



## **INFORMATION and RULES for ABPS Federation Competitions**

ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee  
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### **Advice and Support for Exhibitors and Organisers**

The ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee recognises the wish for Federations and Clubs to exercise their judgement on the suitability of local rules for the organisation and judging of exhibitions.

However, in order to assist exhibitors and to work towards common standards between Federation and National competitions, organisers are encouraged to consider the use of this advice and support document in their competitions.

Seminars are given to support exhibitors at least twice annually at Stampex, and Federations are encouraged to organise seminars locally, both for exhibitors and judges. These can involve more than one Federation or Society, and are more effective with twenty or more participants, extending over two days.

Contact Bill Hedley at [ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ewlhedley@yahoo.co.uk) if any Federation is interested in helping to organise or host a seminar.

Federation judges are encouraged to exhibit at a minimum once every three years at Federation or National level, and to attend at least one seminar during the same period.

Notes on exhibiting and judging are to be found on the ABPS website including pdf versions of PowerPoint Presentations. These include:

- Title or Introductory Page
- The Introductory Page
- Presentation
- Knowledge, Personal Study and Research
- Judging and Exhibiting
- Postal History Class 2C
- ABPS Judging Seminar Part One
- Local Postal History
- Revenues - Exhibiting and Judging

Others are added from time to time at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

## **Brief definitions of Judging Criteria**

These are to be found in a more complete format on the ABPS website.

### **Treatment and Importance**

Treatment is how the exhibit tells its story; it needs a title and an introduction, a cohesive story line, an appropriate ending, and should be balanced overall.

The 'Philatelic Importance' of an exhibit is determined by both the significance of the actual exhibit in relation to the subject chosen, and the overall significance of that subject in the field of philately in general.

### **Knowledge and Research**

Knowledge is the degree of knowledge of the exhibitor as expressed by the items chosen for an exhibit and their related description. Personal Study is the proper analysis of the items chosen for the exhibit. Research is the presentation of new facts related to the chosen subject.

### **Condition and Rarity**

Condition is relative; however, material should aim to be in the best condition available. However, it is important to remember the actual condition obtainable will vary according to the country and usage.

Rarity is difficult to define in absolute terms and has to be assessed relative to the class of material. Thus in terms of numbers available, many postal stationery items would be considered rare to extremely rare when compared to adhesive stamps. Local Postal History material may be very rare indeed. Value is not rarity. The Judge should take account of: *Does the subject area include very rare material? And Are all the accepted rarities in the subject area present? How difficult is it to acquire or replicate the exhibit?*

### **Presentation**

The write up must be clear, concise and relevant to the material shown and to the subject chosen for the exhibit. The method of presentation should show the material to best effect and in a balanced way. It is important to avoid unduly uniform arrangements. No advantage or disadvantage shall apply as to whether the text is handwritten, typed or printed. Brightly coloured inks and coloured album pages should be avoided

## **Description of Exhibition Classes**

Exhibitions in the United Kingdom follow the guidance of the FIP in determining and judging exhibit classes and further information on these can be found [here](#)

For the purposes of judging and exhibiting, exhibits are divided into the following classes:

### **Traditional**

Traditional philately can embrace all aspects of philately. It is based on the collecting of postage stamps and related items, including items related to the production of postage stamps. It also includes Telegraph, Railway and Local stamps.

For judging purposes, it is sub-divided into two sections: Great Britain, and Rest of the World.

### **Postal History**

This class generally emphasises routes, rates, usages and other postal aspects, services, functions and activities related to the history of the development of Postal Services and marcophily (the study of postmarks). It is not normally advisable to include unused adhesives or unused postal stationery. For judging purposes, it is sub-divided into two sections: Great Britain and Rest of the World.

Exhibits in the sub-class 2C, being Historical, Social and Special Studies exhibits, which include material developed by commerce and society for use in the postal system, may include non-philatelic material where relevant to the subject of the exhibit. The non-philatelic material should be incorporated into the exhibit in a balanced and appropriate manner in such a way that it does not overwhelm the philatelic material.

### **Aerophilately**

This class is based on studies of the development and operation of airmail services and the material prepared for these services, both official and unofficial. It can also include exhibits of airmail stamps and their usage. Aerophilately can have the characteristics of a Postal History or a Traditional exhibit.

