

**Bird Stamp Society**

**Founded 1986**

**Annual General Meeting**

**(Virtual) Held via WhatsApp Conferencing**

**Date: Tuesday, 10th October 2023**

**MINUTES**

**Attending via WhatsApp video:**

Tony Statham – Chair

Mel West – General Secretary

Steve Strauss – Flight Editor

Gilly Christmas – Website Editor

**Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Graham Horsman (Treasurer & Membership Secretary) who was unwell, and Philip Cant (Packet Secretary) who was unable to attend.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**ITEM. 1 - Chair’s Opening Statement**

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| 1a - Tony Statham (Chair) opened the meeting with a short statement. As in previous Annual General Meetings, he briefly reflected on the past year for the Society, and thanked all Committee members for their work and support.  1b - He observed that whilst again it was necessary to hold the AGM via electronic media, both he and Committee were aware that some older members did not possess the technology or were unwilling to use this media. However, he noted that in the past few members had attended AGMs in person and that the Society hoped that a report in Flight magazine would be read by members and perhaps encourage feedback.  1c – Whilst not in his prepared statement, Tony also regretted the continued absence of an Auction Secretary, and noted that it had been a good source for additional philatelic material.  1d - A copy of the full text of the Chair’s Annual Statement is attached as Appendix A below. |

**ITEM. 2 - Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

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| 2a - The minutes of the (Virtual) AGM held on Friday, 21st October 2022, were noted and agreed as a true record.  2b – A summary of the main points arising from those minutes were shared with all members in the December 2022 edition of Flight magazine, and a full copy of the minutes made available to members via the Society’s website. Future copies of AGM minutes would continue to be placed on the website. |

**ITEM. 3 - Any Matters Arising**

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| There were no matters arising. |

**ITEM. 4 - Election of Committee & Additional Committee Member Role**

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| 4a – In the absence of any other members seeking to take on the existing Committee roles, it was agreed that Tony Statham would remain as Chair with Doug Blake as Deputy Chair, Mel West as General Secretary, Graham Horsman as Treasurer, Steve Strauss as Flight Editor, Gilly Christmas as Website Editor, Philip Cant as Packet Secretary and Roger Chapman as New Listings Advisor.  4b – Committee noted the resignation of Steven Ardron earlier this year as Membership Secretary. Graham Horsman resumed this role following this resignation in addition to that of Treasurer and we thanked him for now undertaking these dual duties.  4c – Committee had received an offer of assistance from member Dr Redwan Al-Karim Bhuiyan a few months ago. He has agreed to accept the role of Assistant/Technical Editor of Flight with responsibility for a regular half or one page contribution to the magazine, a possible column of answering member’s technical philatelic queries, as well as generally assisting the Editor in preparing Flight for publication. In addition to being a noted publisher of philatelic material, Dr Redwan is an active medical practitioner based in Fiji and likes to be referred to as Doctor Heart. Committee has approved Dr Redwan joining Committee and formally welcomed him.  4d – There was a brief discussion about the lack of other members coming forward to undertake Committee roles as current Committee members have been in post for some time. Whilst it was noted that other Societies have experienced the same problems, it was agreed that the Society should nevertheless continue to encourage members to take on existing Committee roles if possible. |

**ITEM. 5 - End of Financial Year Accounts & financial report**

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| 5a – The end of year accounts for the financial year 2022/2023 had been prepared by our Treasurer, Graham Horsman, and published in the September edition of Flight magazine. One member, Colin Undrill, had contacted the Society to advise that there was a typographical error in the Assets section of the financial accounts balance sheet that had been printed as £17,372 but should have read as **£19,372.** The balance sheet has now been amended with the correct figure. Committee thanked Colin Undrill for advising on this matter.  5b – Following the amendment the accounts were approved as a true record of the Society’s financial position. The amendment will be advised to members in December Flight. There were no further matters arising from the financial statement or from the Treasurers accompanying report for the AGM.  5c – A copy of both the amended Balance sheet as at 31st July 2023, as well as the Treasurer’s AGM report dated 10th October 2023 are attached to the minutes as Appendices B and C. |

