

**MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 1:15 PM SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012**

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 37 members present, and thanked Spink for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on their premises.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: James Podger, John Riggall.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 16 April 2011, as published in Bulletin No. 229, June 2011, Pages 7 to 11, were accepted by the attendees.

**4. Report by the General Secretary (Peter Fernbank)**

**Membership**

The membership status as of December 2011 was that we had a total of 325 members, of which 210 were from the UK, 21 EUR and 94 RoW. This represents a decrease of 6 members compared to the same date in 2010.

Over the year we lost 25 existing members (6 deceased, 5 resigned, and 14 lost due to non-payment of membership renewal fees).

There were 19 new membership applications (compared to 13 last year).

**Possible Venues for 2013 Convention**

At the Chairman's suggestion I visited the Blunsden House Hotel in Swindon to assess its suitability. Although it would be suitable it is a four star hotel with a host of facilities that we would not be using but whose availability is reflected in their charges. Briefly, the charges are considerably higher than we paid at the Honiley Court and in my view are vastly overpriced for our requirements.

As an alternative I investigated the Holt Hotel (halfway between Banbury and Oxford). This was far more on a par with the Honiley Court in terms of facilities and cost.

**Office of Hon. Secretary**

Following the retirement of Chas Gee, our former Hon. Secretary, there were no volunteers for the office of Hon. Secretary. I was therefore approached to take on the role on a temporary basis until a replacement could be found. This I have done but as far as I am concerned the post is still vacant and I repeat our appeal for someone to volunteer to fill this important office. Either way, I do not anticipate being the holder of this office a year hence.

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

Production of the Bulletin over the last year has continued smoothly and, thanks to the contributions of members, interesting and original articles have been provided to fill the pages. Some new authors have emerged and I would encourage more members to have a go at writing something for our delectation. **Keep the articles coming, they are the lifeblood of the Society!**

The web site continues to tick over with new information being added, the most recent being scans of Leewards Islands Gazettes (1887 to 1899) and St. Vincent Gazettes (1894 to 1899) contributed by Michael Rego.

I repeat my statement in the last Bulletin concerning my resignation as BWISC Bulletin Editor, after 10 years enjoyable service. I feel I have become stale and think we need someone with new enthusiasm to take us forward. The opportunity to become Assistant Editor of the RPSL London Philatelist and to be Editor during Frank Walton's time as President of the Society was too good to turn down and has brought the situation to a head. We therefore need someone to step up to the plate to become the new Editor for BWISC Bulletin. If anyone is interested, please contact me, Charles Freeland or Peter Ford.

I will of course be able to help / provide guidance to anyone who volunteers.

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

**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**  
**INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011**

	£'s	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b>INCOME :</b>			
Subscriptions		3,658	3,619
Publications - Sales less commissions		2,580	3,009
Auction donation		964	1,329
Other donations		-	26
Exchange gains realised		-	60
Interest received		-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u><b>7,202</b></u>	<u><b>8,043</b></u>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>			
Bulletin - Costs less advertising	1,686		1,636
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>2,057</u>	3,743	<u>2,076</u> 3,712
Publications : Printing costs		3,803	5,974
Leamington Convention - net deficit		472	-
London 2010 Expenses & Dinner net of recoveries		-	330
Room hire costs		185	252
ABPS affiliation fee		220	226
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		207	191
Bank charges		100	121
Library expenses		88	-
Website		83	81
		<u><b>8,901</b></u>	<u><b>10,887</b></u>
<b>DEFICIT EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	£'s	<u><b>(1,699)</b></u>	£'s <u><b>(2,844)</b></u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2011**

<b>ACCUMULATED FUND :</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2011		6,948	9,678
Add : Surplus (Deficit) for the year		(1,699)	(2,844)
Dollar conversion profit (loss)		31	114
	£'s	<u><b>5,280</b></u>	£'s <u><b>6,948</b></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>			
Cash at banks		9,184	7,322
Debtors - amounts due to us		<u>836</u>	<u>3,195</u>
		10,020	10,517
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,449)		(2,169)
Loan	(1,500)		-
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(791)</u>	(4,740)	<u>(1,400)</u> (3,569)
	£'s	<u><b>5,280</b></u>	£'s <u><b>6,948</b></u>

**AUDITORS REPORT**

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2011 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2011 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA

  
 8th April 2012

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

The accounts for the year to the 31 December 2011 show a deficit of £1699.

This results from the continuation of the active publications policy and the conservative approach of writing off all the costs in the year incurred, which resulted in a deficit in publications of £1,223 this year. In particular the printing of the revised Leeward Islands book by Michael Oliver was incurred towards the end of the year, and few sales made by that date. To avoid any potential problems with cash flow, Michael agreed to loan the Study Circle £1,500 to be repaid as sales are made, and this is reflected as the loan in the balance sheet.

There was also a net deficit of £472 on the convention at Honiley in the Autumn, arising from the costs at the venue being in excess of the amounts recovered from those attending. Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds to offset expenses incurred, and was similar to the previous year, albeit slightly reduced at £964.

In 2011 the costs of the quarterly Bulletin and its despatch were largely covered by the subscription and advertising income, which is the policy we have established in the past. However the big increase in postage costs, as from the end of April, is going to cause serious problems in maintaining this policy not only in the future but also in the remainder of the current year. The extra cost will be of the order of £200 per Bulletin, hence an increased cost of £600 this year 2012.

It is clear therefore, if we are to maintain our current policy, we need a substantial increase in subscriptions and a similar increase in advertising rates. Because of subscriptions paid in advance, any increase will not immediately solve the problem. However we do need to bite the bullet now and increase the subscription rate to a more realistic level for 2013 onwards and it is proposed to increase the UK rate to £15, to Europe £18 and elsewhere to £22. Despite the increase we feel that the Study Circle represents good value for members. For those who would like a cheaper option, we are giving an added incentive to those who take the 'paperless' downloaded Bulletin by reducing the annual subscription to £8 worldwide. I would also remind members of the Paypal option for subscriptions available from the website.

As a result of the deficit, the Accumulated fund, has decreased from £6,948 to £5,280 although this year we again have a small profit 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 once again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given.

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

There has been a loan of nine books to three members during the year. This compares with a loan of seven books to four members during the year ended April 2011.

I have provided two members with answers to their respective request for philatelic information on Dominica Postal Fiscals (yet again), and Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Our member, David King, has donated a copy of his book St. Kitts Postcards Volume 7 to the Library.

Our member, Bob Swarbrick, the elder statesman of Jamaican philately, has donated thirty three catalogues (thirty one catalogues being hard bound), including most of the important Jamaica sales since 1932. He has also donated a Jamaica Automobile Association map of Jamaica 1927, Jamaica obliteration numbers by L.C.C. Nicholson 1949, a booklet on the Jamaica Royal Philatelic Society Limited display in 1992 by Hugh W. Wood, three copies of the Jamaica Philatelist dated July 1949, July 1950 and October 1971, a booklet relating to Stamp World London 1990, a book entitled British Empire Civil Censorship Devises WW2 Trinidad and Tobago – Wike 1993, together with Stanley Gibbons Guides on Introducing Postal History and Philatelic Exhibiting.

Many thanks to David King and Bob Swarbrick for these donations, which are much appreciated.

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

Last year saw the publication of three books from the Study Circle. First, there was Brian Brookes' booklet on his St. Kitts collection, then a new Study Paper by Peter Fernbank on the Bahamas Locally Overprinted Special Delivery Stamps and lastly a revised version of Michael Oliver's Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists.

Sales were pretty buoyant during the year with Mike Rego's BG Codemarks booklet selling well, so much so, that we had to order another 20 copies. Being able to order such a small quantity demonstrates the value of using this print-on-demand system. We originally ordered 50 copies and once they had sold we could for the same unit price order as many or as few as we wanted. I shall continue to utilize this system as much as possible, especially for the smaller books. The St. Kitts booklet sold some 21 copies and the revised Montserrat 13. The Bahamas Special Delivery sold 13 as well and the Leewards 10; however, these last two were only published towards the end of the year.

As for the future, we are in the process of redoing Peter Fernbank's King George V Key Plates book which was originally published by the West Africa Study Circle. This will be a much revised version with a large quantity of colour illustrations, something the original lacked. Another volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia, that on the Airmails, is in line for publication within the next year or so. Together with Charles Freeland and Ed Barrow, I have been persuaded to compile a book on Tobago which should be ready in just over a year. I would like to publish either a Classic Collections booklet or a Study Paper and appeal to members for suggestions.

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

Again we enjoyed a successful year in 2011, the highlight of which was our biennial Convention in October at Honiley. Your Committee had earlier decided to experiment and have a two day Convention instead of the one day affair of previous years. We were very pleased with the way things turned out. As well as two very interesting displays of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands by Peter Tribe and Simon Goldblatt respectively, Chris Harman gave us a very useful seminar on competitive exhibiting. The event was attended by around 50 of our members, some of whom brought their spouses along for the weekend. As well as the formal display, we had a two sessions of mini-displays similar to those we have had previously at our Philatex meetings. These proved very successful with some 20 members displaying a varied selection of material.

Having mentioned Philatex, some of you will know already that Philatex has been cancelled in November and this, of course, will mean that our scheduled meeting cannot now take place there. Your Committee will have to find another venue but, because of the relatively short notice, this year's meeting may have to be cancelled.

Amongst other notable causes for celebration for the Study Circle were the awards by the Royal Philatelic Society to two of our members. First the Tilleard Medal was awarded to Brian Brookes for his excellent display of St. Kitts, and second the Tapling Medal was awarded to Peter Fernbank for his ground-breaking article in the *London Philatelist* on De La Rue Sheet Numbering. Both of these members deserve our heartiest congratulations.

Arrangements are continuing in preparation for our 60th Anniversary celebrations in 2014. Our President, Charles Freeland is co-ordinating events and there will be an announcement in the Bulletin when details are finalised.

I must now come to one of our thorniest problems, that of replacing some of the Study Circle's officers. Some of our Committee officers have served the Circle for many years and deserve a rest. First, Peter Fernbank decided last year that he would stand in as Secretary as an interim measure. We still need very much to find a permanent Secretary. Steve Jarvis, we will I am sure all agree, has done wonders with the Bulletin since he took over from me ten years ago. He is shortly to become Deputy-Editor of the *London Philatelist* and needs to be relieved of his editorship of our Bulletin. I could go on and say that Ray has been our Treasurer for 14 years, I have been Publications Officer for 16 and Chairman for 10 years. We do not want to be in a situation where a Committee Member resigns and we have to scabble around for a replacement. It is far better to have an early volunteer and an orderly handover to ensure the smooth running of our Study Circle. So please, do consider volunteering for one of these positions; the jobs are not particularly onerous and need not take up a great deal of time and effort.

Lastly, may I as usual thank my Committee for their unstinting support during the last year; only with their efforts can we be pleased that we have one of the, if not the, best specialist societies in the world.

### **10. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee (2011)**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

**11. Re-election of Officers**

The 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 Auditor**

John Davis has agreed to continue with this role.

**13. Other Business**

None.