

**MINUTES OF THE 56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 1:30 PM SUNDAY 9 May 2010**

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 30 members present, and thanked Spink for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on the premises.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from: Victor Toeg, Richard Maisel, John Davis, Ben Ramkissoon, Peter McCann, John Seidl, R. Jeal.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 2 May 2009, as published in Bulletin No. 221, June 2009, Pages 37 to 41, were accepted by the attendees.

**4. REPORT BY THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY (CHAS GEE)**

The membership status as of December 2009 (date of issue of December Bulletin) was that we had a total of 337 members, of which 220 were from the UK and 117 from overseas. This represents a decrease of 10 members compared to the same date in 2008.

Over the year we lost 27 existing members (23 of these lost due non-payment of membership renewal fees).

There were 14 new membership applications and 3 members who had dropped out in the previous year were re-instated.

The annual request for information on changes to members details (made in the Bulletin) results in a good response. Members are urged to let the Secretary know of any change of address as soon as possible to ensure that they continue to receive issues of our Bulletin.

**5. Report by the Hon. Editor (Steve Jarvis)**

Production of the Bulletin over the last year has continued smoothly and, thanks to the contributions of members, I have had little difficulty filling the 40 pages. Indeed some editions have required difficult decisions regarding which articles to postpone and for June I needed to expand to 44 pages to overcome the dilemma. However, I now find that my store of articles is rather depleted and so make an urgent plea for more material, or else I threaten you with an edition dedicated largely to Jamaica, which might send most of you to sleep!

I have been doing the Editor's job for eight years and have decided that ten years in the role is enough; after that, someone with new ideas should take over. I am therefore pleased to announce that Dr. David Watson has agreed to become Deputy Editor, with a view to effecting a smooth transition of responsibilities over the next couple of years. I shall continue to organize the Bulletin printing and distribution, and look after the web site but hopefully I will have more time to return to the Jamaica Encyclopaedia project and publish some more volumes.

My thanks again go to Charles Freeland and Peter Ford, whose advice and scrutiny ensures the finished Bulletin maintains its high quality.

**6. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)**

I have pleasure in reporting that the Study Circle has generated a surplus of income over expenditure in 2009 of £505 which further consolidates the financial position going forwards.

Income from subscriptions during the year increased to £3,761 and covered the cost of the Bulletin production and distribution, after allowing for advertising income. Last year I thought we might have to consider an increase in subscriptions, if Bulletin costs continued to increase but given the 2009 figures we can probably put that in abeyance for another year.

Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds and was very similar to the previous year. Income from publications in 2009 was reduced to £1,210 and was less than the amount spent on publications printing of £1,446. Since the year end we have had a considerable outlay on the Trinidad book jointly produced with the BCPSG, the sales and costs of which will show up in the 2010 accounts.

We have been fortunate in receiving a donation of £499 during the year and for which we are exceedingly grateful as without it in the current year we would have just broken even.

With regard to expenses, we have again limited our meeting room costs in London due to the generosity of Spink, with our grateful thanks. There was a deficit of £505 in respect of the Leamington Convention in the Autumn but apart from that other expenses were very similar to the previous year.

During the year the accumulated balance of £3,554 on a publications fund, which was associated with the erstwhile Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, was handed over to the Study Circle for use on future publications. Previously the Study Circle had benefited from the loan of this money for use on publication projects. This receipt has been shown as an addition to the Accumulated Fund at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and shown as a separate heading on the balance sheet. It has not been included in the Income Statement.

As a result the Accumulated fund, has increased from £5,822 to £9,678 although unlike last year we have a small loss on the conversion of our US dollar funds. Due to the prevailing low interest rates we have had limited ability to earn any interest this year.

I would like to thank John Davis again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given.

