

**MINUTES OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 1:15 PM SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2014**

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

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 40 BWISC members and two representatives of ABPS present. He thanked Spink for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on their premises. He invited each person to introduce themselves and their collecting interests. The best introduction was from Michael Hamilton who described himself as a dealer and his interest as "all of you".

**2. Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from John Davis, Peter Longmuir, James Podger, Michael Rego, John Seidl, and Richard Watkins.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting on 27 April 2013, as published in Bulletin No. 237, June 2013, pages 23 to 26, were accepted by the attendees.

**4. Presentation by John Baron, Chair of ABPS, and Dane Garrod, Specialist Society Liaison Officer, ABPS**

John Baron apologised for missing last year's AGM, which happened because of problems with his computer. He described how he had become Chair of ABPS in 2010 and saw a need for reform. This would be a ten year project, including changes to the constitution, web site, committee roles and greater contact between the committee and member Federations. What does ABPS do? It is a voice for the UK in international philately, for example in the organisation of major exhibitions and competition. There is a collaboration with Germany to train judges. Costs related to competition are not met from member society subscriptions but are covered by exhibitors, the trainee judges, and sponsorship. The National Congress contributes £1000 p.a. to ABPS income. He defended the membership fee payment arrangements for societies, while mentioning a hope that other income could be generated by accepting adverts on the ABPS website. He emphasised ABPS support for youth philately through Stamp Active. A BWISC representative was welcome to attend the ABPS AGM, though could only vote if affiliated. He foresaw an expansion of the ABPS website to have a BWISC page, to advertise ourselves and books. There could be a page in ABPS News supporting the sale of our publications. While there was much work to do, he planned to continue while there is demand for ABPS service.

Dane Garrod also spoke and made an enthusiastic call for support. He paraphrased Kennedy, "ask not what ABPS can do for you,..." and invited us to write articles for ABPS News, which could be a source of new members "where do you get your new members?". He mentioned the ABPS leaflets, available on their website, covering a range of topics.

Several members asked questions which the representatives responded to.

Michael Medicott asked John Baron to clarify the aims and objectives of ABPS. Michael Hamilton asked how many members ABPS had indeed brought to BWISC [unknown] and whether other organisations contributed to the organisation of International Exhibiting [PTS do although ABPS are involved in a supporting role e.g. in supplying frames]. Simon Goldblatt asked whether fees could be lowered through an individual membership model [costly to implement]. Simon Richards supported the existing fee model and argued that ABPS plays an important role in supporting exhibiting.

Peter Ford thanked our visitors for their presentation and gave his own view that on balance we should support ABPS because of the role exhibiting and high level competition plays in developing the hobby. Collectors can look to the elite exhibit and see what they might aim for.

**5. Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)**

I was asked to take on PRO duties during the year. I have sent information about the Circle to a number of outlets in the USA, UK, and Australia. This has led to "Society News" appearing in GSM, Stamp & Coin Mart, and the BCPSG journal. BCPSG also kindly made announcements about our Anniversary events at their recent meeting in St. Louis. Following a previous Anniversary, it was observed that US magazines had not been receptive to our news, and I believe that commercial overseas outlets will be more likely to accept material that has some philatelic content, articles

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rather than 'news', particularly if it is relevant in some way to local interests. Indeed, a short item prepared in this vein is to appear soon in Stamp News Australasia. This seems an effective tactic. In addition, I agreed to help out Stamp & Coin Mart with a Readers Stamps article at short notice, and in return the editor will let us provide an article for that column regularly (once a year or so). Terry Harrison has offered to write it next year.

The effort so far has not been guided by any strategy beyond trying to get information out as widely as possible. I believe we will be more effective if we are strategic. For the coming 18 months or so I propose that we focus on Europe, in the year of London 2015 Europhilatex. I have had initial discussions with Nigel Chandler, who knows a great deal about the continental scene and we will shape the strategy over the next few weeks. If any members with linguistic skills or ideas for short articles relevant to German, French and other philatelists with interests based around Europe, could contribute, please do contact Nigel or me.

Charles Freeland had suggested contacting GSM to offer a series of articles on Caribbean philately. The Editor, Dean Shepard, kindly agreed to do this and Charles and I approached several members about writing an article. Three articles appeared in the April issue with a shorter piece about the Circle. More are with GSM, to be published later in the year. The Editor is paying us for these articles and authors are kindly directing the payments to the Circle. He has also given us permission to publish pdfs of the articles on our website.

In July 2013 BWISC hired a table among the specialist societies at Midpex for the first time. Many committee members supported the table, manning it throughout the day, and Richard Stupples provided a one frame display of Barbados for our stand. Peter made successful publication sales. I'd like to thank everyone for their support. We plan to return to Midpex in 2015. This year, I will attend Worpex (May 10<sup>th</sup>), Swinpex (June 14<sup>th</sup>) and Scotex (October 18<sup>th</sup>) to promote the Circle. Members who can come to these events will be very welcome to help. Please contact me, or just come along on the day.

In October the Convention was held in Warwickshire, and there have been reports on this in the Bulletin already. The philately was outstanding. In terms of organisation, many members had difficulty getting rooms at the hotel. I also discovered that one stalwart, Anthony Wilkinson, has been walking from Berkswell Railway Station to Honiley, and back, each year. That's a two hour walk, each way! Honiley has advantages, such as the room layout, but we will consider alternatives for 2015.

At the Convention, the new Rolls of Honour for the Collett Award were presented and signed by a number of past and new winners. The Rolls were printed on parchment by William Cowley, and winners' names added by the calligrapher Denise Hagon. Over the summer, I took the Rolls to be signed by Ian Chard in Skye and Frank Deakin in Exmouth, neither of whom were going to be able to attend Honiley. It was a great pleasure to meet both, and I am very glad I had the chance to meet Frank before he died in December. We went for lunch with two members of Exmouth Stamp Club, Barbara and Colin Rogers, and Frank heartily enjoyed a turkey salad with a glass of white wine.

I became aware quite recently that Steve Jarvis has to manually send out the eNewsletters, and that this is very time-consuming. To assist with this, I have prepared a short program to automate the process, but it will need to be tested carefully.

The Membership Secretary has kindly provided the following information.

| Membership Stats as at end of 2013: |         |     |     |     |           |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
|                                     | Members | UK  | EUR | RoW | Paperless |
| End 2012                            | 324     | 207 | 24  | 93  |           |
| Joined 2013                         | 22      |     |     |     | 8         |
| Deceased                            | 3       |     |     |     |           |
| Lapsed/Resigned                     | 22      |     |     |     |           |
| End 2013                            | 321     | 203 | 26  | 92  | 44        |

### **6. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)**

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I would like to thank everyone who responded to my plea for more articles, especially the new contributors, and to apologise if your article is yet to appear, it will in due course. Having a stock of articles on which to draw does make the editors job easier, so please keep them coming.

For those of you feel that your collecting interests are under-represented in the Bulletin, now is the time for you to provide me with an article to fill the gap.

My thanks are due to Steve Jarvis, Charles Freeland and Peter Ford for the work they do to ensure that the high standard of the Bulletin is maintained by proof reading each edition and liaising with the printers.

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

The accounts for the year to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 show a deficit of £1,051 which compares with a surplus of £2,254 in 2012.

The deficit is entirely due to the amount of £6,912 spent on the production of publications despite the large increase in income from these of £4,922. Last year the opposite was the case and taking the two years as a whole, sales have largely covered production costs, and confirms our ability to fund the continuing ambitious publication programme.

This year we have covered by a good margin the costs of the quarterly bulletin, and its despatch, by the subscription and advertising income, which is the policy we have established in the past. This allows for further increases in postage costs happening in 2014.

