

Company Number: 3326534

Association of British Philatelic Societies

Annual General Meeting
Friday 22nd July 2016 at 12.15
Belfry Hotel Cambridge

Present: Chairman: John Baron
Directors: John Davies, Chris King, Susan Oliver
Representatives from 54 Affiliated Societies and Observers from
3 Federations as listed in Appendix A.

- 1) Apologies for Absence received from Maurice Buxton, Nigel Gooch, Alan Godfrey
- 2) Minutes of the 2015 AGM were noted and accepted – available on the website www.abps.org.uk/Home/AGM/
- 3) Matters Arising - None
- 4) Adoption of the Accounts for 2015 - The accounts were adopted having been signed off by the Directors at the Executive meeting of 26th January 2016 and submitted to Companies House; proposed Mid-Sussex (Grace Davies), seconded Hull (John Sussex) – nem con. Available on the website www.abps.org.uk/Home/Accounts/
- 5) Executive Chairman's Report on 2015 presented by the Chairman, John Baron – see Appendix B. The Chairman also announced that
 - (i) he was standing down as Chairman of ABPS as from Cardiff and consequently a new Chairperson is actively required
 - (ii) the Executive Committee had appointed Susan Oliver as a Vice-President in recognition of her services to ABPS.
- 6) Awards: The Chairman announced that the Executive Committee had appointed Susan Oliver as a Vice-President in recognition of her services to ABPS.
- 7) Resignation of Directors: Susan Oliver and The Reverend John Walden resigned as Directors.
- 8) Elections:
 - a) Director: Neil Ritchie – proposed Chairman (John Baron), seconded Ipswich (Chris Harman) – nem con.
 - b) Chair of ABPS: John Baron – proposed Sheffield (Neil Ritchie), seconded Stratford-upon-Avon (Colin Searle) – nem con.
- 9) Reports were received from:
 - a) Secretary – Neil Ritchie – see Appendix C (a). Following the report there was discussion as to how to increase the profile of ABPS and Philatelic Societies including the possibility of using Television, especially as now there are so many independent Television Programme producing companies.
 - b) Membership – Neil Ritchie in the absence of Alan Godfrey – see Appendix C(b)

- c) Chair of ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee – Chris King – see Appendix C(c). He responded to a question concerning GB ranking in terms of the number of exhibitions.
 - d) Chair of Awards –Yvonne Wheatley see Appendix C(d)
 - e) PR and Youth – John Davies – see Appendix C(e)
 - f) Communications – Chris Oliver – see Appendix C(f)
 - g) ABPS News – Keith Burton – see Appendix C(g)
 - h) Verbal reports were received from Dane Garrod (Specialist Societies Liaison), John Dickenson (Federations Liaison) and Gerald Marriner (Congress Committee)
- 10) Congress
- a) 2017 Cardiff – arrangements with the local society are under way
 - b) 2018 - Redworth Hall Hotel, near Durham - July 2018
- 11) Any other Matters: It was pointed out that there was a date error on page 31 of the ABPS AGM Booklet under the accounts of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Limited. The financial statements were approved on 26th January 2016
- 12) Date of next AGM 2017 - Jurys Inn, Cardiff during 27 - 30 July 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Appendices

A: Member Societies and Federations represented at the meeting

Alba Stamp Group	Kingston Upon Thames & District PS
Banbury PS	Lanarkshire PS
Bearsden PS	Leeds PS
Belgian Philatelic Study Circle	Mid-Sussex PS
Bishop's Stortford & District PS	National PS of GB
Bradford & District PS	Pacific Islands Study Circle
Bristol PS	Polar Postal History Society of Great Britain
Burma (Myanmar) P Study Circle	Revenue Society
Caledonian PS	Rhodesian Study Circle
Cambridge PS	Scandinavia PS
Ceylon Study Circle of Great Britain	Scottish PS
Channel Islands Specialists Society	Scottish Postal History Society
Cinderella SC	Sheffield PS
City of Preston PS	Solihull PS
Croydon PS	South African Collectors' Society
Czechoslovak PS of Great Britain	Stratford on Avon PS
East Africa Study Circle	Thatcham & District PS
Edinburgh PS	The Postal History Society
Falkirk & District PS	The Royal PS of London
Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group	Wakefield PS
Ferndown & West Moors PS	Wallington & Carshalton SC
Forces Postal History Society	West Africa Study Circle
France & Colonies PS	West London PS
Germany & Colonies PS	
Glasgow Thematic Society	Association of Essex Philatelic Societies
Great Britain PS	Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies
Harrogate PS	Yorkshire Philatelic Association
Hellenic PS of GB	
Hull and District PS	
Ipswich PS	
King George VI Collectors' Society	

B: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2016

We have experienced a year of change on the Executive with Yvonne Wheatley assuming the Chair of the Awards committee and also taking on the role of the Grants Coordinator, Neil Ritchie taking on the role of Secretary and George Henshilwood having an overview of Scottish activities. Since Leeds we were saddened by the death of Francis Kiddle, and recently the Congress Master of Ceremonies Philip Mackey. Their loss has been felt throughout the philatelic world. In addition, John Walden has resigned as a director as he has been asked by the Bishop of Newark to be responsible for a local church in their interregnum. Whilst my own health has improved with my cancer now being in remission I am unable to say the same for Paul Gaywood whose health has deteriorated. He is fighting back and the Blackpool hospital has applied to the Cancer Drug Fund for authority to use a new drug on him. In addition, David Stirrups who was to be Chairman at this congress has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is unable to be with us. I owe a tremendous thank you to all who have rallied round and offered support in many ways.

Neil has settled into his role well and has made a number of suggestions of improvements to the ABPS. In particular, he is a member of a four strong Web action group with Maurice Buxton Keith Burton and Paul Gaywood. They have some strong suggestions and I welcome their thoughts in the near future. Stamp Active under the leadership of John Davies has continued to make a mark on the Philatelic Community and you only need to spend some time with the young collectors of the future at STAMPEX to appreciate the efforts that John and his team make. In this regard it is a pleasure to note that Jean Osborne has been awarded the Congress Medal this year. A fitting reward for all her hard work. As you were made aware at last year's Congress Susan Oliver resigned from the Executive Committee but remained a director until this year in support of Yvonne. At an Executive committee meeting it was unanimously decided to ask Susan to be an Honorary Vice President in recognition of her work for the philatelic community and ABPS. It was also accepted that Paul Gaywood be also made an Honorary Vice President in recognition of his work on the Congress committee and support of ABPS.

The committee has supported the hobby and in particular myself so I would like to thank, Nigel Gooch our treasurer for keeping our books in order and for his control of income, Chris Oliver our communications director, Gerald Marriner, Congress chairman, John Woodson for the distribution of the ABPS News and other material, John Dickenson for his work with Federations, Dane Garrod for his work with the Specialist Societies and Maurice Buxton for maintaining the web. Alan Godfrey, who for a number of years has looked after membership, gave me notice that he wanted a more responsible role and he has agreed to take over from Chris Oliver as Communications Director with Chris looking after some of my London roles in particular the Postal Advisory Council. I have received an email from a

potential member volunteer to join the Executive and he will attend his inaugural meeting on the Tuesday after Congress. My thanks to Alan for all his work Keith Burton has been a tremendous support to me over the past twelve months and I thank him from the bottom of my heart. He has taken on the responsibility, in addition to the ABPS News, of recording the minutes of the Executive meetings and the AGM and that has relieved some of the responsibility from the Secretary. In addition, he is maintaining the data base for the directory until a new handbook editor can be appointed. We are looking at the Web site being the main source of information of Societies and speakers but we do need to ensure that we do not breach Data Protection regulations.

A special thank you to Chris King for the International involvement and the control of our membership of FEPA and controlling the judging seminars. A lot of his work, which he completes with due professionalism, is not recognised by the general membership.

Personally I have visited Federations throughout the country and have given displays to a number of Societies. In the main I have been dependent on my wife to drive me around the country and I am grateful for her support

We endeavour to support our societies to our best levels and it is disappointing when a society resigns affiliation, especially when they make the comment that we have failed to meet their expectations. In nearly all cases they have not made a specific reference to where we have failed and in many cases do not reply to our enquiry. This will be the challenge to our new membership director but we do urge any society with a problem to discuss that problem with a member of the Executive. Our fall in affiliation fees is due to the reduction in individual Societies' membership and ultimately in the subscription to ABPS. The number of Societies remains constant with Societies joining or re-joining after an absence. To those Societies we express our welcome and thanks for the continued support of others. I wish you all well with successful collecting and I look forward to welcoming you to Cardiff next year.

Following recent national and international events including Brexit I have decided that the examples set by various members of parliament, Roy Hodgson and Len Goodman that my time as Chairman is reaching an end. It is my intention to retire from being your chairman from the end of the Final Dinner in Cardiff. This will give the Executive twelve months to identify my successor and time to learn the responsibilities of the role. As you are all aware my health has not been good for the past three years and whilst it is improving, my cancer is in remission and I am beginning to understand and manage the balance issues it is important that the ABPS has a fully fit Chairman to take us through our 100th anniversary and beyond. I am willing to remain a director and accept any suitable position that the new chairperson may wish to offer. If not then I will continue my commitment to the hobby in whatever role I may identify.