### **Postal Stationery**

This is a class for exhibits of Postal Stationery. Exhibits can include proofs, essays and formula items where appropriate. Exhibits entirely comprising items without printed designations of face value or service are likely to be transferred to another class. All items must have been issued by postal authorities.

### **Revenue Philately**

A Revenue exhibit comprises embossed, imprinted or adhesive tax, fee or credit stamps issued by or under the aegis of a Government or other public authority.

## **Thematic Philately**

This class is for entries based on a theme or a subject which is developed to a logical plan by the use of the widest range of appropriate stamps and other philatelic material. Revenue stamps may be included where no other philatelic material will convey the intended message; such material should be used sparingly.

## **Open Philately**

This class gives an exhibitor complete freedom to present an exhibit on any subject using up to 50% of non-philatelic items. The non-philatelic material must not be thicker than 5 mm so as to be able to fit into standard exhibition frames.

## **Literature**

This class is sub-divided into four sections:

**Handbooks;** including specialised works and studies that are not more than five years old at the date of the exhibition.

**Articles;** published by individual philatelists, Philatelic Societies or other organisations with a philatelic connection.

**Periodicals;** published by individual philatelists, Philatelic Societies or other organisations with a philatelic connection. Any exhibit in this section must have been published in the last three years, cover a period of at least one year and not be entered more frequently than once in three years.

**Catalogues;** which should have been published in the last three years and may not be entered at less than five yearly intervals unless a major revision of the contents has been made.

All entries in the Literature Class must have been published in English.

## **Cinderella Philately**

May include local stamps, telegraph stamps, railway stamps, revenues/fiscals, and forgeries, bogus and phantom issues. Christmas, Red Cross, TB and other charity seals, registration labels, advertisement and exhibition labels etc.

However, things such as trade, cigarette and telephone cards (unless the image of a stamp is incorporated in the design), matchbox or cheese labels, aerial propaganda leaflets, and other forms of ephemera like emergency money are **not** considered as Cinderella items for the purpose of exhibiting.

## **Picture Postcards**

A Picture Postcard exhibit is treated with a starting point in a geographical (topographical) topic, a thematic topic or from a different base, completely according to the exhibitor's own choice. This class is offered at exhibitions in many parts of the world including Scandinavia and the United States, South Africa and Australia. It is an official class for most exhibitions in Europe.

### **Please note:**

**Social Philately: This is not a recognised class** - Exhibitors who have previously shown in this class are encouraged to enter in Open Philately. Please do not judge any exhibit in this class. Transfer it to one of the recognised classes.

## Rules for Competitions at Federation Level

### The Jury

The Jury, whose decisions will be final, must consist of nationally accredited Federation and National Judges, and should they decide that an exhibit has been wrongly classified, they have the discretion to transfer it to another class if such action could result in a higher award. The Jury's comments will be passed to entrants. No correspondence on the judging will be entered into. Awards will be made subject to the minimum marks being achieved.

Any attempt to influence Jury decisions by an exhibitor or other persons will result in removal of the exhibit(s) concerned from the exhibition.

### Awards

Minimum points required at Federation level

Gold Medal	80	Silver Medal	60
Large Vermeil Medal	75	Silver Bronze Medal	55
Vermeil Medal	70	Bronze Medal	50
Large Silver Medal	65	Certificate of Participation	< 50

### Trophies

*Trophies and medals may be awarded at the discretion of the organisers for any class or entry.*

### Number of Frames and Sheets

An entry may be comprised of the following number of frames (each frame consisting of 16 display sheets):

*All Classes      1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 frames i.e. 16, 32, 48, 64 or 80 sheets*

The ABPS Exhibitions committee wishes to see the minimum number of competition entry sheets to be set at 16. Federations may choose otherwise, but beyond 16 sheets the progression should be in multiples of 16. Progression from 9 sheet entries at Club level to 16 at Federation level is not simply a matter of adding seven additional sheets, and the Committee believe that it is more realistic to plan for a 16 sheet entry from the outset. However, this must remain a matter for Clubs to decide.

The Committee recognises that a jump from an exhibit at Federation level as a single frame to a exhibit at national level may have presented problems. For this reason, first time entrants may now enter one, two, three, four or five frames.

