

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS to the A.G.M. on 17th. MAY 2012

I stand before you, at the end of my first year as your President, a proud and happy man.

I am proud to have been entrusted with the Presidency of our Society, and happy that I have enjoyed the experience to date, having been given much support and encouragement from you, the Members. I thank you all!

Our Meetings continue to attract good attendances, and a variety of Speakers have presented a wide range of interesting and informative displays for us to enjoy.

I am particularly pleased to be associated with the practice of Exchange Visits with other Societies, and promise to ensure this continues to be encouraged. It can only be good for the hobby when the members of two Societies, who might otherwise not meet each other, entertain each other with their displays. As a result we all enjoy a range of smaller displays which would otherwise not be seen. It is also a means of encouraging members to "have a go" at displaying, as was the case earlier this year when Nigel Perrin did so well when making his maiden external presentation to the Members of the Hitchin Society. Well done, Nigel! Our Thanks also extend to David Page, Mark Ladd and Alan Williams, who along with Nigel represented us all on the Visits to Hitchin and Ruislip Societies.

Les Gwilliam continues to develop our Auctions very successfully, to the benefit of the Society and its Members. Les firmly believes that the Auctions should be operated in a way which helps Members to sell their surplus material, sometimes at the expense of possible optimum profit for the Society. Your Committee supports Les in his admirable efforts as Auctions Secretary!

Another continuing success story comes from Alan Williams, wearing his Packet Secretary's hat. Despite the list of Buying members remaining fairly static over recent years, the overall sales from the packets remains at an acceptable level, albeit a little lower than previously. Alan has identified one or two factors which tend to limit his efforts as Packet Secretary, and is developing strategies to counteract these.

Alan continues to work tirelessly as our Treasurer, and I expect him to present yet another healthy set of Annual Accounts shortly.

Congratulations were in order earlier in the year when the team from Amersham won the Inter-Society Quiz Night competition, in some style! It was especially pleasing as events had prevented Amersham from sending a Team to the Quiz Nights for a couple of years. In the time-honoured manner, our Society undertook to organise and host the next Inter-Society Quiz Night, in October 2012. Your Committee are engaged in developing plans for another enjoyable night, when willing volunteers will be an essential ingredient – watch this space!

For the past 5 years our Competitions have been judged by the Members, with no external Judges involved. As successful as this has been there has always been a minority view that external Judges should be reintroduced, and your Committee has agreed to arrange this to happen for the 9-sheet Competitions next year. I take this early opportunity to urge Members to start preparing their entries in good time to ensure this change is fully justified, and the Judges are worked hard!

I conclude my report by expressing personal and heart-felt Thanks to the Officers and Members of the Committee for their efforts on behalf of our Society in general, and in particular for helping me find my way through the past year as your President.

Tony Bridger
President - 2011-2012