

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

**Minutes of the 86th Annual General Meeting
4th April 2023**

Attending: Julian Jones (President), Kevin Chard (Chairman) and 16 Members

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the 86th A. G. M. and said there would be no reading of the reports as hard copies were available.

There were several announcements:-

Lorraine Sims's husband had a fall and was in hospital but recovering.

An application for membership by Mr Hugh Jefferies was approved.

The next Chandlers Ford meeting is on the 13th April & the Bugle Street auction is on the 18th April, the catalogue is on the website.

No raffle to be held tonight.

2. Apologies

Seven apologies received.

3. Notice of Any Other Business

None.

4. Minutes of the 85th A.G.M., September 2022

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

None.

6. Report by the Chairman (Kevin Chard)

Kevin reported a transformational picture since last year, with a full committee & the Society looking much healthier. His report follows:-

Where does the time go? It does not feel like a year since I took over the role of Chairman – I still feel that it is all new and unfamiliar. The Covid crisis has been replaced by a cost-of-living crisis and this will have put strain on member's personal finances as well as the Club as a whole.

We have though come through the year financially unscathed, thanks mainly to donations received and Mike will cover this later including the decisions taken about our future finances.

Meeting attendances have recovered, not to pre-pandemic levels but certainly high enough for us to maintain the current programme going forward. The Zoom innovation continues to prosper and is regularly the highest attendance of our meetings in the month. We aim to continue to innovate, more on this below.

I look forward to the coming year and feel confident that we are in a good place with I believe less concerns and challenges than we started the year with.

The Club is nothing without the members and I hope you are all gaining benefit from being a member of the Society.

I wish to give three votes of thanks:-

- **All those who do anything to help the Society**

You know who you are! I started to write a list but there are so many and then you worry that you miss someone. At any meeting there will be people moving tables / chairs, providing / serving refreshments,

running raffles, etc and that is just what you see visibly – before that there is a lot of organisation that goes into the event happening at all, including of course our Zoom programme where there is probably a good deal less movement of chairs etc.

My thanks to all of those who have been involved in any way in 2022.

- **Committee members and Officers**

All of the Committee members and Officers of the Society give up significant personal time that they could spend developing their Collections or any other leisure activity. Everything that happens in the Society involves planning and effort from this group – Postmark, Meetings, Auctions, Competitions, the Library through to the less visible but important matters of finance, administration, minutes, records and this AGM.

On behalf of all the members of the Society, our thanks to all those who have fulfilled an Officer / Committee role in 2022.

- **Those stepping up in 2022**

We were contemplating having to reduce activity within the Society simply due to lack of manpower, but several people have stepped up in 2022 / early 2023 and this is what encourages me most about our future.

Cathy Bruce – taking on the role of Secretary

Alan Whittaker for taking on the Competitions

Jeff Thomas assisting with minutes (and milk!) each Tuesday

Pete Bruce and Mike Gibson for their help with auctions

Steve Blundell for stepping into the Membership secretary role

And finally, Steve Gerrard for stepping back into his earlier roles, especially Postmark.

There are a few newer members in this list and that is really good to see. Finally, I would like to mention Szymon Borys, a 2022 new member, who volunteered to assist in the interim period in distributing e-mail messages to members but has also offered to set up a Society Facebook page. I'm sure this will not be for all current members but it is another innovation for the Society.

Kevin ended by thanking Mike Vokes & Jim Rankin, both are stepping down from their roles.

Simon was invited to explain his vision for the Facebook page, to promote SDPS and generate new members, as the Zoom meetings have already.

Secondly his aim was to start a private group for members only to exchange ideas or ask questions. Eddie raised a concern about data protection & was reassured that membership would be voluntary & no details would be read by others outside the group.

7. The President (Julian Jones)

Thanks go to all the committee team members for a job well done in trying circumstances. I will cite Kevin & Mel who work hard on the auctions & Packet to the Society's financial benefit.

8. The Treasurer (Mike Watts)

Debbie Hindson gave the report, Mike sent apologies.

Included with this report are the Receipts and Payments Account and the Balance Sheet for 2022.

