

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society  
held at 7.30pm on 19 May 2011  
in the Drake Hall at the Amersham Community Centre.

Immediately prior to the meeting John Baron Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association of British Philatelic Societies presented an Award of Merit to David Page for services to British philately. Photographs were taken on a professional basis by Paul Lunn and Lewis Fletcher. A copy of the citation giving full details of Mr Page's achievements is filed in the Minutes Book.

The meeting was opened at 7.40 pm by the President (Michael Fletcher) in the chair, plus 39 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, Alan Linger, Ian Miller, Tom Pirouet and Don White.

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 May 2010**

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

**3. Matters arising**

No matters were raised.

**4. President's Address**

Michael Fletcher advised the meeting he had enjoyed the past two years as President and he thanked Tony Bridger, Jim Drummond, Les Gwilliam, John Harley and Alan Williams for their work as office holders. He also thanked the other committee members and the ordinary members who regularly attend meetings for their support.

Mr Fletcher wished his successor good luck and success.

**5. (a) 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 meeting averaged 23 but auctions drew an average of 45 during the past year.

Considerable support has been given to four locally based junior collectors and to Kidstamps from our Youth Philately Fund.

Thanks to David Page and his son-in-law Steve Griffiths, the website is operating well and has received almost 1,000 “hits” since inception in October 2009. A new version is being tested and will be rolled out soon. This will include more pictures and linked files.

Mr Drummond thanked John Harley for his excellent support as Librarian and Publicity Officer.

No questions were raised.

### **5 (b) Resolution to purchase Laptop Computer**

An explanatory note had been sent out to members with the agenda and Mr Drummond reminded the meeting that David Page has provided high quality computer services (including the recording of successful bids at meetings) for the Society’s auctions since 2001. Mr Page has not asked to be relieved of these duties, but the Committee feels it is unreasonable to expect him to continue on an indefinite basis. The Society is financially strong and able to “stand on its own feet”.

Mr Drummond indicated it would cost a maximum of £700 to purchase a new laptop computer, a laser printer and the requisite software. Consideration has been given to the possibility of saving money at the outset by acquiring a second hand computer, but the committee has rejected this suggestion as it could prove to be a false economy. We need a system which will be robust, reliable and quick to operate.

A discussion ensued when Mr Page indicated that while he accepted the need to acquire a dedicated computer for the Auction Secretary, he suggested the committee should reconsider the second hand option and offered comparative figures. However Martin Johnson expressed the view that we do need a new laptop to provide the infrastructure to support our auctions for several years. It is advisable to ensure, that with the passage of time, we do not lose the maintenance support of the software supplier, which will probably be Microsoft.

A resolution **“That the Auction Secretary be authorised to purchase a new laptop computer plus printer at a cost not exceeding £700, for the purpose of recording all data relating to future auctions”** was **proposed by Geoff Pinder and seconded by John Payne**. A vote was called and support for the resolution was almost unanimous. The Auction Secretary is therefore authorised to incur this capital expenditure.

### **6. Auction Secretary’s Report**

Mr Gwilliam indicated he is happy with the results of recent auctions and he suggested any buying members should let him know if they would like any particular items to be included in future.

### **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 increased by 18% to £10,331 from 31 packets compared to 25 last year. As a result the surplus payable to the Society’s main bank account has risen from £748 to £977. The Packets have a current membership of 65.

The Hon Examiner Michael Pitt-Payne reminded the meeting that Mr Williams has a very demanding job in running the Packets and members owe him a large debt of gratitude. For example, during the year Mr Williams has processed about 2,000 buyers' slips.

This report was adopted unanimously, **proposed by Michael Pitt-Payne and seconded by Ian Donnelly.**

## **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 £580 compared to £1,304 in 2009/10, but the previous figure was boosted by a "one off" receipt of £498 from the sale of library books. Also during 2010/11 we supported MPF to the tune of £108, in respect of the philatelic fair to commemorate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The financial position remains strong with £6,995 held in the two bank accounts after transfer of the packets surplus.

Mr Williams advised the meeting that in view of our strong financial situation subscriptions would be collected during 2010/11 as usual, but would be waived during 2012/13. Half of these subscriptions would therefore be applied to each of the two years' accounts.

Derek Booth expressed his thanks to the Society for the donation to the charitable fund in memory of his late wife, Brenda.

These accounts were adopted unanimously on the **proposal of David Page seconded by Chris Marsh.**

## **9 Election of Officers and Committee**

Mr Drummond advised the meeting that after two years on the committee Geoff Pinder has asked to stand down, while Michael Fletcher will not seek re-election to the committee. He thanked both for their significant contributions. To comply with clause 11a of our constitution John Harley retires by rotation and offers himself for re-election.

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

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

This means the committee will have only eight members, but we can cope at that level for the time being, as we have no labour intensive projects during the summer recess.

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 one exception is President since Michael Fletcher is standing down. One nomination has been received namely Tony Bridger who has the unanimous support of the committee.

The 2011/12 committee was **proposed en bloc by Peter Coe and seconded by Derek Booth.** At this point Mr Fletcher vacated the chair in favour of Mr Bridger.

## **10 Appointment of Hon Examiner**

Michael Pitt-Payne was thanked for checking the Society's accounts and he agreed to continue for 2011/12, **proposed by Jim Drummond and seconded by Alan Williams.**

## **11 Presentation of Trophies and Certificates to successful competition entrants**

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

David Page was asked to present the trophies. The Ruby Trophy, The New Chiltern Trophy and The Hands Cup were all handed to Michael Fletcher, while the Greenhill Trophy and the Taylor Trophy were presented to Michael Pitt-Payne.

## **12 Any Other Business**

No points were raised and the meeting closed at 8.18 pm.