

TPO & Seapost Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at MIDPEX
on Saturday 6th July, 2019 at 1.00pm



Present: J Jones (Chairman); C Jones (Treasurer); K Morris (Acting Secretary); R Martin; J Prior; C Alexander. P Hellberg

1 **Apologies**

M Dovey, R Wheeler, K Mitchel, G Ellerton, C Bartlett, R Dedman

2 **Minutes**

Minutes of the 2018 AGM had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting as a true record. There were no matters arising. Proposed: R Martin; Seconded J Prior

3 **Chairman's Report**

The Society has had another satisfactory year with two committee meetings last autumn and this spring. So, I wish immediately to thank committee members for their help in keeping the society functioning in all aspects. Especially welcome to the team is Ken Mitchell as Auction manager. Mike Dovey continues to be our lead in attending stamp fairs to keep the flag flying, with assistance from the other committee members, and in interfacing Stanley Gibbons' GSM to ensure a flow of articles aimed at putting the society's name in front of stamp collectors who might be persuaded to join up. Keith Morris and Rick Martin keep the Journal on stream while Clive Jones ensures we remain on a financial even keel. Rob Wheeler ensures we are properly documented and is also behind a proposed meeting 15th February next year in London in lieu of the Spring STAMPEX. There is a show and tell immediately after this meeting in this room.

4 **Treasurer's Report**

The income & expenditure account shows loss of £602.84 compared with a surplus of £764.23 for the previous year. Membership has declined slightly, with a reduction in subscription income of £310.

The Society achieved a profit on publication sales of £125.87, down from the previous figure of £320.69.

Mike Dovey has done a magnificent job with the Auction over the years; but now that Mike has retired and material that he had for sale is virtually exhausted, the Auction profit was £417.84 compared with a profit of £1179.61 in the previous year.

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 (£13K) on a fixed 3 year deposit. In a deteriorating money market, a 3 year rate of 1.57% was the best obtainable, yielding £204.10.

This year also saw a decrease in bequests and donations, but still totalling over £630. The main sources are from collections bequeathed for sale to the Society from the Walter Izzard collection (now over £6.7K in total); and a further £100 each from the collections of Gene Peterson & Martin Longseth & £53 from the estate of Roger Hosking. Many thanks go not only to our benefactors; but, to Mike Dovey for much work behind the scenes in converting donated material into currency at PEXes. A further £195.69 has been donated by members of the committee from fees received for articles written for Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

Despite increased committee mileage costs, and some negative trends highlighted above, the effect of all the above is that our accumulated fund has increased by £234 over the year. This is a very 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 continuing long-term efforts in auditing the year-end financial statements.

5 **Editor's Reports**

Managing Editor:

The magazine continues with a good mix of articles covering many subject, however as always, we need more articles of a meatier content and pages.

The Society are currently submitting articles to Stanley Gibbons on a regular basis for publication in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, thereby bringing our Society to the attentions of a wider public and hopefully gaining a few new members from the effort. Your committee are now beginning to run short of ideas and if you would like to contribute an article – please get in touch with any member of the Committee.

Maritime:

We have enough material for the next couple of issues but the pool of contributors is very shallow, meaning that some topics get a lot of coverage. We do need a wider variety of material and all maritime-inclined members are urged to make a contribution. It doesn't have to be an in-depth study (although these are always welcome); a scan of an interesting cover and a few notes may set off a chain reaction amongst other members. Remember that it's your journal and if your area of collecting hasn't been covered recently then your contribution is overdue!

Railway:

The last four issues of "TPO" have been a mixture of articles on the railway "section", ranging from the routes of the current TPOs in Russia, the temporary rubber stamps used on the Up Special in the 1930s; mails posted into trams and information about current UK Mobile or "Outreach" post offices

As no brickbats, complaints or corrections have been received by the editor, it can be assumed that perhaps we are keeping the some of the membership satisfied and happy.

Is there an interest in the Journal for TPO ephemera other than items just showing postmarks?

