AGM Minutes 3 October 2026

1. **Attendees**

   Hugh Bayley, Simon Burke, Paul Farrimond, Jonathan Guy, Steve Jarvis, Charles Kennard, James Podger, Philip Quirk, Geoffrey Richards, Simon Richards, Joan Schuller, Ray Stanton, Susan Taylor**,** David Taylor, Anthony Wilkinson, Graham Williams.

2. **Apologies for absence**

   David Druett, Andrew Fowles, Darryl Fuller, Terry Harrison, John Jackson, John Jordan, Stephen King, Nigel Mohammed, John Seidl, Julian Waldron, Steve Zirinsky.

3. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

   SJ thanked committee members for their support, particularly Ray Stanton who was retiring as the Treasurer after 29 years

4. **Minutes of the previous 2025 AGM and Matters Arising**

   The minutes of the 2025 AGM had been circulated before the meeting, and were available to attendees. They were unanimously agreed, there were no matters arising.

5. **Committee Member's Reports**

   Committee member's reports were available in the room and had been circulated to the committee before the AGM. They are attached. A point of note was the fact that society finances were healthy. There was a c£2,000 surplus over the previous year and the bank balance was £27,000. There were currently 317 members, 11 less than in 2025

6. **Election of Officers – Proposed by the Committee**
   - President – Not for election (for Life) Simon Richards
   - Chairman – elected every 3 years, usually only two-terms. SJ has served one-term and was available for re-election. There were no other volunteers and SJ was nominated by JP, seconded by ST and unanimously re-elected. SJ gave notice that he would not seek re-election in 2029.
   - Secretary – ST. Proposed by JG and seconded by RS
   - Treasurer - RS stood down after 29 years and GW has offered to take on the role (a brief CV was circulated to attendees and is attached below), supported by GR. GW's election was proposed by SJ and seconded by CK, but was subject to his employers' approval (TBC by the end of October), otherwise unanimously agreed. RS has kindly agreed to remain on the committee for a year an to be available for advice if needed
   - Auction Manager – SR, supported by CK and JP. Unanimously agreed
   - Publications and Book Sales – PF and DD. Unanimously agreed
   - Journal Editor – DF,.Unanimously agreed
   - Awards – JP Unanimously agreed
   - Americas Representatives – JS, SZ and JJ. Unanimously agreed
   - Webmaster SJ. Unanimously agreed
   - Social Media – JG (Zoom) is taking over committee responsibilities for media, supported by J Gavin who has stepped down from the committee. Unanimously agreed
   - SJ asked that other members considered joining the committee and if so, they should contact him

7. **Election of Independent Accounts Examiner**

   DT offered to continue. Unanimously agreed

8. **Organisational Matters**

   SJ drew members attention to two major society events in 2027
   - **WIPSG Presentation at RPSL on 25 February 2027**, being organised by member, Richard Capon. PF was organising the event booklet, and ST was making the catering arrangements for a buffet lunch at the event (free for presenters and £20 a head for partners and other guests). The society was also publishing a study paper 'Birds on Caribbean Stamps' for sale at the event

- **2027 Convention, AGM and Auction on 2/3 October 2027 at Sedgebrook Ha**ll. Due to the healthy finances and a £950 gift by JG, CK, GW, JW, DF and ST following the publication of five articles in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, attendance fees for the convention, over two days would only be £80 a head (plus accommodation), inclusive of lunches and the Saturday night event dinner. Dealers were being invited to attend the convention

- **Any Other Business** – there was none

Graham Williams – About

I have collected British Guiana postal history for the past 47 years. I originally became a member of BWISC as a teenager and have mainly been a member ever since. I am an infrequent contributor to the Society's journal but have picked up the pen again recently.

I am currently a Director in a Big 4 accountancy firm although I specialise in International Tax within the M&A team. I have spent my entire career working for Big 4 accountancy firms. I am not a qualified accountant but would characterise myself as numerate and accounting literate.

I live in Kent, England.

My other interests and activities include gardening, running, skiing, films and history.

Reports

Chairman's Report – Steve Jarvis

My thanks to the members of the Society Committee for all their work over the last year. In particular, I would like to thank Susan for looking after the membership and proactively promoting publicity for the Society.

It is also the end of an era with the retirement of Ray Stanton as our Treasurer. He has held the position for nearly 30 years and his steady hand has ensured we have remained financially stable and regularly communicated our status to the membership.

