



## 74TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 6 July 2024 at 14.00 BST

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT by Richard Flemming

Following on from the 73rd Annual General Meeting I will concentrate my report in to two periods; 9 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 and then 1 January 2024 to 4 June 2024 when I complete my report. For the first period concerning Secretary's duties there is little to report. One key issue that came forward for the Executive Committee members to deal with was the retirement of David Gurney as Journal Editor. Fortunately, we were able to recruit Nick Martin to fill the vacant position and by now you have been able to see the results of Nick's experience in producing a previous philatelic journal. The Executive Committee also took the decision to undertake a thorough review of the services that the Society provided for members. The digitising of **Les Iles Normandes** so that members can search past journal for articles has been completed, with much positive feedback from members who have used the site. We are in the throes of upgrading much of the Society's website so that it becomes easier for members to navigate through the site. I am sure that our Chairman has more to say on the matter. On a personal note, I would like to thank Ed Martin for the hard work that he has put in to update the website to date. As they say, "It is work in progress"

Moving on to 2024, we had a successful Members Competition Day, of which I'm sure Nick Martin will provide more details.

Sadly, we had to cancel the Member's Weekend meeting at Salisbury due to circumstances beyond our control. But, as a replacement we managed to hold a Members' Meeting at the RPSL on Saturday, 20 April that included the Room/Postal Auction that we would have been held at Salisbury (see Nick Stuart's comments). Looking forward to 2025, the Society has been invited by the President of the RPSL to provide a major display at the Royal as part of the society's 75th Anniversary celebrations. I am pleased to report that good progress is being made in arranging the display.

Finally, can I thank all the Society's committee members for their support and hard work over the past twelve months. We've achieved a lot during this period and the Society is now seen as one of the leading philatelic societies in the UK.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT by Bryan Elliston**

A standing point of business for the AGM is to seek approval for the previous year's accounts – that is, those for the year ending 31 December 2023. These accounts, being an Income and Expenditure Account and statement of bank accounts comprising the Society's available cash reserves, have been approved by the Executive Committee.

An independent review of the accounts and supporting records has been undertaken and a clean report is attached to the accounts.

The Society continues to be in a strong financial position, with expenditure fully in line with expectations.

Total cash available at 31 December 2023 was £43,096, broadly unchanged from the prior year-end as the Society's income-generating activities operated at a level sufficient to cover the Society's tightly-controlled cost base.

### **INCOME**

Subscriptions received in 2023 were some £1,400 lower than those received in 2022, driven by an inconsistency in the timing of receipts across the two years. The higher level of receipts in 2022 was driven by the subscription reminder notice being sent to Members in the September 2022 Journal, rather than the December issue as had been the case in previous years.

The continued success of the Society's auctions was once again evident in 2023, generating £2,625; although this was much reduced from the hugely successful result in 2022. The final auction of 2023 was held in October, allowing sufficient time before year-end to make all the payments to vendors out of the sales receipts, an outcome which was not achieved in 2022 and which necessitated an adjustment to the 2022 accounts so as to avoid the net income for 2022 being misleadingly overstated by £13,360. This adjustment was reversed in 2023 so that those vendor payments do not result in a misleading picture of the 2023 net income.

The results of the Packets activities for 2023 showed a pleasing increase on the prior year. Up to 2022 the Packet activities historically ran from September to August each year and, as a consequence, the £448 of receipts in the final four months of 2022 were matched against payments to vendors in 2023 and hence were not included in the income figure for 2022. For 2023 onwards, the Packets activities operate on a calendar basis, such that no further year-end adjustments are required.

Bank interest of £350 is included in Sundry Income, representing the interest earned on the Society's investment in term loans during the year.

### **EXPENSES**

Expenditure in 2023 was fully in line with expectations.

Meeting costs represents the hire charges for those meetings held at the RPSL, one of the meetings in 2022 having been cancelled due to train strikes. The Special Events costs relate to the Members' Weekend Meeting in Guernsey.

## **CASH RESERVES**

As at the end of 2023, £10,000 of the Society's surplus cash was invested in a fixed term deposit account with Lloyds Bank paying interest at 2.6% and maturing in February 2025; and £20,000 was invested in a two-year Bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank paying interest at 4.15% and maturing in January 2025.

## **AUCTIONEER'S REPORT by Nick Stuart**

In 2023 two postal auctions were held. Virtually all the Lots were scanned and the images available on the CISS website. The feedback from members is that they see this as a valuable benefit; allowing them to view the Lots before deciding to bid. Also, scans are available for backs of covers and cards and several members avail themselves of this service.

The auctions are very well supported by both a good number of vendors and around a third of the membership are regular bidders

We started the year with our general Spring Auction, postal and room which was held in Guernsey, which featured 735 Lots of the usual wide range of material covering postal history, Occupation, Red Cross, Feldpost, Sub-post Offices, stamps and many items from the smaller islands. Sales were £15,183 with a profit of £912.

The Autumn Auction featured 722 Lots. Again with a wide range of material which produced sales of £12,028 which made a profit of £666.

Again we were fortunate to be asked by the executors of member's estates to sell their Channel Island material. This resulted in some rare, good quality early postal history items being made available for the first time in a long time. It resulted in some vigorous bidding as the bidders sought to fill gaps in their collections.

