



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 21 May 2015 in the Drake Hall at the Amersham Community Centre.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by the President (Les Gwilliam) in the chair, plus 36 other members and 6 visitors as recorded in the Attendance Register.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham Aylett, Steve Gill, Gordon Jeffreys, David Page, John Payne, Nigel Perrins, Tom Pirouet, Michael Pitt-Payne, Tony Stanford, Mark Taylor, David Turner and Keith Wright.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 May 2014

These minutes which were circulated in advance were approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the President. Proposed by Michael Fletcher and seconded by Ken Gordon.

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 our late members Derek Booth who died in May 2014 and David Begley who died in March 2015.

Current membership totals 109 plus 10 Honorary Life Members, two of whom are active. Attendances at normal meetings averaged 21, the same as the previous year, but auctions drew an average of 43 compared to 42 last year and 47 in 2012/13.

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

Thanks were expressed to Tony Bridger for arranging another enjoyable programme before standing down as Programme Secretary. Les and Liz Gwilliam were thanked for managing the auctions in such a professional manner, with support from Alan Williams (who also ran the exchange packets very successfully), Stuart Catchpole, David Peace, Chris Marsh, Derek Chandler and Ian Wallace.

No questions were raised.

6. Auction Secretary's Report

Les Gwilliam advised the auctions during the year attained record sales and he wished to especially thank his wife Liz for her excellent work in preparing the catalogues and recording the bids on the computer in real time.

The next auction is scheduled for 01 October and lots should be received by the first week in August at the latest.

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) with all figures in brackets referring to last year. The report shows 29 (29) packets have completed circulation with sales totalling £11,509 (£8,873) at a strike rate of 26.87% (26.63%). The higher turnover is due largely to the total value of each packet being enlarged from £1,000 to £1,500, while one packet was lost by a member who eventually paid £1,163, to settle the residual combined asking price of the missing booklets. Largely because of these factors the net profit for the year is an all time record for the Society £1,318 (£950).

This report was adopted unanimously, proposed by Rob May and seconded by John Richards.

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). This reflects a profit for the year to 31 March 2015 of £817 (£31). The substantial difference from last year is due largely to the increased revenue from the auctions and exchange packets.

When it became clear such a relatively large surplus would be generated, the committee decided to purchase two new Signascope watermark detectors and a new Perftronic digital perforation gauge. These items are available for members to borrow by arrangement with the Secretary.

In response to a question from Mike Consden Mr Williams advised the stockbooks shown as £117 are held by David Page and are available for members to purchase. Also when

the committee hears of any junior collectors we give them a free stockbook as part of a starter kit.

These accounts were adopted unanimously on the proposal of Stuart Catchpole seconded by Mike Consden.

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 Gwilliam as President retires by rotation and offers himself for re-election for one more year, while Martin Johnson and Chris Marsh as committee members retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election. Dr Nigel Perrins has asked to stand down from the committee after completing five years.

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

Les Gwilliam as President and Auction Secretary, Chris Marsh as Vice President and Programme Secretary, Jim Drummond as Secretary, Librarian, acting Competitions Secretary and acting Publicity Officer, Tony Bridger as Immediate Past President, Martin Johnson, David Peace, 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 Ken Gordon and seconded by Maurice Taylor.

10. Appointment of Hon Examiner

Michael Pitt-Payne (who was unable to attend) was thanked for again checking the Society's accounts so thoroughly for another year. Alan Williams advised the meeting he is happy to comply with a request from Mr Pitt-Payne to provide more detailed analysis of the auctions performance in future.

Mr Pitt-Payne was re-appointed Hon Examiner, since he has kindly agreed to continue in office for 2015/16. Proposed by Rob May and seconded by Stuart Catchpole.

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 Tom Pirouet (who was working late) the Ruby Trophy was presented to his grandfather Michael Fletcher.

Since Michael Pitt-Payne had also sent his apologies the Hands Cup and the Taylor Trophy were given to Alan Williams to deliver to Mr Pitt-Payne.

Mark Ladd was not in attendance so the Greenhill Trophy was retained by the Secretary for presentation at a later date.

The engraver had failed to return the New Chiltern Trophy by the promised date 19 May, which means presentation to the winner Jim Drummond has to be deferred to a later date.

13. Any Other Business

No matters were raised and the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.