

**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 (although 2 members did come forward at a later date.)

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 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.

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	350	0
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
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
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5092	5799
2022 Surplus added to General Funds	1256	
2023 Surplus added to General Funds		1517
	<hr/>	
	6348	7316
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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
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Sundry Creditors	306	97
Exchange Packet account	5308	4865
Sub Total	<hr/>	
	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 fewer 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: