

ABPS



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

held at Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Jurys Inn Hotel, Birmingham
Friday 9 September 2022 12.15pm

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED OR OTHERWISE AT AGM 2023

1. Steven Harrison (SH - Chair) welcomed attendees to the AGM and thanked everyone for attending (Attendees Listed Appendix A)
2. Apologies for absence were received from: Margaret Morris, Ken Norris
3. Minutes of AGM 2021 were received as accurate. Proposed: Thames Valley - nem con
4. Matters arising from Minutes: nothing not covered in Agenda
5. Receiving the Accounts for 2021 - 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 surplus recorded for the year, despite an increase in Grants. Subscriptions were only down modestly despite the continuing falls in membership of local societies. NG thanked Barry Stagg for his unstinting efforts in collecting subscriptions. NG proposed an increase in subscriptions from £1.50 to £2 per member; this reflected a number of factors - subscriptions had been at their current level for some time, declines in membership are continuing and costs are increasing (especially printing and postage); if ABPS is to continue to support organised philately in the UK, we need to increase current levels of income. The accounts and the proposed increase in fees were formally adopted. Proposed: Cheltenham P.S. Seconded: Czechoslovakia PS of GB
6. Chair's Report - on 2021 - see Appendix B for written report. SH referred to the three sections in his report. Under 1, 'Key Priorities', some progress had been made but we needed more volunteers to 'do things'. Under 2, 'Closing of Local Societies', ABPS can offer assistance to societies facing closer but, again, SH asked for a volunteer to develop a strategy for this. Under 3, 'ABPS and its relationship with Royal Mail, SH explained the difficulty of establishing any link with Royal Mail and now wonders if that is worth pursuing. There was some discussion of the issues highlighted by SH.

7. Awards Committee - the Chair emphasised the need for nominations for awards. The 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) explained that it had been a busy year for the Committee after Covid, both in the UK and overseas. However, the challenge remained of encouraging more individuals to exhibit overseas. Participation in UK events remains disappointing with less than 200 faces, compared with 2 or 3 times that number in smaller overseas countries.
13. Election of Directors. There were no changes to the Directors during the year but SH explained that Alan Godfrey (AG) had decided to stand down after many years of service to ABPS; SH thanked AG on behalf of ABPS. All Directors are willing to continue and no other nominations have been received. Directors were re-elected en bloc. Proposed: Scandinavia P.S. Seconded: Midlands PHS Passed nem con
14. 2023 Congress: SH confirmed that Congress 2023 would take place in Torquay and the plan was to reduce the length of Congress from 4 days to 3. Details will be available on the web-site and in ABPS news.
15. AOB - no matters notified to the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM. There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 1.15pm.

APPENDIX A: REPRESENTATION at AGM in 2022

AGM 2022: Representation	
Local Societies	
Banbury Stamp Society	Hereford & Mid Wales PS
Barnsley PS	Hull Stamp and Postcard Club
Bristol PS	Leeds PS
Cheltenham PS	Mid Sussex PS
Caledonian PS	Midland (GB) PHS
Cheltenham PS	Oxford PS
Cockermouth Stamp Club	Redditch PS
Croydon PS	Royal Sutton Coldfield PS
Glasgow PS	Royal Tunbridge Well PS
Glasgow Thematic Society	Royal Tunbridge Wells PS
Harrogate PS	Sheffield PS
Haverfordwest Stamp & Postcard Club	Wakefield PS
Henley & District PS	Wallington & Carshalton Stamp Club
Specialist and National Societies	
British Thematic Association	Korea SS
British West Indies Study Circle	Malaya Study Group
Ceylon Study Circle of GB	National Philatelic Society
Cinderella Stamp Club	New Zealand Society of Great Britain
Czechoslovakia Philatelic Society of GB	Philatelic Congress of GB Study Group
Egypt Study Circle	Polar PHS of GB
Falkland Islands PSG	Postal History Society (GB)
Forces PHS	Rhodesia Study Circle
France & Colonies PS (UK)	Royal Philatelic Society London
Germany & Colonies Society	Scandinavia PS
Great Britain PS	Stamp Box Study Circle
Iran Philatelic Study Circle	Sudan Study Group
Italy & Colonies Study Circle (UK)	The American Stamp Club of GB
King George VI Collectors Society	
Federations	
Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies	Thames Valley & District Philatelic Federation
Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies	Wiltshire & District Philatelic Federation
Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies	Yorkshire Philatelic Association
Midland Philatelic Federation	
Others	
FEPA (Chairman - Bill Hedley)	Stamp Active (Susan Henderson)

APPENDIX B: Chair's Report for AGM 2022



ASSOCIATION of BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2022

Chair's Report

1. ABPS Top Priorities

Over the past twelve months the work priorities have been to :