In 2022 the society benefited significantly through three generous donations:-

A collection which raised around £1,000.00 in our January 2022 auction;

A donation of £200.00 towards the cost of our 90th anniversary celebrations;

A donation of £1,000.00 from Jack & Debbie Hindson just before the year end.

We are extremely grateful to the donors, and to those who have given smaller, but no less welcome amounts, during the year.

Our revenue account shows a surplus for the year of £1,256.00. Without the three donations mentioned above, a deficit of £944.00 would have been incurred.

Other Receipts

Annual membership subscriptions are slightly down.

Income from our auctions is also down by just under £200.00. This figure does not include the proceeds of the sale of the donated collection, which is accounted for as a donation.

Income from our packet sales is up by just under £400.00.

As we were able to run a full programme of meetings in 2022, income from our raffles and refreshments increased.

Revenue achieved from our auction and packet activities contributes significantly to our finances. Thanks are therefore due to our Auction and Packet Managers for all the incredibly hard work they put in during the year.

Expenditure

As expected, our room hire costs and speaker expenses have risen as a result of the resumption of a full programme of meetings.

A one off item of expenditure was incurred in respect of Mel Bradshaw attending an ABPS conference in Birmingham to receive a certificate of appreciation in respect of the society's activities during the Covid lockdown. We are grateful to the ABPS for meeting the cost of Mel's accommodation while he was there.

I would be glad to answer any questions members may have about the accounts.

2023 and beyond

It had been planned for the committee to seek the 2023 AGM's approval for an increase in the rate of our annual membership subscription from 2024. This was following a consultation with members through which we received some very helpful and constructive feedback. However, following receipt of the £1,000.00 donation at the end of 2022, it was felt inappropriate bearing in mind all of us are facing cost of living increases.

However towards the end of 2023 the committee will again look at our finances and it is likely approval for a subscription increase will be sought at the 2024 AGM to take effect in 2025 – barring any further unexpected significant windfalls.

With effect from 1st January 2023, our Thursday afternoon meetings will no longer be shown separately in the accounts. Thursday afternoon room hire costs, raffle and refreshment income will be combined with the equivalent Bugle Street income and expenditure.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

2021	2022
1592	1514
126	360
1680	1485
530	913
1	3
48	91
-120	-307

182	2289
0	0
150	0

4189	6348
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EXPENDITURE

844	1543
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198	218
68	332

1274	1292
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171	171
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11	100
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138	39
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179	282
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60	74
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125	25
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210	649
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15	14
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Postal History & Society	25
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Archives Costs

230	202
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0	117
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3548	5092
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641	
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1256	
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4189	
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RECEIPTS

Annual Subscriptions

Raffle Proceeds

Auction Income

Packet Sales Commission

Interest Received

Surplus from Refreshments

Surplus/Deficit from

Afternoon Meetings

Donations

Advertising

Income Released from

Suspense Account

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Hire of Southampton

Premises

Philatelic Subscriptions

Speakers' and Judges'

Expenses'

Postmark

Insurance Premiums

Engraving

Stationery

Copying/Printing

Postage

Sundry Expenditure

Event Subsidies/Coach Trips

etc

Depreciation of Non Cash

Assets

34

Website & Zoom Costs

ABPS Congress

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

2021 Surplus added to General Funds

2022 Surplus added to General Funds

6348

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

	2021	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Deposit Account:</i>		
General Account	12361	12364
<i>Cash at Bank and in hand:</i>		
General Account	6635	10039
Exchange Packet Account	6657	5308
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
Debtors	145	0
Sub Total	25798	27711
 CURRENT LIABILITIES		
<i>Creditors:</i>		
Suspense Account - Alan Leonard Bequest	350	350
Subscriptions Received in Advance	370	350
Amounts owing to Auction Vendors	1447	3163
Hampshire Press re invoices received late	0	306
Exchange Packet account	6657	5308
Sub Total	8824	9477
NET CURRENT ASSETS	16974	18234
 NON-CASH ASSETS		
Library and Equipment, after depreciation	478	464
Postal History collection	1361	1371
Sub Total	1839	1835
TOTAL ASSETS	18813	20069
 <i>Represented by:</i>		
ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND B/Fwd	18172	18813
Add Surplus for 2021	641	
Add Surplus for 2022		1256
GENERAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD	18813	20069

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.

PJ Jones

Peter Jones FCMA

7/2/23

There were no questions about the accounts. There will be no big October auction as last year's results were poor & it is expensive to run.

Peter Jones commented that we cannot rely on generous donations every year.

Dave Lewis commented that the sales from the Roger Lewis collection were very good & the items of a high quality. Mel offered mint GB stamps for postage at a lower rate. The Society's biggest expense is postage.

Jack & Debbie Hindson were thanked for their generous donation.

9. Secretary (Cathy Bruce)

There have been no enquiries by phone, but a few messages on email for advice on disposing of stamp collections. Julian has a standard reply for these and has dealt with them. I have received one auction catalogue by post from Provincial Philatelics. If anyone would like to view catalogues from this vendor please advise & I will pass them on.

Thanks go to Jeff for taking on the Bugle Street reports, & many thanks to Pete for his support over the last year.

10. Auction Manager (Kevin Chard)

We ran a full programme of Auctions in 2022 and added a Chandler's Ford event to the programme as well. The Profit to the Society from all of this was £1485, perhaps slightly lower than expected but in part this is due to changes in the way the figures are presented, especially the sale of donated material. This would have added another £1k+ to this figure.

There was though one disappointment and that was the Grand Auction. The time involved in organising this is far greater than for an evening event and there is more financial cost and therefore risk to the Society. For the second year running, attendance and sales were disappointing, and we have decided to stop running this event and have an evening Auction in October instead.

There will be two members' only auctions at Chandlers Ford in 2023 – one of these on a Saturday and our aim is that this will become a regular part of our programme.

So we will have 4 Tuesday evening events and 2 Chandler's Ford events in 2023 and we are targeting a £2k profit for the Society.

There is no shortage of material coming to us from members, regular vendors and estate sales. As an example, the July Auction catalogue will be full before the April auction takes place and there is no sign that this situation will change. Members wishing to sell through the Auction are encouraged to supply lists (electronic preferred) well in advance of the desired Auction date to avoid delays in listing.

11. Competition Secretary (Alan Whittaker)

No report submitted

12. Packet Manager (Mel Bradshaw)

The Packet sales from the 23 boxes audited and paid in 2022 were £11,481, an increase of £3,679 from the previous year, which was badly affected by the Covid lockdowns (which in turn was an increase over 2020 which was also affected by Covid). Packet sales are now similar to the value in the year immediately before Covid.

The levy charged to non-members who sell through the packet was £33.

There have been few problems identified during the year and generally the packet has operated smoothly. It is still necessary for all members receiving the Packet to continue to be vigilant and report any missing stamps to me. About 50 members receive the Packet, and because of some of the distances involved we will continue to send out 2 Packets together. In addition, about 6 Packets circulate on the Isle of Wight during the year and this goes to members of The Isle of Wight Stamp Club, some of whom are members of SDPS, but not included in the 50 members mentioned above.

We are fortunate that a large number of books have been submitted for inclusion in future Packets, and although we have lost one member who submitted outstanding material, there continues to be a good variety in each Packet and total values are generally around £3,500 to £4,000 per Packet. An increasing number of members now submit material, but we are thankful for the many non-members scattered

across the UK who submit material. We always welcome new vendors and if you need further information please see me at a meeting or give me a ring on 023 8078 5785.

Kevin announced that two big contributors to the packet have died, Alan Marks & Chris May. A request made for regular quality items to be submitted, & not only Commonwealth was selling well. An inquiry for membership & packet submission had been received today.

