.

6.10.4. **Exhibitions/Stampex:** There will be the usual youth area at Autumn Stampex with childrens activities and a free auction on Saturday

6.10.5. **Competitions:** Entries for the British Youth Stamp Championship will be displayed at Autumn Stampex.

6.10.6. **Other Projects: Stamp 2015 –** The Spears Charitable Trust will be providing funding of £5,000 to provide a youth area at the exhibition.

6.10.7. **Promotional Leaflet –** A new leaflet is being used to promote the work of the youth group and allows enquiries about the range of activities.

7. **Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2012 : The 94th Congress will be held at the Queen’s Hotel in Perth 19th - 22nd October.** Plans are well advanced and the recipients of the RDP award for 2012 have been selected and published.

8. **Congresses 2013 and 2014 :** The 95th PCGB will be held in 2013 in Gloucester from June 27th –30th. The 2014 PCGB will be held to mark the centenary of beginning of WWI and will be held Belgium.

9. **Date of next AGM :** June 28th. at PCGB in Gloucester.

10. **AOB :** There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.50pm.