



AGM Minutes 11 October 2025

1) Chairman's Opening Remarks

Steve Jarvis welcomed attendees and thanked committee members for their efforts over the year.

2) Apologies for absence

were noted from Kevin Darcy, Andrew Fowles, Daryll Fuller, John Seidl, Steve Zirinsky, Peter Tribe, Stephen King.

3) Minutes of the previous 2024 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes for 2024 were agreed.

4) Committee Member's Reports

These had been circulated and were taken as read. Ray Stanton reported that membership subscriptions would remain unaltered. It was noted that increasing postal charges were a concern. Particularly for hard copy journals sent overseas. It was also noted that advertising income was declining.

5) Election of Officers – Proposed by the Committee

- Not for election – Simon Richards (President for Life) and Steve Jarvis (Chairman until 2026)
- Secretary - Susan Taylor
- Treasurer - Ray Stanton, supported by Geoff Richards
- Auction Manager – Simon Richards, supported by Charles Kennard and James Podger
- Publications and Book Sales – Paul Farrimond and David Druett
- Journal Editor – Darryl Fuller
- Awards – James Podgr
- Americas Representatives – John Seidl, Steve Zirinsky and John Jordan
- Webmaster Steve Jarvis
- Social Media – James Gavin a& Jonathan Guy (Zoom)

These appointments were all unanimously endorsed

6) Organisational Matters

Simon Richards, our President, and also President of the RPSL, is hosting a WIPSG Presentation on 25 February 2027. Members will be invited to take part. A date for members' diaries.

7) Election of Independent Accounts Examiner -David Taylor

Unanimously endorsed

8) Any Other Business – none



Reports

Chairman's Report – Steve Jarvis

My thanks to the members of the Society Committee for all their work over the last year.

We are always looking for new volunteers and if you think you can contribute in any way, please contact Susan Taylor or myself.

It has been a busy year for member awards, WIPSG did well at Europhilex with awards for the journal (Darryl), the T&T postmarks book (Jazad Ali), the Anguilla book (Graham, Julian and Susan), the website (me) and Dominica (Simon), the latter also won a Gold at the PhilaKorea international, well done to Paul Farrimon as well for the quality of the typesetting. At RPSL, Peter Fernbank won the Tapling Medal for the best 2025 LP article, the second time he has done so, and Joseph Hackmey won the Lee Medal for the best 5pm presentation 'Barbados and Grenada'. Well done to our President for becoming a RDP and President of the RPSL. The Society has a strong representation in the philatelic world with James being RPSL Collections Committee chair, Susan RPSL Publications Chair and James Grimwood-Taylor on RPSL Council. Apologies for any major awards I have omitted.

The BWISC Library has now been retrieved from Ian Jakes, donations have been given to the RPSL Library and much of it sold at Cavendish boosting Society funds a bit. I have retained some specialist auction catalogues and these will be available for purchase on Sunday at knock down prices.

I think the Society is in good health but we should not be complacent. Please keep the journal articles coming (we recently agreed to increase the standard number of pages to 44) and encourage any other collectors with interests in West Indies philately to join us. At only £8/\$10 for paperless membership, it should not break the bank for anyone.

Secretary's Report – Susan Taylor

The Secretary responded to the usual queries re using the website, membership, and philatelic matters. Hopefully the recent article in the Journal will encourage more members to use the website.

The site continues to be targeted by scammers, a time-wasting nuisance.

Every year less members need chasing to pay their membership dues, however there were still 30 members who needed reminding. Everyone's assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Today (12 September) the society has 328 members, plus 25 complementary members (philatelic organisations) and 2 temporary members. We have found that the WIPSG Facebook site brings new members in. An announcement about the auction created plenty of interest. So please help by visiting the Facebook link (on the website) and posting interesting philatelic items.

The WIPSG Meeting at Birmingham on 10 May was well attended. A WIPSG gathering at Rosebank on 10 April was also well attended. The Committee will meet on 12 October. The Secretary has made several presentations on Caribbean Philatelic topics at clubs around the UK, always taking the opportunity to promote the society and sell some of its books.

Treasurer's Report 2023 – Ray Stanton

The WIPSG is administered and the accounts prepared in sterling with conversion of dollar assets at balance sheet date or for income and expenses at the average rate for the year with any differences arising dealt with through the exchange reserve shown on the balance sheet.

The accounts have been prepared on a similar basis to the previous year one of the main principles being that no value is shown for the stocks of books and publications on hand on the basis that nearly all sales of new publications takes place in the first year of sale and it is therefore difficult to place a value on any remaining stocks. The aim as far as practicable is to match sales of books from previous years with the production costs of new books each year. However, in 2024 the costs exceeded sales by £1,695 due to a combination of the publication of the new Dominica book and the reprinting of additional copies of the earlier Anguilla, Grenada and Lady MacLeod books.

Nevertheless, the accounts for the year to the 31st December 2024 show a resulting surplus of £1,568. Subscriptions and advertising income more than covered the costs of producing the journal including distribution, and the donation from the auction team was more than that of the previous year due to the continuing success of the Study Group auction. These surpluses more than covered the investment in the stocks of new and additional publications.



West Indies Philatelic Study Group AGM Agenda and Committee Reports 2025

The accounts leave the WIPSG with a balance in the Accumulated fund of £24,004, and in a healthy position to progress our activities going forward. I would like to thank David Taylor for being the Independent Accounts Examiner and for the advice and help he has given.

WIPSG Editor's Report – Darryl Fuller

I would like to thank all the authors for their articles in the last year. Without you we would have no journal. I would also like to thank my proof-reader, Paul Farrimond, for his assistance in ensuring the journal maintains its high standard. The journal was entered into the Europhilex in Birmingham in May and received a large vermeil medal which was a pleasant surprise.

