

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting

5th April 2022

Attending: Julian Jones (President), Dr Mel Bradshaw (Chairman) and 24 Members

Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the 85th A. G. M. and said he was delighted to see more people at this year's meeting..

There had been ten apologies received for non-attendance

Item 2: Notice of Any Other Business

John Dorrington had requested permission to speak about the Future of the Society.

There were no other matters raised from the floor

Item 3: Minutes of the 84th A.G.M., September 2021 (pp 3 — 7 of Report booklet):

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

Note: The Chairman said that there had been only two entries for the Members' Competition, which was rather disappointing. Following the AGM there would be an interval for refreshments and to allow members to view and judge the entries. The trophy could not be awarded this evening as the last winner (Steve Gerrard) had offered his apologies and was not present. There would be a raffle during the refreshments.

Item 4: Matters arising from the Minutes:

NONE

Item 5: Report by the Chairman (pp 7—9):

The Chairman told the meeting that his time in office had been an interesting one and that he would like to thank everyone that had supported him and the Society during his time in office. In particular Mike Watts (Treasurer) for keeping the accounts so well, Eddie Mays for his work as Secretary, Jack Hindson for all his years as Packet Manager, Kevin Chard for his support as Vice-Chair and as Auction Manager, President Julian Jones for his maintenance of the website, Reg Sheppard & Mike Robinson for their sterling work with the re-organisation of the library, Debbie Hindson for all the social organisation, Branimir Panteleev for his general enthusiasm and all round help and, last but not least, Steve Gerrard for the many roles that he has undertaken (Curator, PRO & Archivist)

Item 6: Reports by the Society's Officers:

These reports are printed in full in the AGM Booklet, pages 9 – 18

A. The President (Julian Jones): Adding to his published report Julian said he thought that the team had done a very good job over the past two years.

B. The Vice-Chairman (Kevin Chard): The next two years would be challenging. Meetings at Chandler's Ford and the Zoom meetings had seen increasing attendances but numbers at Bugle Street were in general lower than before. If we are to maintain all current activities then more help is needed to fill some vacant positions on the Committee.

C. The Treasurer (Mike Watts): Although COVID had affected the Society's activities it was not all bad news. The drop in Expenses had outweighed the drop in Income. This year had started well. The collection that was sold in the January auction for £1,000 had been given to the Society funds. Next year would probably be more interesting from a financial point of view.

D. The Secretary (Eddie Mays): The only thing that Eddie added to his published report was his slight disappointment that no-one had stepped forward to fill his roles. As the largest Society in the UK he felt that it should be possible to find some-one to take over as Editor.

E. Auction Manager (Kevin Chard): As he had said in his report the results of the last October Auction were disappointing and future Grand Auctions are under review. They are much more expensive to run both financially and from a manpower point of view.

The July auction is virtually full now.

Mel Bradshaw: I am away for the April Auction. Someone else will have to help on the desk.

Dave Lewis: The COVID restrictions last year did not help the Grand Auction.

Peter Bruce: There will be an auction at Chandler's Ford in August meeting. There will be 200 lots from the Roger Lewis Collection. There are still 200 albums to be catalogued. This auction will be for members only

Mel Bradshaw: Offered his thanks to Kevin for all his hard work with the auctions over the past year

F. Competitions' Secretary (Alan Whittaker): Expressed disappointment in the low number of entries for this evening's competition.. He hoped there would be more response for the main competition evening in July.

G. Packet Manager (Mel Bradshaw): The Packet circuit is going very well. There are over 50 participants with new members joining in. The Isle of Wight has two packets in operation and sales are extremely good. There is a continuing need for more good quality contributors as some of the existing vendors are likely to be less active.

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

Mike has offered his apologies for his non-attendance and has nothing to add to his published report.

Mel Bradshaw: Commented that the Thursday afternoon meetings now attract members from as far away as both Fareham & New Milton, which is a very healthy sign.

I. Librarian (Reg Sheppard):

Reg said that he is very pleased with the work that he and Mike Robinson had managed to achieve over the past year and he would now like to see the library used more. There was a chance that the Society might be able to acquire a complete set of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue "Stamps of the World". The current issue was sold out and the next issue is due in November, when a member is looking to update his version and pass the old one on to the Society.

