



# The Association of British Philatelic Societies

[www.ABPS.org.uk](http://www.ABPS.org.uk)



## GENERAL INFORMATION AND RULES FOR EXHIBITIONS RUN BY STAMP WORLD EXHIBITIONS

### INTRODUCTION

Please read this entire document before making an entry.

The rules take effect from 1 May 2021 until further notice. While generally adhering to international rules and guidelines, these UK rules will take precedence.

These rules apply to exhibitions organized by Stamp World Exhibitions (SWE), a company limited by guarantee, on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). These cover national exhibitions open to all exhibitors in the United Kingdom and to exhibitors from other countries affiliated to the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). No facilities are available for National Commissioners.

This document provides information and rules for those wishing to enter an exhibit.

Exhibits will be accepted in all UK Classes recognized by the FIP as well as in the Cinderella, Picture Post Card and Ephemera Classes. Other philatelic exhibits will be considered e.g. First Day Cover exhibits only non-competitively in the "Display Only" class.

These rules and guidelines apply to both physical and virtual ABPS National Exhibitions.

Exhibits may be entered either in a competitive class or non-competitively in the Display Only class.

Please note that the FIP have stated that virtual exhibits obtaining qualifying points in 2020/22 will be eligible to enter its international exhibitions in 2021-22. If you wish to enter an FIP exhibition outside these dates with an exhibit qualified at a virtual exhibition, we suggest you check the FIP website first and, if necessary, contact the commissioner allocated to the exhibition by your National association—the ABPS in the case of the UK.

Any enquiries or clarifications sought about the contents of this document should be addressed to: [exhibiting@abps.org.uk](mailto:exhibiting@abps.org.uk). or telephone (+44) 01205 460968.

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## A TIMETABLE

Each exhibition will have its own specific requirements. These will be available from the *Exhibitions* menu of the ABPS website. - [Forthcoming Exhibitions - ABPS](#)

## B CLASSES AND FRAMES IN ABPS NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

### 1. Classes

The exhibition is open to applications in the following classes.

FIP Classes	Non-FIP Classes
Traditional Philately	Cinderella Class
Postal History	Picture Postcard Class
Aerophilately	Ephemera Class
Postal Stationery	Non-Competitive Display Class
Revenue Philately	Three-Dimensional Class (for philatelic ephemera)
Thematic Philately	
Open Philately	
Astrophilately	
Maximaphily	
Philatelic Literature (London exhibitions only – pre-judged)	

### 2. Frame Allocation

A competitive entry may be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 8 frames each made-up of 16 standard display sheets or equivalent. No pre-qualification is needed for 1-5 frames.

Exhibits awarded (at least) 80 points and large vermeil at a previous national exhibition may increase to 8 frames at the exhibitor's discretion. Please note that a multi-frame first time entry into an International exhibition is very likely to be limited to 5 frames.

An exhibit which has previously been exhibited in eight frames may not be shown again in five.

## C GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 3. Eligibility

SWE follows the guidance of Article 12 of the FIP General Regulations for Exhibiting (GREX) in determining the eligibility of applications. These can be found under the Regulations tab at [Fédération Internationale de Philatélie – FIP \(f-i-p.ch\)](#).

### 4. Organizer's Discretion

As the Organizer, SWE reserve the right to determine whether an entry should be accepted, judged, or displayed in ABPS exhibitions, without having to give a reason for any decisions.

All virtual exhibition exhibits will be displayed on the ABPS website.

### 5. First Time Competitive Entries

A first-time competitive entry is an **exhibit** (not an exhibitor) that has not been accepted at a UK

National exhibition or at any other National or FIP-recognized International Exhibition during the ten years preceding the date of this exhibition.

## **6. Ownership**

All non-literature exhibits must be the *bona fide* property of, and entered by, just one person, a married couple or civil partnership.

## **7. Overseas Entrants**

Exhibits may be accepted from exhibitors in countries affiliated to the FIP or FEPA.

## **8. Language**

It is recommended that exhibits are written in English. Exhibits are accepted in French, German, and Spanish but the introductory page must be written in English.

## **9. Application Procedure**

Applications should be made using the online application form which is available at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk) under the Exhibiting tab. (Note: this may be a change from previous procedures).

