



2025 A. G. M.

AGENDA

and

**SOCIETY OFFICERS
REPORTS**

for 2024

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
88TH A.G.M. – 15TH April 2025

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Notice of Any Other Business
4. Minutes of the 87TH A.G.M. April 2024
5. Matters Arising from 2024 Minutes
6. Chairman's Report
7. President's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Secretary's Report
10. Auction Manager's Report
11. Competition Secretary
12. Packet Manager
13. Membership Secretary
14. Librarian
15. Postmark, P.R.O. Archivist & Curator
16. Programme Manager
17. Zoom Coordinator
18. Facebook Manager
19. Amendments to Society's Rules
20. Officers in post as at 2025 A.G.M
21. Election of Officers for 2025/2026
22. Appointment of Society Auditor
23. Any Other Business

Item 1. Chairman's Welcome

Item 2. Apologies

Item 3. Notice of Any Other Business

Item 4. Minutes of the 2024 A.G.M.

See Appendix

Item 5. Matters Arising from 2024 Minutes

Item 6. Chairman's Report – Kevin Chard

As I write my summary for 2024 my mind turns first to Tuesday evening venue, changes to that venue and the challenges faced – no change then to 2023!

Tuesday evening meeting venue changed to Bursledon in 2024 but we were unable to secure any storage space at the venue and attendance figures were low. The venue itself was good, but we have decided to move to Holy Saviour Church in Bitterne for (hopefully) ease of location and because we now have some storage space. The venue facilities are good but we need longer to assess how the change will affect attendee numbers.

The Society is far more than Tuesday evening meetings – our Thursday Chandler's Ford and Zoom meeting programmes continue to flourish and have been far less traumatic. My thanks to Pete Bruce and Malcolm Coe for all their efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend those thanks to all those who contribute to all things that make the Society function – all the committee members and officers but also those that assist with meeting set up, raffles, etc. True team effort. As with all things in life, we focus on the struggles and don't always stand back to appreciate all the good things that are happening. There are a lot of aspects to our Society and it offers much to those interested in our hobby.

That said, we could do with more volunteers for the committee / officer roles in the Society. If you are interested in any aspect of running the Society, please let me know – we could do with more flexibility to cope with what life can throw at us. Steve Gerrard will touch on some immediate issues in his report.

In 2024 we suffered from reduced Auction and Packet revenues – one through dealing with storage issues / clearing a backlog of material, the other from ill health. These concerns are now behind us, although we have reduced the number of evening auctions to 3 to ease the time burden.

We rely on these revenues financially and ran with a deficit in 2024 because of these issues. This is not sustainable. We intend to make changes to the membership fee from 2026. The aim is that the membership fee will cover our running costs.

We can then use any profits made from the Auction / Packet to pay for more exciting aspects – social events, trips, raffle prizes, conferences, etc. The financial proposals will be covered in the Treasurer report.

I have not separated my Auction Manager report as it is entwined with the broader aspects of the Chairman report. I am optimistic for 2025 – our first Tuesday Auction at Bitterne was a success and the room attendance and bidding was good and great fun. Don't miss out on attending in June. We also had a successful Saturday Auction at Chandler's Ford – my thanks to Pete Bruce for organizing another great event.

Item 7. President's Report – Julian Jones

Once more I am delighted to write in support of the excellent work of your committee through another challenging year. Firstly Mike Watts and Kevin Chard have worked hard to find a suitable venue that can be reached by more Southampton members who need to use public transport to attend the Tuesday evening meetings. The new venue at Bitterne seems to tick all the boxes. Along with this, Patrick Austin has put together another excellent programme of varied speakers of high calibre. And, for those who don't wish to travel at all, Malcolm Coe has an equally interesting programme of good

speakers available live on Zoom and then via YouTube. I urge members to support all of these events as regularly as they can to ensure that we can continue to attract good speakers. Peter and Cathy Bruce, meanwhile, maintain a stimulating Thursday afternoon meeting at Chandler's Ford for those who particularly prefer to drive in daylight. This supports a good audience and plenty of 'show and tell' by the attendees.

So, something, I believe for everyone, including the members who just support the auctions, run by Kevin with member help on the day, and the Raffle run by Mel Bradshaw all on his own. It is a truly team effort. Thanks to everyone.

Item 8. Treasurer's Report – Mike Watts

The balance sheet and revenue accounts are included as part of this report showing the Society's financial position for 2024.

The difference between the 2023 and 2024 venue hire costs needs explanation. We were not invoiced for Bugle Street 2023 room hire until 2024 (despite chasing on our part.) A provision of £1,500 was made in the 2023 accounts for this. Storage costs were higher in 2024 as the logistics of moving material to different sites resulted in the society having more than one site for part of the year, one of which was liable to VAT which added a further £120.00 to the cost.

The other figures should be self-explanatory but I would be glad to answer any questions from members either before, or at the meeting.

Due to printing deadlines the balance sheet does not bear a copy of our auditor's signature however our auditor has agreed the figures and a signed copy of the accounts will be available for inspection at the AGM.

Increase in Annual Subscription Rate

It has been 19 years since the last increase in our subscription rate. The cumulative rate of inflation from 2006 to 2025 is over 66%.

However circumstances are now such that the committee feels it is right to propose an increase.

Our costs are ever rising. Printing, postage, venue hire, insurance, speaker expenses, philatelic subscriptions, website hosting and more, have all increased considerably over this period. Added to this, new activities such as our on line Zoom meetings have been introduced. The purchase of a large stock of mint GB stamps at a discount has cushioned us from the recent and regular Royal Mail price increases. This stock has now been exhausted so unless we find another, we will be incurring the full cost of postage.

Our income has been significantly bolstered by our auction and circulation packet activities. We have benefitted from receiving some very good quality material over the last few years but this cannot always be guaranteed. Reliance on income from these sources to break even or produce a surplus puts pressure on those in the roles of auction and packet manager (which are very time consuming jobs).

The committee is therefore recommending that the new subscription rate proposed will be put at a level to cover our basic operating costs. Any income generated from auction and packet activities will be used to increase member benefits such as:-

- Subsidised or completely funded travel to philatelic events (e.g Stampex, Europhillex etc)
- Better quality social events.
- Possibly "star prizes" at our meeting raffles.
- Free refreshments at our meetings.

The committee is asking the AGM to approve the following:-

Full Membership - Includes mailing of hard copy communications such as Postmark, Auction Catalogues etc. £25 per annum

Digital Membership - All communications sent by e-mail. £15 per annum

Associate Membership - For members who only wish to sell through our auctions or packets. £10 per annum

It goes without saying that the committee appreciates members are facing increased day costs in many areas and it is not without much careful consideration that these new subscription rates are being proposed.

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

| | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Deposit Account – General Account | 12482 | 12670 |
| Cash at Bank and in hand:- | | |
| General Account | 8851 | 6460 |
| Exchange Packet Account | 4865 | 6522 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 79 | 72 |
| Debtors | 0 | 0 |
| Sub Total | 26277 | 25724 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Creditors:- | | |
| 2023 St Joseph’s Room Hire Provision | 1500 | 0 |
| Subscriptions Received in Advance | 260 | 160 |
| Amounts owing to Auction Vendors | 239 | 433 |
| Sundry Creditors | 97 | 0 |
| Exchange Packet Account | 4865 | 6522 |
| Sub Total | 6961 | 7115 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | 19316 | 18609 |
| NON-CASH ASSETS | | |
| Library and Equipment after depreciation | 468 | 466 |
| Postal History Collection | 1371 | 1371 |
| Mint GB Stamps for Postage | 431 | 1 |
| Sub Total | 2270 | 1838 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 21586 | 20447 |
| REPRESENTED BY:- | | |
| ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND B/Fwd | 20069 | 21586 |
| Add Surplus for 2023 | 1517 | |
| Deduct Deficit for 2024 | | 1139 |
| GENERAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD | 21586 | 20447 |

I have examined the books, records and vouchers presented to me by the Society's Treasurer and the Packet Manager. I have carried out such tests and checks that I deemed necessary. I confirm the Balance Sheet, Revenue Account and Supporting Schedules agree with the records supplied.

