



Amersham & District Philatelic Society

(founded 1958)

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies
Affiliated to the Middlesex Philatelic Federation

Secretary: Jim Drummond, 45 Milton Lawns, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 6BH
Telephone/Fax: 01494 726418 e-mail: jimdrummond485@btinternet.com

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at 7.30pm on 17 May 2012 in the Drake Hall at the Amersham Community Centre.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by the President (Tony Bridger) in the chair, plus 28 other members and 12 visitors as recorded in the Attendance Register.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham Aylett, David Begley, Derek Booth, Bob Cotton, Andrew Dziwinski, David Lee, Alan Linger, Jim McKerrow, Ian Miller, Michael Pitt-Payne, David Turner and David White.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 May 2011

These minutes which were circulated in advance were approved as a true record of the Meeting and were signed by the President. Proposed by John Harley and seconded by Carole Last.

3. Matters arising

No matters were raised.

4. President's Address

Tony Bridger read his report, a copy of which is filed in the minutes book. He stated he is proud and happy after enjoying his first year as president, thanks to the strong support from the members.

He is happy with the level and standard of visits to and from other neighbouring societies, in addition to which he is impressed by the way the auctions and circulating packets are managed by Les Gwilliam and Alan Williams respectively, with the latter carrying out the additional and demanding duties of Treasurer in a tireless manner.

Mr Bridger encouraged all members to display their material when opportunities arise and he mentioned that in March 2013, after a six-year gap, we plan to invite external judges to decide the results of our formal competitions. During the same evening we shall arrange for the informal competitions to be judged by members.

5. Secretary's Report

Jim Drummond circulated copies of his address prior to the meeting, one of which is filed in the Minutes Book. In summary, attendances at normal meetings again averaged 23, but auctions drew an average of 38 during the past year.

Support continues to be given to Kidstamps in the form of donations of suitable stamps purchased from our Youth Philately Fund.

Thanks to David Page and his son-in-law Steve Griffiths, the website continues to operate well. A new members' section has been added, access to which is by a password which was advised to the meeting.

No questions were raised.

6. Auction Secretary's Report

Mr Gwilliam thanked the vendors for their consistent support. The auctions are the best supported meetings each year and the profits allow the committee to waive or reduce subscriptions from time to time.

Thanks to co-operation with the members and other buyers, more auction catalogues are now despatched by E mail than by post. The auction this evening has fewer specialised GB items than in the recent past and it is hoped this will improve the ratio of sold lots.

Members were again invited to tell Mr Gwilliam of any material they would like to see in future auctions.

The new computer and printer will be used for the first time at the auction this evening. Mr David Page had a cataract removed from one eye yesterday and he is unable to operate the new computer on this occasion, as a result of which Mrs Elizabeth Gwilliam has kindly volunteered to record the sales.

7. Exchange Packet Secretary's Report

Copies of this report by Alan Williams were distributed to the meeting and one is filed in the Minutes Book.

Gross sales from retired packets declined from £10,331 from £9,867. However due to increased income from the insurance service the net profit at £978 is 38p higher than last year. The Packets have a current membership of 62.

This report was adopted unanimously, proposed by Derek Nicholls and seconded by David Page.

8. Treasurer's Report with Annual accounts

Copies of this report were also distributed to the meeting and one copy is filed in the Minutes Book.

The surplus for the year is £276 compared to £580 in 2010/11, but this year's figure is calculated after absorbing the full cost of the new laptop £429.

The financial position is stronger than ever, with £7,451 held in the two bank accounts after transfer of the packets surplus.

Mr Williams was asked if he had considered investing some of our cash reserves on a term deposit, to improve upon the very paltry amount of interest received £1.72. He is currently considering a two-year deposit, which would be the maximum period he would accept for tying up such funds. It was mentioned the Society issues and deposits quite a high number of cheques, but no charges are levied by our two banks.

These accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of Mark Ladd seconded by David Page.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

Mr Drummond advised the meeting that in accordance with clause 11a of our constitution one officer and three other committee members should retire by rotation. Alan Williams as Treasurer, plus Martin Johnson and Nigel Perrins retire under that rule and offer themselves for re-election. David Turner was co-opted on to the committee in September 2011 and now seeks election.

Since no other nominations have been received the committee of nine will be:-

Tony Bridger, Jim Drummond, Les Gwilliam, John Harley, Martin Johnson, Chris Marsh, Nigel Perrins, David Turner and Alan Williams.

Over the next two weeks the committee will agree the allocation of posts, with the present incumbents likely to be in place for another year.

The 2012/13 committee was proposed en bloc by Mark Ladd and seconded by Maurice Taylor.

10. Award of Honorary Life Membership to David Page

The President said that in view of Mr Page's unstinting and varied service to the Society over such a long period, we should have made this award at an earlier date.

Mr Drummond read the motion "that in view of his outstanding service to Amersham & District Philatelic Society over the past 43 years, honorary life membership should be awarded to David Page". This motion was proposed by the committee en bloc, seconded by Ian Wallace and approved unanimously.

Mr Bridger congratulated Mr Page and thanked him for all he has done for the Society.

11. Appointment of Hon Examiner

Michael Pitt-Payne (who was unable to attend) was thanked for checking the Society's accounts so thoroughly and was re-appointed, since he has kindly agreed to continue in office for 2012/13. Proposed by Chris Marsh and seconded by John Harley.

12. Presentation of Trophies and Certificates to successful competition entrant

A full list of the winners is filed in the Minutes Book.

Carole Last was asked to present the trophies. The Ruby Trophy was handed to Chris Marsh, The Greenhill Trophy to Mark Ladd, The Taylor Trophy to Derek Chandler, and The Hands Cup to Michael Fletcher. The New Chiltern Trophy was won by Tony Stanford who was unable to attend the meeting.

13. Any Other Business

One of our visitors Barry Fowler advised the meeting he and his father Anthony are setting up a philatelic auction service and he asked anyone who was interested to complete and return one of the registration forms he had distributed prior to the meeting. (However on checking the forms it appears there is no address to which they can be sent!)

No points were raised and the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.