



NEWSMAGAZINE

The Pretoria Philatelic Society

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2017

President's Piece

The new executive committee for 2017 was elected at the AGM on 6 March 2017. For the composition of the new committee please see point 9 of the AGM minutes below. Reports for 2016 were presented and are included in this newsletter.

I was honoured to be elected as president for the coming year and I wish to thank you for the confidence expressed in me. Please be assured of my commitment to this task.

At the first committee meeting held on 14 March 2017 wide-ranging discussions were held. Your Society has a well-functioning Exchange Section, a good Library and is in a strong financial position. However, concern was expressed about the long-term future of the Society.

For the past year or so we have experienced a downward trend in the number of members attending monthly meetings. This is a major concern to the extent that we as a committee decided to make it our priority to revive member attendance and involvement in 2017.

We understand that members do not just stay away and that there are valid reasons for the poor attendance. Therefore, we have decided to start with a survey to see when it is convenient for members to attend meetings.

You will find a questionnaire accompanying this Newsletter. I urge you to take the time to respond to the few questions. This will assist your committee in making correct decisions and changes. Please help us so that we can help each other. I think we owe it to ourselves and future collectors and philatelists.

Come with us on this journey – Let's do it, I know it's worth our while to try....

Andre du Plessis (cell - 083 399 1755) e-mail - andredupfs@gmail.com

Meeting 6 March 2017

Steve Marsh, took the chair in the absence of the President, Mike Dove, and welcomed the members and visitors attending the meeting. The Annual General Meeting was held, followed by the regular monthly meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 116th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ST. ALBAN'S COLLEGE, CLEARWATER STREET, LYNNWOOD GLEN ON MONDAY, 6 MARCH 2017 at 19:30

1. Notice convening the meeting

Steve Marsh took the chair in the absence of the President, Mike Dove. Only nine (9) members were present, with ten (10) members being the required number for a quorum. As the PPS Constitution does not specify the procedure in such a case, those present agreed to proceed: proposed by John Barry and seconded by Marge Viljoen.

Steven Marsh read the notice and declared the meeting properly constituted. Attendance was listed in the attendance register book and nine (9) apologies were noted, with apologies received from Alex Visser, Mike Dove, Fritz Blum, Arnu Stassen, Clive King, Dudley Garner, Pat Kitts, Emil Iglauer and Lesly Talbot.

2. Minutes of the 115th Annual General Meeting

The minutes were taken as read. Motion to accept was proposed by John Barry and seconded by André du Plessis.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None not covered elsewhere.

4. Report of the Executive Committee

Steve Marsh, on behalf of the President, Mike Dove, read the President's report on the activities and support for the Society and the achievements of its members.

5. Consideration of reports

5.1 The Exchange Superintendent's Report. The report was read by John Barry and was accepted. Proposed by Cedric Roché and seconded by Marge Viljoen.

5.2 The Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report was read by Steve Marsh and the Financial Statements were made available and were accepted. Proposed by André Nel and seconded by Cedric Roché.

5.3 The Librarian's Report. The Librarian's Report was read by Cedric Roché and was accepted. Proposed by Duncan Bain and seconded by John Barry.

6. Honorary Life Membership

None awarded.

7. Presentation of Awards

Mike Dove was awarded the President's Cup for his exhibit, "The postal usage of the First Definitive Stamps of the Union of South Africa". This trophy is awarded for Pre-1945 and Open Class exhibits.

8. Honoraria

After discussion, the meeting voted to retain the honoraria at R220 per point.

9. Election of Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Committee

The following members were elected unanimously and by acclamation.

- 9.1 **President:** André du Plessis
- 9.2 **Vice President:** Alex Visser
- 9.3 **Secretary:** Alex Visser
- 9.4 **Treasurer:** André Nel
- 9.5 **Exchange Superintendent:** John Barry
- 9.6 **Librarian:** Cedric Roché
- 9.7 **Correspondent:** Terry Lynne Harris
- 9.8 **Additional Members:** Steve Marsh, Mike Dove and Rob Weide.

10. General

10.1 Future meetings

Disappointment and concern were expressed at the lack of attendance at the AGM, as well as the dwindling attendance at monthly meetings. The incoming Committee was charged with investigating other possible options for meetings.

The business being over, the evening concluded with refreshments, items of interest, the letter J and André du Plessis's one-frame exhibit, "Air Mail Stamps of the Union of South Africa" (entered as part 1 of the Club Competition).

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1 MARCH 2016 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2017

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to report on the activities of the Society for 2016. Without the loyal support of the members of the Committee my task would not have been possible, and for this I express my sincere thanks.

- Alex Visser for his support as Vice-president and especially as acting Secretary. His experience of matters philatelic and his advice to me have been invaluable. My gratitude also to him for standing in for me these past 6 months due to my being indisposed.
- James Trew ably assisted by Steve Marsh as Treasurer. The sudden passing of James on 5 February 2017 left us all very much in shock.
- John Barry and his team who manage and ensure the smooth running of a very active and popular exchange section. He can only be commended on his superb managing of this really mammoth task.
- Terry Lynne Harris as correspondent responsible for the informative and very popular monthly newsletters. Mention must also be made here to the input of Steve Marsh.
- Cedric Roché as librarian and also being responsible for the Society's historical record.
- André Nel for managing all the arrangements for the monthly meetings and the refreshments. (Assisted by Everine Dove)
- Rob Weide for promoting the Society and for providing the venue for the Committee meetings.
- André du Plessis for his willing assistance when additional help is needed.

In the course of the past year, the Executive Committee held three meetings.

We are well settled in at the new venue and have enjoyed active and informative monthly meetings. Many very good and interesting topics and material were regularly presented. Discussions have been informal, lively and interactive and enjoyed by all.

We attracted an average of 12 members and 3 visitors per meeting. Unfortunately the main cause for the low attendance figures stems mainly from the fact that the group is aging and many members, due to safety issues, are now no longer prepared to travel at night.

For the past year we continued with the letter of the alphabet theme which

once again proved popular. Some 35 very interesting items were presented. The 55 items of interest shown elicited much discussion and interaction.

The monthly club meetings included a competition, exhibits by members and visitors, and a very interesting and informative workshop.

- The April meeting was dedicated to Postcards, and Maxi-cards where Terry Lynne Harris, Marge Viljoen and Mike Dove displayed some scarce and superb items.
- In May, Gerhard Kamffer presented his “Road to Democracy” in a most polished slide presentation on how to prepare an Open-Class exhibit.
- In July, for the competition evening there was only one entrant. Mike Dove’s “Postal Usage of The First Definitive Stamps of the Union of South Africa” was awarded Vermeil status.
- The Workshop, Question and Answer evening in August was a huge success. Thanks to Cedric Roché.
- In September, due to the passing of Cassie Carstens, Paul van Zeyl readily stepped in and presented his Gold medal awarded “Rebellion and the Union’s entry into WWI in German South West Africa”
- In October, Kenny Napier showed his superb “The Life and Times of Edward VIII.

2016 was a year crowned with many accolades, but also with many very sad moments. Among the accolades were those awarded at SAPDAPEX 2016.

- Alex Visser and Paul van Zeyl were elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of South Africa (RDPSA).
- Cassie Carstens was posthumously awarded The Skinner Cup and
- Marge Viljoen was awarded The Federation Plaque for outstanding service to philately.
- Alex Visser received a Congress Award Certificate for his regular *SA Philatelist* column, “Phun with Postmarks”
- Gerhard Kamffer received the Jack Hagger Award for his *SA Philatelist* article “Types of Stamps and Labels Printed, Overprinted and Surcharged by the Government Printer in Pretoria over the Period 1949 to 1961 (Parts I,II and III)”

PPS exhibitors and their awards:

- Mike Dove: Bloemfontein – Fountain of Flowers (Gold IIsapex Award)
- André du Plessis: Union of South Africa:1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V (Gold + South African Stamp Study Circle Award + Dawid de Villiers Display Trophy)
- Paul van Zeyl: Oom Paul’s Pretoria (Gold + IIsapex Award)
- Malvern van Wyk Smith: Imperial Airways and Feeder Services in Africa up to 1931 (Gold + Dawie Uys Memorial Award)

- André du Plessis: Made in the Union of SA: Stamps & Varieties of the Unhyphenated Issues of 1925 – 1952(Large Vermeil)
- Mike Dove: The Union's Georgians: A Postal Potpourri (Large Vermeil)
- John Gowland: Four Monarchs: A Study of GB low value Definitives 1934- 1971(Large Vermeil)
- Terry Lynne Harris: Grahamstown Street Views (Large Vermeil)
- Paul van Zeyl: A socio-political economic analysis of all South Africa's Homelands (Large Vermeil + PEPS Best Open Class Trophy)
- Danie van Zyl: Full Face Picture Postcards of the Union of South Africa (Vermeil)
- Danie van Zyl: A Solution in Search of a Problem (Silver)
- André du Plessis: The Jipex 1936 Souvenir Sheetlets (Silver)
- Clive King: Into the Blue (Silver)

In addition to the above awards, André du Plessis was awarded a Vermeil for his exhibit "Union of South Africa 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V" at the World Stamp Show in May 2016 in New York, and Cedric Roché who received a Gold for his "Embossed Revenues" at the International Exhibition in Taipei.

On a sadder note, we pay tribute to a number of our members, friends and fellow philatelists, who passed away in the course of the year.

- Jan Corstanje (April)
- Edith Verster (June)
- Cassie Carstens (July)
- Connie Liebenberg (August)
- John van Eijck (September)
- Dick Klein (December)
- James Trew (February 2017)

National Stamp Day on 8 October 2016 was once again a non-entity due to the fact that the facilities at the Denis Adami Hall were only available on 1 October 2016. The previous Stamp Day in 2015 was not a success having been held a week before the actual date. Taking this into account it was decided not to celebrate the event. Federation did however make a serviced cover available at R4.00 per cover, but these were not ordered as none of the covers ordered in 2015 were sold.

The format of the membership numbers has been finalised and now consist of three letters (PPS) followed by four digits. Information regarding this can be obtained from Steve Marsh.

Club membership as at the end of February 2017 stands at 99, which is up on the previous year's count of 95. Membership comprises 67 Home Society, 16 Non-Home Society and 16 Exchange Section Members.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to each one of you for your active participation at our meetings and for your support for the Exchange Packets. Without this the Society would not have been able to flourish this past year. I would also like to thank Everine Dove and André Nel for managing the tea duties and for getting the venue in order for the meetings. Thanks also to St Alban's College for the use of the venue for our monthly

meetings and to the Pretoria Bridge Club for the use of their facilities for our committee meetings.

Mike Dove, PPS President 2016

REPORT OF THE EXCHANGE SUPERINTENDENT FOR 2016

It gives me pleasure to report on the activities of the Exchange section of the Pretoria Philatelic Society for 2016.

The Team

First and foremost my thanks to Steve Marsh who maintains the Exchange section database and program, acts as Assistant Exchange Superintendent, is continually willing to assist in all ways and also runs one of the routes. Thanks to all the Circuit Managers for their continued hard work: Dave Beyers, John Robertson, Mike Kelly, James Trew, Celia Hertz and Lesly Talbot. Thanks also to other members who assisted with the flow of packets: Dave Wyllie, Marge Viljoen, Glen Carpendale, Danie van Zyl and Chris and Beate Carey.

Special mention and thanks must be made of the assistance of Alex Visser in helping organize the printing of 5 000 new booklets earlier this year and to Andre Nel for his continued help in finding boxes for packets (our old ones are looking rather dilapidated).

Sadly, two of our circuit managers passed away in the recent year – Jan Corstanje and James Trew. Mike Kelly has asked to be relieved of his circuit manager duties due to health reasons. All of these have left gaps that still need to be filled.

Finances

The finances of the Exchange section are handled separately with separate banking accounts to those of the main society's affairs. The finances are all reported together under the Treasurer's report though.

During 2016 we received 424 books from contributors for circulation (2015: 471). 34 new packets were made up during the year. 416 packets were circulated through the various routes (2015: 368). Sales from booklets recorded during the year were R 68 624 (2015: R 55 535). At the end of 2016 there were 1092 booklets still in circulation.

Contributors

Some years ago when I again became Exchange Superintendent, I noted that 80% of the booklets received in a year came from only 8 contributors. Since then 5 of these contributors have passed away, 1 no longer contributes booklets and the remaining two only provided 17% of the new booklets in 2016. We now can boast of 47 contributors which is a huge improvement of the situation. I would like to encourage everybody to contribute booklets. Everybody seems to be doing it now!

Interactions with other Philatelic Societies

A while ago, the concept of reciprocity was established between the 3 Pretoria societies – PPS, AFP and the Pretoria Railway Society – whereby we all share in the benefits of the other societies. While the established arrangement persists, the establishment of our new

member class of “Exchange Member” means that this arrangement can now be formalised through other means rather than relying on the memories of Executive members. Perhaps something that the new Committee can consider?

A while ago when the Exchange section of the Postmark and Postal History Society closed, we were approached as a possible channel for their members to submit booklets, with the commission earned to be split between the Societies. So far however only one member of the PM & PH Society has availed themselves of the opportunity.

In October 2016, the OFS Philatelic Society suggested that we swop out our packets with them. The intention is that the Society earning the commission gets to retain that commission. This has been entered into, with the first exchange of packets already having taken place. The advantages are that the booklets are circulated to more people, possibly leading to higher sales while buyers get to see more booklets. The disadvantage is that a contributor’s booklet is retained for a longer period of time. We will monitor this process to ensure that it remains beneficial to all.

Other Societies that have Exchange sections with whom I am in regular contact are Sandton (where I am a NHSM receiving their packets) and the AFV (where I am also a NHSM and assist in the circulation of their packets in Pretoria). I try to keep in close contact not only for cross pollination of ideas on running an Exchange section, but also for quick notification of problem areas or problem people.

Intention to upgrade the PPS Exchange system computer program

Reasons for embarking on this (in brief) are: The current program was written for use on an 8086 computer operating under DOS and with a wide track ribbon printer. It was written for the use of a different style of handling booklets and packets to that we currently use. As we do not have the source code for the program, we have been unable to update the program and have to use a number of workarounds to handle data and do things. The same data can be entered up to three different times as the sections no longer talk to each other.

Steve Marsh has drawn up a specification of what is desired from such a program, has identified a possible firm to do the work and is in negotiations with them to obtain quotes for what we need. The quotation would need to be vetted and approved by the incoming committee.

Country Circuits

Country circuits are those outside Pretoria. The main issues with these routes are the transport of packets to and from Pretoria and the control of the packets especially when problems occur. The ideal is to have a safe and secure path for transport of packets as well as people to handle this. There also needs to be a circuit manager to check sales and money paid.

Currently the PPS has 6 country circuits:

	Area served	Circuit Manager	Packets Courier	Notes
A	West Cape & Welkom			Jan Corstanje
B	Bloemfontein	John Barry	Neil Cronje & family	
D	Howick & PMB	Dave Beyers	Dave Wyllie	
E	East London			No packets as yet
J	Johannesburg	John Barry	Chris & Beate Carey	
S	Polokwane	Celia Hertz	Celia Hertz	

Steve Marsh is currently investigating the usage of couriers for the transport of packets, rather than the SAPO previously used, as they would be faster and more reliable but cost more. There are currently 2 routes that are not receiving packets due to no people available to handle them on the Pretoria side. There are also 2 routes where I am the circuit manager, which is not a desirable state of affairs. The matter of how to handle the country circuits needs active consideration by the incoming committee to ensure that a consistent and workable model is developed for them. Many feel that this is a direction to expand our services to philately as a whole. However we need to sort out our current situation before further expansion can be contemplated.

Thank you for your kind attention

John Barry

Honorary Exchange Superintendent: Pretoria Philatelic Society

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2016

It gives me pleasure to present the Treasurer's report and financial statements for the Pretoria Philatelic Society for the Financial Year ending on 31 December 2016. James Trew, who had been the Society's treasurer for the past two years, had prepared these statements for audit prior to his untimely death early in February this year. I would like to acknowledge and thank James posthumously for his efforts and services to the Society.

I am pleased to be able to announce that your society has maintained and improved its strong financial position once again. On the Balance Sheet Total Assets of R459 640 exceed liabilities of R111 439 (funds due to contributors in the Exchange Section for sales from their books) resulting in Accumulated Funds of R322 179. These accumulated funds are the result of prudent financial management by your committees over the past 12 years which have seen accumulated funds increase from R115 980 in January 2005 to R322 179 at the end of the 2016 financial year. This has been better than a compounded average increase of 6% over the same period.

Monthly Meeting

The AGM was followed by the regular monthly meeting.

Items of Interest



Marge Viljoen showed two booklets, *Handbook of the Grand Scottish Fair - Burger's Park (1929)* and *Dingaanfees 1946 Model Program*.

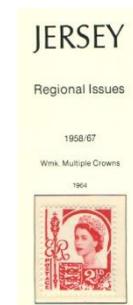
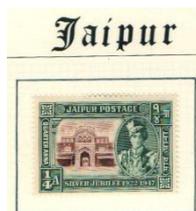


She also showed a 1935 cover commemorating the 80th anniversary of the founding of Pretoria and a cover showing blue colour shift in the 2½c stamp of the 1970 commemorative issue for the 150th anniversary of the Bible Society.

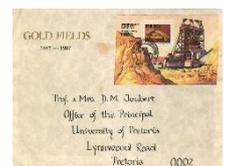


The Letter J

Cedric Roché displayed stamps of Jaipur, Japan and Jersey.



Marge Viljoen displayed three covers addressed to Prof DM Joubert (vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Pretoria from 1982 to 1991).



Evening's entertainment: Competition Evening - Part 1



André du Plessis's showed his one-frame exhibit, "Air Mail Stamps of the Union of South Africa", which he will be entering for BOFEX in July 2017. He gave an introduction to his exhibit and Cedric Roché and Marge Viljoen provided judging, comments and advice on the exhibit.

Thanks

Steve Marsh thanked all those who had brought material to show and he thanked André Nel for seeing to the refreshments.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 3 April 2017. The theme is Postcard and Maxicards and the letter is E.

Upcoming letters for 2017	
Month	Letter
April	E
May	R
June	H
July	C
August	K
September	U
October	L
November	P
December	F

In memoriam: James Trew (11 November 1949 – 5 February 2017)

James Philip John Trew was born in London, England on 11 November 1949. He attended Brentwood Grammar School and then went on to Christ's College in Cambridge, where he obtained a BA (Hon) in Mathematics. He continued his tertiary education at Birmingham University, obtaining an MSc in System Engineering, Radar and Radio Communication. He worked on the GWS 25 Seawolf Project, Defence System used in the Falkland wars.



In March 1976 he immigrated to South Africa, where he worked as a systems engineer at Perseus and Persetel. He married Anita on 16 July 1983 and they have two sons, Christopher and Stefan. In 1988 he received Perseus's Professional Excellence Award. In 1999 he took up a position as systems engineer at Netsys, where he worked until his retirement in 2014. His hobbies included stamp collecting, Sudoku and reading. He also served in the Red Cross.

James took ill suddenly and passed away on 5 February 2017. His funeral was held at Glen Methodist Church on 11 February 2017. He is sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues and philately friends.

The Pretoria Philatelic Society gratefully acknowledges James's contribution to the Society and extends deepest sympathy to his wife, Anita, and his sons, Christopher and Stefan.

Diary

- 1 April: Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction at Denis Adami Hall, Queenswood 09:00 - 14:00, auction 11:00 - 12:30.
 - 09:15 TBVC Study Group Meeting on the Stoep
 - 10:00 Thematics SA (Pretoria Chapter) Meeting on the Stoep
 - 11:00 Auction in the Hall
- 3 April: Pretoria Philatelic Society meeting in the library, St Alban's School, Clearwater Road, Lynnwood Glen at 19:30. Postcards and Maxicards. Letter for the month: E.
- 8 April: Kyalami Stamp Fair and Auction, Kyalami Country Club, Maple Road, Kyalami, 09:00 - 14:00. Fair starts at 09:00, auction at 11:00.
- 15 April: QSA Auction at the Ernest Ullman Recreation Centre, Morningside. Viewing from 09:00, auction at 11:00.
- 22 April: Edenvale Bowling Club Stamp Fair and Auction, 6th Avenue, Edenvale. Fair starts at 09:00, auction at 11:00.
- 6 May: Pretoria Stamp Fair and Auction at Denis Adami Hall, Queenswood 09:00 - 14:00, auction 11:00 - 12:30.
 - 09:15 TBVC Study Group Meeting on the Stoep
 - 10:00 Thematics SA (Pretoria Chapter) Meeting on the Stoep
 - 11:00 Auction in the Hall
- 8 May: Pretoria Philatelic Society meeting in the library, St Alban's School, Clearwater Road, Lynnwood Glen at 19:30. Exhibit by Paul van Zeyl. Letter for the month: R.
NOTE: Meeting on 2nd Monday, as 1 May is a public holiday.

Upcoming events

- 21 -22 July: Bloemfontein One Frame National Exhibition (virtual). Kopano Nokeng Lodge, Renosterspruit. Entries close 31 March 2017
- 11-14 October: SAPDAPEX 2017, Italian Sporting Club, 7 Marais Road, Bedfordview. Entries close 13 April 2017

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