Peter Jones – FCMA

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| RECEIPTS | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Annual Subscriptions | 1574 | 1457 |
| Raffle Proceeds | 588 | 461 |
| Auction Income | 3259 | 1779 |
| Packet Sales Income | 845 | 446 |
| Interest Received | 118 | 188 |
| Surplus from Refreshments | 171 | 133 |
| Donations | 411 | 339 |
| Income Released from Suspense Accounts | 350 | 172 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 7316 | 4975 |
| | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Venue Hire | 848 | 2848 |
| Transfer to provision for St Joseph's Room Hire | 1500 | 0 |
| Philatelic Subscriptions | 290 | 304 |
| Speakers' and Judges' Expenses | 605 | 342 |
| Postmark | 1253 | 1122 |
| Insurance Premiums | 181 | 194 |
| Engraving | 90 | 30 |
| Copying/Printing and Stationery | 227 | 318 |
| Miscellaneous Postage | 25 | 42 |
| Sundry Expenditure | 10 | 11 |
| Social Events | 387 | 392 |
| Depreciation of Non Cash Assets | 6 | 2 |
| Postal History, Library and Archive Costs | 150 | 0 |
| Website and Zoom Costs | 227 | 189 |
| ABPS Congress Costs | 0 | 320 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 5799 | 6114 |
| | | |
| 2023 Surplus added to General Funds | 1517 | |
| 2024 Deficit deducted from General Funds | | 1139 |
| | 7316 | 4975 |
| | | 4975 |

Item 9. Secretary's Report – Cathy Bruce

Item 10. Auction Manager's Report – Kevin Chard

See Item 6

Item 11. Competition Secretary – Alan Whittaker

Item 12. Packet Manager – Mel Bradshaw

The Packet Circuit did not have such a good year as 2023. Only 16 circuit boxes were audited and paid during 2024, compared with 24 the previous year. Sales from these boxes amounted to £6,953.55, with commission payable to the society of £695.57. A further £26.88 was paid to the society as the additional levy paid by non-members who submit booklets. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of the packet system, whether by submitting booklets or purchasing from booklets on the circuit. We are fortunate that compared with many other societies the number of members receiving the packets is still around 50, excluding those on the Isle of Wight.

The decrease in income was associated partly with my illness, which slowed down my ability to audit and pass on boxes to the next circuit. The decision was also made to increase the number of boxes which are taken to the Isle of Wight Stamp Club, owing to the good sales generated on the island. This of course means that these boxes take longer between their initial production and final audit for payment.

It is anticipated that results for 2025 will be much improved compared with 2024. Already 6 boxes have been audited and paid, with sales of £2996.22, with commission of £299.69, non-member levy of £15.37 and a donation of £22.34.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Item 13. Membership Secretary – Steve Blundell

There are currently 141 members. This is slightly reduced since the last AGM. There have been two new members. A few members have yet to pay their subscription for this year and who we have, as yet, not been able to contact. It specifically excludes some whose contact details are no longer valid. Sadly a very few members have passed and we have sent condolences from the society to their families.

Obtaining subscriptions has been particularly difficult this year, partly because of the more stringent bank security regimes. It would be particularly helpful if members could review their bank standing order instructions particularly if there is a change in the subscription for following years.

Item 14. Librarian – Reg Sheppard

Item 15. Postmark, P.R.O., Archivist & Curator – Steven Gerrard

Postmark

A big change regarding Postmark is that there will only be 3 issues per year. April, August and December. I was intending standing down, but I have decided to carry on for 2 years and see how my health is going. So, to take some of the strain from me, Debbie Hindson has agreed to proof read

Postmark and make changes where she sees fit. She will send a PDF copy to me and also to Mel to send it on to the printers.

PRO.

I am standing down as PRO at this AGM . I have carried this role out for 2 years and I have done what I could by sending out emails, letters etc but get very little or zero responses. Hopefully we will get a new PRO with more ideas.

Archivist

The Archives are up to date until end of 2024. We have a total of (3,800) scanned PDF files. The database is also up to date as of December 2024. Copies of the database will hopefully be available on the website and available direct by email from me.

I am currently continuing work previously carried out by Bryan Hunt. I have created an updated catalogue of Southampton Postal History from 1994 to 2025. Hopefully this will be available by the end of 2025.

Curator

Postal History Collection stored at Debbie's.

