



TPO & Seapost Society

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
held on Zoom
on Sunday 6th July 2025 at 2.00pm

Officers' reports had been circulated with the meeting notice and are included here with any discussion following each item.

- 1 **Apologies:**
Rick Martin, Paul Waldron, Michael Sefi, Geoff Ellerton
Present:
Julian Jones, Clive Jones, Keith Morris, Mike Dovey, Ken Mitchell, Marc Oxley, Colin Lewis Rob Wheeler, Frank Scheer, Iain Wells, Ian Baker, Geoff Higginbotham, Hemal Gurusinghe.
- 2 Minutes
The minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

There were no matters arising.
- 3 Chairman's Report
Since the last AGM the committee have met both face-to-face and in person to ensure that the society is running smoothly. This is in addition to meetings at some stamp fairs where we have also greeted members in that area.
There were no questions.
- 4 Treasurer's Report

TPO & SEAPOST SOCIETY			
YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 6th January 2025			
Income and Expenditure Account			
Subscriptions for the year			
- paid in advance	£ 360.00		
- paid during year	£ 1858.22		£ 2218.22
Auction profit			£ 566.87
Publication/PEX sales (net)*			£ 151.83
		Total income for period	£ 2936.92
Journal (production and postage)			
			£ 3744.35
Sundry expenses			
- auction	£ 70.74		
- website	£ 63.11		
- meetings	£100.00		
-committee mileage charged	£.221.58		£ 455.43
		Total expenses for period	£ 4199.78
		Surplus (Loss) for period	(£1262.86)

Balance sheet as at 6th January 2025		
Society Accumulated Fund as at 6 Jan 2024	£ 21679.48	
Add Surplus (Loss) for period	(£ 1262.86)	
Add Interest received on Deposit Account	£ 451.23	
Add Donations	£ 179.72	
Accumulated Fund as at 6 Jan 2025		£ 21047.57
Add Subscriptions in advance for 2025		£ 545.00
		£ 21592.57
Represented by cash and bank balances		£ 21592.57
Deposit Account £15,000 (3 years @3.00%); Current Account £6592.57; Cash: £ 0.00.		
Notes		
*All publications costs (print and production) are written off in full as they are incurred. Sales income is recorded only as it is received and no value is attributed to unsold stocks.		
AN Codling		CS Jones
Hon Auditor		Hon Treasurer

The income & expenditure account shows loss of £1262.86 compared with a loss of £1182.43 for the previous year. Membership has declined slightly, with a decrease in subscription income of £225.82.

Journal expenses, plus postage, have increased from £3623.67 to £3744.35. The ever-increasing postage costs charged for foreign mail has had a small adverse impact on the Society, as has the introduction of bank charges. There is no need for any action to raise subscriptions, due to a healthy bank balance; however, the discount for prompt payment will reduce by £1 to offset the bank charges.

The Society achieved a profit on publication/PEX sales of £151.83, similar to the previous figure of £157.29.

The Auction profit was £566.87 compared with a profit of £630.34 in the previous year. Ultimately, the success of the auction depends on members, both vendors and bidders. We have only a few vendors submitting lots, so need more variety.

As a policy to protect the Society funds against inflation, the committee agreed to the placing of monies (£15K) on a 3-year fixed deposit. In an improving money market, the rate 3.00% of was obtained in March 2023, up from the previous derisory rate of 0.05%, yielding an increase in interest of £451.23.

This year saw a decrease in bequests and donations, from £296.71 to £179.72, the majority of this coming from the commission sales of a German collector, administered by Mike Dovey, and the remainder from donated auction sales.

The overall effect of all the above impacts is that our accumulated fund has decreased from £21679.48 to £ 21047.57. This is still a healthy situation, and it allows us to plan for, and protect, the long-term interests of the Society.

Finally, I wish to thank Alan Codling for his long-term service and diligence in auditing the year-end financial statements, since I took over as Treasurer in 2012. I offer my continuing service to the Society, which I am proud to serve.

4a Temporary Secretary's Report

All enquiries to the society dealt with and new members brought in, no problems to report.

Editor's Reports

Managing Editor – Keith Morris

The magazine continues with a good mix of articles covering many subjects provided by predominantly your committee, however as always, we need more articles of a meatier content and pages. We need more members to respond when your magazine appeals for information.

The following is a repeat of previous reports which had a zero response from members. I repeat them here in the hope that someone will take pity and make an effort to help the society to survive: -

I repeat from a previous report: remember that it's your journal and if your area of collecting hasn't been covered recently then your contribution is overdue!

Thinking ahead 2 years to when I would like to retire as Managing Editor of the Society magazine (I joined the editorial team in 1998) we are looking to find and train where necessary, people to take on the various tasks which I undertake:

Prepare magazine for printing

Maintain membership database and prepare envelopes, fill and post magazine

Update annual cumulative index for the website

If you think you would like to be involved in any or all of the above – please get in touch and I can discuss and answer any questions. The jobs when broken down are not onerous and do not take too much time or effort.

A discussion brought up the following:

Members to be asked to send in a cover from their collection and a write up for inclusion in the magazine.

Maritime – Nigel Grizzard

For the last year, I have been able to send Keith the copy for 4 Editions of the Magazine. Thank you to all the members of the society who contributed articles and who I hope will continue to contribute. It makes my job so much easier.

Thank you to Keith for the great work he does setting out the articles and ensuring the magazine is printed.

Looking forward to the next Maritime Year!

Railway – Rick Martin

There is a small store of one- and two-page articles in the Files, but, as ever, the Journal needs a series of Railway TPO or Mobile PO related articles, as a serial over two or three issues.

Not necessarily Great Britain or postmark orientated.

“TPO” seems to have pleased most readers, as the Editor has, up until the 20th June 2024, received no criticism of the Railway content.

Once again, my thanks to the Managing Editor for the wealth of material that comes his way and is passed on to the Railway Editor.

Auctioneer's Report

Since the last AGM four completed auctions have been held with a fifth one pending and due to be completed on July 15th. A simplified chart of the results is shown in the table below.

TPO & SEAPOST SOCIETY			Auction results 2024-25		
Auction date	Total lots	Vendors	TPO/Railway	Seapost/ maritime	Total
April, 2024	221	6	140	81	£1,016.00
Sold	101		58	43	
July, 2024	216	7	138	78	£1,333.00
Sold	100		57	43	
October, 2024	222	5	127	95	£788.00
Sold	88		45	43	
January, 2025	220	6	138	82	£1,102.00
Sold	82		59	33	
April, 2025	224	6	110	124	£733.00
Sold	67		45	22	
July, 2025	216	10	111	105	

This report can really be summed up by the phrase 'more of the same' as it is very similar to that for 2024.

Although the total number of lots has been maintained, the overall standard and quality is slowly reducing as I get to the end of a significant batch of TPO material. More material is always welcomed to keep the auction on a sound footing. On a more positive note, I have been able to include a greater proportion of seapost items in the last year which initially sold quite well. The good stuff always does well but more is needed.

There seems to be little demand for foreign material or, is the fact that I have very little to offer, the main culprit here. In which case I repeat verbatim the paragraph from the AGM of 2023.

'The auction is 'by the members and for the members' and it is up to us all to try to make it of higher quality and greater variety. I can only list what I am sent. I will always try to assist vendors if they are unsure – all it takes is an email or phone call to check and our commission rate remains low and very, very competitive and all of it goes towards the Society's running costs.'

Suggestions for improvement and development of the auction are always welcomed so please get involved if you are not seeing what you would wish to see.

7 Librarian's Report

Since the last AGM in 2024, there have been two calls on the Library from Members and four requests for information from members.

The Salles series of books seem to be very popular and are a great asset to the Society.

Nothing new has been added to the library since the last AGM.

The library receives, on a quarterly basis, exchange Journals from the "Railway Philatelic Group" - "Railway Philately", and - "Transit Postmark Collector", the Journal of the Mobile Post Office Society in the United States.

Requests for a scan of the contents of these two Journals, for the years to date, can be made from the Librarian by email at - TPO_Seapost@Hotmail.com.

During a discussion the suggestion of charging for loans from the library was brought up – it was agreed to discuss as a future MCM. It was also suggested that the committee also look at disposing of some titles, giving members the first option.

Copyright was also discussed – no more than 10% of a book to be copied for a member to use.

8 Webmaster's Report

A major piece of work last year was moving the website from one ISP to another at the request of the ISP which had hosted our website since conception. The website is now hosted at the same ISP housing two other philatelic websites – to the delight of three Treasurers now sharing (reduced) costs.

Since then, the site has been regularly updated with the most recent additions being made to the Resources Page and adjustments made to the Publications page to reflect the latest status of publications for sale. Mike Dovey supplied a complete update to the Maritime Mail page and Keith Morris contributed a number of articles and updates. The catalogue of Hungary TPO Marks by Lutz Ihnken was updated in February this year. Mike's article from Ship's Monthly about Adams Pickup has just been added – observing a suitable interval since publication. An update of the New Zealand TPO Marks checklist by Antony Nicholson has been the most recent update as of early May.

Suggested that future updates about the website be more prominently displayed in the magazine.

9 Election of Officers

Title	Name
Chairman	Julian H Jones
Treasurer	Clive Jones
Secretary	
Auctioneer	Ken Mitchell
Librarian	Rick Martin
Webmaster	Julian H Jones
Managing Editor	Keith Morris
Railway Editor	Rick Martin
Maritime Editor	Nigel Grizzard

The officers were re-elected en-bloc, proposed by Geoff and seconded by Marc.

- 10a Thanks were offered to the Hon Auditor Alan Codling for his previous work and he was re-elected as Hon Auditor.
Proposed by Clive seconded by Julian.

A short discussion ensued and future planning for a replacement Hon Auditor was brought up.

- 11 **2026 AGM Venue and Date: by Zoom on Sunday 5th July 2026 at 2.00pm**

- 12 Any other Business:

A suggested WhatsApp group had been suggested by a member and after a discussion it was agreed that there was no real need for it as emails were currently being used and were just as good at keeping members informed of what is happening in the Society.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at: approximately 14:45pm.