My grateful thanks go to the committee for without their help and commitment I would not have been able to continue until now. My thanks need to also go to my wife, Sandra, who has supported me through all my philatelic career and especially through my illnesses.

Finally, my thanks to you all for your continued commitment and support to ABPS.

C: Reports:

(a) General Secretary Report AGM 2016

1 I took over the role of General Secretary from Willie King and I am grateful for the assistance he has given me during the handover period.

2 I commenced the role of the General Secretary at the first meeting of the Executive committee on the 26 January 2016.

3 I received confirmation from Companies House that I am a Director of ABPS Ltd on the 02 February 2016.

4 Since that date I have undertaken general clerical duties involved in the general running of the ABPS answering member queries and have had on-going communications with various individuals and societies.

5 The existing ABPS website was discussed by the Executive Committee and it was agreed that although the website went a long way in providing certain services it was felt that it could be developed to include more usable content for the general collector at local and specialist Society level. A Website development sub-committee was formed consisting of the following committee members - Keith Burton (Editor ABPS News), Paul Gaywood, Maurice Burton (Webmaster) and myself. A wish list of website content was prepared and discussions have taken place regarding the best method of moving it forward and its procurement. A document has been prepared and this is attached to this report (Appendix C (a)1) outlining the services that we wish to incorporate in the developed website. This is only the starting point, for future website development it will change in line with feedback from the membership thereby keeping it relevant and as up to date as possible. It has been agreed after much deliberation that the new website will be moved to the Wordpress platform and the construction of the website will be undertaken by the Webmaster together with the aid of an external firm of Web developers who will provide the look and feel of the site. The advantages of this are:

5.1 The build of the site will be done "in-house" on an open source website package (Wordpress) we can at the end of the process have all the training/manuals we need to ensure its smooth running.

5.2 If in the future we need to involve an external firm to make changes then as it is one of the world's leading packages finding someone to do it would be easy.

5.3 The hosting fee will be greatly reduced keeping future running costs down.

5.4 Using Wordpress means that we can buy off-the-shelf add-ons and in theory we will not be restricted in any future developments.

6 As part of the ongoing development of the website and listening to criticisms that have levied, wrongly or rightly, at the ABPS that it does little in the way of developing basic and intermediate philatelic knowledge in the membership, I have been in discussions with various people about the possibility of developing Philatelic training courses. I hope that, as this project gains momentum, I will be able to tap into the wealth of knowledge and experience within the membership in order that training modules are accurate, comprehensive and relevant. This will require a lot of effort and I'm willing to donate my time to coordinate the project but it will not succeed without that necessary knowledge and input being applied by the philatelic community. The project will be broken down into small chunks and I hope that I will be able to send these out to experienced collectors who will apply

a small amount of their time to make sure that the information is fit for the purpose. I attach a discussion document Appendix C (a)2 detailing the extent of the project.

7 Any correspondence, feedback or offers of help regarding the website or training and for any other item involving the Philatelic Community please email me.

Neil Ritchie

General Secretary

13 July 2016

secretary@abps.org.uk

APPENDIX C (a) 1

ABPS WEBSITE BRIEF WSCv3

1. Aims and Objectives:

1.1. To be the website of choice to go to for all aspects of Philately.

1.2. The website to be intuitive and easy to use.

1.3. Be capable of being populated with content by volunteers with little understanding of the website's mechanics.

1.4. To have public and private areas.

1.5. Be capable of being transferred from one developer to another without the need for rewriting from scratch.

1.6. Allow for statistical analysis.

1.7. To conform to relevant Website Standards

2. Website content – Public area

2.1. ABPS – who, what, why, Constitution, Agendas, minutes, etc.

2.2. Philatelic Society Directory

2.3. News

2.4. Links

2.5. Contact us

2.6. Junior Philately and Stamp Active.

2.7. E-commerce – subscription and other payments via a standard shopping cart system.

2.8. Promotion of Societies - Highlighting a couple of Philatelic Societies each month to include photos of a meeting, history of the society, future meetings, etc.

2.9. Promotion - Highlighting a Speaker of the Month or member/nominee of Roll of Distinguished Philatelist (RDP), profile, what and why.

2.10. Events and Notices – to highlight local and national events, training seminars, Society syllabuses, Federation and Society notices with “Add your event” button and searchability.

2.11. New Issues – the Post Office.

2.12. Promotion – Philatelic Dealer/Auction House of the Month.

Introducing themselves their history and philosophy. Not to be seen as an ABPS endorsement.

2.13. Exhibitions and competitions content as existing website.

3. Website content – Private area

3.1. Speaker's list

3.2. PowerPoint displays – The inclusion of a database of PowerPoint displays.

3.3. Guides – area for selection of the downloadable guides.

3.4. Exhibit judging commentary - Notes of a national judge on some of the exhibits they had recently judged.

3.5. Exhibits – database of recent Large Gold, Gold and Large Vermeil winning exhibits.

3.6. Wall of fame and obituaries of past members.

3.7. Philatelic Training courses form of downloadable training modules. Basic module suitable for downloading by schools to promote interest in the 8-12 year age band.

3.8. Philatelic Training Seminars details of course structure and application form.

APPENDIX C (a)2

The Philatelic training will be centred on an internet based series of ten modules each of no more than 30 minutes duration and in the format of a PowerPoint presentation (or other if more appropriate); they will be deliverable by downloading from the ABPS website for home or school use.

This internet series will be focussed on the collecting of Philatelic material rather than on buying and selling, valuations or the Philatelic trade. I feel that if there is a need for a detailed explanation of the Philatelic trade this should come from the PTA and not the ABPS.

(1). An introduction to Basic Stamp Collecting - this module will have three target audiences - people who are thinking of taking up the hobby and are wondering where to start, new and not-so-new members of Philatelic Societies and School based stamp clubs in the 8 to 12 year old range. The Basic course will present generic information to give an overall feel for the subject with enough detail to understand the hobby.

The following nine modules take the themes expressed in the Basic stamp collecting course and develop them in more detail. They will be in the sub-30 minute format and be capable of being shown to School stamp clubs, this has a number of advantages - it keeps the information in a clear understandable format, it's just the right length to prevent boredom from setting in and keeps the presentation focussed. These modules are not intended to present all the know facts about any given subject but hopefully will inspire people to want to know more and undertake their own study.

(2). Stamp printing techniques and security systems used by stamp producers such as watermarks, perforations, etc.

(3). Postal History

(4). Thematic

(5). Postmarks (macro-philately)

(6). Aero-philately

(7). Postal Stationery

(8). Methods of storage and Conservation

(9). Philatelic Societies and information sources

(10). Philatelic displays and talks

It is intended that the order of the modules will lead the trainee from the Basic through to module (2) which looks at stamps in closer detail and will provide a lot of the common terms that are used in Philately; modules (3) to (7) take five of the more common collecting categories for a closer look at the principles, aims and objectives; module (8) explores the practical side of collecting; module (9) deals

with Philatelic information and I unashamedly take the opportunity to promote Philatelic Societies as membership is one of the easiest ways to obtain unbiased information; and module (10) is a discourse on how, after all that mounting and research, a collector can share that enthusiasm with fellow collectors by discussing tips and techniques in how to present a successful display. Modules (9) and (10) may not be appropriate for schools but I would leave that up to the teacher to make that judgement.

The above modules will be of most interest to the three types of collectors mentioned above. It will need to be augmented with some face to face workshops on a variety of more advanced subjects. One such workshop I have prepared entitled "Paper Conservation and Curatorial Skills" this will be run by an ex-Tate Museum conservator and is an example where we can import expertise where appropriate.

(b) Membership Secretary's Report – to 31st December 2015

Class	2014 Number of individuals	2015 Number of individuals	2014 Value £	2015 Value £	2014 No of Societies	2015 No of Societies
Friends	57	53	£1,265.09	£1,195.21		
Patrons	9	8	£450.00	£400.00		
Specialist Societies	7,830	7,616	£8,572.40	£8,377.60	64	65
Local Societies	6,548	6,206	£7,149.80	£6,829.50	192	191
National Societies	1,306	1,340	£1,436.60	£1,474.00	2	2
Overseas Societies			£23.82	£25.00	1	1
Overseas Friends	2	2	£50.00	£52.05		
TOTAL	15,752	15,225	£18,947.71	£18,353.36	259	259

2015 CHANGES:	New or Rejoined	Resigned	Unpaid YTD	New or Rejoined	Resigned	Unpaid YTD
	No of Individuals	No of Individuals	No of Individuals	No of Societies	No of Societies	No of Societies
Friends	3	3	4			
Patrons	0	1	0			
Specialist Societies	24	116	0	1	1	0
Local Societies	112	117	12	4	4	1
National Societies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas Societies				0	0	0
Overseas Friends	0	0	0			
TOTAL	139	237	16	5	5	1

