**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of ABPS**

**Saturday 20th July 2019**

**York Racecourse, York**

1. Welcome – Chairman Graham Winters welcomed all delegates to the AGM and thanked those concerned in making the arrangements for the Congress and the AGM. All delegates were asked to sign the sheets being circulated and to give the name of the affiliated society which they represented. The list of affiliated societies and Federations represented is attached as Appendix A.

2. Apologies for Absence: Received from George Henshilwood, Neil Ritchie, Barry Stagg and Herefordshire & Mid-Wales Philatelic Society

3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM – refer to the ABPS website for a copy – were received without amendment. Proposed: Postal History Society, Seconded: Hull & District PS

4. Matters Arising: None

5 (& 11). Receiving the Accounts for 2018: Nigel Gooch (Treasurer) reported that the accounts had been sent to Companies House as required. Questions from Midlands Federation had been responded to by the Treasurer. He thanked Barry Stagg (Membership) for his work on achieving good returns from the membership subscription and also from Advertising Revenue for ABSP News. The accounts were received. Proposed: Bradford & District PS, Seconded: Channel Islands Specialists Society. Passed nem con

6. Executive Chairman's Report on 2018 - Written Report received – see Appendix B. All were asked to support LONDON 2020

7. Awards - Written report received – see Appendix C.

8. Election of Directors: During the year Steven Harrison was appointed as a director and George Henshilwood has been nominated to be a director - all directors are willing to continue and no other nominations have been received. Directors were elected en bloc. Proposed Newcastle upon Tyne PS, Seconded: Caledonian PS. Passed nem con.

9. Secretary's Report of 2018 – Written Report received – see Appendix D

10. Membership Report – Written report received – see Appendix E

11. Company Secretary and Treasurer – dealt with under 5.

12. Chair of International Affairs Report – no report received. Hull & District asked about the listing of Judges. Some judges had not received their certification after two years and were not listed on the ABPS Website. Alan Godfrey (Communications) reported that he had been tasked to prepare the lists. He had written to all the federations asking for their up-to-date lists but had received partial responses from some and no responses from others (the majority). There was a problem as some judges had qualified many years ago and never updated their knowledge. He could not answer about judges’ certification but would investigate further. ABPS Executive Committee considered this to be a major work in hand.

13. 2020 Congress will be held separate from RDP ceremony, which is to be held at LONDON 2020. The costs of hotels and obtaining suitable rooms for meetings would have been prohibitive. Congress 2020 will be held at the Three Swans, Market Harborough from 3rd to 6th September 2020.

14. Any other matters notified to the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM – none received.

15. Date of next AGM – Saturday 5th September 2020 at Three Swans, Market Harborough.

The meeting closed at 2.53p.m. after the presentation of Awards of Merit to Daphne McMillan, Robert McMillan (both nominated by Hull & District PS) and Michael Waugh (nominated by Leeds PS & Malay Study Group). The Congress Medal was re-presented to Gerald Marriner FRPSL.

**Appendix A: Societies and Federations** represented:

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| **Local** |  |  |
| Banbury Stamp Society |  | Falkland Islands Study Philatelic Study Group |
| Berwick & District Philatelic Society |  | Faroe Islands Study Circle |
| Bradford & District Philatelic Society |  | Forces Postal History Society |
| Caledonian Philatelic Society |  | Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society |
| Edinburgh Philatelic Society |  | Glasgow Thematic Society |
| Falkirk Stamp & Postcard Club |  | GB Overprints Society |
| Harrogate Philatelic Society |  | Great Britain Philatelic Society |
| Hastings & East Sussex Philatelic Society |  | Iran Philatelic Study Circle |
| Heathfield & District Philatelic Society |  | King George VI Collectors Society |
| Hull Philatelic Society |  | Malaya Study Group |
| Lanarkshire Philatelic Society |  | ­Midland (GB) Postal History Society |
| Leeds Philatelic Society |  | National Philatelic Society |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne Philatelic Society |  | Philatelic Congress of GB Study Group |
| Poynton Philatelic Society |  | Polar Postal History Society of Great Britain |
| Redditch Philatelic Society |  | Postal Historians (Society of) |
| Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society |  | Postal History Society |
| Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society |  | Revenue Society |
| Scottish Philatelic Society |  | Rhodesian Study Circle |
| Solihull Philatelic Society |  | Royal Philatelic Society of London |
| South Midlands Stamp Club |  | Scandinavia Philatelic Society |
| Southampton & District Philatelic Society |  | Scottish Postal History Society |
| Stratford-upon-Avon Philatelic Society |  | Strathclyde Postcard Club |
| Wakefield Philatelic Society |  | Thailand Philatelic Society |
| **Specialised and National** |  | **Federations represented:** |
| Alba Stamp Group |  | Hampshire Philatelic Federation |
| British Thematic Association |  | Kent Federation of Philatelic Scoieties |
| British West Indies Study Circle |  | Midland Philatelic Federation |
| Ceylon Study Circle of Great Britain |  | North East of England Philatelic Association |
| Channel Islands Specialists' Society |  | North Western Philatelic Association |
| Cinderella Stamp Club |  | Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies |
| Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain |  | Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies |
| Exhibition Study Group |  | Yorkshire Philatelic Association |

**Appendix B ABPS Chairman's Report 2019**

Firstly, progress on my three main aims: To raise the profile of ABPS, to improve the finances of ABPS and to establish a National Stamp Day in the UK. Regarding the first, there has been some progress. Our new advertising banners are now designed and with us, and will be seen at National and Federation events from now on along with copies of ABPS News, and hopefully smiling faces of members of the General Committee spreading the word about how ABPS benefits philately in the UK. Regarding finances: very slow progress. Fewer societies seem to be prepared to part with membership subscriptions. However, I have had another meeting about the possibility of raising funds though members’ insurance … slow progress but at least some progress. Stamp Day is gradually appearing on more society syllabuses. I would urge all societies to choose one May meeting as close to the 6th May as possible, and simply name it “The Stamp Day Meeting”. It can be otherwise be a normal meeting: members’ evening, quiz, auction, guest speaker etc. I fully intend to keep attending and showing at as many of these meetings as I can.

So, to a brief review of the ABPS year from my point of view. Autumn and Spring Stampex, two of our show piece events went very well, with excellent exhibits and a lot of judging for me. The Spring event saw the introduction of a new award, the brain-child of Frank Walton RDP – The Multi-Class Award for those who have received Stampex medals in five different classes.

April saw a quite marvellous event at Perth: The Northern National Exhibition, previously held in York. This was held at the Scottish Spring Congress alongside their Federation competition: a resounding success which must be repeated.

The past two months have seen two events which together encapsulate the work and value of ABPS. At the end of May/start of June was Stockholmia, the centrepiece of the Royal Philatelic Society’s 150th Anniversary celebrations. We held part of our Congress over two days with some great presentations, notably by new RDP Hany Salem from Egypt, Alan Warren from the USA and 2019 Congress Medallist Gerald Marriner. On Saturday 6th July was the biennial Midpex, a chance for Specialist Societies and Federations to demonstrate their interests and expertise. Both events were quite excellent. ABPS really does reach all parts of our great hobby and deserves everyone’s support. The organisers of these events, Jonas Hallstrom RDP and Steve Harrison FRPSL and their respective teams certainly deserve the thanks of ABPS.

As for the future, Autumn Stampex in September, with Indian Sub-Continents Specialists’ exhibits and new guided tours organised by PTS/ABPS, then next year from the 2nd to 10th May, LONDON 2020 at the Business Design Centre Islington.

Other dates for your diary:

17th – 18th April Scottish Congress, Perth

3rd – 6th September ABPS Congress, Market Harborough

25th – 27th September PHS Conference, King’s Manor Hotel, Edinburgh

J.G. Winters FRPSL, Chairman ABPS – July 2019

**Appendix C Awards Committee Report**

The Awards Committee has been busy during the year.

The Committee comprising John Baron, John Davies, Nigel Gooch, Steven Harrison, John Jackson and Brian Sole processed five applications for the ABPS Award of Merit, all of which were successful. With two new members on our Committee who were able to bring a new prospective to our deliberation, the Guidelines were examined again by the Committee and the ABPS Executive Committee. After extensive discussion it was decided that the Guidelines were in line with the spirit of the rationale behind the awards and did not need further amendment.

The recipients of Awards of Merit for 2019 are Daphne and Robert McMillan both nominated by Hull and District Philatelic Society, Dr Michael Waugh nominated by Leeds Philatelic Society and the Malaya Study Group, Mark Wilson nominated by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and John Michael Wright nominated by the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies and Hastings and East Sussex Philatelic Society. This was our first nomination by a Federation following a rule change.