James Podger asked about debtors and creditors appearing in the accounts. Ray explained that the debtors related to auction proceeds still outstanding at the end of the financial year, and to some outstanding literature sales and payments for advertising in the Bulletin that again had carried over to the next financial year. Creditors related to advance membership subscriptions that we had received (membership subscriptions can be paid up to five years in advance).

## **7. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Ian Jakes)**

There has been a loan of sixteen books to six members during the year. This compares with a loan of seven books to four members during the year ended April 2009.

I have provided members with six requests for philatelic information which cannot be found on the internet.

No member has requested a library list. The library list was last up-dated in 1997 and I will attend to an up-date during the next year.

The library has purchased one booklet 'St. Kitts and Nevis Manuscript Cancellations' by Robert J Wynstra.

Our member David King has donated 'St. Kitts Postcards' Volumes 1–6 inclusive to the library.

Our member Chris Southgate has donated 'British Colonial Stamps in Current Use' by R Courtney Cade and 'Virgin Islands' by R E R Dolwick to the library.

Curtis Rawson Limited Stamp Dealers, 3 Wollaton Street, Nottingham have donated a catalogue of the 'Sir Henry Tucker Collection of Bermuda' sold by Harmers on 17 October 1978.

The Reverend Matthew Jakes has donated two book cases to the library.

Many thanks to all donors for their gifts which are greatly appreciated.

An email received in the year suggests that some members are not aware that the library holds all the Bulletins of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Requests for information from this source are welcome.

At the beginning of 2010 the Royal Philatelic Society London set up its own website with a connection to British West Indies Study Circle. This resulted in four enquiries from non-members for philatelic information and a donation by one non-member of £10 to the British West Indies Study Circle for information provided. I have received no request for information from non-members since March 2010. Perhaps the novelty of the Royal website has subsided.

Donations had also been received on Friday from Edmund Bayley and James Podger.

## **8. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)**

The past year has been an exciting one for our Publications Empire; we published the second booklet in our continuing series of Study Papers, 'Cancellations on St. Vincent Stamps 1861–97' by Michael Louka. Although not technically a publication of ours but we had a lot to do with its production, was John Davis's 'War Tax Stamps of the British Empire – The West Indies' which was published by the Royal Philatelic Society London. Our thanks for this has to go to Chris Harman, whose idea it first was to offer it to the Royal when we decided that we could not afford the publication of a hard backed book at that time. Affording to publish any hard-backed book is

difficult for a small society such as ours, so we collaborated with our American sister society, the BCPSG who very generously offered to help finance the long-awaited 'Trinidad – A Philatelic History to 1913' by Sir John Marriott, Michael Medlicott and Reuben Ramkisson. This book went off to the printers in November and has now been published. Steve Jarvis and I had the great pleasure in presenting the first copy of this book to Sir John's widow, Lady Mary in early March. It is a fine book and I can only encourage our members to buy a copy.

Sales last year were again a little thin with Mike Rego's Steamship Lines books being our best sellers with the three volumes accounting for 40 copies sold. The new St. Vincent booklet, published late in the year, sold 12. The remaining books sold a total of 21 copies. We can only hope that the Trinidad book and any future publications will help increase these sales.

At present I am working with the authors on a completely revised Montserrat book, as well as a definitive work on Grenada; I am hoping to reprint both the Deakin Barbados and Borromeo Nevis booklets soon. Both of these last two have sold out. There are other books in prospect but again, I will report on those at a later date.

With the advancement in technology, it appears that we may now be able to have our books printed-on-demand. Basically this means that we can send in a file to a printer and have any number of books printed, however small. This will help us in two ways. One, we will not have to tie up large amounts of money in stock holdings, allowing us the freedom to publish more titles. Second, it also means that no one will have to store large numbers of books. This method of printing, I am just experimenting with this, but hopefully it might relieve us of several problems connected to short-run printing. For instance, if we decided to publish a Study Paper around a less popular subject where we wouldn't expect to sell many copies, we can start by ordering say, 30 copies and top up our stocks by 10 copies at a time when those have sold out. But it's early days yet and I hope to report on it more fully next year.