UNDERLYING MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

LOCAL SOCIETIES

2014 Members	6,548
Additions	112
Resignations/Not Paid	129
Calculated 2015	<u>6789</u>
Actual 2015	6,206
Net change	-583
%	-8.6%

SPECIALIST SOCIETIES

2014 Members	7,830
Additions	24
Resignations/Not Paid	116
Calculated 2015	<u>7970</u>
Actual 2015	7,616
Net change	-354
%	-4.4%

FRIENDS

2014 Friends	57
Additions	3
Resignations/Not Paid	-7
Actual 2015	<u>53</u>
%	-7.0%

PATRONS

2014 Patrons	9
Additions	0
Resignations/Not Paid	-1
Actual 2015	<u>8</u>
%	-11.1%

INCREASE / (REDUCTION) IN INCOME

	£	%
FRIENDS	-69.88	-4.8%
O'SEAS FRIENDS	2.05	0.4%
PATRONS	-50.00	-10.0%
SPEC SOCS	-194.80	-2.0%
LOCAL SOCS	-320.30	-4.5%
NAT SOCS	37.40	2.6%
O'SEAS SOCS	1.18	-100.0%
	<u>-£ 594.35</u>	-2.8%

Alan Godfrey

membership@abps.org.uk

Updated 24/01/2016

Francis Kiddle died on 21st October 2015 and left a considerable gap in the organisation of British Philately.

The Committee has made a significant effort in compensating for his loss during this year.

1. Terms of Reference

The Committee has delegated responsibility for all aspects of competitive exhibiting in the United Kingdom and overseas.

In the United Kingdom this includes:

National exhibition venues

Organisation and financing of national competitions

Competition entries, selection and juries at national exhibitions

Advice on rules at competitions at all exhibition levels

Jury accreditation, and jury and exhibitor training, including seminars

Management and storage of exhibition frame;

Providing updated information for the website in matters relating to exhibiting

Internationally this includes:

Appointment of commissioners and nomination of jurors

Nomination of apprentices for FEPA and FIP

All aspects of the handling of exhibits including frame fees and handling charges

The appointment of members of FIP commissions

All organisational relationships with FIP, and with the Continental Federations

Bilateral relationships with other national Federations and special exhibitions

Further responsibilities include liaison with the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, and the Roll of

Distinguished Philatelists insofar as organisational matters are concerned.

The Committee reports through its Chairman to the ABPS Executive.

2. Membership and Roles

Chris King, Chairman (International Matters)

Bill Hedley (Commissioner Matters and Seminars)

Brian Trotter (Jury Matters at all levels)

David Alford (Exhibitions)

Frank Walton (Chairman 2020)

Gerald Marriner (Philatelic Congress of Great Britain)

Jon Aitchison (The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists)

Nigel Gooch (Finance)

Mike Smith (FIP Commissions)

Birthe King (Non-Attending FEPA Director)

Deborah Gooch (Secretarial Support and Record Keeping)

3. Committee Meetings:

The Committee meets quarterly

4. National Exhibitions and Competitions

ABPS York Fair 15 -16 July 2016 Rules and Application Form are posted on the website.

ABPS Autumn Stampex 14th - 17th September 2016 Rules and Application Form are posted on the website.

The Lead society is the GVI Society, and there will also be a three-day International Cinderella Congress, centred around Stampex and the RPSL. Volker Koppel's Deutsche Philatelistentage will be displayed in 8 Frames as an invited display. This covers the period 1889 to 2013 and is a history of German philately. ABPS Spring Stampex 2017 will take place from 14th - 18th February.

The central topic will be The Former Ottoman Empire, including North Africa, Egypt and Balkan States, plus Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States; plus Iran.

ABPS Autumn Stampex 2017 will take place from 12th - 16th September.

The lead Society will be the Sarawak Specialist Society. A 150th anniversary of the first Hungarian postage stamp possible exhibition at Autumn Stampex to mark the occasion.

A revised management process for Philatelic Literature Entries has **been** agreed. Management of exhibition finances will be reviewed in the autumn of 2016.

National exhibitions are

presently running at a loss of approximately £3000 annually, with the shortfall made up through the

Philatelic Fund, as has been the case for some years with its predecessor, the British Philatelic Trust.

All future exhibitions will be open to non-competitive entries, and frames are not limited to philatelic

material. Lead societies at Stampex exhibitions may seek funding through either the Philatelic Fund or the

ABPS Small Grants Committee, if necessary.