**ITEM. 6 - Membership Secretary Report**

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| 6a – As Membership Secretary, Graham Horsman had provided a short report for the AGM outlining the current membership situation for the Society. It advised that at the end of July 2023 the Society had lost 12 members through resignations and more recently learnt of the death of Peter Harris, a long-standing member; a confirmed reduction in membership of thirteen.  6b- From the twelve resignations the following reasons were attributed:   * Stopped collecting/sold their collections – 5 * Suffering ill health or had family issues – 4 * No reasons provided - 3   Interestingly, none of the resignations indicated cost of living factors, although this might be a contributing element for those who have not renewed their subscriptions and contacted the Society to date.  6c – Membership of the Society now technically stands at 151 plus two additional Associate members. However, 9 renewals are still outstanding and these memberships will be deemed to lapse if there is no further contact by 30th November 2023. The report suggested that without those renewals, membership would then be predicted to fall to 144.  6d – The report flagged up a concern that two of the Society’s South African members, one of whom is long-standing, had not renewed their membership and, uncharacteristically, not responded to attempts to contact them. It was felt that this may be related to the current postal and communication issues within the country  6e – From a predicted membership of 144, 71 (49.3%) receive the hard copy of Flight, and 73 (50.7%) the pdf version. There are three family members, one of whom receives and shares just one hard copy, while the other two families receive and share Flight electronically.  6f – The report concluded by noting that every year the Membership Secretary had needed to spend a considerable amount of time chasing members who had not renewed their subscriptions promptly or contacted the Society to advise on their intentions. This was despite it being clearly advertised that membership renewals were always effective from the 1st August each year.  6g – Committee accepted the report and thanked Graham for compiling it. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix D. |

**ITEM. 7 – Flight Magazine Editor’s Report**

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| 7a – Flight Editor Steve Strauss, provided a large report that gave content analysis on issues from December 2022, but crucially, also outlined his intentions for future editions. The report indicated that the following items were now to be made into regular or semi-regular features for Flight:   * The “XX Years Ago” page introduced this year (quarterly or at least six monthly); * Upcoming stamp shows and exhibitions (every alternate issue); * Dr Heart’s column with content to be still be agreed and finalised (every issue); * Replace the Website Editor’s Report with a regular quarterly Website News & Notes section.   7b – The report also proposed that Roger Chapman would be asked if it was possible to provide his new issues listing a little earlier than the Flight preparation deadline and then have the listing posted on the website ahead of the Flight edition. The intention is that this might encourage more members to use the website as the listing is popular and eagerly sought by a number of members.  7c – Committee expressed the view that Flight editions were now produced to a very high and professional standard and noted that feedback from members had indicated that the magazine was regarded as good value for money.  7d – Steve was thanked for his report and a copy is attached as Appendix E. |