Any exhibitor wishing to apply who does not have easy access to a computer is requested to contact the exhibition secretary by telephone at (+44) 01424 251169 or at [exhibiting@abps.org.uk](mailto:exhibiting@abps.org.uk)

## **10. Acceptance**

Acceptance of applications is at the discretion of the Chairman of the Jury. All entrants whose applications are accepted will receive notification with instructions and specific dates/times for handing in and receiving back their exhibits.

## **11. Handing in and Collection of Exhibits**

Exhibits must be handed in and collected within the times specified in the Specific Rules for each exhibition. Exhibits may be handed in or posted care of the General Manager at the RPSL by prior arrangement. Packages must be clearly marked that they are for a specific exhibition. Exhibits may be collected at a later date by prior arrangement, but return of exhibits to exhibitors by post is not possible.

## **12. Entry Fees**

£25 per frame is payable on acceptance, whether single or multiple frame exhibits, and £25 per literature entry (applies to London shows only). However, first time exhibitors will not be charged an entry fee. This will be paid by ABPS with funds provided by The Philatelic Fund.

## **13. Exhibits: Introductory Page and Synopsis**

Every competitive exhibit must have an *Introductory Page* as the first sheet. The object of this page is to state the aim of the exhibit and set out a plan showing how it is structured. It should not simply be a contents list.

Exhibitors will be asked to provide a PDF or jpg of their draft introductory page with their application by uploading the file online when prompted to do so during the online application procedure. The file should be named in the following format:  
Surname First Name First few words of the title.pdf e.g.: martinicksussehillseaviews.pdf.

Any updates of the front page must be notified to admin [exhibiting@abps.org.uk](mailto:exhibiting@abps.org.uk) and the title given a suffix 2 etc. e.g.: goochdeborahbexhillseaviews2.pdf. We cannot guarantee to forward the new page if the change is less than one week before the exhibition.

**Thematic** philately applications must also be accompanied by a copy of the plan sheet, which may be a provisional plan. This should be page 2 of your pdf file. Failure to provide a plan as part of the application is likely to be penalized.

A synopsis is not mandatory but is very helpful to the judges as it enables the exhibitor to provide information not suitable for the introductory page.

#### **14. Feedback from the Jury During a Live Event**

Feedback will be available at live exhibitions. Requests for feedback should be sent by email to [exhibiting@abps.org.uk](mailto:exhibiting@abps.org.uk) prior to the opening of the relevant exhibition. For virtual exhibits, written feedback is provided, but verbal feedback may be available too. No feedback will be given for display-only exhibits.

#### **15. Liability**

The organizers, whilst not taking responsibility for any errors or misplaced items in the display, will make every effort to avoid such occurrences.

During the online application process applicants are required to tick a box to confirm that they accept the following terms and conditions:

##### *Terms and Conditions*

*Ticking this box gives your assent to all of the rules and guidelines set out for the documentation to the exhibition, and to the data provided, and subsequent associated data, being stored in an electronic database, including security copies. Analysis of that data will be used for this exhibition and may be used to contact you in the future. Data will not be made available to third parties, except in connection with this exhibition, will not be used for commercial purposes, and will be retained only by SWE and its agents.*

#### **16. Delivery**

Details are shown in each exhibition application pack on the ABPS website.

#### **17. Certificates and Awards**

Certificates and awards will be communicated after the judging of exhibits.

### **D RULES FOR EVALUATION OF COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS**

#### **18. The Jury**

The Jury, whose decisions are final, will consist of nationally accredited judges and, on occasions, apprentice judges. Should they decide that an exhibit has been wrongly classified, they have the discretion to transfer it to another more appropriate Class. The Jury's comments will be passed to entrants. No correspondence will be entered into on the judging. Awards will be made subject to the minimum marks being achieved.

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

## 19. Evaluation System

The criteria and points available will be as follows:

### Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Revenue, Astrophilately, Maximaphily and Cinderella Classes

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

### Thematic Philately

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

### Open Philately

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

### Picture Postcard and Ephemera Classes

Idea, plan, and treatment of the topic	Idea and Plan	10	
	Treatment	20	30
Knowledge and Research			35
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	30
Presentation			5
Total			100

### Literature (London shows only)

Treatment of Contents			40
Originality, significance and depth of research			40
Technical Matters			15
Presentation			5
Total			100

## 20. Awards

Minimum points required:

Large Gold Medal	90
Gold Medal	85
Large Vermeil Medal	80
Vermeil Medal	75
Large Silver Medal	70

Silver Medal	65
Silver Bronze Medal	60
Bronze Medal	55
Certificate of Participation	Below 55

One frame exhibits will be marked on the same basis as multi-frame exhibits in their class. Physical medals will only be awarded to exhibits of two frames and above.