The prices realised from these sales can be found in the Auction Archive on the CISS website along with the images which, over time, will provide a rich source of material for research purposes and give members an indication of the likely sales value of items in their collection.

I am very grateful to Gerald Marriner who does the describing and compilation of the catalogue for the general auctions. Also to him and Richard Flemming who have travelled far and wide to collect the material from member's estates.

At every meeting we have had a 50+ Lot auction and this produces sales of several hundred pounds each time. Often members will bring items they wish to sell on the day.

We started 2024 with our Spring Auction, which was held Royal Philatelic Society's premises, as the member's weekend due to held in Salisbury had been cancelled. It produced another good set of results with some rare material attracting many bids.

I urge members to look at their collection for any items or duplicate material that they wish to sell. Judging by the past auctions, good material is eagerly sought by the bidders and our auctions are often the only source of those elusive items.

## **JOURNAL EDITOR'S report by Nick Martin**

Having edited only one edition of Les Isles Normandes so far, there is little to report other than to acknowledge the many years hard work as Editor by my predecessor, David Gurney. Such handovers often occur unexpectedly, but I am very grateful for all David's support in making the takeover so seamless, and particularly in directing a quantity of articles and correspondence to me. Thank you, David, for your many years' hard work as Editor, in addition to the many other posts you have held within this society and elsewhere.

It is clear, over the years, that there have been a number of regular contributors to our Journal, and I hope to be able to continue to receive your support and that of all members to continue to do justice to your research, discoveries and contributions.

I have previously stated that I am not planning any major changes to the journal, but I hope to be able to bring the benefits of modern technology to help me to produce an informative and entertaining journal worthy of our members' long tradition of contribution to philatelic research.

## **PACKET SECRETARY'S report by John Triggs**

The first round of packets ( 1 postcard and four general circuit packets) have been circulated and all have been returned. The second round of packets consisting of one postcard box and four general packets have been made up and dispatched.

Monies banked to date is £760.

I still require better quality material for the postcard and general packets, as recent material received has only been of average condition and is difficult to sale and increases costs, especially with the rising cost in postage.

## **PRESS AND ADVERTISING OFFICERS REPORT by Steve Wells**

### **ADVERTISING**

#### **Billings**

Our billings for 2023 in respect of journal advertising were £463 compared with £590 for 2022, a reduction resulting from Peter Mollett withdrawing his personal advertisement for the first three issues. There were no auction house inserts booked.

Grosvenor Auctions continued to take the premium rate outside back cover position, which David Gurney originally negotiated in 2015.

I expect our advertising billings for 2024 to be more than 2023 as Peter Mollett is once again placing his personal advertisement each quarter.

### **PRESS**

#### **Press Releases**

I issued seven press releases in 2023. These included (i) Competitions Meeting; (ii) Weekend Meeting; (iii) Auction NS21; (iv) A.G.M. 2023; (v) September Hybrid Members' Meeting; (vi) Auction NS22; (vii) Journal Digitising Project.

The general releases were sent to Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Stamp, ABPS News, Linn's, Guernsey Press, Jersey Evening Post; the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society and the Germany Philatelic Society U.S.A.'s Third Reich Study Group (T.R.S.G.), Michael L. Goodman – Editor of Stamp Lover – at the National Philatelic Society (N.P.S.) and Mike Jackson – Editor of The GB Journal – at the Great Britain Philatelic Society (G.B.P.S.).

The A.G.M. press release was also sent to the Editor of the Gibraltar Study Circle's newsletter The Rock.

The Journal Digitising Project press release was additionally sent to both the Editor of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (U.K.) and Dr. Norval Rasmussen, Editor of France and Colonies Philatelist, the quarterly journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (U.S.).

## **COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT by Nick Martin**

I write after a very short tenure as your competition secretary, having arranged only three years' competitions, but pleased that we have been able to embrace technology once more and bring our members' competition entries to the whole membership via our website.

As I hand over to my successor, I am pleased to remind our members that the last three years' competitions are available to view on our website. You will need to login to view past competitions.

May I finally thank all those who entered our 2022, 2023 and 2024 competitions for their contributions and hope that you will continue to support my successor.



# **EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS' REPORTS**

## **ARCHIVIST'S REPORT by Mark Bailey**

During the past year, material has continued to be added to the Archive, especially the Society's journal and the philatelic bulletins from Jersey Post and Guernsey Post. With the availability of all the past Journals in electronic form on the Society's website, there have been no requests for copies of the Journals from the back issue stock. One member purchased the set of electronic images of the black & white LL postcards.

## **BOOK AND SUNDRIES SALES by Richard Flemming**

Business has been very slow with only seven purchases being made since the last AGM report (six book sales and one sundries) totalling £93.00, excluding postage and packing. Unfortunately, the cancellation of the Member's Weekend meeting at Salisbury may have resulted in a reduction of book and sundries sales.

Members will also note that we have changed our approach to advertising our books on offer. The back page now highlights one or two of the books we have for sale, rather than just a 'menu' of books on offer. Members will also notice a new layout to the 'Publications' page on the website.