Frame fees are £20 per frame, and will rise to £25 per frame in line with the fees applicable in 2010.

5. International Exhibitions

The Seven Nations Challenge took place from 17th - 20th February 2016.

Great Britain won the Challenge by one point, and is therefore the next host.

There were issues relating to

the event, which will be discussed prior the organisation of the SNC in 2018. This is to include exhibit

definition and jury appointments. The event was managed with the support of Bund Deutscher Philatelisten and was held without any financial contribution from ABPS or other sources of philatelic funds.

New York 2016 took place with 53 entries accepted through the United Kingdom and with Iraq 1917-1918 Occupation Issues of Baghdad and Iraq in the Championship Class. Medals awarded were as follows: LG 8; G 15; LV 16; V 6; LS 4; S 2; B 1. These are based on points since medals were not awarded to one frame exhibits. The Grand Prix d'Honneur was awarded to Alvaro Castro Harrigan of Costa Rica for Panama: First Issues as a State of Colombia and their

forerunners; the Grand Prix National to Gordon Eubanks of the U.S.A. for The U.S. Imperforate Issues of 1851-1856 and Their Importance in an Expanding Postal System, and the Grand Prix International to Wei Gang of China for The Postal History of Mongolia 1841-1921.

Forthcoming International exhibitions include:

Taipei 2016 21st- 26th October 2016 FIP Patronage, FIAP Auspices

Jury Nominees: Christine Earle, Robin Pizer; Brian Moorhouse (Taiwan Notified)

UK Commissioner: Chris King, chris.king@postalhistory.net

Due to adverse exchange rates the frame fees have been increased to £35 per frame.

Finlandia 2017 24in - 28in May 2017

Jury Nominees: Chris King, Brian Trotter and Frank Walton; Bill Hedley and Ben Palmer as FEPA apprentices.

UK Commissioner: Bill Hedley.

Bandung 2017 (FIP World Stamp Exhibition with FIP Patronage) 3rd - 7th August, Bandung, Indonesia'

UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison.

Malaysia 2018 (FIP World Stamp Exhibition) December - dates to be notified, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia FIP Patronage.

Stockholmia 29th May - 2nd. This is an RPSL exhibition for its 150 years anniversary. It is included here for information and to note the dates of the RDP ceremony to be held that year.

London 2020 2nd May - 9th May 2020. Chairman Frank Walton, Chief Executive David Alford, UK

Commissioner Mike J Y Roberts.

No subsidy is received from ABPS in support of exhibitions, which take place outside the United Kingdom.

All are self-supporting and are paid for by the exhibitors.

6. Seminars

Presentations are available on the website for download as follows:

Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Picture Postcards

Exhibiting Picture Postcards - Some Practical Hints

The Introductory Page

Presentation

Knowledge, Personal Study and Research

Judging and Exhibiting

Local Postal History

Revenues - Exhibiting and Judging

Postal History Class 2C

Title or Introductory Page

ABPS Judging Seminar Part One

A Guidance note for Exhibiting Picture Postcards has been posted.

In future seminars will be held at Stampex at no charge, but without lunch provided.

Recent Seminars include:

5th - 6th February 2016 Juror Training Billingham Yorkshire.

20 February 2016 Stampex Seminar: Postcards Colin Hoffmann and Birthe King.
18th- 19th March 2016 Workshop for accredited national jurors in Hitchin.
18th - 19th March 2017. National Juror seminar Hitchin.

Future Stampex seminars:

Chris King How to win a Gold Medal Autumn 2016

Chris Harman Revenue Philately Spring 2017.

Possible North West Federation 'judging taster1' in 2017.

7. Jurors

Current UK FIP qualified jurors:

Christine Earle TH

Christopher Harman TR; LI

Christopher King PH

Brian Moorhouse TR; PH

Robin Pizer PH

Michael Smith PS

Brian Trotter RE; PS; LI; TR

Frank Walton TR

Richard West YO

We need to ensure that we have accredited jurors in all disciplines. We are presently lacking jurors in some disciplines, and our nominees to the FIP are not finding favour with that organisation.

The following are posted on the website:

List of UK Accredited National Philatelic Jurors - Current: We are actively seeking new candidates to become nationally qualified judges.

National Jury Score Sheets for all classes.

List of Federation Level Judges - Presently being revised: Process led by David Alford.

The Committee wishes Federations to adopt a standard approach to competitions, and to this end two documents are posted on the website, the Federation Jury Score Sheet, and Federation Jury Thematic & Open Philately Score Sheet. A number of Federations have adopted this standard approach. Others are encouraged to do so.