Updated spreadsheet to the end of 2024. Due to access issues to the collection, those items received have been added to the database and are stored at my home address. I receive very little material for the collection. Copies of the database will hopefully be available on the Website and available directly from me.

Item 16. Programme Manager - Patrick Austin

My aim has been to provide a varied programme with a range of topics and countries represented and to have a fair representation of lady speakers. Unfortunately, with regards to the latter, 2024 was not a success, however, 2025 will be different. The difficulty, as always, is that there is a limited pool of willing speakers within an evening's drive of Southampton. Juliet and I host where required, to allow a speaker to travel in daylight the following morning.

I would ask that if there are any topics that SDPS would wish to see presented, then please let me know and I will do my best to accommodate. I had no feedback in 2024, so I would be grateful if an email round robin could be put out to members asking for any suggestions

I understand that the most interesting evening was "And I Still Don't Know What to Collect!" from Paul Latham-Warde in October. It is a pity that I was not able to attend.

The "thank you" email that is sent out after each speaker meeting is well received and this reflects positively on SDPS in the recruitment of new speakers.

Thank you, Mike, for sorting out expenses.

The 2024 Programme had a few problems with speakers being unwell and not being able to deliver their talk. Thank you to the club for rearranging topics at the last moment. One speaker did not turn up, or even apologise, which led to a cancelled evening. In contrast, the 2025 Programme is running smoothly with no problems to date.

I attended various other Philatelic Society meetings, hearing some good speakers who have displayed topics that I think would be of interest to SDPS. This is where the majority of the 2024 and 2025 speakers were found. This will continue in 2025, ready for 2026.

SDPS had one exchange visit from another club in 2024, being IoW Stamp Club. No visits have been arranged for 2025 as the interest for such appears to be low. I have in mind something different for 2026 that will still involve an exchange visit.

Approximately 20 members come to the Tuesday evening speaker meetings, so my view is that we are able to continue with the full speaker programme that we have had over the past years. If finding speakers becomes more challenging, in view of the increasing age of "stamp collectors", and exchange visits are not able to fill the gaps, then I shall review.

Item 17. Zoom Coordinator - Malcolm Coe

We have zoom speakers booked for the whole of 2025, but I am very concerned about poor SDPS members' attendance. At our last meeting (25 Feb) we only had 10 attendees in total – and only 5-6 were SDPS members, the others were guests. This has been typical over the last few meetings. I find it increasingly embarrassing that I have invited top philatelists to give up their time when there seems

to be so little interest amongst our members. A year ago we were having 20-25 attendees on a regular basis.

I don't know why numbers are now so low – I get no feedback from any members despite repeated requests in both Postmark and via email. Maybe the choice of speakers/topics is unattractive, or maybe the time of day no longer appeals (I know several PSs run their zoom talks in the afternoons)? Or are people simply fed up using zoom?

So I have a proposal for going forward. The next financial payment (~£150) is due in June so we should decide by the end of May if we wish to continue. I propose we shut it down if numbers are not back up to 20+ on a regular basis between now and then (we have 3 talks booked in that interval). If this is agreed at the AGM then I will try once more to get feedback from members on topics/times, but based upon previous such attempts I am not optimistic.

I will have done this job for 3.5 years and enjoyed it very much. I have endeavoured to invite a vast range of speakers and, I believe, we have had some great talks. So, if nothing else, if we end this activity we will have built up an excellent video library that all SDPS members can enjoy into the future.

Item 18. Facebook Manager -Symon Borys

Item 19. Amendments to the Society's Rules

Item 20. Officers in post as at 2025 A.G.M

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| The President | Julian Jones |
| Vice President | Mel Bradshaw |
| Chairman | Kevin Chard |
| Vice-Chairman | Mike Watts |
| Hon Treasurer | Mike Watts |
| Auction Manager and Auctioneer | Kevin Chard |
| Hon Membership Secretary | Steve Blundell |
| Minutes Secretary | Cathy Bruce |
| Chandler's Ford Convener | Peter Bruce |
| Packet Manager | Mel Bradshaw |
| Hon Asst Treasurer | Debbie Hindson |
| Programme Secretary | Patrick Austin |
| Competition Secretary | Alan Whittaker |
| Society Archivist | Steve Gerrard |
| Curator of Society Collection | Steve Gerrard |
| Hampshire Federation Rep | Steve Gerrard |
| Postmark Editor | Steve Gerrard |
| Zoom Meeting Convener | Malcolm Coe |
| Bugle St Meetings Secretary | Jeff Thomas |

Item 21 Election of Officers for 2025/2026

Item 22. Appointment of Society Auditor

Item 23. Any Other Business

Interval: Coffee and Tea,

Followed by Members' Queries and Recent Acquisitions

APPENDIX

Minutes of the 2024 A.G.M.

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting
2nd April 2024**

Attending: Julian Jones (President), Kevin Chard (Chairman) and 20 Members

1. Welcome

Kevin gave a warm welcome and proposed Adrian Stewart-Cox for membership, unanimously agreed. There were folders for sale.

Kevin asked if any members would be willing to help at the APBS conference in Southampton, July 11th to 14th. There are opportunities for PR, activities and assembling goody bags, Julian is arranging speakers. No volunteers.

2. Apologies

Seven apologies received including Steven Betteridge who has multiple injuries following a fall. Good wishes for his recovery were expressed.

3. Notice of Any Other Business

Jack Hindson wished to give information about the Society Stamp and Postal History collection.

4. Minutes of the 86th A.G.M., April 2023

The Minutes of the above meeting were approved by the members attending and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no comments arising from the rule changes on the website, they were officially adopted.

6. Report by the Chairman (Kevin Chard)

The Society made a healthy surplus in 2023 of around £1500 but this is all arising from increased Auction income, which rose by £1750! This increase arose from dropping the Grand Auction, adding Chandler's Ford auctions and the sale of the Roger Lewis estate. Auction revenues will not continue at this level, indeed we expect them to halve and so we would expect to be around break even in 2024. Beyond the finances, 2023 has proved to be a difficult year, caused by the loss of our Southampton meeting venue and storage space at Bugle Street. We have managed to secure a new venue and a home for the collection but other aspects are still temporary solutions and we are still looking / hoping that a better solution will be found. The various elements have been well documented through Postmark and I will not repeat those thoughts here.

The upshot is that although there is now no urgency, we are still open to finding a perfect solution – anyone who can assist with roles would be welcomed, especially anyone who has enough storage at home to run the Auction.

My main thought for the AGM is to thank all of those who have contributed effort and ideas to the venue challenge. I would particularly like to give my personal thanks to Mike Watts, without whom we would not I believe have got through this period – he is currently storing the Library whilst being instrumental in the venue search / securing our Bursledon home.

My thanks to all of those who have contributed to the smooth running of the Society, especially our Committee members and Officers but including all of those who contribute in any way, however small it may seem – it all helps.

On a personal note, this busy period for the Society has matched a period where business work volumes have returned to pretty much full time and I have been dealing with parental health issues. The upshot is that I have not been able to devote the amount of time or thought to the challenges of the Chairman and Auction Manager roles. This is not good for me or for the Society. As I type this report, I have not made any decisions about the future but unless something changes, I will need to

step down from one or both roles. I have committed to make that decision with the AGM evening as a deadline.

There is a facility for storage of auction lots with the printers at Freemantle. There were no questions for Kevin.

7. The President (Julian Jones)

We should all thank Mike Watts and Kevin Chard for driving through some difficult decisions in the face of summary ejection from Bugle Street at very short notice. Once more they have been backed by a strong committee team in difficult circumstances and society members willing to help with the relocation to St Paul's Church Hall and / or Mike's Garage, Bursledon. My thanks go to all concerned.

8. The Treasurer (Mike Watts)

A surplus of £1,517 was generated for the year ending 31st December 2023. This was due largely to the exceptional profit of £3,259 from auction sales.

A balance of £12,482 is held on the Society's bank deposit account. It is not anticipated any of these funds will be needed during 2024.

Taking the above into consideration, the committee decided no increase in the current membership subscription should be sought for 2025.

It should however be mentioned that the fee the Society pays for affiliation to the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) has risen to £2 for every fully paid up member. So the Society only gets to use £8 for other purposes from each membership subscription received.