**ITEM. 8 – Website Editor’s Report**

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| 8a – Gilly Christmas, as Website Editor, had prepared a brief but comprehensive report on the current position with the Society’s website. The report included statistics on usage, plus updates on actions identified at the previous AGM.  8b – The report noted that currently the Society has 115 registered users (just over 75% of current membership). However, depressingly, of these registered users 24 had never logged in since the creation of the website (20.9%). Of those who had logged in, 14 only did so over two years ago in 2021 (12.2%), 8 last logged in during 2022 (7%), and 53 (46%) had logged in prior to July 2023, but that most of those visits had been to only download their copy of Flight magazine.  8c – The report advised that general usage of the website remains low, despite being packed with information to support members. It noted that there had been 187 visits by individuals during the previous 30 days prior to the AGM. Analysis of those visits were broken down as follows:   * Principal pages visited: Books & Catalogues; Flight Back Issues; Bird Stamps of the 1960s; Member Home Page; Website Updates; BSS Blog. Bird photos on public site (12th); Member Gallery (19th). * Top Countries Visiting:UK; Russia (bots); USA; Netherlands; France; India; Trinidad & Tobago; New Zealand; Poland; Spain. * Medium Used to Visit website: predominantly Desktop (135 users); Mobile (44); Tablet (8). * Media used for visits: Google Search; Direct; Yandex; Bing; referrals from bird-stamps.org.   8d – Of actions identified from the Website Editor’s report at the last AGM in 2022, the current report provided the following updates:-    Action Item 8d   * The revamp of the library section remains outstanding and requires further thought/input in terms of content; * Some further blogs have been added, but we remain short of content; * The Home Page remains to be tackled; * Work on a Junior Section is now being developed. * Basic member information has been uploaded from the Membership Secretary.   Action Item 8g   * Flight magazine back-copies –All have now been loaded onto the website and any personal details of members removed/anonymised. Work is still being undertaken to anonymise recent issues.   Action Item 8h   * Members questionnaire on website usage – this is still outstanding; * Bourse page – this has now been loaded onto the website and is operational; * News section via Member Home page – This is now available, but is not working well as it is again lacking suitable content from members.   8e - The report concludes that the low usage of the website and the failure of members to feedback ideas despite frequent requests to do so is dispiriting. The forum on the website is the vehicle available for members to share ideas and views but remains unused and as a consequence we have very little idea what members actually want from the Society.  8f – Committee were regrettably unable to discuss the issues raised due to shortage of time. It was agreed that a questionnaire on website usage is now overdue and that the issues should be discussed further beyond the AGM.  8g – Gilly was thanked for her report and a copy is attached as Appendix F. |

**ITEM 9 - Packet Secretary’s report**

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| 9a - Whilst unable to attend, a very brief note and financial statement on packet sales had been prepared by Philip Cant and provided to Committee. Graham Horsman had advised that the packet accounts are comparatively more complex than those of the Society and that there are many incidental expenses to running a packet (for example, postage, insurance, etc) which are not recovered from members.    9b – Very simply, the key elements of packet sales to the end of July 2023 are as follows:-   * Net income to the Society (after deductions of payments to vendors, insurance, etc): £206.87 * Number of circuits operating with 10 books per packet: 5 * Number of circuits operating with 8 books per packet: 1 * Number of members using the packet facility: 40. This is a fall of 7 (nearly 15%) from the previous financial year. \*(Note: overseas and associate members are not able to use the packet arrangement). * There is a sense that members who have joined the Society during the past year are not, for some reason, taking up the option of joining the packet scheme.   9c - A copy of the Packet financial statement is attached as Appendix G. |

**ITEM 10 – Additional Matters**

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| 10a – Steve Strauss raised the issue of whether the Society had considered offering members the opportunity to purchase Life Membership. Currently Life Membership is held by only a handful of individuals as a reward for exceptional service to the Society. However, occasionally there had been enquiries from members over whether a life membership option was available to purchase.  10b – It was noted that if taken forward, both the number of years and purchase rate would need to be carefully considered. As there was insufficient time to discuss this item in detail, it was agreed that further thought should be given to a Life Membership rate and a costed proposal developed by Committee outside of the AGM. |

Tony

Tony Statham

**Chair**

Mel

Mel West

**General Secretary**

**APPENDIX A**

**Chairs’ Annual Statement - 2023**

It has again been decided for us to hold the AGM on a “virtual” basis using the “What’s App.” facility although the committee remains aware that some of our older members do not have the technology nor perhaps the inclination to attend the meeting as such. History has shown that few people attend the AGM but we trust the printed version in our magazine Flight will provide an adequate reference for the record.

I am, as usual, hugely grateful for all the hard work put in by members of the committee to keep the society alive and well and I think their voluntary contributions are a testimony to the on-going success of our group regardless of other pressures they may have in their daily lives. Graham Horsman has maintained a stalwart devotion to the Membership and Treasury roles while Mel West our General Secretary has managed a consistent overall perspective on our efforts with more than adequate input by Gilly Christmas managing the website and Steven Strauss handling the very visible profile of the society through the Flight magazine. Last and not least, my thanks to Paula and Philip Cant for providing access to the packet and e-packet schemes that provide our members with a valuable “shop” for new issues and many other bird stamps that may have escaped their attention.

The printing presses have again been less active in issuing new bird stamps but many third world countries still top the list for ornithological subjects and I am sure most members have plenty of options to add to their collections whatever focus they may pursue. I wish you all happy collecting and trust the Bird Stamp Society still offers good value for our members.

Tony Statham

**Chair**

**APPENDIX B**

**Final Accounts for Financial Year Ended 31st July 2023**

**Year End 31/07/22** **Year End 31/07/23**

**INCOME INCOME**

£ £ £ £

Subscriptions: Subscriptions:

66 x UK @ £15 rate 1300 64 x UK @ £20 rate (Note 1) 1295

4 x Europe @ £30 rate 120 5 x Europe @ £30 rate 150

3 x Rest of World @ £35 rate 105 3 x Rest of World @ £35 rate 105

67 x Email @ £5 rate 335 1860 67 x Email @ £5 rate 335

Donations 67 Donations 85

Interest 2 Interest **(Note 2)** 85

Packet: Excess of I/E 309 Packet Excess of I/E **(Note 3)**  690

Sales of Donated stamps 19

**Total Income** 2238 **Total Income** **2764**

**EXPENDITURE EXPENDITURE**

Flight (printing) 1152 Flight (printing) **(Note 4)**  1448

Flight (postage) 575 Flight (postage)  **(Note 4)**  672

Flight – Envelopes/labels 16

Postage Treasurer 11 Postage Treasurer 10

Subs Adjustment FY20/21 5 Committee Members Exps **(Note 5)** 33

Refund Subscriptions FY22/23

**(Note 1)** 25

Printing subs renewal form 28 Printing subs renewal form 28

Postage & stationery 12 Postage & Stationery -

BTA Subscriptions 20 BTA Subscriptions **(Note 6)**  -

Website Maintenance FY21/22 60 Website Fees 61

Paypal Fees **(Note 7)** 4

**Total Expenditure** **1863** **Total Expenditure** **2297**

**EXCESS OF E/I 375 EXCESS OF I/E 467**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

**ASSETS @ 31/07/22 ASSETS**

£ £

Cash at Bank (Current Account) 16 Cash at Bank (Current account) 6

(Deposit Account) 19293 (Deposit account) 20339

Postage stock of stamps 63

**19372** **20345**

**LIABILITIES 31/07/22 LIABILITIES**

Subscriptions paid in advance FY 22/23 Subscriptions paid in advance FY22/23

(Note 8)

UK Members @ £20 rate 400 UK Members @ £20 rate 340

European Members @ £30 rate 90 European Members @ £30 rate 120

Rest of World Members @ £35 rate 70 Rest of World Members @ £35 rate 122

Email (PDF) @ £5 rate 80 PDF @ £5 rate 150

Subs paid in advance FY23/24 20 Subs paid in advance FY24/25 10

Subs paid in advance FY24/25 10

Packet 1695 Packet 4129

**2365**  **4871**

**15007 15474**

**ACCUMULATED FUNDS 31/07/22**

Balance @ 1 Aug 20 14632 Balance @ 1 Aug 21 15007

Less Expenditure over Income  **375**  PlusIncome overExpenditure 467

**15007 15474**

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31 July 2022 Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31 July 2023

Balances as per bank statement 19309 Balances as per bank statement 20345

Balances as per Treasurer’s cash book 19309 Balances as per Treasurer’s cash book 20345

**Notes:**

**Note 1:** Although subscription income for the £20 rate shows £1295 there were a number of under/overpayments so refunds equating to £25 was made in year. The net income was therefore £1270 however 64 x £20 = £1280 and the £10 difference is for a £10 refund made to a member who had a stroke mid-year and had to resign. The committee decided to refund this member half of his subscription. Included in the £1295 was a standing order subscription of £15 on 1 October from a member who had been asked to increase his subscription and change the date to 1 Aug several times. He was advised by recorded delivery letter which he signed for, to increase his subscription to £20 otherwise his membership would be terminated. This he failed to do so his standing order payment was refunded.

**Note 2** – Bank Interest – There has been a substantial increase of the % of interest that banks pay to customers. Members will note that last year we received £2; this year £85!

**Note 3** – The packet continues to thrive and this is reflected in the excess of income of expenditure. Whilst the balance on the account is £4129 this, when paid, will generate a further £550 in vendor’s commission & recouped insurance from vendors. It is anticipated that a payment to vendors will be made in the first few weeks of the new financial year.

**Note 4** – Subscription income, Printing & Postage of Flight – The total subscription income for the year was £1885 however the printing & postage of Flight was £2120 leaving the Society with a shortfall of £235. This Financial Year has been one whereby the cost of living has gone through the roof so a shortfall was anticipated. The Society has an increased working capital which now stands at £15474. We will never spend this so the Committee decided at the 2022 AGM to cover any shortfall in subscription income. The shortfall is more than covered by the Packet’s excess of Income/Expenditure, donations & bank interest

**Note 5** – Committee Members Expenses – Members will note that there has been an increase in expenses incurred by the Committee. The expenses paid out this year were ‘one-offs’ and included the return of old Flight magazines to one of our members. These magazines have been scanned by Gilly’s husband and uploaded onto our website. There was also Next Day Delivery postal charges for membership records which were sent to Gilly for cross checking. The records were held on disc and password protected so 2 x packages were sent.

**Note 6** – British Thematic Association (BTA) Subscription. Our subscription renewal fell due in February however no renewal was received. Despite sending emails and making phone calls I could not track down anyone in the BTA and if I am honest it is not my responsibility to keep chasing the BTA.

**Note 7** – Paypal Fees – There are a lot of members who pay their £5 subscription by Paypal. For those living outside the UK it is not always possible for them to use the ‘Pay Family or Friend’ option.

**Note 8** - I would like to thank all those members who renewed their subscriptions early – a total of £742 is recorded under ‘subs paid in advance’ in the accounts. Steve Strauss, our Editor, has been hard at work attracting new members one of whom was an 8 x year girl. As a junior this member is entitled to pay half fees which was £17.50 and due to rounding has been recorded in our Subs in Advance @ £17 hence £122 is recorded.

Graham Horsman

**Treasurer**

**APPENDIX C**

**Treasurer’s Report**

As an update prior to the AGM, at the 1st October 2023 the Society has bank balances of:

Current £62.78

Deposit £21,081.33

**Total £21,144.11**

I should note that the bank has a balance of £21,164.11; the difference of £20 is the £20 cheque paid to a member that has yet to be presented.

The Packet has a balance of £4,404.82, however this includes Commission and Insurance. When payments to vendors are made, the bank is credited with the actual amount paid out (a) and the Commission account (b) & Insurance account (c) are credited with the amounts recovered from vendors. The Packet is reduced (Debited) with the total of (a) (b) & (c). I am expecting the Packet Secretary to request a payment shortly. The annual insurance from our new insurance provider was only £71.04, which is slightly less than that charged by our old company. This sum will easily be recouped from our vendors.

Bank Interest that we receive has increased significantly and at the end of the last FY we received £84.64. This FY, assuming a steady interest rate, the amount we will receive will be close to £160.

Flight – we are well aware that the hard copy recipients are subsidized as we have purposely done this. The cost of living crisis coupled with our significant bank balance allows us to do this without any fear of winding down our assets. The £5 .pdf rate + Bank Interest + Packet commission is anticipated to be more than the subsidy as witnessed by the excess of Income over Expenditure as at 31 July 2023 of £467. The Printing costs for Flight have not risen in line with other cost of living increases; this is somewhat surprising. Our September invoice for Flight was £361 for 85 x copies @ 40 pages per copy. 1 x copy of flight cost £4.25 which if this stayed roughly the same rate for the remainder of this FY would be £17 per member.

Postage will always increase at least once per year. The postage costs for our September Flight was as follows:

* Postage - UK £1.85 x 4 = £7.40 + Flight £17 – Subscription £20 = subsidy of £4.40
* EU - £4.95 x 4 = £19.80 + Flight £17 – Subscription £30 = subsidy of £6.80
* Rest of world - Canada £6.40 x 4 = £25.60 + Flight £17 – Subscription of £35 = £7.60
* Rest of world - USA £6.55 x 4 = £26.20 + Flight £17 – Subscription of £35 = £8.20

We have 74 x members who are on the hard copy list however 1 x member pays an additional subscription as he receives 2 x copies. There are 3 x members who do not receive Flight which leaves 72 who are sent copies. There are 3 x members on this list who have yet to renew their subscription. Gilly adjusts the number of copies she orders and we must have spare copies for new members who opt for a hard copy. Of the 13 x new members we gained since 1 Aug 22, 5 x receive hard copy Flight.

There are 7 x Life Members so we send out ‘free’ hard copies to 5 x Life members @ a cost £125 pa. The numbers who receive hard copy by Postal Zone are as follows:

* UK - 62\* Europe x 5,
* Canada x 1,
* USA x 4\*\*

The worst case scenario for the UK members is that all 3 x members will not renew so only 59 would be sent out. This include the 5 x Life Members. The total subsidy for UK members, assuming costs remain & numbers remain as is will be £384.60. This will inevitably increase as new members join and postage costs rise so £400 is estimated.

European members are subsidized by £34. Our Canadian member is subsidized by £7.60. The USA membership is slightly skewed as one of the members is a junior and thus only pays the ½ rate and Steve receives 2 x copies but he does pay additional subscription – the subsidy for the USA members is about £40. Total subsidy per year is about £475.

Our pdf rate of £5 is more or less ‘free’ money as it costs nothing other than time and effort to distribute their Flight. A small proportion of the subscription for all members is to offset our day to day running expenses – these are about £120 – Website Fees, Committee expenses for postage/stationary.

Our pdf members total 79 however discounting Life Members, the 2nd Family Member & Associate Members our .pdf income is 71 x £5 or £355. However… there are 6 .pdf members who have yet to renew their subscription so the worst case scenario is that we will lose £30 so the income could be as low as £325. I do expect new members to join and a proportion of these will pay the .pdf rate. Whilst this is all rather complicated it would be impossible to set a subscription rate that is fair to all.

Subscriptions - After several attempts I gave up trying to establish contact with the British Thematic Association so no subscription was paid in the last FY.

Finally I have received observations on the 2022 End of Year Accounts – these were basically all typos. It was however refreshing to receive comments and responses to both members have been provided.

Graham Horsman

**Treasurer**

**APPENDIX D**

**Membership Secretary’s Report**

As at 29th September 2023 we have 151 members of which 9 have yet to renew their subscriptions. They have all had 3 reminders which has been the standard practice for many years. All have been made aware that if they do not renew by 30th November they will be deemed to have lapsed their membership. They have not been sent their September copy of Flight, but will receive them if they renew. As a Society, I believe we put more effort into contacting members with regard to their subscription than most other Societies and you can only try so many times. Of those still to renew, three members receive hard copy Flight and six receive the pdf version.

What is very puzzling is that we have two South African members and one of those is a long standing member. He has a son in the UK who paid the subscriptions. Unfortunately, I have no contact details for the son. Neither have responded to the emailed renewal form or the two reminders that they have been sent. I am well aware that South African communications are not functioning well, especially their mail service. There is still some glimmer of hope that they will eventually re-establish contact.

One UK member who has yet to pay spends the summer months travelling the UK extensively. He eventually renewed last year in February. In my communication with him I suggested that he may wish to set up a standing order for his hard copy @ £20 with an effective date of 1st August but still pay his overdue subscription by cheque.

The worst case scenario, if none of those late payers renew and there are no new membership applications is a ‘predicted’ membership of 144 of which 71 members will be on the hard copy rate and 73 will receive the pdf version. That said, one of the life members who receives a hard copy has requested that she no longer receives a copy. We also have three family memberships, one family receives a single hard copy, while the other two families each receive a single pdf. We also have one member who receives and pays for two hard copies.

The total of resignations/deaths recorded at 31st July 2023 was 12 and since then we have lost Peter Harris who sadly died recently. Of the 12 who have resigned, 4 suffered ill health/had family issues and 5 have sold off their collection or no longer collect stamps. The other three did not give a reason.

Sadly, I have to report that a considerable amount of time is spent each year contacting members over the renewal of their subscriptions and receiving absolutely no response.

Graham Horsman

**Membership Secretary**

**APPENDIX E**

**Flight Magazine Editor’s Report**

This report covers observations, new features and proposals following the December 2022, March 2023, June 2023, September 2023, and December 2023 editions of Flight.

**Proposals for future editions:**

1. The Bourse page (perhaps Bourse pages in the future), which started in the September 2022 Flight, is now a regular feature, as is the Corrections, Addenda, and Notes Added in Proof penultimate page, which also started in the September 2022 Flight (originally as Corrections and Notes Added in Proof).
2. Tino's Riddles, which started with the March 2022 Flight, will run until the June 2024 Flight (he has said that there will only be 10 Riddles).
3. I would like to make the XX Years Ago this Month page, which started with the December 2022 Flight, a regular or semi-regular feature in every Flight.
4. I intend to make the Upcoming Stamp Shows, Fairs, & Exhibitions page, which started with the March 2023 Flight, a regular feature in every other Flight (i.e., every March and September Flights).
5. Dr. Heart's Assistant Editor's column will become a regular feature.
6. Roger Chapman's lists ran to 3, 5, 7, and 6 pages in the last four Flights (starting with the December 2022 Flight). I have asked Roger to send the lists to me before the middle of the month before the upcoming Flight is published so I can send PDFs of those pages in the upcoming Flight to Gilly to post on the BSS Website. Since his lists may be the most important part of each Flight for many members, we hope posting Roger's lists a few weeks before the next Flight is ready for distribution will result in a few more members visiting the website (and hopefully using other parts of the Website as long as they are logged in). We shall see.
7. I would also like to make Gilly's Website News & Notes a regular feature in Flight, to also encourage more use of the Website. This would mean moving the former Website Editor's Report from Committee Report pages to a separate page to draw more attention to it.

As an estimate of the 'usual' pages tentatively committed to the next few issues of Flight I have prepared the following outline:

* Front matter (pages 1 and 2),
* TOC, & Editorial page: 4 pages;
* Website News & Notes, ½ or 1 page (depending on how much Gilly wants to write);
* Committee Reports, 2–5 pages, depending on the issue (average 3.5 pages)
* Dr. Heart's Ass't Editor's column, ½ or 1 page (Dr. Redwan prefers to be called Dr. Heart);
* Tino's Riddle, 1 page (or a little less sometimes);
* Postbag, usually at least 1 page;
* Bourse, 1 page for now;
* XX Years Ago this Month, 1–2 pages;
* Shows, Fairs, & Exhibitions, 1 page or 0 pages (0 pages in December & June Flights);
* Roger's New Issues lists, an average of 5 pages;
* Corrections, Addenda, & Notes Added in Proof, 1 page (sometimes a little less)
* Back cover (Dealer Ads), 1 page

**Total:** an average of approximately 20 pages

**Additional Ideas:**

If space allows, I intend to have a page or more with a focus on philatelic materials other than stamps (for example, covers, cards, postal stationery, postmarks, ATM/variable labels, etc.). There were pages or parts of pages with a focus on such things in the three 2023 Flights to date.

Finally, if space allows, we might occasionally have a Did You Know This?/Information of Interest to Members page like the one in the September 2023 Flight, which described the Pacific Islands Study Circle and new member Jazz Ali's new book about Stamp Cancelling Machine Slogan Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago.

Steve Strauss

**Flight Editor**

**APPENDIX F**

**Website Editor’s Report**

1. **Website Stats**

We have 115 registered users of the website. Of these:

* 24 have never logged in;
* 14 last logged on in 2021;
* 8 last logged on in 2022; and
* 53 have logged on this year (22 pre July, 31 post July). Most of these are visits to the latest Flight page to download their copy of the magazine.

1. **Website General Usage in the Last 30 Days (prior to the AGM)**

General usage remains very low. In the last 30 days we have had 187 visits to the website.

**Top pages visited**: Books & Catalogues; Flight Back Issues; Bird Stamps of the 1960s; Member Home Page; Website Updates; BSS Blog. Bird photos on public site (12th); Member Gallery (19th)

**Top Countries Visiting:** UK; Russia (bots); USA; Netherlands; France; India; Trinidad & Tobago; New Zealand; Poland; Spain

**Medium Used to Visit website:** Predominantly Desktop (135 users); Mobile (44); Tablet (8)

**Visits via:**  Google Search; Direct; Yandex; Bing; referral from bird-stamps.org

1. **Actions Outstanding from last AGM**

**Item 8d**

* I’ve not started revamping the Library;
* Blogs – added some, but short of content;
* Home Page not tackled;
* Junior Section started
* Member information uploaded from the Membership Secretary

**Item 8g**

* All back copies loaded, and most anonymised. Still need to anonymise recent issues.

**Item 8h**

* Members questionnaire on website usage, outstanding Bourse page loaded on the website
* News section via Member Home page, but not working well. Content again lacking.

1. **Summary**

I am pretty despondent over website usage, particularly as NO MEMBER has fed back ideas or what they would like to see on the website, despite many shout-outs in Flight. The Forum isn’t used at all and one wonders what members want from this Society at times.

I have been very guilty in not spending much time on the website, and I could spend many hours updating and renewing content, but I always have the thought in the back of my mind that members will still not use it, and I am reluctant to spend hours doing updates with this risk ever present.

A questionnaire on website usage is now very much due.

Gilly Christmas

**Website Editor**

**APPENDIX G**

**Packet Secretary’s Report**

Currently there are 40 members using the packet across 6 circuits. The packets for each circuit normally contain 10 books, except 1 that contains 8. This is an arrangement from the previous Packet Secretary and the members on the smaller circuit want to keep it this way.

In terms of the financial side of the packet, total net packet income was £206.87.  I have sent the income & expenditure account which cumulative totals of all income & expenditure recorded since taking over the packet. This is provided below. The last two figures when added together come to £206.87. When payments are made, the Treasurer records the commission and insurance recovered at the same time.  At the year of the year the Packet Secretary informs the Treasurer of how much is due to vendors, reported as £4129 which is exactly the balance in our accounts. The actual commission deducted was £556.32, net insurance recouped was £79.14.  As a final point, there are many incidental expenses running a packet, for which we do not recover from members.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Income from packet to end July 2023** | | | |
| Income |  |  | £22,089.92 |
| P Cant purchases | |  | £511.70 |
| Insurance claim income | | | £0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Income** | |  | **£22,601.62** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Commission | |  | £1,776.36 |
| Insurance income | |  | £634.33 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Actual Income** | |  | **£2,410.69** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Expenses** | |  |  |
| Postage |  |  | £455.37 |
| Insurance |  |  | £0.00 |
| Other Costs | |  | £36.00 |
| Uninsured losses | |  | £99.86 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Society Income** | |  | **£1,819.46** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Paid to Date | |  | £635.01 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Owing to BSS** | |  | **£1,184.45** |

**Amounts owing**

Sales relating to incomplete books         £4129

Commission on above (8%)                     £331

Insurance to be deducted £2% book value) £219

Net owed to vendors                              £3579

**Packet Secretary's "Account"**

Owing to Philip Cant  
  
Postage Vendor Returns                   £93.27  
Other postage                                    £369.15  
Other expenses                                   £36.00  
  
**Total                                                 £498.42**  
Owing by Philip Cant  
  
Purchases club books                        £511.70  
Receipts not paid in                             £85.05  
  
**Total                                                 £596.75**Balance                                            -£98.33  
Payments Made by PC                      £152.60  
Current Balance                                 £54.27 owed to PC

Philip Cant

**Packet Secretary**