

# MINUTES OF THE 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC (April 2008)

HELD AT 2:15 PM SATURDAY 19 April 2008

## **1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford, who extended a warm welcome to the 27 members present and thanked Spink for allowing us to use their superb premises. Peter reminded everyone that there would be a meeting at Autumn Philatex, with Paul Wright displaying Jamaica but Members are also asked to bring along cameo displays.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Victor Toeg, Peter Boulton, Bill Gibb and Kevin Darcy.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 April 2007, as published in Bulletin No. 213, June 2007, pages 27 to 33, were accepted by the attendees.

## **4. REPORT BY THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY (PETER BOULTON – READ BY PETER FORD)**

The membership now stands at a total of 354, of which 239 are UK members and 119 are overseas members. This shows a net increase of 8 compared with last year. Three members resigned and 16 members were removed due to failure to pay their Subscriptions, even after reminder letters. However, we have now gained 27 new members, which more than replaces the losses. The membership database is working satisfactorily and is continuously being updated. Changes of addresses etc. and new members' details are recorded as a supplement to each issue of the Bulletin. Individual member's details are recorded on the back of the Bulletin address label for each December issue, to enable them to be checked. Members are urged to let the Secretary know about any change of address as soon as possible, otherwise they may miss an issue of the Bulletin.

I have been carrying out the job of Honorary Secretary of the Circle since April 1997, when I took over after the untimely death of the previous secretary, Michael Nicholson, I now feel that it is time for me to retire and let a younger person take over. I would like to offer my full support to my successor, Charles Gee and wish him and the BWISC every success in the future.

Report accepted by the meeting.

## **5. Report by the Hon. Editor (Steve Jarvis)**

I am pleased to report that my appeal, last year, for more articles has borne fruit and I usually have enough material to allow me to take decisions on content, to provide reasonable balance. It is especially gratifying that new authors have come forward and I try to give them priority for incorporation. However, an Editor is always nervous about the next edition and I appeal to you all to submit material. I often need half, one or two page items to provide variety and fill up the 40 pages precisely. New authors should be reassured that I will endeavour to provide advice and identify information sources to help them finalise their contributions.

My usual thanks to Charles Freeland, whose review work and advice contributes significantly to the quality of the Bulletin. However, I will continue to ignore his disparaging comments regarding Jamaica articles and incorporate them regularly as befits the most collected territory!

Sarsen Press continue to provide an excellent service, investing in new technology for low print runs like ours, which helps to keep the unit costs down. They have indicated that there may be further changes this year, which would enable us to go to full colour at no additional cost; I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

The new ISP for our web site has provided a stable service and further content has been added. Peter Fernbank has completed scanning/OCRing our Bulletins, so they are all available for on-line research, either via his cumulative index or the new search facility. I am always looking for more content, so please send anything to me, even if it is only consolidations of previously published works or work-in-progress research.

I have also experimented with an email newsletter and plan to supplement the Bulletin with alerts and news which would be out of date by the next edition.

Time flies. I took over as Editor in June 2002 (against the advice of my wife), but I'm pleased to say that after five years I am still enjoying producing the Bulletin and she is reconciled to our conservatory turning into a despatch depot every 3 months.

Derek Nathan and Peter Ford both expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken and the resultant product.

Report accepted by the meeting.

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## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

### INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2007

	<u>£'s</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>£'s</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>INCOME :</b>				
Subscriptions		3,710		3,659
Publications – Sales less commissions		1,667		2,807
Auction and other donations		1,533		1,370
Interest received		80		4
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u><u>6,990</u></u>		<u><u>7,840</u></u>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	947		783	
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>1,575</u>	2,522	<u>1,539</u>	2,322
Publications: Printing costs	1,864		1,927	
Publications Distribution	4		90	
Printer depreciation	<u>470</u>	2,338	<u>470</u>	2,487
Leamington Convention – net deficit		110		–
Library – Books and expenses		–		–
ABPS affiliation fee		140		137
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc		130		75
Bank charges		5		6
Website		81		68
		<u><u>5,326</u></u>		<u><u>5,095</u></u>
<b>SURPLUS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<b>£'s</b>	<u><u>1,664</u></u>	<b>£'s</b>	<u><u>2,745</u></u>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2007

#### ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance at 1st January 2007	2,719	174
Add: Surplus for the year	1,664	2,745
Dollar conversion profit (loss)	<u>(36)</u>	<u>(200)</u>
	<b>£'s</b> <u><u>4,347</u></u>	<b>£'s</b> <u><u>2,719</u></u>

#### REPRESENTED BY:

Printers (net of depreciation)	–	470
Cash at banks	5,302	6,377
Debtors – amounts due to us	<u>5,271</u>	<u>1,924</u>
	10,573	8,771
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,807)	(2,884)
Loan	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Other creditors – Amounts due by us	<u>(919)</u>	<u>(168)</u>
	<b>£'s</b> <u><u>4,347</u></u>	<b>£'s</b> <u><u>2,719</u></u>

#### AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2007 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31 December 2007 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

  
 J G M Davis FCA ( Not in practice )

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### **6. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)**

I have pleasure in reporting that the Study Circle has generated a surplus of income over expenditure in 2007 of £1,664 which means that once again we have a reasonable cover going forward for our activities.

Income from subscriptions has increased slightly and more than continues to fully cover, along with advertising receipts, the cost of producing and distributing the bulletin, although that cost has increased by £200 over 2006, and will probably increase again in 2008.

Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds and exceeded even that of the previous year. Income from publications this year amounted to £1,667 which was less than last year and did not fully cover the amount spent during the year. Nevertheless because of the surpluses elsewhere we are in a position to continue with our accounting policy of writing off expenditure in the year incurred. The capital cost of the printer has now been completely written off which will relieve publications of this expense in future years.

With regard to expenses, we have again saved on meeting room expenses due to the generosity of Harmers in 2007 which is being continued by Spink in 2008 with our grateful thanks. There was a small deficit of £110 arising from our convention at Honiley but I am sure all who attended will think that this was money well spent.

I would like to thank John Davis again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given.

A query was raised in the meeting concerning the debtors amount owed of £5271. Ray explained that this was payments not received by the 31 December cut off but that most of this amount had now been received.

Proposed: C Freeland, Seconded: D Nathan, Accepted by the meeting.

### **7. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Ian Jakes)**

There has been a loan of 19 books to 8 members during the year. This compares with a loan of 9 books to 5 members during the year ended April 2007.

Three members have requested information contained within the Library. In addition a non-member requested information from the Library relating to Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. This non-member has now provided information on an item in his possession relating to Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for publication in a future bulletin.

One member has requested a Library list.

One member unmasked Barclays Bank International as being the donor of the copy BBI collection which was donated to the Library.

Murray Payne Limited requested information from the Library relating to the designers of the Barbados 1950 King George VI set. I responded to this request and solicited the additional help of Edmund Bayley, our member in Barbados who provided further information.

Derek Nathan has today donated to the Library the following 15 books and a copy of his joint display of British Guiana to Royal Philatelic Society London:-

- A History of the Guyanese Working People 1881-1905 Walter Rodney
- British Guiana and British Honduras Economic Survey Barclays Bank 1956
- Experiences of a Demerara Magistrate des Voeux 1948
- Atlas for Guyana & Trinidad & Tobago Macmillan
- The London Philatelist May 1950 (Postmarks of BG)
- The Post Office in BG before 1860 Rodway 1890
- Display of BG to RPSL Greenwood & Nathan 2000
- The London Philatelist Dec 1950 (more)
- Decade of Decision Ramphal 1970
- British Guiana – 1924 Exhibition
- British Guiana 1958 Land of Opportunity
- The Beginnings of British Guiana Darnell Davis
- Jungle Peace William Beebe 1918
- BG Village Administration 1903
- Voyage to the Demerary Bolingbroke 1947
- The Making of Guyana Daly

Report accepted by the meeting.

### **8. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we only published one book last year, and that was Volume 2 of Mike Rego's Steamship Lines to the Caribbean. I have passed on drafts of Volume 3 to our proof readers, so hopefully it won't be too long before that is published. The year saw a slight drop in sales with the best selling being Richard Maisel's booklet on his Cayman Islands collection; this sold some 36 copies (this was in addition to the 100 we sold to Shreves auction house). The next best seller with 17 copies sold was our revised Montserrat the previous version of which had sold out. Next in line was the British Guiana Postcards book which sold 12 copies. Of the other titles in our stock, no others sold more than seven copies. Gross sales brought in £2,154; this, after commission, netted £1,667.

Needless to say, there are other books in the pipeline, the most immediate of which is our long-awaited book on Trinidad. We have a tentative agreement with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group for them to help finance the publication of this book which we are hoping to have in hardback. Also ongoing is John Davis's War Tax book; again we are having to look outside for financial help with this one and the British Philatelic Association has indicated its willingness to assist. I am hoping to have a draft to them by the end of the year with publication late next year.

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As I did last year, I am appealing to our membership to think of writing a study paper similar to the Bermuda Censorship one we published a couple of years ago. The subject should be one on which little has been written before and can be on a very narrow aspect of BWI philately. I firmly believe that this sort of publication, which is relatively easy on the pocket for buyers, can only help to bring new collectors to the Circle as members.

I have now been doing this job of Publications Officer for the Study Circle for over ten years and, whilst I am happy to continue for now, it would help greatly if another member of the Study Circle could volunteer to take over some of the work, preparatory to taking over. Although time consuming, it is a really satisfying job, one which has, as its end result, something as solid as a book.

Report accepted by the meeting.

### **9. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer**

None – Post vacant.

### **10. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Peter Ford)**

The last year has been one of continued success for the Study Circle with our Bulletin going from strength to strength and our Annual Auction yet again proving to be popular amongst members and a vital contributor to our funds. Our website continues to expand with the Archive of Bulletins now complete, for which we have Peter Fernbank to thank, Charles Freeland's continuing updates on the auction scene providing useful information to those of us not in the know about these things and, of course, Steve Jarvis's continued monitoring keeping us up-to-date on all things pertaining to WI philately. According to our supplier, we have been receiving between 6,000 and 13,000 'hits' per month; so if anyone hasn't visited it yet, it may well be well worthwhile doing so.

We now are in the early stages of planning for the 2010 LONDON Show. The exhibition will run from Sat 8 to Sat 15 May 2010 at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London. For those of you new to the Circle, this occasion provides an opportunity for us to have special functions usually in co-operation with the BCPSTG, our American sister society. We usually try to hold our AGMs at the time, hold a combined auction, maybe have special displays and, last but not least, hold a social function at around the same time. Steve Jarvis is liaising with Ed Waterous and nothing definite has yet been decided but the membership will be kept informed via both the website and the Bulletin; it may be a good idea to try to keep those dates in 2010 free.

As usual, I have to thank my Committee for all their support and hard work over the last year, but this year I have to mention one particular member who is relinquishing his post. That person is Peter Boulton, our Hon. Secretary. After the untimely death of the then Hon. Secretary, Michael Nicholson in November 1996, Peter generously allowed himself to be co-opted onto the Committee and took over the position. He was formally voted in at the next AGM in April the following year. Peter has worked tirelessly for the last 11 or so years taking minutes at both the Committee Meetings and at the Annual General Meetings, maintaining a database of members and also arranging the biennial Convention as well as other meetings. Without such volunteers on the Committee, the Study Circle would be much the poorer, and it is with this in mind that the Committee has this morning decided to award Peter Honorary Life Membership of the Study Circle.

Time moves on and we have been fortunate to find a replacement for Peter; Charles Gee has volunteered to take over as Secretary. Unfortunately he is not able to be present today but some of us met him and his wife at Honiley last September and feel we can recommend him for the post.

We look forward to another successful year ahead and would appeal to members to consider helping with the running of the Circle, particularly as we shall probably be looking for new Study Group Leaders in the not-too-distant future.

Report accepted by the meeting.

### **11. RE-ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

### **12. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. N Chandler, P Fernbank and M Hamilton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee. There were no further nominations, consequently, all are automatically re-elected.

Charles Gee had volunteered for the position of the Hon. Secretary, his appointment was proposed by Nigel Chandler and seconded by Simon Goldblatt and passed unanimously.

Nigel Chandler had volunteered for the post of Hon. Public Relations Officer, his appointment was proposed by Steve Jarvis and seconded by Ron Cronin and passed unanimously.

### **13. ELECTION OF THE HON. AUDITOR**

John Davies has agreed to continue with this role.

### **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.