To make the transition to multi-frame exhibits less daunting, entries at Federation level may be permitted in any number of frames up to five.

*Federations may choose to set a maximum size of entry at 32, 48, 64 or 80 sheets.*

## Marking at Federation Level

### All classes except Thematic Philately, Open Philately, Literature, Cinderella and Picture Postcards

Treatment	20	
Importance	10	30
Knowledge	20	
Research and Personal Study	15	35
Condition	10	
Rarity	20	30
Presentation	5	5
Total		<u>100</u>

### Thematic Philately

Treatment	Title and Plan	15	
	Development	15	
	Innovation	5	35
Knowledge, study and research	Thematic	15	
	Philatelic	15	30
	Condition	10	
Condition and Rarity	Rarity	20	30
	Presentation	5	5
Total		<u>100</u>	

### Open Philately

Treatment and Importance	Title and Plan	10	
	Philatelic Treatment	5	
	Non-philatelic Treatment	5	
	Philatelic Importance	5	
	Non-philatelic Importance	5	30
Knowledge and Research	Philatelic Knowledge and Research	20	
	Non-philatelic Knowledge and Research	15	35
Material	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	25
Presentation			5
Total			100

## Literature

Treatment of contents	40
Originality, significance and depth of research	40
Technical matters	15
Presentation	5
Total	<u>100</u>

## Cinderella Philately

Treatment	20
Importance	<u>10</u> 30
Knowledge	20
Research and Personal Study	<u>15</u> 35
Condition	10
Rarity	<u>20</u> 30
Presentation	5 5
Total	<u>100</u>

## Picture Postcards

Idea, plan and treatment of the topic	Idea and Plan	10
	Treatment	<u>20</u> 30
Knowledge and research		<u>35</u>
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10
	Rarity	<u>20</u> 30
Presentation		5 5
Total		<u>100</u>



## **General Notes for Organisers**

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) recognises competitive exhibiting at, Federation, National and International levels. ABPS recommends that judging at Federation levels adopt both the marking structure and the level of marks awarded in making the medal awards set out below. Basically, the Federation level favours personal knowledge and presentation of material over the possession of rare items, although personal knowledge, study and research can reveal true rarity, as opposed to rarity based on monetary value.

The ABPS objective is to support and encourage individual philatelists to enter Federation competitions and then to advance to National and International Exhibitions, if they wish.

### **First Time Entries**

A first time entry is an exhibit which has not been accepted in a competition during the ten years preceding the date of that competition.

### **Ownership and Residence**

All exhibits must be the bona fide property of, and entered by, just one person, a married couple or civil partnership (except in the Literature Class, where books by joint authors are accepted). All Federation exhibitions should consider being open to all collectors who reside in the UK.

### **Organisers' Discretion**

The organisers of any ABPS Federation Exhibition, reserve the right to determine whether an entry should be accepted, judged or displayed without having to give a reason.

### **Entry Fees**

*Fees are determined by the Federation.*

### **Scope of Competition**

*Competition classes are determined by the Federation. The ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee strongly recommends only those classes listed above to be included.*

### **Judging**

All accepted exhibits will be judged, and the results posted on the frames during the exhibition. Feedback, which should be supportive and assist the development of an exhibit, where exhibitors can meet and discuss their exhibits with members of the Jury after the judging and the results known, is mandatory for all Jury members. All judging should be undertaken by ABPS accredited judges. All Results should be sent to the ABPS exhibitions Committee.

## **Introductory Page**

Every exhibit must have an Introductory Page as the first sheet. The object of this page is to introduce the subject of the exhibit and set out its scope, structure and plan, not simply to be a contents list.

The organisers, except for literature, should require exhibitors to provide a photocopy or scan of their introductory page, or a draft, with their entry forms.

Thematic entry forms must be accompanied by a copy of the plan sheet.

## **Photocopies and Reproductions**

Where a photocopy or other reproduction of a cover or stamp is shown, it must be reduced or increased by at least 25%. Where a copy of part of a cover or stamp is shown actual size, it must be clearly labelled as a copy. It is permissible to show magnified portions of a stamp or cover.