13. Membership Secretary & Chandler's Ford Convener (Mike Vokes)

Membership Report 2022

The number of members as at 31st December 2021 stood at 162. The figure is again almost exactly the same as for the past four or five years. During the year we lost 10 members through death or resigning. In 2022 we welcomed 8 new members. We continue to sign on new members who join either as a result of participating in the successful series of on-line 'Zoom' meetings or the wider distribution of the packets. This will be my last report as I have been forced through ill health to resign as Membership Secretary. I am very pleased to advise members that Steve Blundell has agreed to take over from me, which should ensure a smooth handover. I have very much enjoyed dealing with the applications from new members and then subsequently making their acquaintance. I have not enjoyed chasing the very small number of members who regularly fail to pay their annual subscription on time

Thursday afternoons in Chandlers Ford

The meetings in Chandlers Ford on a Thursday afternoon have continued on a monthly basis. They have been generally well attended in the venue at St Boniface Church Hall, Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford with a variety of different members' displays. The large hall continues to be a most satisfactory venue, excellent parking and with very easy access to the kitchen and the store for our display boards. The members-only auction which was held in August was very well supported and it was encouraging to see a handful of members who do not normally attend the Chandlers Ford meetings. Please come again ! Second and third auctions organised by Peter Bruce are planned. Again due to ill health I will probably have to reduce my commitment to the Chandlers Ford meetings and I send my successor every good wish for the future. Kevin thanked Steve & Pete for their new roles.

14. Librarian (Reg Sheppard)

Reg reported that the library is indexed & on the website, with some updating to be done. There are 4 cabinets of books & members were encouraged to use them. Julian added that the library was a great asset.

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

Archivist: Following the AGM in 2002 we had 3,458 items recorded in the archives and to date that figure has risen to 3,543 and ALL items have been scanned as PDF's and are available from the Archivist who can email the Archives Catalogue out and copies of the Archives can be emailed out as a PDF.

Curator: Following the 2022 AGM we had 4,006 but in the 12 months since I have weeded out duplicate items and we now have 3,976 and the items removed were given to the club to be auctioned.

Postmark: Since taking this on again following the AGM as no one else stepped up, I have had one or two stumbles on the way but I think I am back on track and keeping what the previous editor Eddie Mays using the same format with just as much contents but we need more articles from more members not just from committee members but sadly, this is not just a problem we have but all editors have. All I can say is that Postmark is produced by the members for the members and we need more input from our 160 or so members.

Public Relations Officer: Last year was our 90th birthday celebration and I sent out many emails, flyers etc to the press, radio, philatelic magazines etc and advertising but little or none taken up. It is very hard publicising the club but we get regular items in the ABPS News and in the next issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly. So I will continue to push the club where I can and we need more outlets so please let me know any that you may know or come across. I am looking at an A4 flyer for libraries on both sides of the river and that could be used at other venues in and around the City.

There were no questions.

16. Amendments to the Society's Rules (Debbie Hindson)

Debbie explained the changes, which reflect current practice, Eddie asked how the members learnt about this formally. Steve agreed that a summary of changes would go in the next issue of Postmark, a formal vote was required. The old and new rules are available on the website for those who want to view them.

17. To confirm the Officers in Post at the 2023 A. G. M.

The President	Julian Jones FRPSL
Vice President	Mel Bradshaw
Chairman	Kevin Chard
Vice Chairman	Mike Watts
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Watts
Assistant Treasurer	Debbie Hindson
Auction Manager & Auctioneer	Kevin Chard
Hon. Membership Sec.	Steve Blundell
Minutes Secretary.	Cathy Bruce
Chandler's Ford Convener	Peter Bruce
Packet Manager	Dr Mel Bradshaw
Programme Secretary	Patrick Austin
Competition Secretary	Alan Whittaker
Society Archivist & Curator of Collection	Steve Gerrard
P.R.O & Postmark Editor.....	Steve Gerrard
Hampshire Federation Rep	Steve Gerrard
Librarian	Reg Sheppard
Zoom Meeting Convenor	Malcolm Coe
Bugle Street Meetings Secretary	Jeff Thomas
Facebook Manager	Symon Borys

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

19. Appointment of the Society Auditor

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

20. Any Other Business:

None.

The business part of the meeting closed at 20.05 & refreshments were served.

Five members displayed their recent acquisitions.

Signed By:

Position:

Date: