



ABPS

The Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd

“The Voice of British Philately”

EXECUTIVE BULLETIN

February 2023

Please circulate this bulletin to any philatelic friends to show what the ABPS is doing to promote philately across the UK. Also please visit www.abps.org.uk

NEWS AND EVENTS

The ABPS website is being kept up to date with the latest news and events. Please take a regular look at www.abps.org.uk

STAMPEX

There is NO Spring Stampex in 2023. The next Stampex is being held from 27th to 30th September at the Business Design Centre, London.

There will be no competitive displays at this event.

A “Virtual Stampex” will take place on line from 4th to 6th May.

Full information is available from their website <https://stampex.vfairs.com/>

URGENT HELP NEEDED BY ABPS

Everyone in philately is finding it more difficult to find individuals who are prepared to get involved in administering or organizing philatelic activities or events. This, of course, includes ABPS. If you are someone who is prepared to give even a few hours to help out, we would welcome a discussion to see how you can provide support. Specific vacancies include an Advertising Manager, Communications Manager and help with development of learning resources for the website but there are plenty of opportunities to help out in other ways.

It would be greatly appreciated if all Societies would copy this request in their Journals or Newsletters or by email.

Please contact Steven Harrison, Chairman of ABPS, by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or calling him on 0121 313 0671.



MIDPEX 2023

Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

1st July 2023 10:00am – 4:30pm

The MIDPEX bi-annual philatelic show is nearly here., sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd. Chairman, Clive Jones, said “Midpex is now one of the biggest stamp shows in the UK. Given there was no Spring Stampex in London this year, this is a great opportunity for collectors to view and buy some great items. It is also an important opportunity for national and regional Societies to showcase their activities and publications and recruit members. Everyone is really looking forward to the Show.”

Organiser, Steve Harrison, commented “Dealers are enthusiastic about the show and many of them, as well as the Specialist Societies, have confirmed they are taking part with over 50 dealers booked and 30 Specialist Societies taking part. This is very encouraging and now shows that Midpex is well established in the philatelic calendar.”

MIDPEX is the biennial exhibition first held in 1995 and attended by stamp collectors from across the UK. It brings together Specialist Societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of Philately. The spacious venue is the same with extensive free parking and a free shuttle bus from Leamington Spa railway station. It provides an opportunity for Specialist Societies to show off their sphere of interest to other collectors, to recruit members and identify common ground with members of other Societies. It also provides an opportunity for Societies to promote their publications and research projects and for members to meet informally, particularly those members who find it difficult to get to meetings in London. The event in 2023 has expanded with space for post card dealers as well as stamps, thematics and postal history.

For more information and booking forms please contact Steven Harrison by email:
sharrison500@btinternet.com

Additional details of the venue with views of the hall and site location including parking, can be accessed on <https://www.warwickshireeventcentre.co.uk>

YORK STAMP FAIR

The next national competitions will be held at the York Stamp Fair on 21st and 22nd July 2023.

ABPS would welcome offers of sponsorship for the frames. If any Society or individual can help, please contact Simon Richards at simon@sidebell.co.uk

FEDERATION EXHIBITING & JUDGING SEMINAR

There will be a Seminar at York, delivered by Mike Smith with help from David Alford. It is expected that the formal element will take place on the 21st July and judging practice on 22nd July using the exhibits in the frames. If you are interested in attending, please contact David Alford by email at apsinfo@ntlworld.com

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



This year's Congress will be in Torquay from 9th to 11th June 2023, held at the Imperial Hotel. This is slightly shorter than recent years and it is hoped this will appeal to more people, combining an interesting philatelic event with a holiday break. Further details to follow but please keep the date free.

For more information contact Steven Harrison, Chairman of ABPS, by emailing him at sharrison500@btinternet.com or calling him on 0121 313 0671.

EXHIBITING

Two exhibitions are taking place this year when the ABPS will be arranging competitive competitions. These will be the only opportunities in 2023 for qualifying.

The Perth National Stamp Competition 2023 (14-25 April 2023)

The Competition will take place at The Dewars Centre, [Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH](#), and will include a full national competition enabling collectors to qualify for international exhibiting. The deadline for entries is 28 March 2023.

The Northern National Stamp Competition 2023 (21-22 July 2023). An opportunity to compete and qualify will be available at the York Stamp and Coin Fair, Racecourse Grandstand, YO23 1EX. The deadline for entries is 1 June 2023.

Please enter for either exhibition using the form at [exhibitions.org.uk](https://www.exhibitions.org.uk). For more information or queries please contact Nick Martin on exhibiting@abps.org.uk. This will be the last opportunity in the UK during 2023 to qualify for international exhibiting.

Please note that Autumn2023 STAMPEX (27-30 September 2023) will not include a nationally organized competition, and there will therefore not be another opportunity to qualify for international competitions in 2025.

Calling Potential Exhibitors and Judges. A two-day seminar will be held at the Racecourse during the York Stamp Fair. Anyone interested in learning about successful exhibiting or potentially qualifying as a judge or for information about accommodation should contact Nick Martin at exhibiting@abps.org.uk indicating an interest. The course will consist of both theory and practical sessions viewing exhibits.

Nick Martin, ABPS Exhibitions Secretary, Mobile: 07703 766477

Full details of all opportunities to take part in both national and international stamp exhibitions can be found in the Exhibiting section of the ABPS website.



EUROPHILEX 2025

A full European International Exhibition, under the auspices of FEPA, will take place at the NEC, Birmingham, from 8th to 11th May 2025. The Chairman of the organizing Committee is Jon Aitchison.

ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVES

Please note Non-barcoded Definitive stamps have been phased out and will not be valid for postage in the future. Stamps will be exchangeable under a 'Swap Out' scheme until 31st July 2023 or should be used before that date.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we were told of the death of Willie King, a former Secretary of ABPS and a stalwart of Scottish Philately. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

ABPS AWARDS



Congress Medal

The Awards Committee invites nominations for both the Awards of Merit and the Congress Medal by 31st March.

See the website for nomination forms and full details of the Award of Merit and Congress Medal.

ABPS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The ABPS is always there to help! If you are planning a local event to promote philately and may need financial assistance, please have a look at this scheme on our website as you may be eligible for a grant.

In particular, there may be some small societies of less than ten members who made need financial help to keep going. ABPS is very willing to consider financial support.

ABPS NEWS

The latest issue of ABPS News will be circulated shortly. Back issues can be downloaded from the News section of the ABPS website.

The closing dates for copy for future issues are 15th April, 15th July, 15th October, 15th January.

Articles and enquiries relating to ABPS News can be submitted via the website or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk
This is an opportunity for you to promote your Society. Society reports should be limited to 250 words please.
Affiliated Societies and Federations are entitled to one free advertisement each year, space permitting.

CALLING ALL STAMP EVENT ORGANISERS

The new website of the ABPS provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge. It is also a chance, if you are planning an event, to check that it does not clash with anything else.

The ABPS Executive has now agreed that Society Auctions, organised by affiliated Societies, can also be included in the ABPS events calendar.

You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved.

Go to <https://www.abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/>

CALLING ALL SPEAKERS

If you are prepared to give displays to Societies, either in person or by Zoom, please pass your details to the Secretary of ABPS or input your information on to ABPS website. We are also updating the site with additional information about speakers relating to Powerpoint/Zoom presentations as this has become a popular development.

MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIETY LOOKS GOOD ON THE NEW ABPS WEBSITE

Our website has received some very positive feedback so far but we know there is more that can be done. It is the same address www.abps.org.uk

It is on a new platform and includes all the usual information about ABPS news and activities. **It now also includes a searchable list of speakers, judges and an events calendar.**

If you are a speaker or judge or an event organizer, please check the information on the website and advise us of any corrections, updates or additions.

If you are a Society or Speaker, you can add some pictures of your meetings or displays to create attractive content.

If you have any images of your local Society, events or seminars etc. that you think might enhance the website please send them to the PR Manager at pr@abps.org.uk

THE FUTURE OF PHILATELY

On 25th November, during MONACOPHIL 2022, [FEPA](#) hosted a Round Table discussion in front of an audience on the strengths and weaknesses of philately and how it might evolve in the 21st century. Moderator of the event was Charles Epting, CEO of H.R. Harmer.

The five panellists were chosen to be from different philatelic backgrounds:

- Bill Hedley, FEPA President
- Adriano Bergamini, philatelist and exhibitor, Chairman of HELVETIA 2022
- Dieter Michelson, CEO Heinrich Köhler
- Rüdiger Weng, newcomer to high-level philately
- Wolfgang Maassen, President of AIJP and expert in philatelic literature

You can view the video right here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMJd6dKTtNU>

We would recommend that all collectors take time to view the presentation and provide feedback to the Chairman of ABPS on their personal views and how they might help.

AFFILIATION FEES

The affiliation fee for all Societies will be £2 per member from 1st January 2023. This reflects the increase in postal rates and other costs that the Association now incurs.

An open letter from the Chairman is attached to the end of the Executive Bulletin to provide the rationale for the change.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS,

Please contact those mentioned above, or E-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk

Any feedback or ideas, or if you would like to help, please contact our Chairman, Steve Harrison, by email: chair@abps.org.uk

The postal address for all ABPS correspondence is: ABPS, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF ABPS REGARDING THE CAPITATION FEE

Dear Philatelists,

There has been limited adverse feedback about the change to the capitation fee for 2023.

Firstly, it is unfair to suggest that ABPS has introduced a change in the affiliation fee without notice. The matter was fully discussed at the AGM and the increase was passed unanimously by those present. All members are entitled to attend the AGM and make their views clear on all matters relating to the national association. In addition, the change was highlighted in the Executive Bulletin in November 2021, citing the increase in postage and printing costs as major reasons for the increase.

Secondly, the finances of ABPS are always very transparent with the annual accounts available on the website. These can be found on the "Accounts" section at the bottom of the home page up to 2021. The 2022 accounts will be added after the next AGM.

In general, the new affiliation fee of £2 per year per member is very low in relation to other organisations who are leaders in their specialist areas of sport or hobbies. As just one example, the affiliation fee for the Badminton Association of England is £88 for a "Small Club" of 9 to 20 members and £110 for a "Large Club" of 21 to 49 members and so on.

Obviously, the total level of income that is generated by fees dictated the ability to the national association to run its activities. In the last twelve months this has included quarterly issues of ABPS News, continued improvements to the scope and updating of the ABPS website (now providing lists of speakers and judges and a calendar of events for Societies to promote their own events/programmes), support for Societies through the small grants scheme, financial support for the Stamp Active Network (activities for youngsters), organisation of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Awards of Merit etc. and, of course, support for the London 2022 International Exhibition and more.

All of this is only possible because all of the Executive members give their time and effort totally free of charge. This is clearly different to other national organisations who generate enough income to fund a paid professional staff. Frankly, philatelists have got used to getting philately on the cheap because of the commitment of ABPS volunteers.

In relation to the increase, this is fully justified by increases in costs for postage and printing alone. The postage rate for a large letter has gone up from £1.06 in 2019 to £1.45 in 2022. This is a 37% increase in postage costs so far and we are likely to see another increase this year. Costs have risen across the board in all areas even though the Executive has worked

hard to keep those down by fully embracing Zoom meetings to avoid travel costs, where possible etc.

ABPS would clearly like to do much more but we do need funds to allow us to fund more projects as well as more volunteers to take an active part in their national philatelic organisation. A seminar for Judges and Exhibitors is taking place in February at Hitchin, now only possible post Covid. In the coming year there will be major planning for the 2025 International Exhibition in Birmingham and plans to create a new “Learn” section on the website for all levels of collector as well as existing activities.

It is unrealistic to think that everything that ABPS should and will do, can be funded without an appropriate affiliation fee to cover its costs and, ideally, generate a higher level of income to give the organisation more scope for new activities. It is financially responsible to hold a sensible level of reserves to give some financial security and flexibility for new projects. Indeed, many Societies, both local and national, have built up substantial reserves over the years, far greater than ABPS.

You may recall that the previous national organisation, the British Philatelic Federation, went into liquidation because of a lack of funding. We do not wish to make the same mistakes.

I hope that your Society will continue to support the ABPS as the “Voice of British Philately”. I do believe that £2 a year to support the hobby is a small price to pay. Realistically, it is less than the price of a cup of coffee these days.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your continued support.

If you would like to make a direct and personal contribution to the future of philately in the UK, you can also become a personal Friend (Minimum £25) or Patron of ABPS (Minimum £60). Full details are on the ABPS website.

Yours faithfully,

Steven Harrison

Chairman, Association of British Philatelic Societies

Membership Secretary
1 Naunton Way
Cheltenham
GL53 7BQ

Email: membership@abps.org.uk
Website: www.abps.org.uk

Dear Philatelist,

PATRON'S SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2023

I am writing to ask you if you will support ABPS by being a **Patron of Philately** for 2023. Your support would be very much valued. The minimum donation for a Patron is **£60.00**.

The ABPS would like to acknowledge your support by listing your name in a special section of our web site.

We would like to list just your name as a Patron. No contact details nor donation amount will be listed. If you agree to this then **please tick the box below**.

I do hope that you will support the Association. Please return the tear off slip below, with your remittance (if paying by cheque, made payable to the Association of British Philatelic Societies), and send to the address above. If you wish to pay by bank transfer the details are: the HSBC bank, sort code 404045 and account number 11254936. Please use your name as the reference and **please tell me by email the amount transferred and when you did it**.

Yours sincerely

Barry Stagg, ABPS Membership Secretary

..... (Tear here)

From: Patron of Philately

To:
Membership Secretary
1 Naunton Way
Cheltenham
GL53 7BQ

I wish to be a Patron of Philately for 2023 and enclose a cheque for £..... (Minimum donation **£60.00**)

I wish to appear in the ABPS list of Patrons. Yes, please list my name.

Signed.....

Postal Address

.....
.....
.....Email address

The ABPS is committed to ensuring protection of all personal information that we hold, and to provide and to protect all such data. We will not sell or give your data to a 3rd party. Your data will be deleted within 12 months of you leaving the ABPS.

By affiliating to the ABPS you are consenting to receive ABPS News (hard copy or electronic), an occasional Executive Bulletin by email only, an occasional email containing important philatelic information and an occasional email highlighting a significant philatelic event.