

Jim Drummond – Secretary’s Report for 2011//2012

(SecReport12)

Membership

Our membership during the year ended 31 March has remained static at 103 plus 10 Honorary Life Members. We lost and gained 3 members.

Over the past 12 months attendances at our normal meetings have again averaged 23, the same as last year. The auctions continue to be more popular, although the average attendance has declined from 45 in 2010/11 to 38 this year.

We are all conscious that our membership is ageing and every year we lose one or two members who are no longer able to attend meetings.

Junior collectors

Last year I reported on the good work carried out by Maureen and Tim Cory who live near Kettering, where they run a junior collector service Kidstamps, with over 1,000 members throughout UK. Kidstamps are always looking for material for their starter packs being thematic stamps, maxi cards and miniature sheets showing animals, birds, cars, flowers, royalty, space and sport from GB, Australia, France, USA and the English speaking countries of Africa.

We have continued to support Kidstamps by mailing supplies of these items from time to time, either as gifts from members or purchases of modestly priced stamps from our packets and auctions. If you have any of the above items to spare please let me know.

Website

Our thanks again go to David Page and his son-in-law Steve Griffiths for successfully maintaining our website since its inception in October 2009. The site includes the history of ADPS, events, news of recent meetings, auction catalogues and details of accessories held in stock.

A members’ section has recently been established, access to which is by password. After some “gremlins” have been banished that section now seems to be fully operational and I urge all of you with home computers to test it. I shall release the password during the AGM.

Competitions

Support for last year's competitions was disappointing, but this year was much more successful. The informal competitions Ruby Trophy (3 sheets stamps) and Taylor Trophy (9 sheets postcards) attracted a total of 10 and 7 entries respectively, while the formal 9 sheet versions attracted totals of 6 entries for the Greenhill Trophy (postal history), 7 entries for the New Chiltern Trophy (stamps) and 3 entries for the Hands Cup (thematics).

The respective winners will be formally presented with their trophies towards the end of this meeting under item 12.

Middlesex Philatelic Federation Inter Society Quiz

We have not planned any project during the summer months, but on 18 October Amersham will host the MPF Inter Society Quiz in the Drake Hall, following our convincing win last year, when the event was organised by Ruislip. A sub committee of six (Messrs Bridger, Drummond, Harley, Marsh, Perrins and Williams) has been selected to plan the quiz and since we hosted several such events up to 2005, David Page has given us a full checklist of all the points we need to cover.

Barnet, Kodak and Harrow plus Watford have all agreed to enter a team of six members each, while two non MPF clubs Aylesbury and Maidenhead have also responded positively. We hope Pinner, Rickmansworth and Ruislip will join in, making a total of nine including our own team. This should prove an optimum number.

Whilst the sub committee will attend to all the planning and preparation, we shall need a good number of members to help on the night.

Committee

It is up to the members to form an opinion as to whether the committee is successful in running the Society, but what I can say is that under the genial chairmanship of Tony Bridger all nine of the committee have a very friendly relationship with each other, with full co-operation always being given when required.

However the committee is not a "closed shop" and we would be happy to welcome any members who would like to join us. If you would like to help, please contact one of us.

In terms of the constitution we can add a maximum of another three members to the committee.