

BWISC AGM 2021 Committee Reports

[Report by the General Secretary \(Richard Stupples\)](#)

I've attended my first committee meeting and I've fielded several queries that have come through the secretaries email address regarding stamps and had positive replies to both from the people I directed the questions too and those that members have been able to answer. other than that I'm finding out about the role as items need doing.

[Report by the acting Membership Secretary \(Steve Jarvis\)](#)

After an increase in membership in 2016, are numbers have reverted to previous levels but remain at over 300.

BWISC Membership Statistics as at December 2020

As at end	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Members	310	309	339	339	340	312	304
Online	83	77	84	85	83	63	48
UK	192	194	218	207	208	200	193
EUR	27	28	24	24	25	19	20
Rest of World	91	87	97	108	107	93	91

2020 Detail

	Printed	Online	Total
UK	151	41	192
EUR	19	8	27
Rest of World	57	34	91
Grand Total	227	83	310

My thanks to Paul Hancock for agreeing to take over this role from 2021.

[Report by the Editor \(Terry Harrison\)](#)

After 35 issues in charge of editing the Bulletin the time has come for me to lay down my pen and hand over to my successor Darryl Fuller. I have enjoyed the challenge of assembling the Bulletin and in the process my knowledge of West Indies philately has increased exponentially. I would like to thank all of the contributors for providing such a wide range of articles, and long may they continue to do so. I would also like to extend my thanks to Peter Ford for his proof reading and Steve Jarvis for liaising with the printers. With Darryl living in Tasmania the time difference is likely to cause some problems with obtaining material from advertisers. To maintain continuity, I have agreed to be the UK point of contact.

[Report by the Treasurer \(Ray Stanton\)](#)

The accounts cover the two years 2019 and 2020 and show a surplus of £1,235 in 2019 and a deficit of £433 in 2020.

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 reduced slightly in 2020 compared to previous years as a result of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

The main reason for the deficit in 2020 is due to all the printing and binding costs of the Peter Fernbank KEVII book, which totalled £2,057, being incurred in December 2020 without any sales being made as yet. In line with previous years we treat publications income and expenses on a cash basis and no value is placed on stocks held

Other general expenses were generally in line with previous years, once the deficit on the biennial convention in 2019, and the donation to the Royal also in 2019 are taken into account .

As a result the surplus the Accumulated fund has increased by the 31st December 2020 to £18,341 which after taking into account a loss on the conversion of our US dollar funds over the two years of £220.

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

[Report by the Librarian \(Ian Jakes\)](#)

Until recently most requests for information from the BWISC Library were by letter. Since the last Librarian's Report I have received just one such letter. Our members have at long last moved into the 21st century and email requests are causing new problems e.g. a request allegedly from our chairman asking me to purchase iTunes gift cards on his behalf. It has come to my notice that during the last 12 months some emails addressed to me have not been received. If any member has not received a reply to a library request, that member should please telephone me after the lapse of a reasonable time for a response. Two members, both internet experts, have been drafting new philatelic books and much information can, of course, now be found online. Both members have asked whether there is additional information in the BWISC Library, which, of course, there often is. I have provided snippets of information to both members, which, hopefully, will be useful. A recent request for information resulted in the provision of a scan of a butterfly *Papilio homerus* designed by Philip Hart in 1952 which appeared on a Jamaican stamp. Other members were provided with information about Jamaica Red Cross labels together with an explanation for their non-appearance in Stanley Gibbons catalogue, information on Royal Mail postal services from British Guiana in or about 1845, and information about British Honduras postmarks.

[Report by the Publications Officer \(Peter Ford\)](#)

In 2020 we published three books. First was a long-awaited book on Trinidad and Tobago, completing the trio of books on that colony. When we published the book on St. Vincent in 2017, we had 50 softbacked copies printed and then had them hard bound. Once stocks of those were depleted, we had softbound copies printed. This seemed a better way to have the option of hardback versions of our publications published without having 300 copies printed and the associated problems of tying up our funds and the subsequent storage. The Trinidad and Tobago went the same way with 50 hardbacked copies available as well as softbacked versions. The hardback books were sold at cost with no discounts.

Next we published the book on King Edward VII Imperium Keyplates by Peter Fernbank and the Blinco brothers. This went through the same process and 50 hardbound copies were and still are available. Later softback copies will be available. The next book published was one on Farthing stamps by Richard Capon, Bill Gibb and George Stewart. This was only published in softback. The Grenada book is next on our list to be published which will hopefully be before the Convention in October. Also there is another book on Grenada from a slightly different perspective as one would expect from Mike Rego. After that there is nothing else in prospect. I would ask those members who have in the past promised to write books on their specialist subject to put their backs into writing one. Those members know who they are!

Sales last year were on a par with previous years with just under £2,500 gross, netting us a little over £1,900 after commission and expenses. Sales were fairly evenly spread out over our list of publications with, surprisingly, Victor Toeg's Dominica leading the way with 5 books sold!

[BWISC WebMaster's Report \(Steve Jarvis\)](#)

The website continues to tick over.

As we have not had any meetings this year, there have been no significant additions to the content, except relating to the auction, together with frequent changes to announcements regarding arrangements. The website continues to be the focal point for new applications which requires administration effort and my thanks to Paul Hancock for agreeing to look after this task. Finally, I have recently implemented Google Analytics on the site and next year I should be able to provide some statistics on activity.

[Report by the President and Chairman of the Committee \(Graham Booth\)](#)

The last two years have obviously been difficult for all of us because of Covid; but we seem to have survived in reasonable shape, and in some ways, the pandemic having forced us into different ways of communicating, like zoom, is opening new vistas for the future. I think it is also safe to say that a society that has had to change its Secretary, Editor and Auction Manager in two years would not be finding it easy, and so it has proved. So, first of all, I would like to pay tribute to Terry and Simon for their dedication over many years which has helped to make the Society what it is today. Then I want to thank Simon Richards and Darryl Fuller who have volunteered to replace them. Darryl lives in Tasmania so there will probably be technical problems to overcome as he takes over the Editorship, and nobody can replace Simon Goldblatt's encyclopaedic memory so changes in procedure will be necessary there.

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The Society's governance must be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the strengths and weaknesses of the people who volunteer their time and skills. It became apparent that nobody was prepared to replace George as Secretary, so we have split the role and we now have three people, Bill Gibb, Richard Stupples and Paul Hancock doing what was previously done by George. Consequently, the Committee is a big one and trying to ensure that things do not slip between the cracks we have created in the organisational structure is a problem. But we can only work with the members who are prepared to volunteer and what they are prepared to do. In addition, in a Society with no Constitution and therefore a Chairman who theoretically can do as he likes, a big Committee is no bad thing.

From a personal point of view, I have done a lot of preparatory work looking at the potential problems and advantages if we respond positively to the BCPSG's request to consider a merger. Strong and differing opinions are held by individual committee members and we are a long way from making a recommendation to the membership. Finally, I have been deeply involved with the work of one of our most gifted but controversial members trying to strike a balance between excessive censorship and allowing unsupported opinion to masquerade as fact. Regrettably, this has resulted in his resignation from the Society and the withdrawal of a manuscript we would have liked to publish.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME STATEMENT : YEARS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019 & 2020

	£'s	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
INCOME :				
Subscriptions		4,302	4,388	4,556
Publications - Sales less commissions		2,274	2,807	2,616
Auction donation (net of costs)		1,225	1,702	1,800
TOTAL INCOME		<u>7,801</u>	<u>8,897</u>	<u>8,972</u>
EXPENDITURE :				
Bulletin - Printing & distribution costs	4,300		4,604	4,645
Less : Advertising	<u>(1,768)</u>	2,532	<u>(2,030)</u>	<u>(2,036)</u>
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs		5,084	2,795	1,811
Convention costs net of recovery			957	-
Other room hire & meeting costs			250	298
ABPS affiliation fee		288	273	259
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		72	82	102
Bank charges			19	-
Donation - RPS			500	-
Exhibition entry fees				225
Website		258	212	220
		<u>8,234</u>	<u>7,662</u>	<u>5,524</u>
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£'s	<u>(433)</u>	£'s <u>1,235</u>	£'s <u>3,448</u>

BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019 & 31st DECEMBER 2020

ACCUMULATED FUND :				
Balance at 1st January 2020		18,953	17,759	14,022
Add : (Deficit) Surplus for the year		(433)	1,235	3,448
Exchange conversion profit (loss)		(179)	(41)	289
	£'s	<u>18,341</u>	£'s <u>18,953</u>	£'s <u>17,759</u>
REPRESENTED BY :				
Cash at banks		16,312	16,375	14,206
Debtors - amounts due to us		4,897	5,627	5,944
Prepaid expenses		225	250	350
		<u>21,434</u>	<u>22,252</u>	<u>20,500</u>
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(1,918)		(2,199)	(2,116)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(1,175)</u>	(3,093)	<u>(1,100)</u>	<u>(3,299)</u>
	£'s	<u>18,341</u>	£'s <u>18,953</u>	£'s <u>17,759</u>

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the years ended 31st December 2020 and 2019 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheets at the 31st December 2019 and the 31st December 2020 show the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at those dates.

J G M Davis FCA

J G M Davis
 29th March 2021