

**MINUTES OF THE 65TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 1:15PM SATURDAY 11 MAY 2019**

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Graham Booth opened the meeting. He welcomed the 34 members and one guest who attended the AGM and auction.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Kevin Darcy, Mary Gleadall and Erwin Rannall.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM on 28 April 2018, as published in Bulletin No. 257, June 2018, pages 3 to 9, were accepted by the attendees.

4. Name of the Society and Aims

(a) The proposal to change the name of the society had been withdrawn. It is a strong identity. Concern that colonial connotations might put off some potential members based in the Caribbean would be addressed by the project described under (c).

(b) It was agreed to continue with the revised wording of the principal Aim as printed in the Agenda.

(c) To promote philately in the West Indies, particularly among younger collectors, a new brand, 'West Indies Stamp Club' would be launched under the leadership of Steve Jarvis. This would initially comprise a Bulletin insert covering topics such as new issues and current postal rates, and a website.

The intention is to collaborate with collectors resident in the islands. The Chairman encouraged members to volunteer to work on this project, and to please contact him after the AGM.

5. New Secretary

George Dunbar finds that it will not be possible to carry on as Secretary and is stepping down. He has made an enormous contribution to the running of the society. It is proving difficult to identify a replacement. The Chairman has approached six people from a long list of suggested candidates, but all reluctantly declined as they have substantial existing commitments. At present, the Circle has no Secretary. The Chairman is pursuing further avenues. George Dunbar has agreed to continue to assist while he can, and Steve Jarvis has volunteered to formally act as Secretary on a temporary basis. The Chairman will keep members informed of developments.

6. London 2020

The Circle has booked a room at London 2020 for a meeting at which members can present informal displays (Saturday 2nd May 2-6pm). It is planned to have an informal society dinner at a restaurant in London that evening. We expect to be joined by some US guests from our sister society BCPSG. We will also have two tables at the 2020 event on the following Wednesday, to provide Circle information and for selling unsold auction items.

7. October Convention 2019, Red Lion Basingstoke

The formal displays will be (a) Ray Stanton on postmarks and (b) Simon Richards on Dominica. There will be informal displays by members and an experts table, to which members can bring questions. It has not been decided whether there will also be standing displays. The Committee has abolished the £10 convention fee to encourage members to attend. The location was selected to be accessible to members in the South East, which the Membership Secretary had identified as an area where a large number of members live.

An information leaflet with the programme and booking form will shortly appear on the website, as well as in the next Bulletin. Members are strongly encouraged to use trains to travel to the event, which is fairly close to Basingstoke railway station.

8. Stockholmia

Simon Richards confirmed arrangements for a BWISC meeting in Stockholm from 10am on Thursday 30 May, and an informal dinner that evening, 5.30-8.00pm, for up to 21 people. He would also be giving a lecture on Saturday 1 June at 2.00pm 'Mail by British Packets from the West Indies 1663-1863'. He asked that members wishing to attend, particularly the dinner, should let him know

as soon as possible. Peter Ford will be presenting the St. Vincent book by Freeland, Bond and Boylan in a separate session on 30 May.

9. Nigel Chandler

Nigel Chandler is very ill and has been in hospital. Further treatment is planned in the near future, and the Circle sends best wishes from the AGM for a full recovery.

10 Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)

The Circle had tables at Worpex and Swinpex in 2018, as planned. This turned out to be the last Worpex. We met new friends and old. The intended meeting at Stampex was prevented from taking place as the PTS, after taking until August to confirm a booking, then withdrew it a couple of weeks later. (A planned committee meeting did take place at Stampex.) Arrangements have been made for an October Convention at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke, although information was not circulated with the March Bulletin as I had wished. The Committee selected this venue with the aim of holding the Convention near to London, to encourage the many members living in the South East to come along. The Circle has booked a table for Midpex in July.

The Membership Secretary has kindly provided the following table. Membership Stats. as at end of 2018:

	Members	UK	EUR	RoW
End 2017	339 (85)	207 (44)	24 (5)	108 (36)
Joined 2018	27	26	0	1
Rejoined				
Deceased	1	0	0	1
Lapsed/Resigned	26	15	0	11
End 2018	339 (84)	218 (44)	24 (5)	97 (35)

Figures in brackets are for paperless membership. Membership has been relatively stable.

This is my last report as Secretary. It has been a privilege to work with the Committee and members in recent years. I wish you continued fame and success in the years to come.

11. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)

I am pleased to be able to report that 2018 has proved to be another successful year and that there has been a steady flow of articles from existing and new contributors, long may this continue.

The June edition will be the 28th that I have assembled and I feel that there is a need to ensure the continuity of the publication process in case anything unforeseen should occur. To this end I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping with the preparation of the Bulletin.

My thanks are due to Steve Jarvis 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.

12. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The accounts for the year to the 31 December 2018 show a surplus of £3,448 which is considerably larger than previous years.

The reduction in the number of books produced and in the amount spent on pre-publication expenses is the main reason for this. In 2018 the total amount spent was £1,811 compared to £5,866 in 2017. Although income was also down there was a steady stream of income from books produced in previous years and this is likely to continue to some degree.

Once again Bulletin costs including distribution were comfortably covered by subscriptions received and advertising charged.

The donation from the auction team, net of expenses, was more than last year at £1,800 compared to £1,495 in 2017.

Other expenses in 2018 were in total similar to 2017, once the deficit on the biennial convention in 2017 is taken into account.

As a result of the surplus the Accumulated fund has increased to £17,759 which includes a gain on the conversion of our US dollar funds of £289.

