



## **TPO & Seapost Society**

Minutes of the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
held on Zoom  
on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 at 11 am.

Present: Julian Jones (chairman), Rob Wheeler (secretary), Clive Jones (treasurer) Keith Morris, Frank Scheer, Colin Lewis, Peter Hellberg, Chris Bartlett, Paul Baines, John Gilpin, Mike Dovey, Ken Mitchell and Iain Wells.

### **Apologies:**

Steve Ellis, Geoff Ellerton, Michael Sefi and Rick Martin.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the last (2022) AGM had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting as a true record; proposed Colin Lewis, seconded Frank Scheer. There were no matters arising.

### **Chairman's Report**

I am pleased to say that since our AGM in July 2022 the society is truly back to functioning as usual and your committee has even returned to physical face to face meetings in Cirencester and South Birmingham, which we enjoy. Also, our London meeting last autumn at the Union Jack Club near Waterloo station was well attended with a good selection of presentations by those who attended.

The hardworking committee members and the Journal editors and production manager have maintained their steady flow of materials and we have enjoyed attending fairs once more - with SWINPEX being a great success and MIDPEX just under our belts yesterday.

My thanks to the team that keeps the society running with great enthusiasm and continuous emails.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The income & expenditure account shows loss of £1060.38 compared with a loss of £446.31 for the previous year. Membership has almost held steady, with a decrease in subscription income of £48.50.

The Society achieved a profit on publication sales of £52.47, down from the previous figure of £194.49.

The Auction profit was £597.59 compared with a profit of £789 51 in the previous year. Ultimately, the success of the auction depends on members, both vendors and bidders. We have only a few vendors submitting lots, so need more variety.

The situation of ever increasing postage costs has had a small adverse impact on the Society, but there is no need for any action for the foreseeable future.

As a policy to protect the Society funds against inflation, the committee agreed to the placing of monies (£15K) on a 1 year fixed deposit. In a deteriorating money market, the rate 0.05% of was the best obtainable. The interest has yielded just £7.50 against the previous £180.99 in the final year of the 1.2% investment.

This year saw a decrease in bequests and donations, from £250.50 to £33.00, as the monies donated by committee members, especially Mike Dovey, from fees received articles written for Gibbons Stamp Monthly, has now run its course.

With added cost of our London meeting, the effect of all the above adverse impacts is that our accumulated fund has decreased by £1019.88 over the year to £22565.20. This is still a healthy situation, and it allows us to plan for, and protect, the long term interests of the Society.

Finally, I wish to thank Alan Codling for his long term service and diligence in auditing the year-end financial statements, since I took over as Treasurer in 2012. I offer my continuing service to the Society, which I am proud to serve.

Clive Jones.  
Treasurer,  
June 2023.

## Editor's Reports

### Managing Editor – Keith Morris

The magazine continues with a good mix of articles covering many subjects, however as always, we need more articles of a meatier content and pages. We need **more members to respond when your magazine appeals for information.**

I repeat from previous year's reports: remember that it's your journal and if your area of collecting hasn't been covered recently then your contribution is long overdue!

Thinking ahead 4 years to when I would like to **retire as Managing Editor of the Society magazine** (I joined the editorial team in 1998) we are looking to find and train where necessary, people to take on the various tasks which I undertake:

Prepare magazine for printing

Maintain membership database and prepare envelopes, fill and post magazine

Update annual cumulative index for the website

If you think you would like to be involved in any or all of the above – please get in touch with anyone on the committee who will discuss and answer any questions. The jobs when broken down are not onerous and do not take too much time or effort.

### Auctioneer's Report 2022-2023

Since the last AGM four completed auctions have been held with a fifth one pending and due to be completed on July 15<sup>th</sup>. A simplified chart of the results is shown in the table below.

TPO & Seapost Society Annual General Meeting Officer Reports for 2nd July 2023

TPO & SEAPOST SOCIETY AUCTION LOTS 2022-23				
Auction date	Total lots	Vendors	TPO/Railway	Seapost/ maritime
July, 2022	214+9	5	194+9	20
Sold	73		59	14
October, 2022	220	6	194	26
Sold	102		87	15
January, 2023	226 + 48	8	194 + 48	32
Sold	136		126	10
April, 2023	221 + 10	6	197 + 7	24 + 3
sold	110		88	22
July, 2023	215	6	194	21

The extras in the 'TOTAL LOTS' column refer to the following:-

*July 2022...GB operating files: January 2023...TPO duty neckties: April 2023...books*

Each auction realises around £900-£1200 of which 12½% is added to the Society's funds to pay for the magazine, postage and running costs, etc. There is still an imbalance between the number of TPO and Seapost items with the former being much more numerous than the latter. In addition, the majority of TPO items are of GB origin with very little of foreign or overseas interest.

I am coming to the end of a large batch of GB TPO offerings and what remains tends to be either duplication (of which there are quite a number) or of poor or damaged condition. I am most grateful to the few members who offer material for the auction (especially those who donate their realisations to the Society's benefit) but feel that there must be a lot more waiting to be 'dug out' from the 'spares, obsolete or change in interests' box. If you are unsure, please contact the auctioneer as to suitability.

There has been some interest in the ephemera material, magazine articles, photographs, etc which has been auctioned recently and I hope to develop this in future auctions. To paraphrase – more material is always required especially Seapost (which tends to do better), more overseas material the better to serve our members or offer something new and different and more vendors to help with the above.

Suggestions for improvement and development of the auction are always desired so please get involved if you are not seeing what you would wish to see.

Ken Mitchell (Hon. Auctioneer) June, 2023

### Librarian's Report

### Webmaster's Report

The website is kept up to date as both an advertising tool and a reference for members. A recent addition is a listing of South Africa - UK voyages 1850 to 1893. There are also ordering details for recent publications by members including one about railway lines of Prussia.

### Election of Officers

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
Chairman	Julian H Jones
Treasurer	Clive Jones
Secretary	Rob Wheeler
Auctioneer	Ken Mitchell

Librarian	Rick Martin
Webmaster	Julian H Jones
Managing Editor	Keith Morris
Railway Editor	Rick Martin
Maritime Editor	Nigel Grizzard

The officers were re-elected en-bloc, proposed Paul Baines, seconded P. Hellberg.

Thanks were offered to the Hon Auditor Alan Codling for his previous work and he was re-elected as Hon Auditor. Proposed C Jones, seconded Iain Wells.

**2024 AGM Venue and Date:** by Zoom on a Sunday in July 2023 to be advised.

**Any other Business:**

None had been notified to the secretary.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.40am