- Try to increase the numbers of general collectors by ABPS communication with “other societies”, e.g., Probus, arts clubs, U3A
- Introduce on-line seminars and workshops
- Develop internet sources of information with strong ABPS branding
- Further develop ABPS relationship with PTS (and Stampex)
- Publicise the health benefits of collecting
- Develop a Facebook page for the ABPS
- Talk more to Federations to fully understand what their points of view are
- Encourage Federations to send reps to Congress with a financial subsidy
- Hold ABPS branded Zoom meetings to give all access to good quality philatelic displays

Some progress has been made:

- Work is in hand with the preparation of an on-line learning package
- Further meetings and conversations have taken place with PTS – it will be represented at this year's Congress and producing a presentation on its relationship and position in philately.
- Although all federations and indeed all affiliated societies were encouraged to send delegates to Congress by offering a 50% reduction in attendance fees, there has been little take-up.

Although some progress has been made, there is still a very large amount of work to do. This raises a point that I think we need to add to our priorities over the next 12 months: we need to get more individuals involved with the ABPS executive committee to take on assistant status with some of the roles so that we have continuity planning embedded within the committee. Also, we need more people who can take on particular and specific pieces of work – for example the organisation of ABPS Zoom meetings that are available to all affiliated societies and clubs. We still need an individual to take on the co-ordination of advertising for the ABPS News.

I would welcome suggestions as to how we can find these new individuals – these new “doers”.

2. The Closing of Local Societies

During the course of the last season several local societies closed across the country. Also, two federations have now ceased functioning.

I have already asked if the ABPS should have a strategy for helping societies that are facing closure. Should we be able to suggest possible ways in which societies could have some sort of future – perhaps by merger with other local societies? I think time had come for a strategy to be in place. I would suggest that the preparation of this strategy is a piece of work for an individual to prepare and bring back to the executive committee. A volunteer is needed.

3. ABPS and its relationship with Royal Mail

I have asked over the past twelve months if the APBS should increase its effort to communicate with Royall Mail to try to give opinions that are shared by collectors?

I have spoken with several individuals who can be respected to have an insight into the relationship between philately as a hobby and Royal Mail. The opinion that seems to be common between these individuals is that “it’s like banging your head against a brick wall” and it’s not worth trying to develop a relationship; we would not be listened to. I would appreciate the ABPS to consider this position and decide what we ARE going to do with regard to any form of relationship with Royal Mail. The ABPS is supposed to represent philately in Great Britain – should we go on trying to speak to Royal Mail?

Steven Harrison
September, 2022

APPENDIX C: Chair's Report for Awards Committee for AGM 2022

ABPS Awards Committee Report to the AGM 9 September 2022

The Awards Committee has been busy during the year.

The Committee comprising John Baron, John Davies, Nigel Gooch, Steven Harrison, John Jackson and Brian Sole looked again at the Guidelines necessitated by a question raised by a local society. After a long debate the matter was taken to the ABPS Executive and further discussed. It was finally decided that the Guidelines were in line with the spirit of the rationale behind the awards and did not need further amendment.

The recipients of Awards of Merit for 2022, Frank Dickens and John Paulson, were both nominated by Matlock Philatelic Society. Both gentlemen had each served that Society in numerous positions for more than fifty years. Although the Awards Committee likes to see nominees serving in more than one society it was felt that the dedicate work of these two gentlemen over such a long period deserved recognition.

The Congress Medal 2022 was awarded to Michael Roberts of Huddersfield. He was nominated by the Society of Postal Historians and Cockermouth Stamp Club. He was presented with the medal at the Congress Medal and RDP Ceremony held at the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society London during the international exhibition LONDON 2022. As the Medal is an ABPS award which is usually presented during the Philatelic Congress the medal will be re-presented tomorrow evening at the Congress banquet. The Awards of Merit were presented to the nominees by Steven Harrison, Chairman of ABPS, at the AGM of the Matlock Society as both gentlemen have suffered from ill health and cannot be with us in Birmingham.

A Federation of European Philatelic Associations Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding Activities for the Promotion of Philately has been awarded to Southampton and District Philatelic Society and that award will also be presented at the Congress banquet by Bill Hedley, President of FEPA. A society has to put in a lot of work to be considered for nomination by the ABPS Executive Committee for a FEPA award.

The Awards Committee is disappointed by the level of support given to the ABPS awards by Societies, Federations and Friends of ABPS who all have the right to nominate worthy members of their organisation who have done exceptional work for British Philately. The Awards of Merit and Congress Medal are national awards and much appreciated by the recipients. It is an excellent way to give a tangible 'thank you' to the many philatelists who enable local and specialist societies and federations to keep meeting. Please think seriously about making a nomination. All the details are on the ABPS website.

News of the awards is always reported in ABPS News and there have been mentions in other philatelic journals.

I take this opportunity to thank my Committee for the services they have carried out to make this year's awards possible.