## **Exhibits at Owners'/Exhibitors' Risk**

All reasonable steps will be taken by the organisers to protect the property of the exhibitors, but the safety of all such property, whether within the exhibition premises or otherwise, is at all times the responsibility of the exhibitor, who shall keep the organisers fully indemnified against any claim whatsoever, which may be made in respect of any loss or damage, however caused, to such property. The organisers, whilst not taking responsibility for any errors or misplaced item in the exhibit, will make every effort to avoid such occurrences.

Exhibitors are advised to send their entries by registered post or to deliver and collect by hand. Exhibitors are also recommended to ensure that their material is fully insured for the total period it is out of their hands, i.e. from the date of despatch to the date of return which, in the case of entries returned by post, should be taken as two weeks following the close of the exhibition.

*Federations may modify these provisions to meet local circumstances.*

## **Liability and Insurance**

All exhibitors are required to sign a Liability and Insurance Form, to be returned with the Entry Form.

*Federations may modify these provisions to meet local circumstances.*

## Handling of Entry Forms

*Entry forms and Liability and Insurance forms, form part of this documentation and may be used by Federations as required.*

All exhibitors whose applications have been accepted by the Chairman of the Jury, entrants will receive a letter with future instructions regarding frame plans etc.; and specific dates/times for handing in and receiving back entries.

*Federations may modify these provisions to meet local circumstances.*

## Receipt and Return arrangements

*These are determined by the Federation.*

Any exhibit which has not been received by the closing date for receipt of entries will not be accepted subsequently. A receipt will be issued for all exhibits. **Please note:-**

1. When collecting an exhibit, it will not be returned unless the receipt is produced.
2. The exhibit will only be handed to the exhibitor or a person having his/her written authority and the receipt.

The organisers take no responsibility for any folders or containers in which an exhibit is delivered.

*The collection of exhibits is determined by the Federation.*

*The return of exhibits is determined by the Federation.*

*Federations may wish to determine the following: -*

*Any special instructions regarding exhibit returns will be charged for. Where exhibitors cannot deliver or collect their exhibit personally, suitable arrangements must be made by the exhibitor and paid for in advance. The organisers will not be liable for any such costs or consequential loss.*

**NOTE: We are unable to accept or hand back exhibits on an 'ad hoc' basis outside of the arrangements outlined.**

Organisers may wish to include the following in their documentation

*NOTE: While the organisers of **name and date of competition Exhibition** endeavour to ensure accuracy of the information they publish, accuracy cannot be guaranteed, and the organisers will accept no liability for any use of or reliance on information contained within this document. Decisions of the Jury or its Chairman are final and conclusive, and there is no obligation to give reasons for any decision made.*



## Liability & Insurance Form



### *Amend as required*

Dates

Address

Please complete, sign and return this form together with your entry form.

**I accept that the material is submitted entirely at my own risk** and undertake to make my own arrangements with regard to the insurance of the entry whilst it is out of my possession. (Insurance must include transit risks, temporary housing of the exhibit, its use for judging purposes and its display at the exhibition.)

I confirm that all material in this entry is my bona fide property and that all information given is correct.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All entries must be with the organisers in accordance with the dates provided.

### **Liability and Insurance**

*I accept that (Federation Name), the organisers of xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Federation Exhibition shall not be liable whether in contract, in tort, under any statute or otherwise for damage to or loss of my exhibit and for any loss consequential thereto including but not limited to loss of profit and loss of opportunity. Nothing in this declaration shall exclude or limit liability in respect of fraud or any statements made fraudulently.*

**It is my responsibility to obtain suitable insurance for the entire period that my exhibit will be held by (Federation Name), the organisers of xxxxxxxxxxx Federation Exhibition.**

**I note** that it is a condition of acceptance of my exhibit that my insurer waives all rights of subrogation *against (Federation Name), the organisers of xxxxxxxxxxx Federation Exhibition.*

I agree that the limitations on liability contained herein are reasonable in all circumstances at the date hereof and that the organisers may assign any or all of their rights and/or obligations under this document.

*All references above to (Federation Name), the organisers of xxxxxxxxxxx Federation Exhibition, include its employees, sub-contractors and volunteers.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Remittance enclosed Frame Fee: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to **xxxxxxxxxxxxx**. Return postage (if applicable): £ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** £ \_\_\_\_\_