Stock of Mint GB Stamps

The society was able to acquire a large supply of mint GB stamps at a significant discount for use on society mailings such as auction catalogues, Postmark and AGM reports. This is shown in the accounts at the cost to the society when the stamps were acquired (Per stamp 1st class – 64p, 2nd class – 46p).

Room Hire

The change of venue for the Society's Tuesday evening meetings, and the relocation of storage facilities for auction material, should have little impact on the Society's room hire costs.

Despite our frequent efforts to obtain an invoice for the 2023 rental of facilities at St Joseph's, none has so far been forthcoming. For this reason a provision of £1,500 has been made in the accounts to cover an invoice, should one be received.

Change of Accounting Policy

The Society is no longer treating the afternoon meetings at Chandler's Ford as a separate revenue account category. Categories such as Room Hire, Raffle Income and Refreshment Income, with effect from 1st January 2023, include combined income and expenditure for afternoon and evening meetings.

Alan Leonard Bequest

The Committee agreed to use the remaining £350 to offset against the cost of hiring audio visual equipment required by one of our visiting speakers. (We can now use the A/V system at our Tuesday evening meeting venue in Bursledon, subject to it not being needed by the church.)

Other Revenue Account Notes

Interest Received – Increase due to higher interest rates.

Donations – Decrease as in 2022 one large donation of £2,000 was received.

Philatelic Subscriptions – Increase due to an increase in the ABPS affiliation fee.

Speakers' and Judges Expenses – Increase due to A/V equipment hire

Postal History, Library & Archive costs – Increase due to cost of relocating the library.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------|------|------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |

Deposit Account:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| General Account | 12364 | 12482 |
| Cash at Bank and in hand: | | |
| General Account | 10039 | 8851 |
| Exchange Packet Account | 5308 | 4865 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 0 | 79 |
| Debtors | 0 | 0 |
| Sub Total | 27711 | 26277 |

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors:

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| Suspense Account - Alan Leonard Bequest 2023 St Joseph's Room Hire Provision | 350 | 0 |
| Subscriptions Received in Advance | 0 | 1500 |
| Amounts owing to Auction Vendors | 350 | 260 |
| Sundry Creditors | 3163 | 239 |
| Exchange Packet account | 306 | 97 |
| | 5308 | 4865 |
| Sub Total | 9477 | 6961 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | 18234 | 19316 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|

NON-CASH ASSETS

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Library and Equipment, after depreciation | 464 | 468 |
| Postal History collection | 1371 | 1371 |
| Mint GB Stamps for Postage | 0 | 431 |
| Sub Total | 1835 | 2270 |

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | 20069 | 21586 |
|--------------|-------|-------|

Represented by:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND B/Fwd | 18813 | 20069 |
| Add Surplus for 2022 | 1256 | |
| Add Surplus for 2023 | | 1517 |
| GENERAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD | 20069 | 21586 |

I have examined the books, records and vouchers presented to me by the Society's Treasurer and the Packet Manager. I have carried out such tests and checks that I deemed necessary. I confirm the Balance Sheet, Revenue Account and Supporting Schedules agree with the records supplied.

Peter Jones FCMA

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

| RECEIPTS | 2022 | 2023 | |
|---|------|------|--------|
| Annual Subscriptions | 1514 | 1574 | |
| Raffle Proceeds | 360 | 588 | |
| Auction Income | 1485 | 3259 | |
| Packet Sales Income | 913 | 845 | |
| Interest Received | 3 | 118 | |
| Surplus from Refreshments | 91 | 171 | |
| Surplus/Deficit from Afternoon Meetings | -307 | 0 | Note 1 |
| Donations | 2289 | 411 | |
| Advertising | 0 | 0 | |
| Income Released from Suspense Account | 0 | 350 | |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 6348 | 7316 | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Hire of Southampton Premises | 1543 | 0 | Note 2 |
| Other venue Hire | 0 | 848 | Note 2 |
| Transfer to provision for St Joseph's Room Hire | 0 | 1500 | Note 2 |
| Philatelic Subscriptions | 218 | 290 | |
| Speakers' and Judges Expenses' | 332 | 605 | |
| Postmark | 1292 | 1253 | |
| Insurance Premiums | 171 | 181 | |
| Engraving | 100 | 90 | |
| Copying/Printing & Stationery | 321 | 227 | |
| Miscellaneous Postage | 74 | 25 | |
| Sundry Expenditure | 25 | 10 | |
| Social Events | 649 | 387 | |
| Depreciation of Non Cash Assets | 14 | 6 | |
| Postal History, Library & Archive Costs | 34 | 150 | |
| Website & Zoom Costs | 202 | 227 | |
| ABPS Congress | 117 | 0 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 5092 | 5799 | |
| 2022 Surplus added to General Funds | 1256 | | |
| 2023 Surplus added to General Funds | | 1517 | |
| | 6348 | 7316 | |