It was proposed that the presentation of the awards should be more of an occasion and the winners, may, if they wish have the presentation at the ABPS AGM. I am pleased to report that three Awards of Merit will be presented by our Chairman today. The other two Awards of Merit are being presented by members of the Executive Committee. The ABPS Congress Medal was presented to Gerald Marriner at the RDP Ceremony in Stockholm and it will be re-presented today. Gerald was nominated by the Channel Islands Specialists’ Society.

I am in receipt of two nomination forms for Awards of Merit for next year and I do urge affiliated societies and federations to consider nominating for the Congress Medal and Awards of Merit, worthy members who have done exceptional work for British Philately.

The ABPS nominated Jeffery Stone and the late Kaj Hellman for the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research for their book *Agathon Fabergé Portrait of a* *Philatelist* which was a runner-up for the award.

News of the awards is always reported in ABPS News and there have been mentions in other philatelic journals.

I take this opportunity to thank my Committee for the services they have carried out to make this year’s awards possible.

Yvonne Wheatley

Chairman ABPS Awards Committee

**Appendix D General Secretary's Report**

Since the last AGM the following items have been discussed and considered by the ABPS Committee and where appropriate decisions have been made and initiatives commenced.

1. ABPS Committee changes – a number of changes have occurred in the membership of the Committee, we have been joined by Steve Harrison as Vice Chairman, Susan Henderson taking on the role with Stamp Active, Christine Earle representing the Philatelic Fund and Bill Barrell as a representative of the philatelic trade.
2. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), ABPS Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy – a review of the advice given to societies and the ABPS terms and conditions will be undertaken during 2019/20 to ensure that we comply with best practice.
3. ABPS Website – The ABPS website continues to be developed and changes are being made.
4. ABPS Membership – An up-to-date membership position will be presented at the AGM as the late payment of subscriptions by some societies continues to distort the figures.
5. GB Congress – the sub-committee responsible for the organising of the Congress has been meeting regularly and working hard on securing venues and arranging Congress content.
6. Free websites for affiliated societies – this initiative is continuing; any ABPS affiliated society requiring a website or wishing to renew an old one – please contact the ABPS.
7. National Speaker List – this is online and is being updated at regular intervals. All entries where no response to requests to comply with the GDPR will have to be removed. This is scheduled for the end of 2019.
8. Youth Philately – Stamp active is alive and well and is now led by Susan Henderson.
9. Awards Committee – Yvonne Wheatley and her committee are seeking nominations from societies who wish to honour persons for outstanding service to the wider Philatelic Community.
10. Small Grants Committee – This is now run by three people. Please contact the Treasurer or Chair to make an application for a grant. Guidelines can be downloaded from the ABPS website to see if a project qualifies.
11. I have now completed over 3 years in the role of General Secretary and hopefully I have been able to help as many people contacting ABPS as possible. All communications received have been actioned and/or replied to. The role of General Secretary has been taken up by George Henshilwood, another serving committee member who I am sure will continue to work hard for the philatelic community. Contact as always through secretary@abps.org.uk I will be staying on as a member of the committee to oversee the Free Website Offer and maintain the National Speaker List.

If you have any comments or suggestions about any of the subjects mentioned above please contact the General Secretary as above.

Neil Ritchie General Secretary ABPS secretary@abps.org.uk June 2019

**Appendix E Report from the membership secretary of the ABPS**

**Summary**

The membership trend of the past years continues with fewer societies with fewer members. Although some new societies have joined the ABPS a number have left.

**Details**

At the time of writing a total of 169 Local societies have affiliated to the ABPS this year with a further 11 Local societies still to do so. Assuming that they do this gives us a total of 180 Local societies with 5152 members. This compares to 184 Local societies that affiliated in 2018 with 5459 members, a 2% and 5% reduction in the number of Local societies and membership respectively (see table below to observe the trend). Most societies that left the ABPS have done so because they have closed or cannot find enough people to run the club.

The trend is clearly a shrinking Local society membership as we are getting older and fewer people are coming into the hobby. Worryingly, 17 Local societies have 10 or less members and 79 Local societies have 20 or less members. This does not bode well for the future.

A total of 69 Specialist societies have affiliated to the ABPS this year with 6905 members. This compares to 67 Specialist societies that affiliated in 2018 with 7032 members. Although the number of Specialist Societies has increased slightly the UK membership of these Specialist societies has fallen by 2% since 2018.

The three National societies remain affiliated for 2019 but their total membership has dropped slightly from 1373 members in 2018 to 1365 members in 2019.

**Trend table for Local Societies**



Barry Stagg Membership Secretary