

MINUTES OF THE 67 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 12.30PM SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

1. Acting Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks (Steve Jarvis)

Due to Covid restrictions, the past year was challenging but we continued to tick over and even managed to hold our Convention in Basingstoke. Understandably, the number of attendees was lower than usual but nevertheless it was a worthwhile turnout and the displays were excellent. However, in the last quarter of the year, we lost individuals who had made significant contributions to the Society. I am particularly referring to Graham Booth, Simon Goldblatt and Bill Gibb but we have lost others such as Dennis Mitton who was a regular contributor at events.

We should pause for a moment to remember all our friends and loved-ones who have been taken from us.

These losses mean we have needed to make changes to the organising committee and our proposals are itemised in the agenda. I would like to thank retiring members Paul Hancock and Nigel Chandler for their past work.

If there anyone else who would like to put their names forward to volunteer, then please let me know. In particular Darryl Fuller, our Bulletin Editor, is looking for someone to do auction reports and Peter Ford Publications Officer is looking for an apprentice – someone to work with him on publications at this stage and who could take the roll over at a future date.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that it might be worth contacting the main auction houses for brief 'highlights and upcoming' report, instead of looking for someone to write an auction report. Darryl would be consulted about this suggestion.

Although we do not currently have a written Constitution, Committee members are elected for the following durations: President for life or until resignation; Chairman for three years (maximum two terms); all other Committee members one year.

2. Apologies for Absence

Ray Murphy, Mike Kentzer, Dave Tetley, Mike Rego, Paul Hancock, Kevin Darcy, Tim Pearce and Terry Harrison all sent their apologies.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising There were no matters arising and the record was accepted as written.

4. Report by the General Secretary (Richard Stupples)

Following my appointment last year, I managed to attend the AGM and haven't been active since - my apologies There have been five enquiries through the website for several types of request and one of condolence I regret to say I didn't get a chance to attend the Conference, due to the fact I had just moved to Devon and was trying to get organised. Otherwise there has been a zoom committee meeting principally to discuss the changes caused by both the sad loss of both Graham Booth and Simon Goldblatt principally but also Bill Gibb who were all serving committee members. I step down at present as secretary as the joint role didn't allow any of us to focus on the required tasks and I have to say for the foreseeable future I have work commitments that I will need to fulfil.

5. Report of the Meetings Secretary (Steve Jarvis reporting)

Unfortunately, our Meetings Secretary, Bill Gibb passed away suddenly towards the end of 2021. He had been an enthusiastic volunteer for our Society, working in difficult times as a result of covid restrictions. In May, he organised our AGM and Auction at the RPSL and in October, our Convention at the Red Lion Hotel in Basingstoke. Both meetings ran smoothly and many of us appreciated being able to meet each other again face-to-face.

MINUTES OF THE 67 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 12.30PM SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

6. Report by the Membership Secretary (Steve Jarvis)

BWISC Membership Statistics as at December 2021

As at end	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Members	301	310	309	339	339	340	312	304
Online	91	83	77	84	85	83	63	48
UK	183	192	194	218	207	208	200	193
EUR	28	27	28	24	24	25	19	20
Rest of World	90	91	87	97	108	107	93	91
New/Rejoined	20							
Deceased	7							
Resigned/Lapsed	22							
Change	-9	+1	-30	0	-1	+28	+8	

2021 Detail

	Printed	Online	Total
UK	136	47	183
EUR	19	9	28
Rest of World	55	35	90
Grand Total	210	91	301

Steve Jarvis, 7 April 2022

7. Report by the Editor (Darryl Fuller)

I took over as editor of the British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin in the middle of 2021 and to date the process has been relatively smooth, with only a few small hiccups. The first was my computer failing in the middle of preparing the March Bulletin and the other was overlooking the submission of two articles back in mid-2021 during the handover. These will be published in the June 2022 issue. I would like to thank Terry Harrison, Peter Ford, Steve Jarvis and the late Graham Booth for assisting with the transition. I believe that having completed three issues and, as I write, preparing a fourth, have now moved into a rhythm that will ensure the Bulletin is on time and that the majority of articles are published in a timely manner. I would note that the number of articles remains a concern in that I rarely have much of a backlog of articles. Smaller articles seem to flow at a reasonable rate but longer articles, that I make up the backbone of an issue remain scarcer. If you have some research you have been working on, now is the time to put pen to paper (or more aptly fingers to the keyboard). I am very much of the opinion that there are only enough articles being produced for one high quality journal for the British Caribbean/West Indies area of philately. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by members of both the BWISC and BCPSG. One final area I would like to address is the loss of Graham Booth and the excellent Auction Report he produced for each quarter, as did the late Charles Freeland. If any member feels they can contribute an auction report four times a year, please contact me.

8. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The accounts for the year to the 31st December 2021 show a surplus of £822 compared to the deficit of £433 in 2020. The sales of publications of £5,049 after commission paid was exceptional in 2021 and exceeded the cost of new books printed. As in previous years, book stocks are written off each year but are expected to produce a steady stream of future income to be used for new publications in subsequent years. Subscriptions and advertising income once again covered the bulletin costs including distribution, although the donation from the auction team was less than previous years. The main area of expense was in relation to the convention in Autumn 2021 for which a deficit of £786 was recorded. However, the accounts still show a surplus overall and leaves the Study Circle in a healthy financial position with the Accumulated fund having increased to £19,238. I would like to thank John Davis once again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given. There were no issues raised. (The accounts are attached)

9. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

Last year I reported that many members were now obtaining philatelic information via the internet rather than through the BWISC library. This trend continues. I have provided one member with some information which he could not find on the internet relating to the Barbados Kingston Relief Fund Overprint. A second member has requested a copy of information relating to Cyril Bell's Grenada Postal Stationary which is contained in a Phillips of London Auction Catalogue published "sometime in the early 1990's". I cannot find any reference to this in the Phillips Auction catalogues which are in the Library. If any member has this information, I shall be very pleased to receive a scan. Two non-members have requested information from me relating to BWISC publications. Information regarding purchase of books, and, in one case, the name of the book to be purchased, and members discounted purchase price was given. One member was provided with a library list. The library list will be updated. I have arranged to send details of items added to the library to Steve Jarvis for him to add to the library list (my computer is too old to add directly to the library list in a modern manner as an attempt to do so has already proved). The list will be fully updated by instalments during the next few months as time permits. Two members have borrowed books from the library which I was expecting to be returned by now. If they have already been posted to me and I have not acknowledged receipt, or if they wish to retain for a further short period, please contact me.

10. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

In 2021 we published just the one book; this was the long-awaited Grenada written by Tim Pearce. Tim was encouraged to start writing this book by the late lamented Charles Freeland. However, it had not really been long in train when Charles died and this left Tim in the position of finishing the book by himself. This he did with great skill and was helped along the way by several of our members, to whom we are thankful. Work went on with a couple of other books which were published early in the New Year; these were the Lady McLeod Study Paper by Susan Taylor and others and the Barbados Early Covers book. In 2020 our sales were very good but, in 2021 they were fantastic! Gross sales amounted to £5,179 with the net takings of £4,800. It would seem that, while being locked down, members wanted to fill their time reading up on different aspects of their hobby. Let us hope that sales for 2022 will match those figures. The stars of the show were Peter Fernbank's and the Blinco brothers' KEVII Keyplates book with 36 sold and next was the Farthing Study Paper with 31 copies sold and then the Grenada with 29. Sales via the American Philatelic Society trickled along with 15 books sold. The King Edward Keyplates

MINUTES OF THE 67 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 12.30PM SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

book was awarded a Gold Medal at SWANPEX 2021, a well-deserved accolade. Future publications include one on the Social and Postal History of Grenada and another on Early Dominica Postal History. It is obvious that I will not be able to continue publishing books forever and to this end it would help if we could recruit one of our members to start by assisting me, with the eventual object of taking over the publications empire in toto. It is very satisfying to produce books; since taking over the publications we have published 45 books of great variety. I am sure no other specialist society has published as many and it would be satisfying if I could hand over to someone else in an orderly fashion.