#### **9. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Peter Ford)**

Every year, when I stand up to deliver my Chairman's Report, I find that I am repeating myself. I say what a successful year it has been for the Study Circle. I report that we had a successful Annual Auction, with better-than-expected realisations. I report that the BWISC Bulletin goes from strength to strength. This is all true for the last year, 2009 with the added bonus of a highly rewarding and enjoyable Convention at Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Convention itself was well attended with some 44 participants; we had the pleasure and delight in the viewing of two superb displays, one by Chris Harman and the other by David Cordon, this last supplemented by a contribution from Sir Geoffrey Palmer. This figure of attendees was slightly down on previous years and may have been the result of the change of venue or the change to a Sunday; I invite members to comment on this.

All of this does not happen by itself; it takes a lot of effort by the members of the Committee to whom I would like to extend my thanks for all their hard work. I am sure all those present would agree.

I now have to make an appeal to all our members. Ray Stanton has been our Hon. Treasurer for 12 years, Steve Jarvis has been the Bulletin Editor for 8 years and I have been Publications Officer for 13. We cannot all go on forever; we need other members to consider helping in the running of our society. A couple of years ago, when Peter Boulton decided to retire as Hon. Secretary, Chas Gee volunteered to assist and has been most successful in this position, having organised his first Convention last year. We need more volunteers like Chas to help us. Please think about it and contact me if you think you can contribute.

#### **10. RE-ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

#### **11. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. N. Chandler, P. Fernbank and M. Hamilton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee. There were no further nominations, consequently, all are automatically re-elected.

## **12. ELECTION OF THE HON. AUDITOR**

John Davis has agreed to continue with this role.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

- There was a discussion regarding venues for the Convention with some members expressing a preference for varied locations to be used, Bournemouth and York being mentioned.
- Peter Ford also asked for bright ideas for other potential events (large or small) that may be of benefit to members e.g. the possibility of holding some Regional events etc. It was agreed that an e-mail would be circulated to all members who have provided e-mail addresses (as part of their membership details) asking for suggestions that can be considered.

**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**  
**INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009**

	£'s	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>INCOME :</b>			
Subscriptions		3,761	3,624
Publications - Sales less commissions		1,210	1,875
Auction donation		1,445	1,474
Other donations		499	20
Interest received		3	70
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>6,918</u></b>	<b><u>7,063</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>			
Bulletin - Costs less advertising	1,699		1,860
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>1,952</u>	3,651	<u>1,813</u> 3,673
Publications : Printing costs		1,446	1,874
Leamington Convention - net deficit		505	-
Room hire costs		260	200
ABPS affiliation fee		238	230
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		172	123
Bank charges		37	-
Library expenses		10	-
Website		79	35
Other expenses		15	43
		<b><u>6,413</u></b>	<b><u>6,178</u></b>
<b>SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	£'s	<b><u>505</u></b>	£'s <b><u>885</u></b>

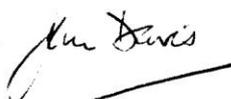
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2009**

<b>ACCUMULATED FUND :</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2009		5,822	4,347
Add : Surplus for the year		505	885
Dollar conversion profit (loss)		<u>(203)</u>	<u>590</u>
		6,124	5,822
<b>ROSES PUBLICATIONS FUND</b>		3,554	-
	£'s	<b><u>9,678</u></b>	£'s <b><u>5,822</u></b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>			
Cash at banks		8,971	5,526
Debtors - amounts due to us		<u>3,762</u>	<u>4,509</u>
		12,733	10,035
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,440)		(2,182)
Loan	-		(2,000)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(615)</u>	(3,055)	<u>(31)</u> (4,213)
	£'s	<b><u>9,678</u></b>	£'s <b><u>5,822</u></b>

**AUDITORS REPORT**

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2009 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2009 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA



15th APRIL 2010