When Harold Wilson collected all his TPO postmark information into his book published in 1996, he said at the time that there were still TPO marks to be found, and they are as the Journal has published new marks for some British TPOs and also extended their dates of usage.

Much of the material is generated by the editorial team and we would welcome 10 to 12 page articles, to be spread over two to three issues -

especially on overseas TPOs (outside the British Isles)

In the past it has suggested that there is a potential for updating articles that have been previously published in the Journal, especially from countries that no longer have a TPO service. This could provide plenty of material plus the ongoing serials.

6 **Auctioneer's Report**

Bearing in mind that we have not even had our first auction in the post-Dovey era (to whom we must all extend our be grateful thanks for his long term efforts) this is less a report rather a statement of where we are at this present moment.

The first auction is due to be published in the September/October journal which means the auction list has to be with the Production Editor during the first week of August. As I am away for a month from mid-June to mid-July, time is therefore at a premium for me.

At the present time (end of May) I have material for 65 railway lots and 77 with Seapost interest. As my target was hoping to reach 100 of each, I am falling a little short.

Most of the auction material I do have has been offered by members of the Society Committee for which I am grateful, but more is required if it is to be a success.

The auction is provided as a service to members only and its success, or lack of it, will be largely down to the general membership getting involved as vendors as well as buyers.

In consequence, if there are any more offers of material for inclusion in the first auction, it would need to be sent to my home address by mid-July in order to allow me sufficient time to be able to lot it correctly and send it to Keith Morris when I return from holiday.

To encourage participation the fee for vendors has been reduced to 12½% which compares favourably with societies of a similar size and importance. The minimum reserve for each lot has been set at £5 in a bid to increase and improve the quality of lots in the auction as most modern material (especially that which is railway orientated) is very common and readily available cheaply on internet and other sites. Apart from the less common material from the modern period we are attempting to discourage placing such items in the auction.

I hope the venture will be a success so, please look into your dusty boxes, cobwebby corners and old albums to see if you have anything to offer, and make the auction the success it could, and should, be. I look forward to your interest and participation.

7 **Librarian's Report**

I took the society's library over from Peter Silvester in 1998.

Until the beginning of 2007 the library was used on a frequent (ie at least 4 requests per month) basis. With the take up of broadband and the increase in postage rates, requests began to fall away to the extent that since March 2007 there have been 76 requests for title (6.4 titles per year).

The librarian then presented a list of books highlighting the most popular requests from the library. Some other books have been taken out, usually by new members, presumably to copy the information for their own collecting interests.

As Librarian I now deal mainly with research and copying/scanning requests for members.

8 **Webmaster's Report**

The website remains up to date and usable even on small screen mobile devices after a binge of recoding some 90 older files back in May. We intend that the website is a standing advert in digital space as well as a reference for members. Since last year we have added more reference resources provided mostly by members. Some may be quite niche and not all make readable articles, but none the less are valuable pieces of philatelic reference there for all to enjoy if it fits with their own particular interests. So, I recommend looking at our Article and Resources web page, linked from the home page. Members should look at the home page at least once a quarter. More frequently if you want to check which stamp shows we are attending, and you can't find your latest Journal.

9 **Election of Officers**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</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	Vacant		

The Committee were proposed and voted for en-bloc, Proposed: C Alexander; Seconded: P Hellberg

9a **Co-opted Officer**

M Dovey was co-opted as Publicity Officer. Proposed: P Hellberg; Seconded J Prior

10 **Hon Auditor**

Thanks, were offered to the Hon Auditor Alan Codling for his previous work and he was re-elected as Hon Auditor. Proposed: J Prior; Seconded: C Alexander.

11 **2020 AGM Venue and Date**

SWINPEX – date to be advised

12 **Any other Business as Notified to the Committee**

There was no Any other Business

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.50pm

Following the AGM - Peter Hellberg displayed Crown Post Horn cancels on Norwegian postal steamers and Rick Martin complemented that with Denmark/Norway ship cachets. Clive Jones showed a definitive set of Hull Sorting Tender markings and Julian Jones showed US sailing packet transatlantic mail 1816 to 1840.