11. Report by the Auction Team

After having to abandon a room auction for 2020 due to the pandemic, it was good to welcome live bidders back for the 2021 Auction. The catalogue contained 603 lots, including a section of 83 lots from the late Charles Freeland, there were some 25 late lots, including some bulky postal history from the parishes of Jamaica, won by an American bidder and the parcel weighed 8 kg to send airmail! Competition for some lots was keen, we had 13 room bidders and 63 postal bidders who spent £17,700 between them - £5,200 to the room and £12,500 to the postal bidders, all but ten postal bidders won at least one lot. Antigua and Bahamas continued to be in the doldrums and got the auction off to an uneventful start but Barbados (47 out of 70 sold) and British Guiana (25 out of 39 sold) were once again strong. In the Charles Freeland section only 16 of the 83 were unsold. Jamaica too was restored to favour with all but 7 of the 56 lots finding new homes. St Lucia repeated the success of 2020 but it is probably the case that 61 lots of St Vincent were too many. For Trinidad 25 out of 38 lots sold as did all but one of the 14 lots of Turks Islands. One thing that has become apparent in the last couple of years is that lots either sell on the day or in the week or so after the realisation appear on the website. There has been almost no response to promotions of the unsolds subsequently – most recently manifested at the Basingstoke convention when the unsold Freeland lots were offered at 40% below estimate to find only two takers. So ‘Specials’ are not something we will be repeating in the future. Auction 2022 This year is the first year we have had to operate entirely without Simon Goldblatt, though he did not leave us until November, pandemic caution meant that we were not able to hold any physical team meetings. Simon Richards did the lotting and describing, John Jordan the condition inspection and Charles Kennard the scanning. Steve Jarvis typeset the catalogue for us. In the past Simon Goldblatt provided some 40% of the lots and this year we are able only to offer literature due to continuing uncertainty over his estate. So, the team are particularly grateful to members for stepping up and providing some excellent material, which we hope sells well later on today. We are able to offer some 588 lots this year. Thanks too to James Podger for offering to step in as our auctioneer and to the usual team who help out on the day with the distribution of lots and the accounting. We have been asked to sell the ‘unsolds’ from three major auction houses and hope we have been able to break these lots down in a way that appeals to members. The number of postal bidders has declined to 46 but I hope this means there will be more activity in the room this year. Judging by the level of book bids we ought to reach a similar total to 2021. Auction 2023 For next year’s auction we have a substantial amount of material from Graham Booth’s estate, this is largely postal history and much of it reflects his interests in the non-British islands in the Caribbean, and we will have to consider how best to market this. Whilst we are hopeful that we may see Simon Goldblatt’s estate clarified in the coming months, it is entirely possible that much of this will have to wait until 2024, so if you do have stamps that would interest the membership that you would like to consign, we would be very glad to hear from you.

MINUTES OF THE 67 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 12.30PM SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

12. Report by BWISC WebMaster (Steve Jarvis)

Content has ticked over throughout the year. In April I decided that the site needed some improvement, particularly the home page. I have therefore commenced work on it which will probably take me 3 months to complete. Last year I stated I had implemented Google Analytics on the website. On average we get about 100 different users per month viewing the site but it peaks in Apr/May (for the auction) at about 800. In April 2022 the user profile was:

	787 % of Total: 100.00% (787)
1.  United States	137 (17.39%)
2.  United Kingdom	128 (16.24%)
3.  China	70 (8.88%)
4.  Germany	36 (4.57%)
5.  Canada	35 (4.44%)
6.  Japan	21 (2.66%)
7.  Australia	17 (2.16%)
8.  Spain	17 (2.16%)
9.  India	15 (1.90%)
10.  Russia	13 (1.65%)

13. Election of Officers

Steve Jarvis explained that a Committee Meeting had taken place in February at which pro tem actions were decided because of the loss of three committee members. Those changes and further appointments now needed to be approved by the attendees:

President – Simon Richards Proposed Richard Stupples, unanimously agreed

Chairman - Steve Jarvis Proposed James Podger, seconded Richard Stupples

Secretary – Susan Taylor Proposed Steve Jarvis, seconded Peter Fernbank

All other appointments, as listed below were unanimously agreed

Treasurer – Ray Stanton

Auction Manager Simon Richards, supported by John Jordan, Charles Kennard and James Podger

Publications and Book Sales – Peter Ford and David Druett

Journal Editor – Darryl Fuller supported by Terry Harrison for Advertising

Webmaster – Steve Jarvis

Social Media Officer – Charles Kennard (it was explained that Charles would explore options such as Twitter and Facebook to publicise the BWISC to a wider audience, and might establish a WhatsApp Group for interested members.

Peter Fernbank and Richard Stupples would additionally remain committee members.

It was also unanimously agreed that John Davis should remain the Honorary Auditor.

14. Organisational Matters

Merger with BCPSG

The BWISC Committee have discussed and agreed the basis on which we would merge with the BCPSG, with governance remaining UK based. Discussions with the BCPSG are in progress. Any proposal to merge will be put to BWISC members for endorsement, probably in 2023.

Constitution

The BWISC Committee have agreed that we should have a Constitution. The wording is under discussion and it is the intention to present to BWISC members for endorsement, probably in 2023. Peter Ford's daughter Antonia Ford, has kindly offered to provide legal advice to the Society in such matters.

Renaming of the Society

The Committee believe we should drop "British" from the name of the Society as nearly all the West Indies countries are independent and the use of "British" is now outdated and is deemed a deterrent to attracting members with BWI roots. Naming is likely to be dependent on whether we merge with the BCPSG – we have a couple of options in mind and again, it is the intention to present to BWISC members for endorsement, probably in 2023.

Objectives

It is proposed that we adjust our objectives now to: We promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the English-speaking islands that comprise the West Indies. Also included are Bermuda, the Guyanas and Belize, together with other adjacent countries that have a strong historical or geographical connection. This substitutes "English speaking" for "British"; the last part allows for the inclusion of aspects (mainly postal history) of other countries that impinge on our studies, particularly Danish, French and Dutch West Indies. This change was agreed by twelve members with 3 abstaining.

Meetings

- We have decided to try to introduce regular on-line Zoom meetings. The intention is to hold them twice a year mid-way between the physical meetings that we currently run. Susan Taylor has agreed to organise and she will be touting for people to make presentations. Please support the activity as it will help include non-UK members in our activities.
- Susan will also organise a physical meeting for us at Autumn Stampex on Saturday 1 October
- The BWISC has been offered a session at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain on Friday 9th September, in Birmingham. We have accepted as it will be a good opportunity to advertise ourselves. Susan, Simon and myself will organise the presentation and we can display 150 sheets of material. If anyone wishes to attend / provide sheets, please let Susan know.
- Finally, we need to start thinking about our 2023 Convention. Can you give your opinions to Susan about a suitable venue, e.g. should we return to the Red Lion in Basingstoke?

15. Other Business

Bulletin page size.

We intend to change the Bulletin paper size to US Letter, probably for March 2023

There were no other matters arising Steve closed the meeting and handed over to James Podger who commenced the 2022 Auction.

Susan Taylor 9 May 2022

MINUTES OF THE 67 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 12.30PM SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

	£'s	2021	2020
INCOME :			
Subscriptions		4,262	4,302
Publications - Sales less commissions		5,049	2,274
Auction donation (net of costs)		917	1,225
Other donations		26	-
TOTAL INCOME		10,254	7,801
EXPENDITURE :			
Bulletin - Printing & distribution costs	4,486		4,300
Less : Advertising	(1,631)	2,855	(1,768)
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs		4,705	5,084
Convention costs net of recovery		786	-
Other room hire & meeting costs		440	-
ABPS affiliation fee		288	288
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		82	72
Bank charges		7	-
Website		269	258
		9,432	8,234
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR YEAR	£'s	822	£'s (433)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021

ACCUMULATED FUND :			
Balance at 1st January 2021		18,341	18,953
Add : Surplus (Deficit) for the year		822	(433)
Exchange conversion profit (loss)		75	(179)
	£'s	19,238	£'s 18,341
REPRESENTED BY :			
Cash at banks		16,415	16,312
Debtors - amounts due to us		5,402	4,897
Prepaid expenses		225	225
		22,042	21,434
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(1,729)		(1,918)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(1,075)	(2,804)	(1,175)
	£'s	19,238	£'s 18,341

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2021 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2021 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 2022.