Yvonne Wheatley
Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

APPENDIX D: Editor's Report for ABPS News

ABPS News Report for the AGM

During the period since the last AGM four more copies of ABPS News have been produced. The number of societies asking to receive only a digital copy has increased, thus allowing the production of printed copies to be reduced to 500 per issue. This also means that the number of packets being sent out has fallen slightly but of course this is more than offset by the increase in the postage charges for each envelope.

During the year a few more societies have sent in occasional reports, though there are still some from whom I have not received any report since I began as editor. However the number of articles being provided has increased - something which has been positively commented on. Also the reports and photographs have been more varied and interesting. I have also received a number of book reviews which have been welcome and added a new dimension to the issues.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the people who have provided copy for the issues, without them there would be no magazine. I am also very grateful to my wife for her careful proof-reading, Eddie Mays for dealing with the advertisers, John Woodson for the efficient delivery of the printed copies, Barry Stagg for maintaining the contact accuracy so that very few if any copies go astray, to Maurice Buxton for adding issues to the website and adjusting their position there to make them more accessible and David Alford for his help in converting the Publisher version to a high-grade pdf version to be sent out as the digital version and for the website. We have a good relationship with the printers, Hobbs, who overcome my errors and help to make the magazine be a credit to ABPS.

Keith S Burton FRPSL



APPENDIX E: Secretary's Report for AGM

Secretary's Report to ABPS AGM 2022

The Executive Committee has continued to meet using the Zoom videoconferencing facility (5 meetings have been held in the period since the last AGM). 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: Eddie Mays stepped down as Advertising Manager earlier in the year. We are all grateful to Eddie for his contribution in this role, which has not yet been filled.
2. The new web-site continues to function robustly. Particular thanks are due to John Davies for the regular news items which he adds to the site - **BUT MORE NEWS ITEMS WOULD BE WELCOME**. 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 I am sure that other Zoom displays are out there. I admit to having been rather slow to update speaker's information on for which I can only apologise. Hopefully, any backlog has now been sorted. I will be writing to speakers very shortly inviting them to check their entries and submit any changes.
4. One item for 2022 - we are trying to build a database for communication with various stamp 'groups' by e-mail. We should be in touch at some point asking for your permission to be on our database - we promise not to bombard you with e-mails; please respond!
5. I am sure we all enjoyed getting back to 'face to face' events with LONDON 2022. We look forward to a successful Exhibition at Autumn Stampex.
6. Thanks as ever to the Congress Committee for delivering this year's Congress. The proof of their work is here for all to see! Let's hope it all runs smoothly.
7. Accounts - the various sets of Accounts were approved by the relevant Directors at the meeting in March and will be presented to this meeting.
8. Awards Committee - Yvonne Wheatley will talk to her report at the meeting.
9. 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. We are here to help!
10. Stamp Active - Susan Henderson continues to develop initiatives for youth philately but, of course, that has not been helped by the lack of face to face opportunities.

11. International Exhibitions - the need for additional exhibitors is always emphasised.
12. ABPS News - our editor, Keith Burton, continues to produce a quality product and an interesting read - Keith will comment on his report.
13. Membership - sadly, despite Barry Stagg's unstinting efforts, numbers continue their steady decline but see attached report.
14. 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
secretary@abps.org.uk

APPENDIX F: Membership Secretary's Report for AGM

Report from the Membership Secretary of the ABPS to the 2021 AGM, held in September 2022

8 August 2022

Summary

The membership trend of the past years continues with fewer Local societies with fewer members; however, the number of Specialist societies and members remains fairly stable.

Details

At the end of 2021 there was a total of 171 Local societies affiliated to the ABPS with a total club membership of 4489 members. This is a reduction in membership of approximately 7% from the 2020 figure of 4802 members.

The trend is clearly a shrinking Local society membership as we are getting older and fewer people are coming into the hobby and fewer club members are prepared to help run a society. Worryingly, 23 Local societies have 10 or less members and 88 Local societies have 20 or less members.

A total of 71 Specialist societies affiliated to the ABPS in 2021 with 6508 members. This compares well to 71 Specialist societies that were affiliated at the end of 2020 with 6500 members.

Two National societies remain affiliated for 2021 but their total membership has dropped slightly from 1236 members in 2020 to 1235 members in 2021.

Trend table for Local Societies

<u>AGM Year</u>	<u>Number of Local Societies</u>	<u>Membership of Local Societies</u>	<u>Number of Specialist Societies</u>	<u>Membership of Specialist Societies</u>	<u>Number of National Societies</u>	<u>Membership of National Societies</u>
<u>2017</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>5712</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>7358</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1405</u>
<u>2018</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>5459</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>7032</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1373</u>
<u>2019</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>4941</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>6781</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1236</u>
<u>2020</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>4802</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>6500</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1236</u>
<u>2021</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>4489</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>6508</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1235</u>

Barry Stagg
Membership Secretary