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

13. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

Six library books have been borrowed by three members during the last year. This compares with three library books lent to two members during the year ended April 2019. Seven members have requested me to search the BWISC library for information which cannot easily be found on the internet. The subjects were:-

- (a) Jamaica postmarks
- (b) St. Vincent Edward VII key plates
- (c) Bahamas postmarks on U.S.A. newspaper stamps
- (d) Trinidad & Tobago postal stationery
- (e) Royal philatelic collection
- (f) Jamaican Roman Catholic cinderella label
- (g) Bermuda/Jamaica underwater communications cable
- (h) Mysterious island off Guadeloupe (I. de Aves (Venezuela))
- (i) Martinique and Guadeloupe postal rates and anything on St. Thomas

Positive replies were sent in all cases, except that there is nothing in the library relating to subject (i).

In the year ended April 2018 seven members received positive replies to all nine queries researched in the BWISC library.

14. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

2018 was a relatively quiet year as we published no books, but work was ongoing on several fronts. Three books were nearing completion towards the end of the year, two of which have been published in advance of this AGM.

Mike Rego has yet again produced a book which will be sought after by those collectors with a broader interest than purely stamp issues. His 'Trinidad Coastal Mail Service 1820 – 2000' traces the history of the mail service via the steamers that plied the coastal waters of Trinidad and Tobago from the early 19th century. My pet project of a listing of the Early Covers of Trinidad franked with Perkins Bacon adhesives has also been published.

Future projects include a book on the 'Stamps and Postal Stationery of Trinidad and Tobago' by myself in collaboration with Ed Barrow and David Druett; this we hope to have published in time for the Convention later this year. Work on a book on 'Grenada' by Tim Pearce is being previewed in the Bulletin with the intention of garnering as much pertinent information as possible before publication. There are several other books at an embryonic stage.

The St. Vincent book by Charles Freeland, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan gained a Large Vermeil at the Newcastle Centenary Stamp Show. As reported in the Bulletin, the Judges noted that, 'The authors are to be congratulated on a fine production, which was the best entry in the Literature Class'.

Sales continue steadily with some £2,700 odd of sales during the year with the American Philatelic Society's sales amounting to just less than £450. Although this might seem to be a small amount, I have no doubts that they will continue to sell a reasonable number of books over the years. Our North American cousins will find the savings in postage well worthwhile. The best seller last year was the St. Vincent book with 20 sales; the hardback version has sold very well and I intend to try to have all our major books published with at least 50 copies hardbound. We sold 12 of the Bahamas book ourselves and received £600 from the Royal Philatelic Society from their sales.

We continue to publish books at a reasonable rate and hope to encourage more members to write for us.

15. Report by the President and Chairman of the Committee (Graham Booth)

It has been a very good year. This is a strong society with a strong reputation. The Circle has maintained membership numbers in a difficult environment. The Bulletin, too, has a strong reputation. We are in a strong position.

16. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The post of Secretary is vacant. The other current officers, as listed in the March Bulletin, were re-elected. Proposed James Podger, seconded by Richard Stupples.

The committee members Nigel Chandler, Peter Fernbank, James Podger, Simon Richards, John Jordan and Geoff Richards were re-elected. Proposed Richard Stupples, seconded by Roy Bond.

17. Election of the Hon. Auditor

John Davis was re-elected as auditor. Proposed Michael Medicott, seconded by Peter Fernbank, carried unanimously.

18. Other Business

(a) Michael Medicott will be giving a display of classics of BWI philately, both revenue and postage stamps, on Monday 27th May at 7.30pm. The event takes place at Ferndown Day Centre, Library Road, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9JP.

(b) James Podger drew attention to a forthcoming auction of the Northcote collection of Leeward Islands. The postal sale is being organised by the De Montfort Stamp Company, 7th June 2019, and the catalogue is now on their website.

(c) Graham Booth presented awards to members:

(i) John Jordan Large Gold from the New Zealand Literature Exhibition 2017, for the *Antigua* book written with Charles Freeland, published by BWISC.

(ii) Terry Harrison, Editor, Large Vermeil for *BWISC Bulletins 244-251*, New Zealand Literature Exhibition 2017.

(iii) Roy Bond as co-author with Russell Boylan and Charles Freeland Large Vermeil for *St. Vincent 1899-1965*, published by BWISC, from the World Stamp Championship 2018, Israel.

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

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

	£'s	2018	2017
INCOME :			
Subscriptions		4,556	4,624
Publications - Sales less commissions		2,616	4,362
Auction donation (net of costs)		1,800	1,495
Other donations		-	250
Interest received		-	2
TOTAL INCOME		<u>8,972</u>	<u>10,733</u>
EXPENDITURE :			
Bulletin - Printing & distribution costs	4,645		4,899
Less : Advertising	<u>(2,036)</u>	2,609	<u>(1,611)</u>
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs		1,811	5,866
Convention costs net of recovery		-	404
Other room hire & meeting costs		298	250
ABPS affiliation fee		259	260
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		102	100
Bank charges		-	17
Exhibition entry fees		225	-
Website		220	192
		<u>5,524</u>	<u>10,377</u>
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£'s	<u>3,448</u>	£'s <u>356</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018

ACCUMULATED FUND :			
Balance at 1st January 2018		14,022	13,650
Add : Surplus for the year		3,448	356
Exchange conversion profit		289	16
	£'s	<u>17,759</u>	£'s <u>14,022</u>
REPRESENTED BY :			
Cash at banks		14,206	12,560
Debtors - amounts due to us		5,944	6,272
Prepaid expenses		350	-
		<u>20,500</u>	<u>18,832</u>
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,116)		(2,704)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(625)</u>	<u>(2,741)</u>	<u>(2,106)</u>
	£'s	<u>17,759</u>	£'s <u>14,022</u>

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2018 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2018 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA

J G M Davis
 2nd April 2019