

TPO & Seapost Society

Minutes for the

Annual General Meeting

held by Zoom

on Sunday 5th July 2026 by Zoom at 2pm London time (BST)

Zoom details:

Topic: TPO & Seapost Society AGM

Time: July 5, 2026 02:00 PM London

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Meeting ID: 895 8568 0018

Passcode: 525085

Present: Julian H Jones, Clive Jones, Ken Mitchell, Keith Morris, Marc Oxley, Fred Jeffries, John Bushell.

1 **Apologies for absence**

Jan Kypast, Rick Martin, Iain Wells, Steven Harrison, Frank Scheer, Roger Dedman, Ian Baker, Rob Wheeler.

2 **Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved.

3 **Chairman's Report**

Your committee has been keeping the wheels turning for another year and while most of you cannot see the pistons moving, they have worked hard to continue to provide great member services: The Journal and the Auctions in particular backed up with meetings at a few stamp shows. I thank the team for their commitment.

4 **Treasurer's Report**

The income & expenditure account shows loss of £1256.35 compared with a loss of £1262.86 for the previous year. Membership has declined very slightly, with a decrease in subscription income of £41.24.

Journal expenses, plus postage, have decreased from £3623.67 to £3524.29. The ever-increasing postage costs charged for foreign mail has had a small adverse impact on the Society, as has the introduction of bank charges. There is no need for any action to raise subscriptions, due to a healthy bank balance.

The Society achieved a profit on publication/PEX sales of £139.12, similar to the previous figure of £151.83.

The Auction profit was £574.91 compared with a profit of £566 87 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.

As a policy to protect the Society funds against inflation, the committee agreed to the placing of monies (£15K) on a 3-year fixed deposit. In an improving money market, the rate 3.00% of was obtained in March 2023, up from the previous derisory rate of 0.05%, yielding an increase in interest of £450.00.

This year saw a decrease in bequests and donations, from £179.72 to £67.00.

The overall effect of all the above impacts is that our accumulated fund has decreased from £21047.57 to £20308.22. 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. Alan has now retired from his auditing role on the completion of this accounting year. He has been a great servant to the Society.

I offer my continuing service to the Society, which I am proud to serve.

Proposed – K Morris – Seconding Ken Mitchell



4a **Temporary Secretary's Report**

All enquiries which have come into the society have been either dealt with by the Secretary or raised with and dealt with by the Committee.

5 **Editor's Reports**

Managing Editor:

The Full-colour 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.

The following is a repeat of previous reports which had a zero response from members. I repeat them here in the hope that someone will take pity and make an effort to help the society to survive: -

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

Maritime:

Railway:

I am delving into former Editors unpublished files for material for the Journal, also bringing up to date previously published articles.

There is a small store of one- and two-page articles but as ever the Journal needs a series of Railway TPO or Mobile PO related articles to be used as a serial over two or three issues; not necessarily postmark orientated.

Unusual items / covers / postcards, written up, would be welcomed for inclusion in the Journal.

The Distribution manager, has, as ever been responsible for the wealth of material that comes his way and is passed on to the Railway editor.

6 **Auctioneer's Report**

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

TPO & SEAPO		ST SOCIETY		Auction results 2025-26	
Auction date	Total Lots	Vendors	TPO R/way	Maritime	Total
15 April 2025	224	6	110	124	£733.00
Sold	101		58	43	
15 July 2025	216	9	110	116	£1,290.00
Sold	96		47	49	
15 Oct 2025	225	6	127	98	£1,032.00
Sold	114		62	52	
15 January 2026	221	5	115	106	£1,109.01
Sold	98		61	37	
15 April 2025	225	8	110	115	£760.00
Sold	77		45	32	
15 July 2025	215	8	109	106	
Sold					

In general terms the auctions result in sales in the 40-50% region although they are quite variable and depend entirely upon what I am offered to sell. I am maintaining the number of lots to around the 220 mark this is becoming increasingly challenging.

A few members have reacted to my cry for more actionable material and sales have held up quite well especially for material which is unusual or rarely seen.

I have had some excellent offerings of maritime material for which I am extremely grateful but am finding that the TPO/railway side of things is relatively static and more variety is required for future progress.

Once again, I must ask that members look into their archives to see if there is anything they may wish to offer in our auctions – good material always sells, our commission rate is very low and all of it contributes to the continued successful running of the Society.

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

7 **Librarian's Report**

Since the last AGM, there have been no calls on the library and no requests for Information from within the library.

In the past the main request was for the Salles series of "Maritime Français". The books seem to be very popular and are a great asset to the Society.

With the cost of postage, it is easier and quicker to scan an article or reference, from a book in the library and e-mail it or post a photocopy.

Talking to the Secretary of a Society with similar interests as our Society; she stated that nearly all relevant information need for research in her collecting area, can be found online.

Nothing new has been added to the library since the last AGM.

Meting agreed that the Management Committee should review and cull more titles from the Library if agreed.

8 **Webmaster's Report**

This past year has been less stressful than the year before when we changed ISP. We have done a better job of mentioning recent updates to the website in each edition of the Journal – to help members check back for items they may have missed.

We have added US Seapost cover images from "Seaposts of the USA" by Roger Hosking; The Holyhead and Kingstown Mail Service Contract 11 November 1920 [The H&K Packet Contract with LNWR]; a recent article by Mike Dovey originally published in the Gibbons Stamp Monthly; and the Birmingham Ship Letter Census by member Ian Baker has been updated as of May 2026. Member Frank R. Scheer has provided many articles relating to American Railroads for the Research Resources page of the website. Such contributions by members provide a wealth of information not otherwise available. My thanks go to them for their contributions.

9 **Election of Officers**

All nominated by Marc Oxley Seconded John Bushell – Carried unanimously

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>
Chairman	Julian H Jones
Treasurer	Clive Jones
Secretary	
Auctioneer	Ken Mitchell
Librarian	Rick Martin
Webmaster	Julian H Jones
Managing Editor	Keith Morris
Railway Editor	Rick Martin
Maritime Editor	Nigel Grizzard

10 **Hon Auditor**

Paul Waldron was proposed by Clive and approved by the meeting.

11 **2027 AGM Venue and Date**
To be advised

12 **Any other Business as Notified to the Committee**
No business advised

Meeting closed at 14.35