## E FURTHER INFORMATION ON EXHIBITING

### 21. Qualification for FIP and FEPA Exhibitions

To be eligible to apply to show an exhibit of five frames at an FIP or FEPA exhibition, an exhibit must have been awarded at least 75 points and a Vermeil medal at a national exhibition in a recognized FIP Class within the 10 years previous to the application.

To qualify for eight frames at an FIP or FEPA exhibition, an exhibit must have received at least 85 points at five frames at a previous FIP or Continental Federation exhibition. Time limits apply.

ABPS juries follow the guidance of the FIP in evaluating exhibits. The brief notes below on individual classes should be read in conjunction with the Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Exhibits in each class (SREVS) which can be found on the FIP website and on FIP Commission websites.

### 22. FIP Classes:

#### Traditional

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

### **Postal History**

This class includes studies of the development of postal services, including the evolution of rates and routes, postal markings and marcophily. It is not normally advisable to include unused adhesives or unused postal stationery.

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 that does not overwhelm the philatelic material. Non-philatelic items must relate directly to the Postal History 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.

### **Postal Stationery**

This class is 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.

### **Revenue Philately**

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

### **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. However, 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.

### **Three-Dimensional Class (for philatelic ephemera)**

This is a non-competitive class. Exhibits will be displayed in a limited number of glass four-shelf cases.

### **Literature**

Literature will only be judged at London exhibitions. A copy of the literature entry must be supplied in advance (at least one month prior to the exhibition) unless a copy is already available in the RPSL Library.

## **23. Non FIP Classes Accepted at ABPS National Exhibitions**

### **Cinderella**

Cinderellas include local stamps, telegraph stamps, railway stamps, revenues/fiscals, 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 are not considered as Cinderella items for this purpose.

### **Picture Postcard**

The class is now offered at exhibitions in many parts of the world including the USA and there are FEPA regulations for the exhibiting of Picture Postcards which cover all of its affiliated federations in Europe, including Turkey, Israel, and Egypt. The FEPA regulations are at <http://fepanews.com/news/picture%20postcard%20regulations>.

### **Ephemera**

Ephemera has been defined as 'the minor transient, printed or handwritten documents of everyday life that were generally expected to be discarded'. It can cover almost any printed or handwritten material that is of suitable size and thin enough to be exhibited in the frames. An essential requirement is that it is presented in two dimensions so, for instance, cigarette and food packets would have to be opened out or collapsed flat. Photographs can be included.

The judging rules for Ephemera are still under discussion following the experiment carried out at Spring Stampex 2019 and further information will be provided in due course.

Competitive exhibits of Ephemera should be arranged in a way that tells a coherent story with a logical progression based on, for example, typology, chronology, social content, printing methods or commonality - a range of materials with a common theme or picture. No more than 15% of the content should be philatelic material eligible for other exhibition classes such as Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, or stamped revenue documents.

### **One Frame Exhibits**

One frame exhibits can be entered in any class. They need to have an introductory page and the treatment should be as complete as possible in relation to the subject chosen. It is crucial to choose a subject that can be covered adequately in one frame. Simply extracting one frame from a multiple frame exhibit is unlikely to produce an optimal result.

Further information on various aspects of competitive philately is available on the ABPS, FIP and FEPA websites:

**ABPS:** <http://abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Seminars/index.xalter>

**FIP:** <http://www.f-i-p.ch>

**FEPA:** <http://fepanews.com>

**NOTE:** While Stamp World Exhibitions, the organizers of ABPS National Exhibitions, endeavour to ensure accuracy of the information they publish, accuracy cannot be guaranteed, and the organizers will accept no liability for any use of or reliance on information contained within this document or application pack. Decisions of the Jury or its Chairman are final and conclusive, and there is no requirement to give reasons for any decision made. All references in this document to Stamp World Exhibitions, the organizers of ABPS National Exhibitions, include its directors, employees, sub-contractors, and volunteers.