



The British Society of Russian Philately

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

of the Society held

online on Saturday 9 November 2019

1. Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM and
2. The Secretary/Treasurer's Report 2017-2018(both attached)  
*(Proposed by Neil Ritchie and seconded by Edward Klempka)*
  
3. Election and re-election of Society Officers and Committee Members

There were two new nominations Neil Ritchie and John D Myke and all others have been re-elected as follows:

1. President – Neil Ritchie  
*nominated by Terry Page seconded by Edward Klempka*
2. Secretary/Treasurer/Journal Production - Caroline Lee  
*nominated by Neil Ritchie seconded by Gilbert M Rios*
3. Journal Editor - Edward Klempka  
*nominated by John Iacovino seconded by Neil Ritchie*
4. Editorial board 1 – Philip Robinson  
*nominated by Edward Klempka seconded by Roger Castle*
5. Editorial board 2 – Ron Tufft  
*nominated by Norman Banfield seconded by John Iacovino*
6. Committee member 1 - Kevin Holdridge  
*nominated by John D Myke seconded by Caroline Lee*
7. Committee member 2 - Terry Page (London annual meeting)  
*nominated by Gilbert M Rios seconded by Roger Castle*
8. Committee member 3 – John D Myke  
*nominated by Caroline Lee seconded by Norman Banfield*
9. N America Rep - David Skipton\*

\*David Skipton has agreed to stand as BSRP North American Representative.

#### 4. Any other business

Only one item up for discussion. The appointment of a new webmaster and your views on the BSRP having a social media presence.

a) Firstly, are delighted to announce that our newly elected President, Neil Ritchie has very kindly agreed to take over the role of Webmaster of our website [www.bsrp.org](http://www.bsrp.org). from Kevin Holdridge as at 1 January 2020. Our very grateful thanks to Kevin for all his support over the years, which is very much appreciated, (especially by the secretary/treasurer who relied on many occasions on Kevin's expert knowledge to provide a solution or give an explanation to website related issues).

b) Further your comments on expanding the BSRP on social media follow.

"As to Twitter and Facebook... I do not have a Twitter or a Facebook account. I talked to my children and found that although they have had accounts in the past both no longer use them as a means of communication relying instead on text messaging and Whatsapp. So, my preference would be to have a Whatsapp group (which I do use) through which announcements, communications and replies can be made." Neil Ritchie

"I would be in favour of a social media presence for the BSRP. I think Facebook would be better and there is a precedent as I know of at least one philatelic society that has a Facebook page – the Pitcairn & Norfolk Island Society. I realise that some members may not be comfortable with such new-fangled (!) technology but despite much negative comment, social media does have its advantages and is costless from a financial perspective." Jim Fitzharris

"One NO vote - I personally avoid all Social Media. We already have that ability on the BSRP web site - As it is, it is under used." Alexander Safanoff

"I have not Twitter only Facebook. Perhaps the Facebook option could be consider revising, but I have doubts about social media efficiency." J F Serra

"I don't tweet, but lots of people do so yes, why not? Just a question of getting it organised." Terry Page

"Re. Facebook. There is an excellent group 'Philately of Russia and the USSR' <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123057764480/>

*This group was created for Russian stamps collectors around the world. Its primary purpose is to promote discussion, education, exchange and friendship between collectors. This group is not*

*intended to be a selling house for dealers, who are limited to a maximum of 3 posts a day. Please note, this group is dedicated to RUSSIAN and the USSR philately!*

There are three admins, Michael Kiss in the USA, Karina Arutyunyan from Moscow (currently living in Amsterdam), and me. There are over 2,300 members from around the world, but like all groups only about 20-30 regular contributors. This group was created for Russian stamps collectors around the world. Its primary purpose is to promote discussion, education, exchange and friendship between collectors." Rick Wilmot

"I do not support social forms such Facebook or Twitter for collectors of valuables. I have a Facebook account to communicate with very few friends and family but as a member of any philatelic organization would never use. Social forms such as Facebook contain too much personal information leaving collectors vulnerable to personal intrusion and at worst theft. Why not simply have an informational form like that of Rossica?" John Iacovino

"With regards to a social media presence, these are my thoughts on it. I have consciously avoided social media, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, everything. These are all intrusive media, which I try to avoid. In fact, I don't even own an iPhone... I try to maintain what little privacy one has left in this day & age of "surveillance capitalism. If the society decides to use a social media platform, I won't be using it. The only way members will be able to contact me is by regular post or email. Amen." John D Myke

"According to my opinion Facebook is a useful social media for the Society." Martin Holmsten

"...if being on Facebook or Twitter is the only way, we must consider. Unfortunately, I do not have either and have no intention of joining them, so I will be left out of any news other than e-mails." Roger Castle

If considered, a social media presence would be in addition to the website not instead of. However, considering the range of responses above and the introduction of a new webmaster Neil Ritchie, perhaps this should be something Neil can explore once he has 'got his feet under the table'?

Rick Wilmot's introduction to the Facebook group 'Philately of Russia and the USSR' <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123057764480/> will be of interest to those members who do use social media and certainly worth a look, thank you Rick.

We would like to take a moment to remember Lenard Tiller who passed away on 24 April 2019. We would also thank Neil Ritchie who stepped in as Acting President at short notice following Lenard's passing, and the

Society Officers and Committee members for their contribution in 2019. The latest journal No. 109 is due for distribution later this week and we do hope you enjoy it.

Thank you everyone who participated in this year's online AGM.

9 November 2019