

**Minutes of the Ash Stamp Club Annual General Meeting
held on Monday 19th May 2008
at St. Peter's Centre, Ash at 8.00 p.m.**

1. Attendance:

Committee Members: Harry Coupland (HC), Mary Lamont (ML) Keith Lamont (KL) and Graham Bidwell (GB).

Club Members: Ivan Dawson (ID), David Swabey (DS), Ivan Brocklehurst (IB) and Frank Perri (FP) and Mike Jacobs (MJ)

2. Apologise:

Absent: Colin Gawthorpe, Mike Dawe.

3. Minutes of Inaugural Meeting on 13th April 2007

All members accepted the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held on 13th April 2007 and these were signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report:

See Appendix 1 for a transcription of the Chairman's Report.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

See Appendix 2 for a transcription of the Treasurers Report

6. Secretary's Report:

See Appendix 3 for the Secretary's Report.

7. Election of Club Officers

It was proposed by ID and seconded by IB that if all the existing Committee Members were willing to stand for a further year then they should continue in office.

All the existing Committee Members agreed to continue in office for a further year:

Chairman:	Harry Coupland;
Secretary:	Graham Bidwell;
Treasurer:	Keith Lamont;
Committee Member:	Mary Lamont.

8. Agree Dates for 2008/2009

The following dates and itinerary for 2008/2009 were agreed by all present:

June 16 th 2008	Members Thematic Display;
July 21 st 2008	Guest Speaker – John Haywood,
August 2008	No Meeting,
September 15 th 2008	Guest Speaker,
October 20 th 2008	Details to be arranged,
November 17 th 2008	Guest Speaker,
December 15 th 2008	Social – full details to be decided,
January 19 th 2009	Swap Shop,

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8 Agree Dates for 2008/2009 – continued

February 16 th 2009	Guest Speaker,
March 16 th 2009	Guest Speaker,
April 20 th 2009	Members Competition,
May 18 th 2008	Annual General Meeting.

When Members were asked what they would like to see in future meetings, it was agreed that the Club would again invite John Lea to continue with his Postal History Display, and that either John Lea or John Hayward be approached with a view to giving a presentation on the Royal Philatelic Society London.

9 Matters arising from the Initial Meeting:

Visitors:

At the initial meeting it was agreed that any visitors to the club meetings would pay a fee, the sum to be decided.

ID proposed and GB seconded that we continue to welcome visitors who support the club, especially when Guest Speakers are invited, and that this would be without charge.

Raffles:

At the initial meeting it was agreed that Raffles would be held whenever there were visitors to the Club Evenings.

ID proposed and GB seconded that as the Club were not sure when visitors would attend in sufficient numbers that we would not hold Raffles for the time being.

Affiliation:

Affiliation was deferred at the Initial Meeting until the Club's membership became strong enough and that the matter would be reviewed at the next AGM in 2008.

Affiliation was deferred for a further year as it was felt that the Club should have a membership of at least 20 as against the current number of 11/12.

10. Any Other Business

Catering Roster:

A Catering Roster is to be raised to ensure that the making of Tea and Coffee is not limited to one person during the year. Coffee, Tea and Sugar are to be provided by the Club and Milk and Biscuits would be provided by the

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Catering Roster (cont):

Member of "duty". HC requested that he not be on duty when a Guest Speaker is present in order that he can "circulate.

All Members agreed and a Roster covering the remainder of 2008 was agreed.

Meetings:

Members were asked what do you want from the Club Meetings:

KL requested a possible Auction.

ID requested that Swap Shops were retained for possibly half a meeting.

DS suggested that at a member's night that members discuss why they collect stamps, what they collect etc in a general Get to Know everyone type discussions.

HC advised that he was willing to do a further presentation, following on from his first one on Machins, and this time to cover the Wilding Heads.

Insurance:

KL advised that the Public Liability Insurance cover for the Club expires on 31st July and that it was proposed to keep the same company and cover for 2008/2009.

With no other business the AGM closed at 09:15pm.

Graham Bidwell
Club Secretary.

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APPENDIX 1

Chairman's report for the Annual General Meeting of
The Ash Stamp Club, held on the 19th May 2008

This, the first year of the Ash Stamp Club, has been one of trial and error and I hope the errors are not too noticeable. The club has achieved more than was planned for during this first year. We did propose to have speakers, not quite so many perhaps and to utilise the other meetings as an evening for members to get to know one another, their areas of interest in the world of stamps and thematic collections and to exchange stamps and information wherever possible.

What we did not expect was to play host to the Mayors of Guildford and Woking, together with their wives. They came and enjoyed the evening learning new and interesting information on what can and does happen to letters sent through the post thanks to Mr. John Lea FRPS.

As Club members we have also learnt a great deal about the "stamp world" outside our own collections, looking at both thematic presentations on motorcycles and the Rotary Club, the history of the postal service and the way to present the information.

As you will hear from the treasurer, we have money in the bank. This is partially due to the generosity of St. Peter's Church who have allowed the club to use the centre at a low hire charge this year and the grant of £100 from the James Payne Charitable Trust, for which we are most grateful, who supported the club financially soon after the first meeting and without whose help we may not have achieved what we have.

We have grown steadily as local people have come along to share their interest with the founding members. The club still needs new members but also needs feedback from the members as to what they would like to do, hear or take part in, during the coming year. Mike Jacobs has kindly offered to print some membership cards for the coming year, your committee are determining the dates for guest speakers, social evenings and competitions. After that what do you wish to do, talk, exchange stamps, or give short talks on your collection or the thematic collection you are putting together. Whatever it is do let someone know.

My thanks go to; Colin Gawthrop, who has made the club a very useful set of presentation boards, which are easily stored when not in use; to Keith Lamont for organising the visit of the Mayors and being a very good treasurer: to Graham Bidwell, our secretary, who uses his computer skills to get the club advertised all around Aldershot and Ash and lastly I would like to thank Mary Lamont for hosting the committee meetings at 29 Ashdene Road.

May I also thank you the members for supporting the club during its first year.

Harry Coupland
Chairman.

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APPENDIX 2

**ASH STAMP CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2008**

As can be seen from the attached accounts we have maintained a healthy balance sheet thanks to the grant we obtained from the James Payne Memorial Trust Charity. This was granted so that we might be able to have interesting speakers and thus attract a larger membership. This we have done. We began the year with eight members, during the year we were pleased to enrol one new member and we already have another for the coming year bringing the total to ten. This represents an increase of 25%.

The figures however do not tell a complete picture.

We have been privileged to have the hire of the hall at a very reasonable rate (£5 per evening – less than half the normal rate). This will continue at least to the end of 2008.

We were fortunate enough to be given a stamp collection by George Gilder which has produced substantial sales which will not be repeated in the coming year. Sales and donations came to £52.98.

The dance club has given us tea and coffee for refreshments and committee members have provided milk and biscuits. We now propose to purchase tea and coffee and ask members to provide milk and biscuits and make the tea on a rota basis.

I propose that the subscription (£15) remains the same for the coming year.

I would like to thank Sheila Taylor for checking and auditing the accounts and propose that we approach her to do so again next year.

I propose that these accounts are adopted.

Keith Lamont
Hon.Treasurer.

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Secretary's report for the Annual General Meeting of
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As Harry has already said this is the culmination of the first year of the Ash Stamp Club, and we have already seen a change in the Club's secretary. Harry originally took on the role jointly with that of Club Chairman. However when the Club applied to open a Bank account it became clear that a separate Chairman and Secretary were required. I was appointed as Club Secretary at the Club's Extraordinary Committee meeting held on 4th September 2007.

One major task was raising the Club's profile within the local community. To achieve this the club has had articles published in; the St Peter's Parish Magazine; the St. Mary's Parish Magazine; the Ash Parish Council Newsletter; and twice a small piece has appeared in the Ash Vale and North Camp Directory.

The club has also been listed under local organisations on the websites of; Ash Parish Council; Guildford Borough Council; Hart District Council; Waverley Borough Council; and the e-volve website attached to Rushmoor Borough Council.

Posters have been placed in various locations including the Ash Parish Council notice boards and the St Augustine Church notice board in Aldershot.

The club also had a Stall at both the St Peters Fun Day in June 2007 and the Ash Parish Council Fun Day in July 2007.

Since August 2007 the club has had its own website and e-mail address (www.ashstampclub.co.uk and info@ashstampclub.co.uk) this has enable club members to view up to date information regard meetings and so on. This year alone the Club's web site has had 265 unique hits, (people visiting the site), these hits coming from various countries including; the United States, Great Britain, India and Jordan.

Follow the visit to the Club in February by the Mayors of Guildford and Woking, the Ash and Farnham Mail ran a near half page front page, complete with a photo giving full details of the visit. The News Group also has all of the photos taken by the News Group photographer during the evening, displayed on their website.

The aim for the forthcoming year is to get the club more widely known throughout the area and any suggestions and ideas are welcome from members as to how we can achieve this.

May I also thank the members for supporting the club during its first year.

Graham Bidwell
Secretary.