

ASPS Delegate's Report 2014

This is my last report as ASPS Delegate, having represented the interests of our Society since 2002.

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) meets three times a year in October, January and on the Saturday of Congress. Over my years of involvement, I have increasingly observed the effects of age on those delegates who take an active part in its affairs. (Some of the delegates are, frankly, inactive!) Setting up Congress takes much longer than formerly, and it would be impossible without the help of volunteers from societies like Dundee. We had our usual small team there, but more of us are needed. (That of course goes for other societies within reasonable reach of Perth.) The work is done on the Thursday: next year, it will start at 10 a.m. Don't think you need special training to do this: the old hands will direct you on the day.

Dundee was a leader among the four societies that were the moving spirit behind organising Scottish Philately at national level, with a meeting of what has become ASPS and the National Exhibition (commonly called "Congress"). True to our tradition, Dundee continues to fulfil an active role. Colin Campbell is Publicity Secretary and Junior Competition Organiser, Norman Kelso is Webmaster - he has transformed the site - while quietly below the radar Sandy Forbes beavers away at a number of activities. They put in a power of work at the Scotland-wide level and I am glad to be able to make you aware of it

The ASPS has a remarkable Secretary/Treasurer in Alan Watson: I marvel at his meticulous preparation, particularly for Congress, down to (or should it be up to?) the name strips on the exhibition frames.

This year there were 23 entries in various categories of the National Competition: 3 entries came from our Society, gaining a gold and two silver medals. Dundee, along with Aberdeen, has also given the most contribution to the Open Competition from its inception a few years ago.

Items for action. 1) ASPS is running out of ties. Would members buy more?

 2) There are changes proposed to the ABPS (Association of British Postal Societies) ASPS urges us as a member Society to send in a proxy vote.

Congress 2015 (April 17,18) will be hosted by Falkirk. 2016 is led by the Caledonian (Glasgow).

Alan J Roy