

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of ABPS
Friday 27th July 2018
Jury's Inn, Gateshead

1. Welcome – Chairman Graham Winters welcomed all delegates to the AGM and thanked those concerned in making the arrangements for the Congress and the AGM. All delegates were asked to sign the sheets being circulated and to give the name of the affiliated society which they represented. The list of affiliated societies represented is attached as Appendix A.
 2. Apologies for Absence: Received from Andy Soutar (Leiston & District), Neil Ritchie (ABPS Secretary – held up by train failures at York)
 3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM – refer to the ABPS website for a copy – were received without amendment.
 4. Matters Arising: None
 5. Receiving the Accounts for 2017: Nigel Gooch (Treasurer) reported that the accounts had been sent to Companies House as required and that the ABPS will need to raise more funds if it is to be effective. Annual affiliation fees will be raised from January 2020 just to stay doing what is done at the moment.
 6. Executive Chairman's Report on 2017 - Written Report received – see Appendix B
 7. Awards - Written report received – see Appendix C. Additionally the Awards committee requested authorisation for Federations to be able to nominate Awards. Proposed by Yvonne Wheatley (Leeds), seconded by John Sussex (Postal History Society). Passed unanimously.
 8. Election of Directors -all directors are willing to continue and no other nominations have been received. All were re-elected nem con.
 9. Secretary's Report – in the absence of the Secretary, the Chairman reported that the Secretary had answered all the contacts through the website. Meetings were held regularly – Report – see Appendix D
 10. Membership Report – Written report received – see Appendix E
 11. Company Secretary and Treasurer – dealt with under 5.
 12. Chair of International Affairs Report – no report received. ABPS will be represented by the Chair at the Bangkok Exhibition and FIP Election. ABPS is supporting the candidature of Chris King but whatever the outcome will support FIP and the elected President as a critical friend.
 13. 2019 Congress will be held 29th May to 2nd June at Stockholmia.
 14. Any other matters notified to the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM – none received.
 15. Date of next AGM – not yet determined as an original idea was found not to be practicable.
- The meeting was closed at 1.29p.m.

Appendix A: Societies and Federations represented

Local

Banbury Stamp Society
Basildon Philatelic Society
Bearsden & District Philatelic Society

Berwick & District Philatelic Society
Bradford & District Philatelic Society

Caledonian Philatelic Society
Cheltenham Philatelic Society
Croydon Philatelic Society
Edinburgh Philatelic Society
Falkirk Stamp & Postcard Club
Ferndown & West Moors Philatelic & Postcard Club
Glasgow Philatelic Society
Harrogate Philatelic Society
Haverfordwest Stamp & Postcard Club
Heathfield & District Philatelic Society
Hereford & Mid Wales Philatelic Society
Hull Philatelic Society
Kingston-Upon-Thames & District Philatelic Society
Lanarkshire Philatelic Society
Newcastle Upon Tyne Philatelic Society
Old Eastwood Stamp Club
Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society
Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society
Scottish Philatelic Society
Solihull Philatelic Society
Strathclyde Postcard Club
Thatcham & District Philatelic Society
Wakefield Philatelic Society
West London Philatelic Society

+ a few more that the Minutes Secretary was unable to decipher.

Specialised and National

Alba Stamp Group
British Thematic Association
Channel Islands Specialists' Society
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain
East Anglia Postal History Study Circle
Falkland Islands Study Philatelic Study Group
Forces Postal History Society
Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society
Glasgow Thematic Society
Great Britain Philatelic Society

Iran Philatelic Study Circle
King George VI Society
National Philatelic Society
Polar Postal History Society of Great Britain
Postal History Society
Rhodesian Study Circle
Royal Philatelic Society of London

Scandinavia Philatelic Society
Scottish Postal History Society
South African Collectors' Society

Federations represented:

Association of Essex Philatelic Societies
Midland Philatelic Federation
North East Philatelic Association
Yorkshire Philatelic Association

Appendix B ABPS Chairman's Report 2018

100th Congress - Tyneside July 26th - 29th 2018

So, one year into my period of office..... what progress has been made?

Given the three main targets:

Better funding for ABPS

Higher profile for ABPS

A National Stamp Day

Little progress has been made concerning general funding though there have been generous donations and sponsorships of events. Congress has two new sponsors for this North Eastern event: Corbitts, and Mark Bloxham who have agreed to supplement the sponsorship of Stanley Gibbons and Stamp Insurance Services. ABPS is most grateful for their donations.

A higher profile for the ABPS.... some work has been done about this, not least by developing seminars about writing-up; exhibiting; displaying and judging. The most recent of these in Falkirk last month was very well attended and received. This is a service which the APBS offers to all regions and groups. It is organised through the Exhibitions Committee which is led by Bill Hedley.

There have been discussions regarding the production of roller banners, not dissimilar to those used at Stampex to advertise Junior Events, and at York to advertise the Exhibition there. I envisage the production of several (10?) of these to be based in different parts of the UK and taken to regional events to advertise the ABPS and the services and benefits it offers..... Stamp Active; the Quarterly Magazine, ABPS News; Seminars; Exhibitions; Judges Training; website, etc, etc. Sponsorship is being sought for these banners.

A National Stamp Day.... I spent the best part of a month visiting events linked to the idea of creating a National Stamp Day. Certainly, the societies/places that I visited were positive in their views: much of the Yorkshire area; the North East, and Scotland. I have been to several Philatelic Hub meetings led by Isabelle Klempka regarding Stamp Day, or Stamp Celebration Day. All kinds of good ideas are being pursued, including special postmark; labels; official recognition of the 5th May. Much has still to be done, but when I read the W4 Report, on p17, the Media and PR paragraph would certainly be an area for Isabelle and her group.... There may also be someone there, interested in the role of Development Officer.,,... if enough funds could be raised....(P18 of report, last paragraph).

Finally, I feel I should say something about the F.I.P. situation, and forthcoming elections. Any elections on this kind of scale are bound to be divisive. We have a strong candidate in Chris King. In my view he would be an outstanding President of F.I.P. He has the vision, the personality and the drive to unite the disparate groups within F.I.P. and push our great hobby forward. Bill Hedley, as ABPS Representative will support Chris and vote appropriately. However, whoever wins this election should also be able to count on our support. In times of difficulty for our hobby (ref. Kay Goodman lecture and W4 report) we can do without in-fighting and division. We need to be working together.,... Collectors, Dealers, Exhibitors, Federations, Societies; National and International Leaders; Event Organisers, and all involved in our hobby at whatever level.

Finally, finally..... 3 years left of my Chairmanship.... I for one will keep trying.
Graham Winters FRPSL Chairman ABPS.

Appendix C Awards Committee Report to the AGM 27 July 2018

It has been a busy year for the Awards Committee and I thank the Committee Members for carrying out their duties:

John Baron, John Jackson, Pat Rothnie, Brian Sole and Frank Soutar

We say 'goodbye' to Frank Soutar who is retiring after many years of faithful service on the Committee. Pat Rothnie also wanted to retire but kindly volunteered to serve another year to save having two vacancies to be filled at the same time.

If anyone would like to join our Committee please have a word with me. The reward of making so many people delighted with the recognition they receive, makes the work most worthwhile. In fact, one recipient of an Award of Merit said it was 'the nicest surprise of my life even surpassing a prize received from a professional institute.'

I do urge societies to consider who in your society has done outstanding voluntary work for British Philately over a number of years then submit an application for an award which you will find on the ABPS website together with Guidelines.

We had 7 nominations for Awards of Merit and all were successful. Their names and their nominators appear in the Awards Honours Book which is on view at this Congress. They were Dr Jim Etherington, David Hilton, Rachel McHugh, Brian Morriss, John Smith, Mike Turnbull and John Woodson.

We had some strong nominations for the Congress Medal and were delighted to award it to Erene Grieve for her work encouraging young collectors, in particular.

The Awards Committee congratulates all the collectors who have been successful this year.

As part of our duties we make recommendations to the ABPS Committee for nominations for the annual awards of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations.

This year we had success with our two nominations, Brian Trotter RDP received the Medal for Exceptional Study and Research for his book Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806-1916.

And the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain received a FEPA certificate for outstanding activities for the promotion of European Philately.

A person who does exceptional service for British Philately should be nominated for an Award of Merit by the body for which the service has been rendered.

There is a difficulty in the case of Federations because they have a special status within ABPS. They are members without paying a per capita fee but they have no voting rights. Consequently, they are unable to propose a person who is eligible for the award.

The Awards Committee proposes that Federations should be included in the category of nominators for ABPS Awards.

This was seconded and was approved by all those present.

Appendix D General Secretary's Report for the AGM 2018

Since the last AGM the following items have been discussed and considered by the ABPS Committee and where appropriate decisions have been made and initiatives commenced.

ABPS Committee changes – A number of changes have occurred in the membership of the Committee, we have said goodbye to John Baron, a long serving member who has stood down due to ill health after giving outstanding service to the hobby. There have been no new members to the committee this year. New committee members are always required to ensure that they represent all interests in the hobby.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – with the introduction of these revised regulations on the 25 May it was necessary for me to attend a couple of seminars on the subject and approach the ICO for advice. This was completed around December 2018 and our best practice manual was promoted prominently on the ABPS website. Now that the regulations have been enacted we will carry out a review to ensure that the advice given matches the wider consensus in the community.

ABPS Website – The ABPS website continues to be a source of much discussion and is taking far longer than first envisaged, in part this is due to the GDPR as this has potentially major repercussions on how we operate the site and how it interacts with the philatelic community.

ABPS Membership - An up to date membership position will be presented at the AGM as the late payment of subscriptions by some Societies continues to distort the figures.

GB Congress – the sub-committee responsible for the organising of the Congress has been meeting regularly and working hard on securing venues and arranging Congress content.

ABPS News - 4 issues have been issued, with an increased number of pages when necessary at no significant extra cost. More societies have sent in reports and anniversary articles. Around 40 societies now provide regular or occasional reports per issue.

Revision of the Terms and Conditions and a Privacy Policy – the existing ABPS Terms and Conditions have been reviewed to ensure they are in line with the GDPR.

Free Website for affiliated Societies – this initiative has been taken up by a number of local societies, the Yorkshire Federation and a Specialist philatelic Society. Any ABPS affiliated Societies requiring a website or wish to renew an old one, please contact the ABPS. With more interest we will be able to attract sponsorship to fund training days and updates.

National Speaker List – this is ongoing but has been hampered by the introduction of the GDPR and admittedly a lack of personal time to ensure that it is up to date.

Federations and Local Societies – our Chair, Graham Winters is instigating a system where individual Committee members are responsible for contacting their local Federations.

Youth Philately – Stamp Active is alive and well and is looking for an enthusiastic individual willing to promote and drive forward this very important aspect of Philately. If you think you have the skills or know someone who has the drive to contribute please contact John Davies.

Awards and Small Grants Committee – Yvonne Wheatley and her committee are seeking nominations from Societies who wish to honour persons for outstanding service to the wider Philatelic Community. They also consider applications for small grants that fund projects that work towards promoting the hobby.

Guidelines can be downloaded from the ABPS website to see if a person or project qualifies.

If you or someone you know would like to be involved in the ABPS Committee please contact the General Secretary and discuss how you could become a part of the team.

If you have any comments or suggestions about any of the subjects mentioned above please contact me.

Neil Ritchie General Secretary ABPS secretary@abps.org.uk June 2018

Appendix E Report from the membership secretary of the ABPS to the ABPS AGM in July 2018
12 July 2018

The membership trend of the past years continues with fewer societies with fewer members. Although some new societies have joined the ABPS a number have left.

At the time of writing a total of 169 Local societies have affiliated to the ABPS this year with a further 13 Local societies till to do so; this is a total of 182 Local societies with 5455 members. This compares to 187 Local societies that affiliated in 2017 with 5712 members, a 3% and 4% reduction in the number of Local societies and membership respectively. Most societies that left the ABPS have done so because they have closed or cannot find enough people to run the club.

The trend is clearly a shrinking Local society membership as we are getting older and fewer people are coming into the hobby. Worryingly, 12 Local societies have 10 or less members and 75 Local societies have 20 or less members. This does not bode well for the future.

A total of 63 Specialist societies have affiliated to the ABPS this year with a further two still to do so; this is a total of 65 Specialist societies with 7050 members. This compares to 66 Specialist societies that affiliated in 2017 with 7358 members. Although the number of Specialist Societies remains stable the UK membership of these Specialist societies has fallen by 5% since 2017.

The three National societies remain affiliated but their total membership has dropped from 1405 members in 2017 to 1373 members in 2018, a reduction of 2%.

Barry Stagg Membership Secretary