Once again there was a substantial donation from the auction team to fund the study circle's activities. On the other side, the Honiley convention left us with a deficit of £518, and funds were spent on establishing the new Collett Scroll, and also in producing flyers and leaflets for use in promoting the Study Circle.

As a result of the deficit, the Accumulated fund, has decreased from £7,545 to £6,503 and 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.

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

Three books have been borrowed from the Library by one member during the last year. This is an improvement upon the previous year when no books were borrowed from the Library!

I have provided one member with philatelic information on Barbados bootheel cancels.

It is clear from the above that our non-computer literate members are dwindling and that the Library is now only being used to obtain information which cannot be found on the net. There is a vast amount of philatelic knowledge and other information to be found in the BWISC Library which is regularly used by me to aid my own philatelic research, and which could be used by others.

There has been one donation to the Library during the year, by Richard Maisel, being a copy of his BWISC Study Paper No.5 entitled "British Guiana: The Provisionals of 1882". Many thanks, Richard, for this gift which is much appreciated.

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

2013 was a bumper year for BWISC publications. Not only did we publish four new books but our sales reached an all time high. The books published were Peter Fernbank's 'KING GEORGE V KEY PLATES OF THE IMPERIUM POSTAGE AND REVENUE DESIGN', Fitz Roett's Barbados, Richard Maisel's British Guiana 1882 Provisionals and lastly Steve Jarvis's Jamaica Airmails, part of the ever expanding Jamaica Encyclopaedia.

Sales this last year have been amazing with gross sales almost reaching an incredible £6,500 – this is a record. The star seller was Peter Fernbank's new book with some 74 copies sold. At £49 (£44 for members) this accounted for the major slice of our sales income. Other books which sold

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well were the Maisel BG Provisionals Study Paper which sold 31, the Roett Barbados 23 and Michael Oliver's Leewards, which continues to sell well, with 20 sales. The Jamaica Airmails published right at the end of the year sold 18 copies.

Future projects are well under way; we have already published the Tobago handbook. Nearly complete is Ian Jakes' Study Paper on the Trinidad Red Cross Labels. We are intending to publish a book on Queen Elizabeth postmarks of the West Indies shortly, this by David Horry, a new definitive handbook on Nevis by Federico Borromeo and Charles Freeland and lastly, we hope to have a revised version of Jamaica Military Mails out by the year's end. Further in the future we are hoping to publish definitive handbooks on Antigua and the Bahamas.

One project which doesn't come specifically under the heading of publications is the brochure we are going to produce for the BWISC display at the Royal in November. Could I please ask all participants to send their contributions to me as soon as they can, as it will make things a lot easier for me.

If any member is considering writing a book, could I appeal to them to inform me before they pay out money to have it typeset. I have used a few different printers over the years and now know them sufficiently well to gauge exactly what is required to produce the best result from any publication. Please do not present me with a typeset book and ask me to publish it, especially if it is in the dreaded Microsoft Word!

I again appeal to aspiring writers to submit Study Papers which I am very keen on. These can be on a subject of very specialised interest and it doesn't cost us much to have them printed.

Over the last 15 years, we have published some 25 books or booklets. Whilst I am happy to continue doing this, the fact is that I will not be able to go on forever and it would be useful to have some other member who is interested to help me and eventually take over this task. It is not burdensome and from experience, I can say that there is nothing so satisfying as seeing a book that you have produced come out in print.

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

Last year was a very successful one for the BWISC. We held our usual AGM and auction at Grosvenor's auction rooms, a good number of us attended the MIDPEX event where we had booked a table and managed to sell a good number of our books and, last but by no means least, we held a particularly successful Convention at Honiley with excellent displays of much classic material by Federico Borromeo and Simon Greenwood.

Behind the scenes, members of the Committee have been busy arranging events for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Study Circle. Our auction team have put together a special auction this year containing 'starred items' with an estimated value of £250 or more. Just how they persuade members to part with their treasured material, I find it better not to enquire into too deeply. Other Committee members in the persons of Peter Fernbank and John Keegan have been arranging a special display of prize West Indies material to be shown at the Royal Philatelic Society in London on 6 November. This promises to be a once in a lifetime event and I would encourage all of our members to make a special effort to attend; there will be a selection from every colony in our area of interest and something for everybody to savour.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for all their efforts in running the Study Circle; it is only by their enthusiasm and hard work that we are able to boast that we have one of the premier specialist societies which is highly respected throughout the philatelic world.

### **11. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously as Chairman of the Committee.

### **12. Re-Election of the President and Vice-Presidents**

Re-elected for three years (to April 2017):

Charles Freeland, President; Simon Goldblatt, Vice-President; Steve Jarvis, Vice-President.

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**13. Re-Election of Officers**

The existing Officers and Committee Members were re-elected.

**14. Election of the Auditor**

John Davis was understood to be willing to continue as Auditor, and was re-elected, with the gratitude of members.

**15. Other Business**

All business having been covered, the Chairman closed the meeting.

| <b>BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE</b>  |  |                       |                         |
|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2013</b>  |  |                       |                         |
|  | £'s  | <u>2013</u>           | <u>2012</u>             |
| <b>INCOME :</b>  |  |                       |                         |
| Subscriptions  |  | 4,509                 | 3,609                   |
| Publications - Sales less commissions  |  | 4,922                 | 2,168                   |
| Auction donation   |  | 1,540                 | 1,634                   |
| Other donations  |  | 2                     | 48                      |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>  |  | <b><u>10,973</u></b>  | <b><u>7,459</u></b>     |
| <b>EXPENDITURE :</b>   |  |                       |                         |
| Bulletin - Costs less advertising receipts   | 895  |                       | 1,294                   |
| Distribution and editorial expenses  | <u>2,710</u>                                 | 3,605                 | <u>2,503</u>            |
| Publications : Printing costs  |  | 6,912                 | 340                     |
| Convention - net deficit   |  | 518                   | -                       |
| Other room hire & meeting costs  |  | 164                   | 270                     |
| ABPS affiliation fee   |  | -                     | 240                     |
| Collett scroll costs   |  | 284                   | -                       |
| Flyers & leaflets  |  | 175                   | -                       |
| Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc   |  | 161                   | 370                     |
| Bank charges   |  | 92                    | 91                      |
| Website  |  | 113                   | 97                      |
|  |  | <b><u>12,024</u></b>  | <b><u>5,205</u></b>     |
| <b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>   | £'s  | <b><u>(1,051)</u></b> | £'s <b><u>2,254</u></b> |
| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2013</b>  |  |                       |                         |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUND :</b>  |  |                       |                         |
| Balance at 1st January 2013  |  | 7,545                 | 5,280                   |
| Add : Surplus (Deficit) for the year   |  | (1,051)               | 2,254                   |
| Dollar conversion profit (loss)  |  | 9                     | 11                      |
|  | £'s  | <b><u>6,503</u></b>   | £'s <b><u>7,545</u></b> |
| <b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>  |  |                       |                         |
| Cash at banks  |  | 7,521                 | 5,519                   |
| Cash in hand   |  | 996                   | 820                     |
| Debtors - amounts due to us  |  | 3,193                 | 5,057                   |
| Prepaid expenses   |  | -                     | 250                     |
|  |  | <u>11,710</u>         | <u>11,646</u>           |
| Less : Subscriptions received in advance   | (3,055)                                      |                       | (2,685)                 |
| Loan   | (1,300)                                      |                       | (1,062)                 |
| Other creditors - Amounts due by us  | <u>(852)</u>                                 | (5,207)               | <u>(354)</u>            |
|  | £'s  | <b><u>6,503</u></b>   | £'s <b><u>7,545</u></b> |
| <b>AUDITORS REPORT</b>   |  |                       |                         |
| I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2013 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2013 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date. |  |                       |                         |
| J G M Davis FCA  | <i>John Davis</i> 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 |                       |                         |