



Amersham & District Philatelic Society

(founded 1958)

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

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at 7.30pm on 16 May 2013 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 31 other members and 8 visitors as recorded in the Attendance Register.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham Aylett, David Begley, Mike Consden, Dr David Filer, Mark Ladd, David Lee, Alan Linger, Geoff Pinder, Tom Pirouet, Michael Pitt-Payne, Stan Peacock, Maurice Taylor, Dick Topley, and Ian Worsfold.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 May 2012

These minutes which were circulated in advance were approved as a true record of the Meeting and were signed by the President. Proposed by Derek Nicholls and seconded by Michael Fletcher.

3. Matters arising

No matters were raised.

4. President's Address

Tony Bridger read his report, a copy of which is attached. In summary Tony highlighted the strength of the Society at present, due largely to the good work by the various officers and committee members. Examples are listed in support of this opinion, as well as a reminder the Society's long term wellbeing depends upon the continuing willingness of individuals to give their time and effort to the cause.

He also included an example of how the committee can respond to members' suggestions, promoting his opinion the Society has its priorities right.

5. Secretary's Report

Copies of the report were circulated prior to the meeting, one of which is filed in the Minutes Book. This report began with a tribute to the immediate past Secretary Ian Miller, who died on 16 April 2013 aged 80.

Attendances at normal meetings averaged 21 compared to 23 over the previous two years, but auctions drew an average of 47 compared to 38 last year.

Support continues to be given to Kidstamps in the form of donations from members, or 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. Many thanks also to the Tony Bridger for being such a caring and genial President over the past two years.

No questions were raised.

6. Auction Secretary's Report

Les Gwilliam thanked the vendors for their consistent supply of good quality items.

The new computer and printer which were used for the first time at the 2012 AGM have performed well.

Demand from members who wish to sell material exceeds our capacity, so Mr Gwilliam advised all vendors to submit their lots as early as possible. In many cases recently, the auction is full before the closing date for delivery of lots. On occasions he has to limit the number of items tendered by one vendor.

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 again from £9,867 to £9,389 with the "strike rate" falling from 29.74% to 27.15%. The net surplus for the year is £864 compared to £978 for 2011/12. The Packets have a current membership of 65, an increase of 3 on last year.

Mr Williams advised steps are being taken to improve the efficiency of this service, by increasing the value of each packet and reducing the number in circulation.

This report was adopted unanimously, proposed by Chris Marsh and seconded by Ian Wallace.

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.

Despite purchasing a new printer at a cost of £117 for the Auction Secretary and contributing £250 towards a new computer for the Secretary, the year generated a surplus of £177 compared to £276 in 2011/12.

The financial position remains strong with £7,175 held in the two bank accounts after transfer of the packets surplus, plus a stock of second class stamps (purchased ahead of price increases) which has cost £318.

These accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of David Page seconded by Peter Coe.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

At this point Jim Drummond advised the meeting that in accordance with clause 11a of our constitution one officer and three other committee members should retire by rotation. The word “officer” is defined as President, Secretary, Treasurer and/or Immediate Past President. Tony Bridger is retiring as President, while Martin Johnson, Chris Marsh and Dr Nigel Perrins as committee members all retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

Les Gwilliam is standing for President and Chris Marsh for Vice President, a position which is currently vacant.

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

Les Gwilliam, Chris Marsh, Tony Bridger, Jim Drummond, John Harley, Martin Johnson, 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 David White and seconded by John Richards.

10. Appointment of Hon Examiner

Michael Pitt-Payne (who was unable to attend) was thanked for checking the Society's accounts so thoroughly for another year and he was re-appointed, since he has kindly agreed to continue in office for 2013/14. Proposed by Chris Marsh and seconded by Steve Epps.

11. Presentation of Trophies and Certificates to successful competition entrants

Jim Drummond read the contents of an E mail from our member Mike Consden, who was full of praise for the excellent work done by Les Gwilliam over the past ten years as Auction Secretary. The contents were discussed by the committee (excluding Mr

Gwilliam) at some length in advance of this AGM, and it was unanimously decided to award Les Gwilliam the Stanley Gibbons Trophy, which is reserved for outstanding service to the society by members.

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

Carole Last was asked to present the trophies. The New Chiltern Trophy was handed to Michael Fletcher and The Taylor Trophy to Alan Williams. The Greenhill Trophy and The Hands Cup were both won by Michael Pitt-Payne, while the Ruby Trophy was won by Mark Ladd. Both Mr Pitt-Payne and Mr Ladd had tendered their apologies for being absent.

13. Any Other Business

At this point Tony Bridger invited Les Gwilliam to take the chair. Mr Gwilliam indicated Mr Bridger will be a hard act to follow as President, because he has been so popular and successful.

No matters were raised and the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.