

# Association of British Philatelic Societies

## ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 12 noon on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Hallmark Hotel, Robinswood Hill Gloucester GL4 6EA.

1. **Welcome** : John Baron, Chair of the ABPS Executive Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the 34 attendees.
2. **Apologies** : Nigel Gooch, Alan Godfrey, Chris & Birthe King, John Dickenson, Colin Sponge, Rev John Walden, John Gledhill, Keith Burton.
3. **Minutes of the 2012 AGM** : The circulated minutes were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising** : No matters arising..
5. **Adoption of the Accounts to December 2012** : Proposed by Dane Garrod and seconded by Francis Kiddle and carried unanimously.
6. **Executive Chairman's Report on 2012** :

In welcoming you all to the Annual General Meeting I would like to thank you for your support over the past year. We have returned to having the AGM at Congress but this year on a Friday. If you believe that it should be held on a different day perhaps you will email me with your thoughts. Next year, as Congress will be held in Ypres the AGM will be at a UK based location.

Once again it has been a year with problems but I believe that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel and we are ready for a new philatelic year of challenges and change. I need to have further discussions with John Walden over the next Directory but anticipate that it will be 2015 and will include the speaker's lists as well. Any thoughts on content please address to John and copy me in to the communication. Please review the website on a regular basis and if there are any errors, omissions please inform me. Without being told I cannot update society changes. Chris Oliver has continued his leaflet production with a model constitution at the printers as I speak. It is in many ways a thankless task and I congratulate Chris on his work in this area

After a number of years of sterling service John Gledhill has passed over the Editorship of ABPS news to Keith Burton and his first edition came out for the Summer. We are looking to enable the News to be able to reflect as much philatelic information as possible and I am hoping that The BPMA will be able to provide regular news items on their move to new premises. But more of that tomorrow when Jeanette will provide a verbal update and hopefully a review of one of the new attractions.

I mentioned in my report last year on the inefficiencies that exist within ABPS and it is my objective over the next two/three years to put those behind us and concentrate on being the focal point of British Philately. I must express my sincere appreciation to Colin Hoffman who has worked on suggested amendments to the constitution and I hope that by the next AGM this will have been agreed by all.

ABPS needs to be the main supporter of development of the hobby whether it is with the Young collectors (Many thanks to John Davies and the Stamp Active Network), the returners, the newcomers and importantly the existing collectors. There is a big role to play by the Federations and their requirements are important to the future of the hobby. I have recently spent time with John Dickenson, the Federation officer,

**Association of British Philatelic Societies**

c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

trying to assist the East Midlands and East Anglian Federations in deciding how large or small an area they should cover. It is a distance from Goole in the North to Ipswich in the South and they are finding it difficult in many ways. They are working on the division with John and myself and again this should be in place shortly.

During the year Chris King has continued to standardise the judging standards and requirements and in this respect he has achieved a significant improvement. The Exhibitions are now planned for the next three years with invited entries to Stampex and Congress. Thank you Chris. At Stampex we now have a Saturday morning session on various aspects of the hobby and at the last event it concentrated on Cinderella's and revenues. Again my thanks go to Francis for this area of our hobby where I admit I had very little knowledge.

One of the pleasing happenings this year has been the signing on behalf of ABPS of an agreement between ABPS and the Board of the Federation of German Philatelists (BDPh). This agreement allows an exchange of jurors between the two organisations and also to exchange information on seminars, publications and media products related to judging and to collecting. It was a pleasure to welcome to Stampex Ramon Moreno who is likely to be the next FEPA President in October of this year.

I hope that you are enjoying this year's congress and I would like to express the congress' committee sincere thanks for the support that it is supported again by Stanley Gibbons and we thank them for their sponsorship. 2014 sees Congress on its travels and I hope to see as many of you as possible at Ypres following the invitation of the Belgium Academy of Philatelists. Congress will take place in Ypres from 11-14<sup>th</sup> July and will commemorate the beginning of World War 1.

The web site has nearly reached finalisation and Paul will be looking to add dealers to the site over the next six months. This is an important information source to the Societies and non-members and the number of visitors and positive comments continues to grow. The one area that we are continually short of information is in the news sector where we have to rely on the BPMA and Stanley Gibbons for information. I am not looking for historic society information but items, which will be of general interest to philatelists in general. Our long standing requirement for a web master has for the moment been resolved but I will appreciate others comments on the site. If we do not know where it is wrong then we will not correct it especially with the up to date information concerning Societies.

As you will see later the Association has had yet another successful year and we will discuss the accounts later. We are very aware of the financial concerns that are experienced by member societies so this year we have not increased our membership fees. One of the areas that we are closely examining is the opportunities that exist for increasing our income. If we can persuade other Societies, especially specialist societies, to invite more patrons and friends, to be part of ABPS this will assist in our income. Advertising income covers the cost of the ABPS News and we are hopeful that it will begin to make a positive contribution to the web site. I welcome those societies that have joined ABPS and regret that a few societies have had to close or cancel their affiliation. I have been ably supported by my vice chairman, Paul Gaywood, Gerald Marriner, Dane Garrod and by all members of the committee mentioning in particular the valiant efforts of Susan Oliver who has tried to keep me in order (and possibly failed). The entire Executive has played their part in a successful year and I truly thank them for their efforts.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the Congress, enjoy the summer and return in the Autumn with good positive thoughts about our wonderful hobby.

## 7. Election of Officers

**Chairman** : John Baron re-elected by acclamation.

The following elected en-bloc by acclamation

**Vice Chairman** : Paul Gaywood

**General Secretary** : Willie King

**Company Secretary and Treasurer** : Nigel Gooch

**Communications Director** : Christopher Oliver

**Awards Committee Chair** |: Susan Oliver

**International and National Exhibitions Chair** : Francis Kiddle

**Public Relations and Youth** : John Davies

## 8. Officers Reports

8.1. **Communications : Latest leaflet** – CO reported leaflet featuring a Model Constitution for Stamps Societies is currently being printed and will be distributed with next ABPS news. Suggestions and ideas sought for additions to the range of leaflets.

Societies and Federations having residential weekends requested to report and recommend accommodation utilised. (CO)

8.2. **ABPS Membership** : WK noted there was a small reduction in overall membership of both local and specialist philatelic societies in 2012.

8.3. **International Exhibitions** : FK reminded delegates that all costs related to international exhibitions were borne by the exhibitors at no cost to ABPS or the ABPS members. He noted that the UK were now the second most successful nation and 46 exhibits were taken to the recent exhibition in Australia. Full details of future exhibitions are detailed on the website including London 2015.

8.4. **National Exhibitions** : FK noted that planning for future Stampex exhibitions were well advanced with both invited and competitive exhibits planned for 2013 and 2014 with Autumn 2013 being final chance for qualification for London 2015.

8.5. **Judging Seminars** : FK noted that sponsorship was now in place to support holding judging seminars for federation and national judges.

8.6. **Awards** : SO noted that although the Congress Medal was a single annual award delegates were reminded that up to 15 Awards of Merit could be awarded to deserving candidates at Federation or Society level. The awards committee consisted of 6 knowledgeable individuals who would be pleased to consider recommendations.

- 8.7. **Youth Activities** : JD reported continued activity in the youth sector with the largest number of dealer patrons and Friends of Stamp active to date. A new website was being developed and there was participation at Stampex and will be at London 2015.
- 8.8. **ABPS Banners** : JD noted that new ABPS banners would be available for publicity purposes for Federation shows etc.
9. **ABPS AGM 2014** : JB noted that as Congress 2014 would be in Ypres in Belgium the AGM will be held at a location and date which will be advised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.55pm.