Note 1 - Afternoon meetings no longer a separate category. Costs/Income will be combined with equivalent evening meeting categories.

Note 2 - Awaiting invoice for 2023 hire of St. Joseph's Southampton.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| 2023 St Joseph's | | |
| Room Hire Provision | 0 | 1500 |
| Subscriptions Received in Advance | 350 | 260 |
| Amounts owing to | | |
| Auction Vendors | 3163 | 239 |
| Sundry Creditors | 306 | 97 |
| Exchange Packet account | 5308 | 4865 |
| Sub Total | 9477 | 6961 |

Debbie Hindson was available in Mike's absence but no questions arose.

Reg Sheppard voiced the strong opinion that it was shortsighted to keep subscriptions at £10 and Eddie Mays agreed. It costs the Society £22 per member when costs are taken into account.

Steve Blundell made the point that 130 members paid by standing order. It was felt that it was shabby treatment by Bugle Street to give such short notice to quit then charge £1500, and a refund should be requested. No objections to this.

At the 2025 AGM a request will be made for an increase.

Kevin thanked Mike and Debbie for their hard work.

9. Secretary (Cathy Bruce)

Nothing new to add.

10. Auction Manager (Kevin Chard)

The auctions contributed £3259 to Club funds in 2023, more than double last year and accounting for 44% of total Society receipts (rising to nearer 50% when donations that are realised through the auction are taken into account). This is a spectacular result, but unfortunately can't be sustained.

A big factor for this success is the sale of the Roger Lewis estate organised by Pete Bruce. This estate sale drove our Chandler's Ford events and also contributed to the success of the Evening Auctions through the lots sold that way. My thanks to Pete for all the work on this.

There will again be 6 Auctions in 2024, 4 evening events and 2 members' only events at Chandler's Ford.

Although there is no shortage of material being offered to us to sell, we are unlikely to see another Lewis Collection for some time or if ever again. Inability to take in / store material for future sales might deter some vendors and the reduced capacity for each event will also impact negatively on sales and therefore commissions received. We are also having to 'clear' unsold lots, resulting in lower total reserves for the April Auction, so that we can accept new material. For 2024, our contribution to Club funds will be in the region of £1500 - £2000.

A silent auction was suggested but the last one was not very good as few items were submitted.

11. Competition Secretary (Alan Whittaker)

Reports on 2022 and 2023 Competitions

2022 Annual Competition

11 entries by 7 members

2023 Annual Competition

7 entries by 6 members (two of them by me which I put together at the last minute to make numbers up)

All the minor competitions, Single Page and Judged by members evening fairly well supported.

This year, 2024, Julian will be judging and I do not have anything to enter. I hope that we will have a decent turn out, to make the Competition viable.

There were no comments.

12. Packet Manager (Mel Bradshaw)

The Packet Circuit has had a very good year, with an improvement on 2022 results. 24 circuit boxes were audited and paid during 2023. Sales from these boxes amounted to £11,246.95, with commission payable to the society of £1,125.04. A further £24.36 was paid to the society as the additional levy paid by non-members who submit booklets. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this success-whether by submitting booklets or purchasing from booklets on the circuit. We are fortunate that compared with many other societies the number of members receiving the packets has grown to over 50, excluding those on the Isle of Wight.

It is unlikely that 2024 will be as successful owing to the death of two packet vendors who supplied large numbers of well priced booklets, which regularly had high sales.

