

ABPS



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of British Philatelic Societies

**held at Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Crown Plaza Hotel, Harrogate
Friday 24 September 2021 12 Noon**

1. Graham Winters (GW - Chair) welcomed attendees to the AGM and thanked everyone for attending (Attendees Listed Appendix A)
2. Apologies for absence were received from: Rufus Barnes, Julian Jones, Trevor Larkins, Eddie Mays, Brian Sole
3. Minutes of AGM 2020 were received as accurate. Proposed: Chairman - nem con
4. Matters arising from Minutes: nothing not covered in Agenda
5. Receiving the Accounts for 2020 - refer to ABPS website for copies. Nigel Gooch (Treasurer - NG) reported that the accounts had been sent to Companies House as required. NG indicated that there was not much change in the financial position, with a small deficit recorded for the year. Subscriptions had held up quite well despite the continuing falls in membership of local societies. It was pointed out that membership of specialist societies had held up rather better; they had perhaps benefited most from virtual meetings. NG thanked Barry Stagg for his unstinting efforts in collecting subscriptions. The accounts were formally adopted. Proposed: Hull P.S. Seconded: Germany & Colonies Society
6. Chair's Report - on 2018 - see Appendix B for written report. GW mentioned the question of Stamp Day - despite his best efforts, GW had not managed to get general recognition for a Stamp Day ... but he was not giving up! Graham Winters also confirmed that he was stepping down as Chair of ABPS following Congress and that Steve Harrison had agreed to take on the role. GW wished SH every success for his period in office.
7. Awards Committee - Chair's written report received - see Appendix C
8. Report by Editor of ABPS News - report received - see Appendix D
9. Secretary's Report - written report received - see Appendix E
10. Membership Secretary Report - received - see Appendix F
11. Company Secretary and Treasurer's Report - see [5] above

12. International and Exhibitions - Chair's verbal report received. Simon Richards (SR) provided some information on Stampex and made the point that various international exhibitions would be held in 2022. The future of Stampex was unclear at this point and the Committee were considering various alternatives outside London for exhibitions - less expensive. There was some discussion on this with the point being made that perhaps there could be better liaison between ABPS / PTS / and RPSL, working better together.
- 12a. With Autumn Stampex being very close, GW invited Susan Henderson to comment on Stamp Active. SH reported that the work of Stamp Active had been curtailed with no activities for younger collections. However, SH commented that she continued to receive donations and continued to plan for future events.
13. Election of Directors. There were no changes to the Directors during the year. All Directors are willing to continue and no other nominations have been received. Directors were re-elected en bloc. Proposed: Bradford P.S. Seconded: SPH Passed nem con
14. 2022 Congress: SH confirmed that Congress 2022 would take place in Birmingham, 75 years after the last Congress held in Birmingham. Taking account of other events, the event would be held in early September.
15. AOB - no matters notified to the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM. Steve Harrison took the opportunity to thank Graham Winters for his contribution to ABPS over the 4 years of his Chairmanship. SH also confirmed that John Davies had agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair of ABPS. There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting any 1.55pm.

APPENDIX A

AGM 2021: Representation	
Local Societies	
Banbury Stamp Society	Lanarkshire PS
Berwick PS	Lewes PS
Bishop's Stortford PS	National PS
Bradford & District PS	Royal Sutton Coldfield PS
Burton PS	Royal Tunbridge Wells PS
Caledonian PS	Royal Philatelic Society of London
Falkirk PS	Sheffield PS
Glasgow PS	Solihull PS
Glasgow Thematic PS	Southampton PS
Harrogate PS	Strathclyde Postcard Club
Henley PS	Wakefield PS
Hull PS	West London PS
Kingston & District PS	York PS
Specialist and National Societies	
Alba Stamp Group	Scandinavia PS
Ceylon Study Circle	Scottish PHS
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain	Society Postal Historians
Egypt Study Circle	South African Collectors' Society
Forces PHS	SPH
Germany & Colonies Society	Stamp Active
Iran Philatelic Study Circle	Sudan Study Group
Great Britain Philatelic Society	
Federations	
Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies	Midland Philatelic Federation
Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies	North East of England Philatelic Association
Hampshire Philatelic Federation	North Western Philatelic Association
Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies	Yorkshire Philatelic Association
Others	
FEPA (Chairman - Bill Hedley)	National UK Advisor for Philately in the USA (Jeff Armstrong)

APPENDIX B

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021. FOR CONGRESS AGM. HARROGATE.

As far as an annual report is concerned, I suppose this is rather muted. The COVID crisis has meant that ABPS along with all other philatelic organisations has largely 'kept things going' for the past eighteen months. However, there have been one or two significant achievements: The new website has bedded in well thanks mainly to John Davis and Maurice Buxton. ABPS News has continued to do an extraordinary job, and Keith Burton and his team have been justly rewarded with the FEPA Certificate of Merit. I must add my personal thanks for all Keith's dedication and hard work. The Exhibitions Committee has continued its efforts, managing 'virtual Stampex' shows very successfully during the pandemic...thanks here to Simon Richards and his team, and George Henshilwood for developing and managing the booth.

Regarding myself, I can say little more than I did in my Chairman's message in the recent ABPS News. I am staying on the Congress Committee with Steve, and he has asked me to stay on the General Committee to take over the Federations role, which I have accepted. I also intend to continue trying to establish a National Stamp Celebration Day on the 6th May each year. So, you are not getting rid of me yet!

Finally, I would like to thank Gerald Marriner, who after many years is stepping down as Congress Chairman. He has done an excellent job. I would also like to thank all members of the General Committee for helping me over the past four years. I know that you will all give Steve Harrison the same support.

Graham Winters FRPSL, Chairman ABPS.

APPENDIX C

Report of the Awards Committee 2020 to 2021

During the last two years the Awards Committee, consisting of John Baron, John Davies, Nigel Gooch, Steven Harrison, John Jackson and Brian Sole, had two difficult scenarios to address. The nominations for the Congress Medal are looked at against the Guide Lines which are no more than guidelines. The first problem regarded an extension to those eligible. After strong debating, it was decided that the extension was not appropriate and the Guide Lines were not amended. Secondly, we had to look at accepting two people sharing a Medal where both played an equal in the enterprise. This found favour. Both our recommendations were put to the ABPS Executive and were ratified.

We awarded Awards of Merit in 2020 to Bob Barnes, John Hammonds, Des Kent and Barrie Knowles. In 2021 Michael Dobbs, Eddie Mays and Richard Smith received Awards of Merit. The framed certificates were usually presented locally but the ABPS Executive Committee decided the achievement should be marked in a more formal way and I am delighted to say that the three recipients of this year and one from last year will be receiving their awards at the Congress banquet.

Nigel Gooch received the Congress Medal for 2020 and two people share the 2021 Medal, Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett. These Medals will be presented at the Congress Medal and Signing of the Roll Ceremony.

As a member of the Federation of European Philatelic Societies, ABPS is able to nominate suitable collectors and societies for the Federation's Medals and Certificates. Once again, the ABPS nominees did well in 2021 with Leeds Philatelic Society and ABPS News receiving Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately. Two books, *International Postal Reforms* by James Grimwood-Taylor RDP and *Ceylon: The Pence Issue* by Kurt E. Kimmel RDP and Patrick C. Pearson VRD RDP Hon. RPSL were runners-up for the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Study and Research. Lastly, a new medal, the Francis Kiddle Medal for the Best Philatelic Website in 2021 was announced and three UK websites were runners-up for the medal: *Stamp Active*, the *Great Britain Philatelic Society* and the *Spanish-Philippines Philatelic Site*.

Last year Chris King, RDP Hon. RPSL received the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to Organised Philately. A Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately was awarded to Stamp Active and the late Edward Klempka's book *Foreign Military Activity in the Russian Civil War 1917 – 1923* was a runner-up for the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Study and Research.

We are fortunate in having Bill Hedley, the FEPA President with us at Congress and he will be presenting the Certificates at the banquet.

ABPS has the ability to nominate a candidate to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists but as yet it has not exercised this privilege.

All societies affiliated to ABPS are encouraged to think about making nominations in all the award categories. The nomination form for Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal are on the ABPS website www.ABPS.org.uk Suggestions for ABPS nominations for the other awards should be sent to awards@abps.org.uk

Nominations for the Congress Medal 2022 need to be submitted by **30 November 2021**. The earlier date is to enable the Medal to be presented at the RDP Ceremony in February 2022. Nominations for the Awards of Merit should be submitted by the usual date of 1 March 2022. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sadly Neil Russell, who was the longest surviving Congress Medallist, died earlier this year having received the Medal in 1990. Richard West, MBE, who received the Medal in 1995, takes his place.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their willingness to undertake their work diligently and in a timely manner in order to fit the tight timetable.

Yvonne Wheatley
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

APPENDIX D

ABPS News Report for the AGM – September 2021

The issues sent since the last AGM have been entirely digital during lockdowns or a mixture of printed and digital. There have been very few complaints about the change over to the new system of delivery, though there is no way of knowing how, or even if, the digital copies are being distributed to members. A small number of specialist and local societies have requested only digital versions as this means that the vast majority can receive the issue quickly and efficiently through email or by placing the issue on the society's website, preferably in the members' only section. Copies have also been sent electronically to FIP, FEPA, FIAP and FEFA, so that the international organisations can see what ABPS societies are doing. Each magazine is uploaded to the ABPS website around the time of the closing date for copy for the next issue between 2 and 3 months after issue.

The issues have been well supported by articles from a number of new contributors. The response from societies and individuals to this slant in the material has been very positive. Reports on meetings have been fewer, unsurprisingly, and almost entirely based on Zoom presentations. Apparently these have increased steadily as more societies have taken the plunge. The widening of contact between distant societies or individual members has been very gratifying to note.

I am very grateful to those involved in the production and distribution of the magazine. Eddie Mays, John Woodson and Barry Stagg have provided consistent and speedy support in advertising, distribution and maintenance of contact with societies. My wife, who proofreads every issue, admits to finding it interesting reading, despite not counting herself as a philatelist. David Alford has improved the digital version for the last few issues, and the assistance of the staff at Hobbs, our printers, overcomes many of my mistakes.

The Award of a Certificate of Merit and the glowing comments in FEPA News and from members was a source of great personal and pride. We have a magazine of good standard but it all depends on the contributors of articles, report-writers, advertisers and everyone else connected with the production. I am very grateful indeed for all your support.

Keith S Burton FRPSL



APPENDIX E

General Secretary's Report to ABPS AGM

Since the last 'Virtual' AGM the Executive Committee has held three meetings using the Zoom videoconferencing facility. This has proven a very successful medium for these meetings and meetings are likely to be held 'virtually' for the foreseeable future.

At these meetings, a number of items are routinely discussed, together with any special items. The following provides a brief summary of the main points supplemented, as appropriate, by individual reports.

1. ABPS Committee: no changes in personnel over the past year although we sadly lost the services of Christine Earle who acted in a liaison role.
2. The new web-site has continued to work quite robustly. Particular thanks are due to John Davies for the regular news items which he adds to the site. We have all continued to update the web-site as new information has been provided to us.
3. We have tried to recognise the changes in our hobby with the need for 'virtual' meetings and the use of powerpoint to present displays. The web-site does provide some information on Zoom displays but, to date, not much information has been provided. I have also been rather slow to put on information on for which I can only apologise. Hopefully, any backlog has now been sorted.
4. We have participated in two virtual Stampex shows with some success. In particular, the virtual exhibits were a great success.
5. The Congress Committee has worked hard in the face of all the Covid developments to organise this Congress. The proof of their work is here for all to see! Let's hope it all runs smoothly.
6. Accounts - the various sets of Accounts were approved by the relevant Directors at the meeting in March.
7. Awards Committee - Yvonne Wheatley and her Committee continue to seek nominations from societies who wish to honour persons for outstanding service to the wider Philatelic Community.
8. Small Grants Committee - now under control of the Treasurer. Please contact the Treasurer if you wish to make an application for a grant. Guidelines are available on the ABPS website.
9. Stamp Active - Susan Henderson continues to develop initiatives for youth philately but that has been adversely affected by the lack of Exhibitions.
10. International Exhibitions - the need for additional exhibitors is always emphasised.

11. ABPS News - our editor, Keith Burton, continues to produce a quality product and an interesting read - see separate report.
12. Membership - sadly, despite Barry Stagg's best efforts, numbers continue their steady decline but see attached report.
13. We can assist with websites for affiliated societies. Any ABPS affiliated society requiring a website or wishing to renew an old one - please contact ABPS.

George L Henshilwood

APPENDIX F

Report from the Membership Secretary of the ABPS to the 2020 AGM, held in September 2021

2 August 2021

Summary

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.

Details

At the end of 2020 there was a total of 175 Local societies affiliated to the ABPS with a total club membership of 4802 members. Although the number of Local societies have remained the same as at the end of 2019 there was a reduction in membership of approximately 3% from the 2019 figure of 4941 members.

The trend is clearly a shrinking Local society membership as we are getting older and fewer people are coming into the hobby. Worryingly, 24 Local societies have 10 or less members and 89 Local societies have 20 or less members. This does not bode well for the future.

A total of 71 Specialist societies affiliated to the ABPS in 2020 with 6500 members. This compares to 70 Specialist societies that were affiliated at the end of 2019 with 6781 members. Although the number of Specialist Societies has increased slightly the UK membership of these Specialist societies has fallen by 4% since 2019.

Two National societies remain affiliated for 2019 but their total membership has dropped from 1236 members in 2019 to 1235 members in 2020.

Trend table	Number of Local Societies	Membership of Local Societies	Number of Specialist Societies	Membership of Specialist Societies	Number of National Societies	Membership of National Societies
2017	187	5712	66	7358	3	1405
2018	184	5459	67	7032	3	1373
2019	175	4941	70	6781	2	1236
2020	175	4802	71	6500	2	1236

Barry Stagg
Membership Secretary