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

Secretary's Report – Susan Taylor

The web site continues to be targeted by scammers, a time-wasting nuisance. There have been 1300 attempts in the past year. The other unpopular task is chasing membership dues. Please pay on time in January 2027. Today (6 September) the society has 313 members, plus 24 complementary members (philatelic organisations). The WIPSG Facebook site continues to bring new members in. The WIPSG has held meetings at Kempton Park on 21 March and in Boston on 29 May, both well attended. The Secretary continues to give presentations on Caribbean Philatelic topics at clubs around the UK, always taking the opportunity to promote the society and sell some of its books, with six already booked for the coming year. If you would like her to present to your local club why not ask? The WIPSG was asked to write some articles for the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly Magazine. Darryl Fuller kindly coordinated our efforts and 5 articles on Caribbean topics will be published in October and November.

In the coming year the society has three major events to look forward to: The Society Presentation at the Royal 25 February, a trip around Caribbean islands on the Royal Clipper in March, and our Biannual Convention/AGM/Auction at Sedgebrook Hall on 2/3 October. Please consider joining us!

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 and 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. This is 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 2025 the only printing cost related to the revised printing of the Barbados book so that for once there was a substantial surplus of £1,939

In addition, the decision to wind down the WIPSG library resulted in one-off sales of surplus books of £1,037, although the successful convention held at Northampton nevertheless resulted in a net cost of £1,714. The donation of £2,195 from the auction team, whilst less than the previous year, provided a substantial contribution to the Study Group's funds.

As a result, the accounts for the year to the 31st December 2025 show an overall surplus of £3,773. Once again subscriptions and advertising income more than covered the costs of producing the journal including distribution., and together this leaves the WIPSG with a balance in the Accumulated fund of £26,963, 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.

As I shall be retiring as Treasurer at the forthcoming AGM I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with assistance and providing information when requested so as to make the role of treasurer as easy as possible, and I wish my successor all the best for the future.

WIPSG Editor's Report – Darryl Fuller

Once again, I would like to thank all the authors for their articles in the last year. The flow has slowed a little, but a few authors have been sending a series of articles which greatly help. I always need material whether it is a fully researched article, a small item of interest or a question. I would also like to thank my proof-reader, Paul Farrimond, for his assistance in ensuring the journal maintains its high standard.

I have an apology to make to a few authors. When the Society changed from BWISC to WIPSG, the two email addresses were open at the same time and when the BWISC one was closed, some flagged emails with attached articles were inadvertently archived. This meant they have not been published. I am in the process of checking all the archived material and will publish any articles that were missed over the next few issues.

Please 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.

I have a few editorial points I would like to make that would make my life easier. They are as follows:

- Please send the article as Word document with the words only. I can also handle Apple Pages (but be warned Pages sometimes has issues with tables when changed back to Word).
- Please send the images as separate files scanned at 300dpi wherever possible.
- My email system seems to handle files up to 20Mb, but it is better not to take the chance. Keep email sendings to 7-8Mb or better still use WeTransfer or DropBox.
- If an object is too large for a scanner and you use your phone, please ensure the image is as flat as possible (preferably taken directly above the object). I can crop as necessary.
- I am also quite happy to receive a pdf of the article with your preferred layout.
- Please acknowledge images from other sources (with their permission) although eBay images, I believe, are okay to use as is.
- A separate list of Figure numbers and descriptions is also useful.
- References – I need the full reference details as follows [eg **Davis J.G.M. *War Tax Stamps of the British Empire First World War, The West Indies*. The Royal Philatelic Society London (2009)**]
- Web References – please ensure you add the date accessed at the end of the reference [Accessed 16 June 2016]

Finally, if you have any ideas or thoughts on what the journal needs don't hesitate to contact me.

Report on our Annual Auction 2025 – Simon Richards

See WIPSG Journal December 2025 – extract:

This year we offered 729 lots. The sale was estimated at a little over £43,000 and represented the property of 22 vendors compared to 23 in 2024. This year the percentage sold dropped back to 62% with 447 lots sold (2024 78% and 588 lots). Total realisations were £31,922 before our 10% vendor commission down on £40,050 last year and just ahead of the £31,273 in 2023 when 80% sold. As ever there is no buyer's premium.

Publications Report – Paul Farrimond

In 2025 we published one book: a second edition of Fitz Roett's "Barbados: The Britannia Issues" (August 2025). This new edition was extensively rewritten and updated by Jonathan Guy and myself, with a completely revised layout and many new illustrations. Fifty soft-bound copies were printed and these soon sold out, leading to a second printing of a further fifteen copies in May 2026.

Book sales in 2025 were good with 110 books sold in total. Unsurprisingly, the most popular were the more recently published ones: 28 copies of the Barbados 2nd Edition, 16 copies of Dominica, six copies of Anguilla and seven of the Lady McLeod. However, 33 different titles sold at least one copy, showing that our back catalogue is still popular. This included six copies of Peter Fernbank's King George V Key Plates (published in 2013).

Although several potential book projects have been discussed with authors, only one or two are currently being worked on, and these are in early stages. The next "publication" is likely to be the A4 soft-bound handout that will be produced for the WIPSG display at the Royal Philatelic Society London in February 2027. I would encourage all members displaying to contact me, if they haven't already, so that I can prepare their contribution to the handout.

I believe that our society is renowned for the number and quality of the publications that we have produced over the years. Wishing to continue this, I would be pleased to hear from any member who is interested in writing a publication for the society, be it a full-sized book or a smaller "study paper".

Awards Committee Report – James Podger

Presented every other year, at the Convention.

Webmasters Report – Steve Jarvis

The website continues to tick over with updates to events, auctions etc.

My thanks to Jonathan Guy who continues to provide updates to the Barbados Early Covers listing and James Podger who provides updates to the Philatelic Auction Bibliography (both to be found under Reference & Galleries > Information).

Under "Exhibit News", the Poacher BWI collection is being progressively the scanned, so far the following have been completed: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, British Honduras, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Leeward Is, Montserrat, Nevis, St Christopher/Kitts Virgin Islands (Br). Next year we hope to add British Guiana and Trinidad/Tobago (another 13 albums!)

Social Media Report – Jonathan Guy

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

During the last year we had one online Zoom presentation from Paul Pitcher on The Seated Britannia printed by Perkins Bacon with a focus on Barbados and Trinidad. This talk was added to the WIPSG website along with our other videos, however it seems that on YouTube we now have two WIPSG channels.

The main channel is now WIPSG Jarvis, with another channel in existence called West Indies Philatelic Study Group. Ideally, we would want to amalgamate these two if possible to avoid confusion.

On other social channels, WIPSG has 280 members on Facebook, 15 followers on X (but no posts). There are no other visible social channels.

Appendices

WEST INDIES PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

			2025		2024
INCOME :					
Subscriptions			5,343		5,842
Publications - Sales less commissions			2,750		3,074
Library book sales			1,037		-
Auction donation (net of costs)			2,195		3,276
Other donations			144		265
TOTAL INCOME			**11,469**		**12,457**
EXPENDITURE :					
Journal	Printing & distribution costs	5,427		5,624	
	Less : Advertising	(1,229)	4,198	(1,720)	3,904
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs			811		4,769
Convention costs net of recovery			1,714		-
Other room hire & meeting costs			99		1,311
ABPS affiliation fee			296		338
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc			83		143
Insurance			147		147
Bank charges			70		8
Website			278		269
			7,696		**10,889**
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		£'s	**3,773**	£'s	**1,568**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

ACCUMULATED FUND :					
Balance at 1st January 2024			24,004		21,541
Add :	Surplus for the year		3,773		1,568
	Exchange conversion reserve		(814)		895
		£'s	**26,963**	£'s	**24,004**
REPRESENTED BY :					
	Cash at banks		31,311		30,174
	Debtors - amounts due to us :				
	Journal Advertising	1,880		2,417	
	Book Sales	1,629		1,536	
	Prepayments	100		-	
	Other Debtors – Amounts due to us	140	3,749	-	3,953
			35,060		34,127
Less :	Subscriptions received in advance	(1,728)		(2,620)	
	10 Yrs Subscriptions Liability (Ex BCPSG Life)	(5,775)		(6,858)	
	Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(594)	(8,097)	(645)	(10,123)
		£'s	**26,963**	£'s	**24,004**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2025 is in accordance with the books,vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2025 shows the financial state of the West Indies Philatelic Study Group as at that date.

David Taylor : Independent Examiner

Membership Analysis as at 1 Aug

Count	Digital		
Country	No	Yes	Grand Total
Australia	1	8	9
Bahamas	1		1
Barbados	1		1
Belize	1	1	2
Bermuda	1	2	3
Canada	6	7	13
Cayman Islands	1		1
Costa Rica		1	1
Czech Republic	1		1
Denmark		1	1
Finland		1	1
France	1	2	3
Germany	3	4	7
Ireland	2		2
Italy	1	1	2
Jamaica	1	1	2
Japan	1		1
Netherlands		3	3
New Zealand	1	3	4
Norway	1	1	2
South Africa	1	1	2
Spain		1	1
Sweden		1	1
Switzerland	2	2	4
Thailand		1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	3		3
UK	100	43	143
USA	67	29	96
Grand Total	**197**	**114**	**311**