8. Medals and Awards

The Silver Mail Coach is now presented at Stampex for Best in Show, but not retained by winner.

Stampex medals: All exhibitors receive a bronze medal, Best in Show receives a silver medal.

9. ABPS Exhibition Frames

Refurbished frames are held in the following locations, on behalf of ABPS:

Heaton Royds	Stephen Holder	4 old Frames
Billingham	Bill Shand	22 Frames
Durham	Cliff Garside	30 Frames
Swindon	David Gibbon	50 Frames
Rochester	Maurice Flack	30 Frames
Wakefield	Graham Winters	24 Frames
Bishop's Stortford	Jon Aitchison	40 Frames
Hampshire Federation	Julian Jones	20 Frames

These locally held frames are uninsured. The national frames are becoming difficult and expensive to maintain, and the Committee has agreed to consider the design and purchase of new frames, possibly for London 2020.

10. Federation and local Club Frames

Frames cannot be provided economically from the store at the Business Design Centre. The Committee has agreed to find a designer for free standing 16 - page open frames, perhaps double sided, to cost these and offer (for a contribution) to Federations and Clubs throughout the UK. Federations find standardised rules physically impossible to adopt, since they have frames which take 6, 9, 12, or 15 pages, and this would make standardised 16-page rules acceptable. This proposal would need assistance from the Philatelic Fund. It may be possible in this way to deal with the other significant issues relating to transport costs and maintenance of frames.

11. Congress and RDP Ceremonies

2017: Cardiff.

2018: Durham.

2019: At Stockholm 2019.

2020: London. RDP ceremony at the same time as the London 2020 exhibition.

2021: Harrogate. The centenary of the first signing of the Roll.

12. FIP and FEPA

a) FEPA Board, Birthe King is a Director of FEPA.

b) FEPA Congress took place in Porto during LUBRAPEX (26th April - 1st May 2016). Chris King was appointed as delegate.

c) FEPA Awards: Francis Kiddle was posthumously awarded the FEPA medal for service or support to philately.

- d) The Committee contributed to the review of FIP Statutes and GREX, which will be discussed in Taipei in October 2016.
- e) FIP Commissions: Nominations have been made to fill vacancies although we still have a United Kingdom vacancy in the Fight against Forgeries Commission.
- f) Chris King has been nominated as a Director of FIP. The election takes place in Taipei in October.

13. International Accords

Australia: It has been agreed to invite an Australian Judge for Spring 2017.
Chris King, July 2016

(d) Report of the ABPS Awards Committee and Small Grants Coordinator
This was my first year as Chairman of this Committee which now has the added responsibility of acting as the Small Grants Coordinator. The Awards Committee and the Small Grants each has its own Committee.

My predecessor as Chairman of the Awards Committee, Susan Oliver, gave me considerable assistance and handed over her papers in immaculate order as well as writing notes for me to follow.

Congratulations to Jean P Osborne who was awarded the Congress Medal for 2016 and to the nominees who received an Award of Merit, Rosemary Atkins, Eric F Keefe, John Perry and Tony Shaw.

It is evident that some societies are having difficulty in interpreting the guidelines for submitting a nomination. The Committee will therefore be revising the guidelines over the coming months so they are ready for the nominations next year.

The Awards Committee consist of the following Committee Members: Nigel Gooch, John Jackson, Pat Rothnie MBE, Brian Sole, Frank Soutar and John West CBE.

Peter O'Keeffe, as the Small Grants Coordinator, also gave me comprehensive notes and help in taking over his work.

Michael Elliott wished to retire from the Committee after serving for a number of years and his place has been taken by Alan Moorcroft. The remaining Committee members are Christine Earle, Nigel Gooch and Richard West MBE.

At the time of preparing this report the Committee has not received any applications although I understand one is being formulated.

Yvonne Wheatley

Awards Committee Chair and Small Grants Coordinator

12th June 2016

(e) Report of PR and Youth

Public Relations

Press coverage has been achieved for the new directory and handbook, Congress, Award of Merit and Congress Medal and ABPS Exhibiting over the last twelve months. Chris King is now writing regularly on Exhibiting in Stamp & Coin

Mart. Enquiries regarding the benefits of supporting ABPS have been addressed from Midlands Philatelic Federation and the National Philatelic Society in 2016. The Executive Bulletin has been issued by email regarding ABPS changes in personnel, events such as Congress and Seminars, exhibiting and more general news to the ABPS database. Distribution is handled by Alan Godfrey (Membership Secretary) and my thanks to him for his assistance. Most recently, there have been issues in February and April 2016.

