



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 15 May 2014 in the Barn Hall at the Amersham Community Centre.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by the President (Les Gwilliam) in the chair, plus 30 other members and 8 visitors as recorded in the Attendance Register.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham Aylett, Derek Booth, Tony Bridger, John Harley, Keith Leonard, Michael Pitt-Payne and Tony Stanford.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 May 2013

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

3. Matters arising

No matters were raised.

4. President's Address

Les Gwilliam stated he had seen an advance copy of the Secretary's Report which covered everything he would wish to say.

5. Secretary's Report

Copies of the report were circulated prior to the meeting, one of which is filed in the Minutes Book (appendix 1). This report began with tributes to Ian Donnelly who died in July 2013 and to Don Farmborough who died in April 2014. John Harley had reluctantly resigned as Librarian and Publicity Officer in November 2013 due to ill health and he is greatly missed.

Current membership totals 109 plus 10 Honorary Life Members two of whom are active. Attendances at normal meetings averaged 21 which was the same as the previous year, but auctions drew an average of 42 compared to 47 last year and 38 in 2011/12.

Our four man team did well in the MPF Quiz in October coming second to Pinner.

David Page and his son-in-law Steve Griffiths continue to provide a very useful service by operating the website so successfully.

After 6 years in post Tony Bridger has indicated he does not wish to seek re-election as Programme Secretary but will remain as a committee member. Mr Bridger has arranged many high quality presentations and other meetings over that period, all of which are greatly appreciated by our members.

No questions were raised.

6. Auction Secretary's Report

Les Gwilliam indicated whenever possible we reserve the Drake Hall for auctions but on this occasion we had to accept the Barn Hall, which is rather cramped.

He thanked Stuart Catchpole for volunteering to assist by acting as joint Auctioneer over the past three auctions and for covering that post this evening.

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 (appendix 2).

Gross sales from retired packets declined again from £9,389 to £8,873 with the "strike rate" falling from 27.15% to 26.63%, although the net surplus for the year is £950 compared to £864 for 2012/13. The Packets have a current membership of 65, which is the same as last year.

Mr Williams advised the higher surplus is largely due to the fact packets have been increased from a maximum of £1,000 in value to £1,500, but our insurers will cover us for only £1,000. However we charge vendors for the additional £500 and these premiums have been taken into profit. At this stage in view of the Society's liquid position he sees no need to allocate these premiums to a separate fund, bearing in mind our insurers have faced only one significant claim in more than 50 years.

This report was adopted unanimously, proposed by Stuart Catchpole and seconded by John Payne.

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 (appendix 3).

Mr Williams advised there is a small surplus of £31 for the year ended 31 March 2014 in spite of a reduction of £70 in our income, plus increased costs on several fronts including rent of halls, printing and stationery, postage and library.

The financial position remains strong with very few liabilities and a credit balance of £7,419 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 £298.

These accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of Mark Ladd seconded by Mike Conden.

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. Mr Drummond as Secretary retires by rotation and offers himself for re-election, while Tony Bridger and David Turner as committee members retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election. David Peace was co-opted to the committee on 30 May 2013 and now seeks election.

As mentioned in item 5 Tony Bridger is retiring as Programme Secretary. Chris Marsh has kindly agreed to stand for election to this post.

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

Les Gwilliam as President and Auction Secretary, Chris Marsh as Vice President and Programme Secretary, Jim Drummond as Secretary, Librarian and acting Competitions Secretary, Tony Bridger as Immediate Past President, Martin Johnson, David Peace, Nigel Perrins, David Turner and Alan Williams as Treasurer and Packet Secretary.

Over the next two weeks the committee will hold a brief meeting to confirm the allocation of posts as detailed above.

The 2014/15 committee was proposed en bloc by Stuart Catchpole and seconded by Peter Coe.

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 2014/15. Proposed by Chris Marsh and seconded by John Payne.

11. Presentation of Trophies and Certificates to successful competition entrants

A full list of the winners of the competitions is filed in the Minutes Book (appendix 4).

Carole Last was asked to present the trophies. In the absence of Tony Stanford the New Chiltern Trophy was retained by the Secretary for presentation at a later date. Since Michael Pitt-Payne had also sent his apologies the Greenhill Trophy was given to Alan Williams to deliver to Mr Pitt-Payne. The Hands Cup was presented to Michael Fletcher, the Taylor Trophy to Chris Marsh and the Ruby Trophy to Jim Drummond.

13. Any Other Business

David Page asked the committee to consider using Society funds to pay subscriptions to one or more of the popular stamp magazines (such as Stamp Monthly) to lend out to members.

No other matters were raised and the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.