The flow of articles over the last two years has been good and meant that I could stay on top of issues, knowing I had a few things in store. However, the flow has begun to dry up and it will make future issues difficult if authors don't come to the party. So please give it some thought and send in your research, your finds or your queries. Others are interested and can often assist with questions. Remember, I am always happy to assist in knocking an article into shape if you need help. My preference is not to rewrite articles but rather allow the author to use their own voice. I am here to make the English and format consistent, query possible errors or omissions and ensure a readable journal.

Finally, if you have any ideas or thoughts on what the journal needs don't hesitate to contact me. I would like to use the journal to bring our knowledge up to date (in the way that Steve Zirinsky does modern postmarks), such as listing new censor marks and numbers. If you have the 2006 Miller and 2010 Burrows books on Censorship devices in the West Indies, then check what you have in your collection and I'll publish anything new.

Report on our Annual Auction 2024 – Simon Richards

See WIPSG Journal September 2024.

754 lots were offered. The sale was estimated at a little over £50,000 and represented the property of 23 vendors. 588 lots (78%) found new homes with total realisations before our 10% vendor commission of £40,050. As ever there is no buyer's premium.

The 2025 auction, in October, has 729 lots with a total estimate of just over £43,000.

Publications Report – Paul Farrimond

Report by the Publications Officer (Paul Farrimond)

In 2024 we produced one new book. "Dominica: Philately to 1967", written by Simon Richards, was published in November. We had 100 hardback copies printed and in the two months to the end of the year 47 of these were sold. It has continued to sell well this year and just a few copies now remain in stock. I'm pleased to record that Simon's book was awarded a Large Gold medal at the ABPS National Exhibition in London (2025) and was also shortlisted for the Crawford Medal.

During the year we also produced softback reprints of the Anguilla book (Susan Taylor, Julian Waldron & Graham Stockdale) and Tim Pearce's Grenada, as well as a reprint of the Lady McLeod Study Paper (Susan Taylor, Ed Barrow, Nigel Mohammed & John Park).

Book sales in 2024 were good, with net takings of £2,876. Not surprisingly, the more recent books sold the most: 47 copies of Dominica and 23 copies of the Anguilla book. Four other titles sold between five and seven copies, and in all thirty different titles sold at least one copy which is heartening.

A second edition of Fitz Roett's book "Barbados: The Britannia Issues" has been completed and published in 2025 and work is just beginning on a St Kitts volume (Julian Waldron, Darryl Fuller & Graham Stockdale). Two other books are planned: a volume documenting the development of postal services in the Caribbean up to 1900 (Susan Taylor) and one on Barbados postal stationery" (Jonathan Guy). There are gaps in our current offering of publications, notably St Lucia, British Honduras and Turks & Caicos Islands; I would be pleased to have a discussion with any member who is interested and willing to author or co-author any of these, or indeed any book.

Last year I noted that we were trying to find copies of digital files for books previously published by the society. I am pleased to report that in October 2024 Ed Barrow sent me a hard drive that he had been given by Peter Ford. This contained files for many BWISC publications: either pdf files, InDesign files, or both. These files will help significantly with any future reprints or revised editions of our older books.



Awards Committee Report – James Podger

Will be presented subsequent to the awards announcement, at the Convention.

Webmasters Report – Steve Jarvis

The website continues to tick over and achieved the highest score in the digital media category at EurPhilaex.

Social Media Report

The Facebook site has 207 members now and posts are made regularly.

Appendices

Membership Analysis as at 4 Aug

Member			
Count	Digital		
Country	No	Yes	Total
Australia	2	5	7
Bahamas	1		1
Barbados	1		1
Belize	1	1	2
Bermuda	1	2	3
Canada	6	9	15
Cayman Islands	2		2
Czech Republic	1		1
Denmark		1	1
France		3	3
Germany	3	4	7
Ireland	2		2
Italy	1	1	2
Jamaica	1	1	2
Japan	1		1
Netherlands		4	4
New Zealand	2	3	5
Norway	2	1	3
Portugal		1	1
South Africa	1	1	2
Spain		2	2
Sweden		1	1
Switzerland	2	1	3
Thailand		1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	3		3
UK	100	51	151
USA	70	30	100
Grand Total	203	123	326

**WEST INDIES PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP****INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	2024	2023
INCOME :		
Subscriptions	5,842	6,154
Publications - Sales less commissions	3,074	2,400
Auction donation (net of costs)	3,276	1,788
Other donations	265	12
TOTAL INCOME	12,457	10,354
EXPENDITURE :		
Journal Printing & distribution costs	5,624	5,929
Less : Advertising	(1,720)	(1,753)
	3,904	4,176
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs	4,769	2,565
Convention costs net of recovery	-	1,397
Other room hire & meeting costs	1,311	440
ABPS affiliation fee	338	364
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc	143	181
Insurance	147	140
Bank charges	8	48
Website	269	434
	10,889	9,745
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£'s 1,568	£'s 609

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

ACCUMULATED FUND :		
Balance at 1st January 2024	21,541	20,932
Add : Surplus for the year	1,568	609
Exchange conversion reserve	895	812
	£'s 24,004	£'s 22,353
REPRESENTED BY :		
Cash at banks	30,174	30,351
Debtors - amounts due to us :		
Journal Advertising	2,417	2,333
Book Sales	1,536	1,824
Other Debtors – Amounts due to us	-	141
	3,953	4,298
	34,127	34,649
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,620)	(3,046)
10 Yrs Subscriptions Liability (Ex BCPSG Life)	(6,858)	(8,406)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(645)	(844)
	(10,123)	(12,296)
	£'s 24,004	£'s 22,353

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2024 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2024 shows the financial state of the West Indies Philatelic Study Group as at that date.

David Taylor : Independent Examiner