Mel Bradshaw: Thanked both Reg and Mike for their incredible work over the past year

J. & K. P. R. O., Archivist & Curator (Steve Gerrard):

Steve was unable to attend due to sickness but he had previously written detailed reports on all his roles within the Society. In his absence the Chairman thanked him for all his efforts this year and wished him a speedy recovery.

Item 7. To confirm the Officers in Post at the 2022 A. G. M.

The President	Julian Jones FRPSL
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Watts
Auction Manager & Auctioneer	Kevin Chard
Hon. Membership Sec. & Chandler's Ford Convener	Mike Vokes
Packet Manager	Dr Mel Bradshaw
Hon. Asst Treasurer	Debbie Hindson
Programme Secretary	Patrick Austin
Society Archivist & Curator of Collection	Steve Gerrard

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

Item 8. The Election of Society Officers for 2022 / 2023

Vice-President	Dr Mel Bradshaw
Chairman	Kevin Chard
Vice-Chairman	Mike Watts
Competitions' Secretary	Alan Whittaker
Librarian	Reg Sheppard
Public Relations Officer	Steve Gerrard
Jnr Members' Rep.	Lorraine Simms
Members' Rep.	Jim Rankin
Chandlers' Ford Rep.	Peter Bruce

The election of these Officers was unanimously agreed by the Members attending

The **Posts of Secretary and Editor of "Postmark"** remain unfilled.

However **Kathy Bruce** has agreed to act as **Secretary to the Committee** for Committee Meetings

Item 9. Appointment of the Society Auditor

Peter Jones confirmed that he is happy to continue as the Society Auditor for the coming year

Item 10. Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships:

There then followed a short ceremony when the Society President awarded Honorary Life Membership Certificates to:

Jack Hindson for his many years' service to the Society as Packet Manager

The retiring Chairman **Dr Mel Bradshaw** for his service to the Society in a number of Positions

Item 11. Any Other Business:

a. John Dorrington – The Future.

John prefaced his remarks by expressing his concerns over some of the reports in the booklet. He then explained that in the Post war years (1950s) the Society believed that to be viable it needed a membership of between 150 and 200. The Society's fortunes had dipped in the mid-1950s, Postmark had been suspended, Gordon Thorne and other members had left for various reasons.

A review of the Society had shown that there were three critical factors: the bank balance, the Members and Publicity. (Pounds, People, Publicity). John went on to emphasise that whilst the Society had good financial stability a shortage of people to help run the affairs was not a good sign and talk of cutting back on "Postmark" was in his opinion something that should be avoided. His speech provoked the following reactions from the members:

Eddie Mays – This Society is the largest in the UK. It should be able to find enough people to fill the vacant roles. Also the ABPS had nominated the Society for a European award on the basis of the continued activities during the last two years.

Kevin Chard – Stressed the importance of having enough people to fill the roles. Having a role within the Society does not mean you need to attend committee meetings.. Several current members hold positions without coming to the meetings.

Peter Jones – said that to have a slimmer committee placed an extra burden on the existing members.

Branimir Panteleev – with regard to "Postmark" he knew people running journalist courses at the University and they might be able to provide editorial support through their students. The meeting thought this was a very good idea and asked him to proceed. Eddie Mays to write a short description of what was involved in producing "Postmark" by the end of this month to pass to Branimir. John Dorrington volunteered as a proof reader.

- b. **Chandler's Ford Meeting** – this is one week later this month. It will now be held on Thursday, 21st April
- c. **Dave Lewis** requested more Raffle prizes for future raffles
- d. **Kevin Chard** told members that the next Auction was in a fortnight's time and that the Speaker in early May was Michael Sefi (past Curator of the Queen's Collection).
- e. **Debbie Hindson** reminded members that the 90 years Celebration social was on Tuesday, 17th May.

There being no other business the A.G.M. was closed at 20:45

A buffet was served and members voted Display A (Transatlantic Mail) the winner of the Members' Competition. The trophy will be presented at a later date.

Signed By:

Position:

Date: