



The British Society of Russian Philately

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

of the Society held

online on Tuesday 10 November 2020

1. Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM and
2. The Secretary/Treasurer's Report 2019-2020(both attached)
(Proposed by Caroline Lee and seconded by Neil Ritchie)
3. Election and re-election of Society Officers and Committee Members

There were no new nominations and one member, Kevin Holdridge has not renewed his interest in serving for another year. All other serving members have been re-elected as follows:

President and Acting Editor: Neil Ritchie
proposed by I M Kahane, seconded by A Epstein
Secretary/Treasurer/Journal Production: Caroline Lee
proposed by G Rios, seconded by A Epstein
Editorial – Proof-reader: Philip Robinson
proposed by C Alsleben, seconded by Terry Page
Editorial: Ron Tufft
proposed by R Castle, seconded by C Alsleben
Committee 1: Terry Page
proposed by N Banfield, seconded by R Castle
Committee 2: John D Myke
proposed by Terry Page, seconded by M Kahane
N America Rep - David Skipton*

*David Skipton has accepted Society Officers' request to stand as BSRP North American Representative.

4. Any other business

Item 1:

Proposal: to increase Caroline's stipend to £1500/annum - proposed by Neil Ritchie seconded by Terry Page.

In response to a request from John D Myke "Caroline, I know you wear many "hats" for the society, but what does the stipend cover in the line of duties?"

Comment by Caroline Lee "My Secretarial duties currently include all administrative duties such as existing and new members queries, correspondence, preparing and managing online AGM, post etc.

Treasurer duties include preparing annual accounts, banking, receipts and payments, subscription reminders.

Currently journal production from start to finish (which I have undertaken since 2011) - Sourcing articles, style layout, typing manuscripts, correcting proof-reader's changes, articles layout and images into Publisher format. Draft to author, additional changes, final to author. Creation of front and back matter. Sourcing advertisers. Final draft to Editor. Collate members journal choices into spreadsheet for external posting by printer. Liaise with printers. Checking proofs. Follow up publishing and posting."

Comment by Philip Robinson "Well, I knew that (as John wrote) you wear a number of "hats" but I didn't know there were quite so many - you do a very good job!"

Item 2: Submitted by Neil Ritchie

"Looking to the future the society will be relying very heavily on two approaches in informing and entertaining the membership, these are the Journal and the website. If Caroline continues, we should have the Journal side of the society safe for the short/medium term but I feel we must now move forward with developing the website and I propose that we should look at the following:

1. setting up a website committee to oversee website content, direction, and policy. (If you would like to put your name forward, please contact the secretary on secretary@bsrp.org.)
2. More importantly looking at funding to provide a professionally maintained website in order to keep it fresh looking, it will be easier to introduce new features and content in line with the committee's instructions, and we will not have to rely on the "skills" of the membership to keep it up to date.

Proposal: to obtain quotes for a commercial company to maintain the existing website on an annual basis."

Comment by John D Myke "I agree that we should & almost have to have a professionally maintained website. I think members will use/view the

site more regularly if it is current. It has not been in the past. I have no idea what this service would cost, but we will soon find out. Does anyone have a "deal breaker" cost in their head at this time?"

Comment by Philip Robinson "I do feel that a professionally maintained website would be a benefit and it would be a good idea to obtain quotes to see if this is feasible."

Item 3:

We should look at the possibility and desirability of holding virtual meetings over the internet, a growing number of societies are conducting displays and meetings in this manner. I have been involved in those conducted by my local society who have so far held three meetings over Zoom, they do work well especially when listening to a talk and seeing the display at close hand, the Q&A after the display works well. One downside for the BSRP is that if we wish to include our global membership then time zones becomes an issue. Perhaps the BSRP should try one out, as it happens my display to Sheffield PS was on the subject of "Warsaw postal system October 1944-January 1945" and I'm happy to host one with that display to see how it goes.

Proposal: to set up a zoom meeting to be held at an agreed date."

Comment by John D Myke "The virtual meetings/displays sound interesting. Time zones have been mentioned as a deterrent for many global members. Could these be archived & put on the website for viewing at the members leisure?"

Roger Castle has kindly agreed to look over our annual accounts, a duty that was carried out by Edward Klempka in the past. Thank you Roger.

We would like to take a moment to remember Edward Klempka and Noel Warr who passed away in late 2019 and Robin Calvert who passed away in early 2020. The Society has lost three active members of the BSRP and they will be sadly missed.

The latest journal No. 110 is now being circulated and early responses indicate our Special Edition has been well received.

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

10 November 2020