Youth

Stamp Active Network celebrated 25 years in 2015 and its work has continued through various programmes:

Stamp Active website, sponsored by ABPS (www.stampactive.co.uk), Kidstamps (free postal club for children aged 5 to 19), The Stamp Active Competition, sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Stanley Gibbons, The National Youth Stamp Championships, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, the "Our Living World" one page competition, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, The "Kids Zone" at Spring and Autumn Stampex, sponsored by the Philatelic Traders' Society and Europhilex (London 2015) sponsored by the Spears Charitable Trust. Stanley Gibbons continues to support the Starter Pack Scheme for new school and junior stamp clubs with about 50 having started in recent years.

Awards have been presented for the Young Collector of the Year (Tom Lawson) and Service to Youth Philately (Bernie Worsfold).

There have also been two new STAMP FUN activity books in the last twelve months "Brilliant Britain" and "All Creatures Great and Small", both sponsored by Oxford Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Fund and Dealer Patrons.

The Dealer Patron scheme continues to be well supported which enables us to finance our core activities.

In 2015, Ray Watkins took over as Secretary of Stamp Active and Alan Bretherton is now running Kidstamps. Other members of the Committee include Richard West (Vice-Chairman & Competitions), David Armitage (Exhibitions), Nigel Gooch (Treasurer), Paul Leonard (Volunteers), David Rossall (PR & Scotland) and Erene Grieve (Stamps in Schools). My thanks to them for their continuing support. It is my intention to stand down as Chairman, having completed another fourteen years as Chairman) at the end of 2017 and further volunteers for the Stamp Active Network would be welcomed both for the Committee and support at Stampex.

John Davies

(f) Report from the Communications Director

LEAFLETS: We have thirteen leaflets available, as aids to collecting. The bases for three new leaflets were promised, by their authors, to be with me by the end of 2015. None of these has materialised. Leaflets can be downloaded from the ABPS Website or obtained as hard copies by request to the Communications Director c/o 41, Devonshire Place, W1G 6JY or by e-mail.

HANDBOOK: We had several requests for the new combined Speakers List and Handbook, although there are a few changes to be included. Most of these have been referred to in back copies of ABPS News.

POST: I continue, as I am London based, to collect and distribute the ABPS mail which is delivered to us c/o the Royal Philatelic Society. Much of this is for the Exhibiting and International sub-committee and can be distributed by hand.

I shall be standing down as Communications Director at this A.G.M., after eight years, but will remain on the sub- committee as the ABPS liaison with the Post Office, if elected, and will assist in compiling a rota for the ABPS on the Information Stand at Stampex.

My thanks to all the other members of the Communications sub-committee who disseminate information and news concerning British philately and continue to badger recalcitrant societies who have not considered it advisable to subscribe & assist in the aims of the ABPS.

Chris Oliver

(h) Report on ABPS News

The News continues to be produced in 4 issues a year. The Autumn one for 2016 is nearing completion. It is expected to be produced before the start date for the new season for many societies in September. The number of copies printed has stabilised at 1400, most of which are distributed to the member societies by John Woodson. His work in this respect is substantial and I wish to register my grateful thanks for all his help. Any additional copies are distributed on request to contributors of articles, people with specific mention for achievements etc or at Stamp Fairs, Exhibitions and other occasions. The aim is to hold one copy for reference purposes and the rest to be out to inform philatelists as soon as possible after production.

The production of the new Handbook brought out a substantial number of amendments requested by societies and speakers. These have been included in the issues of NEWS where relevant and will continue to be added to future issues as soon as possible after they are notified to me. This has resulted in the addition of 4 pages for Summer 2016 issue. The extra cost of this was minimal so the same action will be taken as necessary in future. Amendments are also notified to the Webmaster, Membership Secretary and other officials as relevant.

I continue to add to the list of contacts which I started during the year in order to remind secretaries and contacts of affiliated societies of the closing dates for copy, the date of the addition of an issue to the website and any other important points. If anyone reading this wishes to be added to my contacts list, please contact editor@abps.org.uk

I look forward to continue editing the ABPS NEWS and hope that even more societies will contribute on a regular or occasional basis. Long articles or reports will probably be edited drastically so I suggest that correspondents aim to send reports of between 70 and 200 words, with interesting photographs. That is one way to improve the chance that the main points in a report will stay as intended. It

does help considerably if reports and photographs are sent by email (Word and jpeg attachments respectively).

Keith S Burton