The necessity to change our meeting venue has affected the Isle of Wight involvement. Although it is still intended that packets will regularly go to the island, this will depend on visiting the island to exchange packets or liaise with IOW members who visit the mainland on odd occasions. This will affect the time taken for some packets to be paid and possibly the frequency of boxes sent to the island.

Thank you everyone for your support.

It was mentioned that some Basingstoke members kept the packets too long.

13. Membership Secretary (Steve Blundell)

There are currently 158 members registered. This takes account of 4 members who have recently decided to resign. They have all sent their best wishes to the Society. There are 2 members who have recently joined and 14 people who have not as yet paid their annual subscriptions. Of these 5 have been contacted and apologised, the money is on its way. The remaining 9 are still to be contacted, they are mainly those who attend the auctions or provide the material.

14. Librarian (Reg Sheppard)

Reg felt redundant as the books are now in Mike's garage.

15. P. R. O., Archivist & Curator, Postmark Editor (Steve Gerrard)

One postal history item has been received. Hard copies of the archive have been destroyed as all items are now stored electronically.

Postmark is progressing, with 2 regular submissions.

16. Programme Manager (Patrick Austin)

My aim is to provide a varied programme with a range of topics and countries represented. Further I aim to have as many lady speakers as possible. I hope I have succeeded. The difficulty as always is that there is a limited pool of willing speakers within an evening's drive of Southampton. Juliet and I host where required, to allow a speaker to travel in daylight the following morning.

If there are any topics you would wish to see presented, please let me know and I'll do my best to accommodate.

Peter Pugh who gave us another part of his "Bloody Railway" series unfortunately died in November. He was unwell when he visited us in August 2023, and his wife Rosemary assisted. Peter was due to give the next episode this year, Rosemary has kindly volunteered to do the talk instead on 7th May, please make every effort to come and give her support as a tribute to Peter. Make it a bumper attendance.

I believe from feedback, that the most interesting evening was Forensic Philately by Paul Leonard in October.

Don't forget the change of time for the IoW visit in June. Names to me please for the return visit on 11th June.

I get good feedback with the "thank you" email that is sent out. The last speaker said that this was the first time that he had received such a missive. Obviously other clubs do not bother.

With thanks to Mike for sorting out expenses.

17. Zoom coordinator (Malcolm Coe)

Zoom numbers are down and members in the North are zooming more than our own Society. The question is why, the topics are good and excellent pictures of the stamps. Some members had other commitments, some dislike zoom and other clubs have a smaller membership with less activities. John Dorrington pointed out that members like to meet socially as at Chandlers Ford and a zoom meet cannot compare.

Postmark will state that it is an open meeting, and again on the auction email.

Julian gave this report on behalf of Malcolm.

18. Facebook Manager (Boris)

No report.

19. Amendments to Society Rules

Covered in point 5.

20. To confirm the Officers in Post at the 2024 A. G. M.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| The President | Julian Jones |
| Vice President | Mel Bradshaw |
| Chairman | Kevin Chard |
| Vice-Chairman | Mike Watts |
| Hon Treasurer | Mike Watts |
| Auction Manager and Auctioneer | Kevin Chard |
| Hon Membership Secretary | Steve Blundell |
| Minutes Secretary | Cathy Bruce |
| Chandler's Ford Convener | Peter Bruce |
| Packet Manager | Mel Bradshaw |
| Hon Asst Treasurer | Debbie Hindson |
| Programme Secretary | Patrick Austin |
| Competition Secretary | Alan Whittaker |
| Society Archivist | Steve Gerrard |
| Curator of Society Collection | Steve Gerrard |
| Hampshire Federation Rep | Steve Gerrard |
| Postmark Editor | Steve Gerrard |
| Zoom Meeting Convener | Malcolm Coe |
| Bugle St Meetings Secretary | Jeff Thomas |
| Facebook Manager | Symon Borys |

21. Election of Officers

The confirmation of these Officers was unanimously agreed by the Members attending.

22. Appointment of the Society Auditor

Peter Jones agreed to continue as the Society Auditor for the coming year & was thanked.

23. Any Other Business:

The Society collection is not kept in Jack's garage but in a dry room. (Cf point 3.)

The business part of the meeting closed at 20.35, the raffle was drawn and refreshments were served. Three members displayed their recent acquisitions.

Signed By:

Position:

Date: