

**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Minutes of the 89th Annual General Meeting

7th April 2026

Attending: Kevin Chard (Chairman) plus 18 Members.

Item 1. Chairman's Welcome

Last year's minutes and agenda for this evening are on the website, so not repeated.

Kevin announced the sad death of member John Berridge on Good Friday. Mel gave a tribute saying he had been in hospital with breathing difficulties but died at home. John was a past President and printed all of the club material for many years, maintaining a good relationship with staff at Bugle Street. He was an African collector buying and showing at meetings with a wealth of knowledge. The members stood as a mark of respect.

Kevin thanked the attendees for coming and introduced new member Nick Bailey, proposed by Mel and all in favour. Nick told us he collected GB Queen Elizabeth II, German Bundesrepublik, Aircraft Thematic and Commonwealth.

Item 2. Apologies

Five apologies received.

Item 3. Notice of Any Other Business

Steve Blundell had updated the membership list to go on the website, and had prestige booklets for sale, also to be on the website.

Item 4. Minutes of the 2025 A.G.M.

Minutes accepted and signed.

Item 5. Matters Arising from 2025 Minutes

Included in Kevin's report.

Item 6. Chairman's Report – Kevin Chard

2025 was another year of change for the Society. We have changed the venue for Tuesday evening meetings to Holy Saviour Church in Bitterne and that is now settled as our venue. It has some storage that allows us to run our Auctions and there is plenty of car parking nearby.

Attendances are lower across all our meetings but I think we just have to accept that is a product of the ageing membership and that some are now unable to attend for health reasons. That said, I would encourage all that can to give the Tuesday meeting a go – meetings are far less formal than in the past and I think the set-up plays a part in that.

The 2025 AGM was a lively affair and we made decisions about membership fees. Steve will cover this in detail; I will just say that this has been a success that will secure our financial future and make us less reliant on auction and packet proceeds.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to extend 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.

We do still have two challenges to overcome. We would appreciate more volunteers for the committee / officer roles in the Society; we do need to spread the workload and think about succession in some roles. If you are interested in any aspect of running the Society, please let me know.

The second challenge is storage – the issues are far less than in the recent past when we needed a garage or similar space. We need somewhere to house the Library, which will soon fit in just 1 cabinet. Again, let me know if you can help.

I have not separated my Auction Manager report as it is entwined with the broader aspects of the Chairman report. We now have an established programme – 3 evening auctions supported by 2 members only events. Costs will reduce with digital membership and I am confident proceeds will be stable / build slightly in 2026. The February Auction was a good start, April is full of new material and we already have some exciting material for June.

Enjoy 2026 as a member of the Society, there are a lot of good things happening.

Kevin also mentioned that Malcolm Coe will be stepping down as Zoom co-ordinator and will be asked if he would like a different role. His report will be sent to Steve G to go in Postmark to highlight the vacancy.

There were no questions for Kevin.

Item 7. President's Report – Julian Jones

Once more I wish to praise the committee team for keeping the Society's show on the road. What may seem smooth and serene has required a great deal of unseen pedalling under the surface.

We have enjoyed a broad programme of speakers both in person and on Zoom together with face to face member meetings where we can share our collections with each other, sell items to each other and simply just chat over coffee. In addition, many members still partake in the packet and in our auctions.

But I ask you, how much longer can this go on without matching support from members to participate and take on some of the organisational roles? Please be prepared to step up.

There were no questions for Julian but he added that his role was to support and advise Kevin.

Item 8. Treasurer's Report – Mike Watts

The Balance Sheet and Revenue Account for 2025 are included as part of this report.

For the year ending 31st December 2025 the Society incurred a financial deficit of £708 (compared with a deficit of £1139 in 2024.)

Income was down from £4975 to £4495.

Most income categories showed a fall, the most significant being auction income, and in 2024 income was inflated by the release of £172 from a suspense account which was set up to provide for unbilled room hire costs from 2023. Packet income bucked the trend and increased by £166.

Expenditure was down from £6114 to £5203.

The most significant reductions in costs were as a result in producing only three editions of Postmark in 2025, and in 2024 expenditure was inflated by one off costs of £320 as a result of the Society's involvement in the ABPS Congress which was held in Southampton.

It is difficult to predict a financial result for 2026 as a significant part of the Society's income arises from auction and packet activity and this very much depends upon the quality and amount of material received. However with the increase in membership subscriptions it is anticipated the accounts should show a small surplus.

Bank Charges

In the autumn of 2025 Santander announced it would be introducing a service charge for Society and Unincorporated Association bank accounts of £4.99 a month from November 2025. We did think of shopping around other banks, but this would have been hassle to members having to change their standing orders if we did move. Also we know some other banks already have these charges and it probably won't be long before they all do. Santander generally does give us a good service.

HMRC/Corporation Tax

Any income the Society receives which does not come directly from its members does have a theoretical Corporation Tax liability. With the increase in bank deposit account interest we have had to register with HMRC. Failure to do so could have resulted in financial penalties far in excess of the very small amount of tax on this income source. HMRC has confirmed it is treating the Society as "dormant" because of the small amounts involved. This means they do not want to hear from us for the next five years unless our financial situation significantly changes.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS	2024	2025
Annual Subscriptions	1457	1417
Raffle Proceeds	461	439
Auction Income	1779	1473
Packet Sales Income	446	612
Interest Received	188	167
Surplus from Refreshments	133	111

Donations	339	276
Income Released from Suspense Accounts	172	0

TOTAL RECEIPTS	4975	4495
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EXPENDITURE

Venue Hire	2848	3000
Philatelic Subscriptions	304	256
Speakers' and Judges' Expenses	342	299
Postmark	1122	770
Insurance Premiums	194	142
Engraving	30	0
Copying/Printing and Stationery	318	128
Miscellaneous Postage	42	1
Sundry Expenditure	11	0
Social Events	392	375
Depreciation of Non Cash Assets	2	8
Bank Charges	0	10
Website and Zoom Costs	189	214
ABPS Congress Costs	320	0

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6114	5203
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2024 Deficit deducted from General Funds	1139	
2025 Deficit deducted from General Funds		708

4975	4495
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**SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025**

	2024	2025
CURRENT ASSETS		
<i>Deposit Account:</i>		
General Account	12670	12837
<i>Cash at Bank and in hand:</i>		
General Account	6460	6014
Exchange Packet Account	6522	5488
Prepaid Expenses	72	72
Sub Total	25724	24411
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
<i>Creditors:</i>		
Subscriptions Received in Advance	160	405
Amounts owing to Auction Vendors	433	1103
Exchange Packet account	6522	5488
Sub Total	7115	6996
NET CURRENT ASSETS	18609	17415
NON-CASH ASSETS		
Library and Equipment, after depreciation	466	308
Postal History collection	1371	1371
Mint GB Stamps for Postage	1	645
Sub Total	1838	2324
TOTAL ASSETS	20447	19739
<i>Represented by:</i>		
ACCUMULATED GENERAL FUND B/Fwd	21586	20447
Deduct Deficit for 2024	-1139	
Deduct Deficit for 2025		-708
GENERAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD	20447	19739

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.

P J Jones 5/3/26

Peter Jones FCMA

Mike explained that the packet account was separate and incurred no charges. Vendors at the auctions must be members which deters those with meagre or poor quality collections. No questions.

Item 9. Secretary's Report – Cathy Bruce

As the Hampshire Federation has ceased I had looked into the possibility of SDPS having a presence at the Salisbury Stamp Fair. The organiser Tony Hender of Arun Stamps runs the show and is happy for the Society to have a table free of charge on both days, 25th and 26th of September, any dealers in the club would pay the normal table rate. Kevin was in favour and this will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

Item 10. Auction Manager's Report – Kevin Chard

See Item 6

Item 11. Packet Manager – Mel Bradshaw

As anticipated the packet results for 2025 were an improvement over 2024. Nineteen circuit boxes were audited and paid during 2025, compared with sixteen the previous year. Sales from these boxes amounted to £8,618.96, with commission payable to the society of £862.11. A further £59.22 was paid to the society through the Associate Membership Subscription levy and member donations from packet sales. 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 well over 50, including those on the Isle of Wight.

During the year additional boxes were circulated on the Isle of Wight and, owing to the strong sales on the island, all boxes now complete all three circuits based on Southampton and the island. This of course means that the boxes take longer between their initial production and final audit for payment. We were fortunate to receive a supply of new, slightly smaller boxes and this has allowed for more boxes to be in circulation.

It is anticipated that results for 2026 will improve again, even allowing for the extra time owing to the island circulation. Members from the island now contribute occasional boxes for circulation around our Southampton circuits. One has recently been audited with sales exceeding £400. A total of three boxes has been audited and paid, with sales of £1387.61 with commission of £138.78, non-member levy of £5.53. Four boxes are due for audit and payment shortly, with sales in these boxes exceeding £1445.

Thank you everyone for your support.

One question about a perceived discrepancy in accounting was answered, Mel (and Kevin in his role as Auction Manager) are refunded for expenses.

Item 12. Membership Secretary – Steve Blundell

Congratulations are due to the membership for a very positive response to the changes to subscriptions for 2026. Most members have reacted to these changes with their correct subscription moneys. We now have 74 members who have requested digital membership and 57 members who have requested postal membership. As a reminder, the only difference in membership type lies in the reception of Postmark and auction lists, digital members will view on-line, postal members will receive printed items in the post as before.

A small number of members have regretfully declined to renew. I have talked with many who have cited ill-health. The message is always that we are sorry to see them go, that they remain welcome

to rejoin if their health improves and if they wish to come along to any future meeting (including Zoom) they are very welcome and if they need assistance, we will try to provide.

Following the successful Christmas Lunch at Southampton College, we will hopefully set up a repeat event, this time in better weather. Please watch out for the email invitations.

Congratulations again.

Kevin and Mel to provide a list of associate members/vendees, no other questions.

Item 13. Librarian – Reg Sheppard

No report. A list of books available for members has been on the website, the Southampton-related books will be retained but we cannot store them at the church, and they must be moved from Mike's garage. The catalogues will not be kept as they relate to obscure countries. It was felt that books kept at the venue would be accessed more.

Reg did a huge amount of work to get the library up and running and he will be offered another role on the committee.

Item 14. Postmark, P.R.O., Archivist & Curator – Steven Gerrard

I have no updates for the archives and postal history as nothing has happened over past year and the archives are updated after committee meetings.

As for Postmark is going OK but I am getting very little input from the 130 members and it is getting harder to keep postmark content interesting which will lead to reduced pages and quality.

No questions.

Item 15. Programme Manager - Patrick Austin

No written report but Patrick spoke of his disappointment to have so few members attending the speaker evenings and missed the Isle of Wight members. He felt the venue was difficult to reach. Response was that all meetings show a decline in attendance due to illness and aging. The programme is a fair reflection of all interests and is better than the Portsmouth club.. The Postcard club was mentioned but decline is there as well.

Patrick was keen for members to put together any railway related items and involve the Bitterne Railway club in exchange visits, and a visit to the Eastleigh sorting office would be interesting. This suggestion will go into Postmark. Kevin stated it is a very good varied programme and Patrick does a great job.

Item 16. Zoom Coordinator - Malcolm Coe

With regret I can only echo last year's report – that attendance at the Zoom meetings has been poor by SDPS members – typically just 5-6 when we have, I believe 130 members. Attendance at these meetings by non-SDPS members remains steady at 12-15.

I do 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. 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. I have explored a wide range of topics over the last couple of years – stamps, postal history, themes etc but attendance has pretty much always remained the same. Even the January members-only zoom barely crept into double figures.

I have now reached the point that I wish to step down from running Zoom meetings. I have been doing it for over 4 years and hosted 40+ meetings. So the SDPS either needs to find someone else to pick up this baton, or quietly end this component of our activity. Nationally there are other societies that offer zoom meetings to all, the focus through SEEOPS is particularly good at distributing talk announcements. So SDPS members can, if they wish, continue to find zoom meetings of interest through these channels.

The next financial payment (~£156) is due in early July so a decision should be made as to whether the subscription is renewed. Technically we have speakers booked for July, Sept, Oct & Nov that I would have to contact if we are to end this activity at that time.

If nothing else, I personally have enjoyed many talks by excellent speakers and we have built up an excellent video library that all SDPS members can enjoy into the future.

Kevin stated Malcolm has done a great job to get great speakers, and perhaps an afternoon meeting may encourage more to attend as football happens on more evenings.

Item 17. Facebook Manager -Symon Borys

No report.

Item 18. Amendments to Society Rules

Debbie had made the necessary changes to wording concerning the competitions.

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
Society Archivist	Steve Gerrard
Curator of Society Collection	Steve Gerrard
Postmark Editor	Steve Gerrard
Zoom Meeting Convener	vacant

Nobody volunteered from the floor to join the committee.

Item 20 Election of Officers for 2026/2027

The members present were happy with the officers.

Item 21. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peter Jones is willing to undertake this role for the coming year.

Item 22. Any Other Business

a) The £7,000 from the winding up of the Hampshire Federation will be split between the societies, SDPS have received their share.

b) SDPS get less publicity after the Federation ceased and a warning of insecure site comes up on the website which is off-putting. Modification of the website is possible to avoid this security warning, but incurs a cost of £12 monthly. It is possible for users to save a link to the website and avoid the security warning, Julian will explain this in Postmark.

The meeting closed at 20.30 with Kevin thanking everyone for their contributions.

Signed By:

Position:

Date: