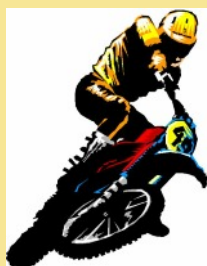


# THEMESCENE

September 2013

*In this issue we:*

*Hit the green dirt track*  
**'Dirt' on my stamps**  
*With Owen Green*



*Enjoy an 'International' . . .*  
**Australia F.I.P. Exhibition**  
*With Lesley Marley*



*. . . And a 'European'*  
**European Championship for Thematic Philately**  
*With Brian Sole*

*Investigate a different 'Pictorial' discipline*  
**Maximaphily**

*Go back to the beginning*  
**How I Started**  
*With Anne Stammers*



*Own up to a secret*  
**Confessions of a thematic collector**  
*With Barry Stagg*

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**Volume 30, No.3. Whole Number 112**

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# THEMESCENE

Vol.30, No.3, Whole Number 112

SEPTEMBER 2013

## THEMESCENE

Journal of the  
British Thematic Association  
which is a member of the  
Association of British  
Philatelic Societies

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

**W**e have a packed issue in this edition, so much so that shortage of space has meant jettisoning the Handstamp Special page and our Library Listing - hopefully the latter will be a bumper list next time. Neither is there the regular Group News - not due to lack of space but because I have been sent no information. Group Society secretaries please note - I am always happy to publish your news updates, forthcoming events etc. However we do range far and wide in this issue: from Wembley (page 87) to Essen (page 114) and to Melbourne (page 108). I was particularly pleased to receive a report from Lesley Marley on her experiences in Australia, and I'm sure all our readers will join me in congratulating Lesley on achieving the first Large Gold for a UK Thematic entrant at an International. But it's not all thematic: page 112 has a feature on maxi cards, a fascinating collecting area in its own right.

You will see from the Minutes of the AGM (page 95) that there has been a degree of 'musical chairs' by members of the Committee. Thanks to those taking on new roles. The Committee are already working on plans for the BTA 30th anniversary next year. Not least will be our second residential weekend (page 119), so successful in 2012. Put that date in your diary now! 

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

John Hayward

I have taken on the President's mantle once again, but only to complete the full term I interrupted in 2011 to undertake the vacant Chairman's role. So it is back to presenting the prizes once again and let others get on with running the BTA. Wendy Buckle's short lived time as our President will I am sure become full term in future when I hang up my tweezers.

One of the tasks I handed on recently was the care of the BTA's archives. Amongst the archives was one item that puzzled me and I wonder if there are any members out there who can help. The item is a black ring binder containing various slide transparencies numbered 1 to 160. There is nothing else written on or inside the binder at all to identify it. I do not recall who gave it to me unfortunately. The slides show a lot of stamps, covers, postal stationery and slogans, but there is no common theme to them, although there are 20/30 stamps of Marie Curie. Brian Sole, Margaret Morris and Wendy Buckle were unable to give me any leads. Was it part of the display the BTA put on for Earls Court 2000? I would be most grateful if any member can put me in the picture.


I have been so pleased to see that the expansion of the BTA's ambit into open (social) and postcard philately has already borne fruit. We have attracted at least one new member who collects social philately and I was asked at Midpex whether the BTA now represented maximaphily, the collection of maximum cards. I was able to say that the BTA had always embraced the collection of maximum cards because they are so much part of thematic collecting anyway. Many of our members collect them as part of their theme, but perhaps in future the BTA ought to give maximum card collecting a more prominent part in its activities (see page ...). It is early days yet however so far as widening the BTA's horizon is concerned, but I am sure we are going in the right direction.

I am often intrigued by the ingenuity of thematic collectors who manage to bring what appears on the reverse of postage stamps into their thematic collections. I am not just thinking of watermarks where there are plenty of themes such as crowns, stars, anchors, roses, pineapples, umbrellas etc, but of what is often printed on the reverse side. I suppose New Zealand and Great Britain started it all in the 19th Century with their advertising



underprints – New Zealand of various products including Pears' soap and GB of businesses. Then there are the Russian underprints from the early 20th Century used to denote money stamps, and let us not forget the Latvian stamps of the 1920s printed on maps. That is not all though. Security underprints of various kinds may link into your theme and since the 1960s the peelable labels on self-adhesive stamps have displayed printed words and pictures suitable

for many themes. It may be difficult to find used stamps in this area although the numbers on the back of Spanish stamps survive well enough. This is a fascinating area to collect.

Enjoy your collecting. 

# CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

**Simon Moorcroft**

It is with great pleasure that I write my first Chairman's page since being elected at the AGM back in June. It is a great honour to be able to lead the BTA over the coming years as we enhance our activities and our drive to recruit more members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Hayward for all his hard work and dedication as Chairman over the last two years, particularly his work in driving and overseeing the BTA's expansion into open and social philately and postcard collecting.


At the AGM John also stepped down from the roles of Displays Organiser, FIP Co-ordinator and Archivist, all roles he has undertaken for many years. It must also be remembered that John has been Chairman before, a number of years ago. He has been a true stalwart for the BTA and we have much to thank him for. Not just superbly organised events and meetings but also clear direction and a genuine enthusiasm for theme-based philately. Although he stepped down from his many roles I am delighted that he has taken back the Presidency, so that he can complete his term, and will remain on the Committee as an elected member. His advice and long experience will be of continuing benefit going forward.

I would also like to congratulate the people taking over new positions: Jim Etherington as Vice Chairman and FIP Co-ordinator, Gerald Lovell as Displays Organiser and Barry Stagg as the archivist. The next few years will be exciting as we work to build on our expansion in scope with new activities, magazine features and events and increase our collaboration with national philatelic bodies. The reaction to the BTA's expansion has been very positive and I am hopeful that we can utilise this enthusiasm to increase the profile of the BTA and hopefully our membership.

It will be challenging but it is vital for our future. Our membership is declining and has been for a number of years with the consequential loss of income. The BTA Committee is well aware of this and is focussed on making economies where possible. But it is important that in reaction to financial constraints we do not reduce and cut back on activities and events as this will reduce our exposure and recruitment potential and could lead us down a path of further serious decline. I believe this can be avoided by striking an appropriate balance.

Our big push will come next year at Spring Stampex. Although details are yet to be confirmed, the BTA will play a full and active part as the show hosts the bi-annual pictorial class competitions, displays and workshops. We are planning a special meeting to commemorate our 30th Anniversary with a guest speaker and drinks reception. This event will be a perfect opportunity to demonstrate to the philatelic community that we represent all theme based philatelic and postcard collecting.

But before that we have the BTA Annual Competitions taking place in October in Sussex. I urge as many of you as possible to attend this event and show your support. Brian Sole is working hard to organise these competitions, which is not an easy job and his time and efforts are much appreciated.

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to a new philatelic season. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one of our events over the next year. 

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

**Peter Denly**

Ordinary members	168
Family members	14
Junior members	2
Society members	13
Overseas members	13
Overseas Society members	2
Honorary members	3
<b>Total number of members</b>	<b>215</b> (At 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2013)

## **New Members joining since the June 2013 issue**

Mr. T. Adam,	Fareham	Prof. Dr. M. Guney,	Oxford
Mr. L. Ashton-Smith,	Chepstow	Mr. M.J. Shore,	Colchester
Mr. J. Billings,	Hingham		

## **Deaths advised since the June 2013 issue**


None

Following a few late subscription renewals and some joining members our total membership has increased to 215 after the low point reached in June. We are therefore delighted to welcome five new members and hope that they will find their membership rewarding, including providing access to check lists and advice, much of which can be found on the website. Of interest, our core membership changes very little, but it seems some people try the Association for a short time and if finding it not to their liking, move on.

It seems almost heretical to mention it, but our summer is nearly over and philatelic programmes are now demanding more attention, with auctions, fairs and displays to benefit a variety of collectors. My own diary is starting to fill with speaking engagements with five societies already inked in. If members have the opportunity it would help with our recruitment to ask local programme secretaries to invite one of our thematic speakers to one of next year's meetings.

We have now achieved a clearer picture of member's wishes regarding the release of contact details, with more than half of our members in favour. I must thank you all sincerely for taking the time to read the notice printed on the renewal form and for responding to the questionnaire.

The recent BTA auction has highlighted the fact that email addresses change frequently and again

**I take this opportunity to remind members**, that when making changes to addresses whether **postal or email** please be sure to inform the Membership Secretary, thus ensuring your copy of *Thamescene* is delivered correctly. Of course this would also have ensured that the auction list arrived promptly. 



# ‘DIRT’ ON MY STAMPS

*Owen Green smells the methanol*

## Introduction



*The familiar broadside style recognisable to many speedway supporters seen on stamps from three decades. (a) Hungary 60fi, 1962, (SG 1862), (b) Poland 1z 50, 1973, (SG 2258), (c) Denmark 4.10k, 1988, (SG 869). (b) and (c) were issued to commemorate the 1973 and 1988 world finals staged in Chorzwow, Poland, and Vojens, Denmark respectively.*

The thrills and spills of motorcycle speedway or ‘dirt track racing’ have been part of British motor sporting tradition for nearly ninety years. The sports origins can be traced to Australia in the early 1920’s, although the early ‘stars’ of the sport were Americans who had gained experience on the temporary unsurfaced tracks (hence dirt-track) used at state fairs. In Australia the half-mile to mile tracks were adapted from horse trotting and pacing tracks.



*Hungary 1961, racehorses (7v) 60fi two trotters racing (SG 1760);  
1ft three trotters racing (SG 1761).*

The organiser of the Australian events was a New Zealander, Johnnie S. Hoskins MBE (1892-1987) who introduced the sport to the UK in 1928 by bringing Australian riders with him for the first meeting at the King’s Oak circuit in High Beech south of Waltham Abbey, and Epping in Essex, on the 19 February. However, some purists might suggest that events staged at Camberley (May) in Surrey and Droylesden (June) on the outskirts of Manchester in 1927 could contest this claim [1]

## A global sport

The modern version of the sport is regulated by the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM), and is raced on oval tracks, usually between 260 – 450 metres in length (measured at a distance of one metre from the inner boundary), with four riders (two from each in a team event) competing in a race. Each race (heat) consists of four laps, with riders travelling in an anticlockwise direction. Riders are distinguished by different coloured helmets, with the riders of the home team wearing red and blue, while the away rides wear white (in some events it is green) and yellow (or yellow and black). Races usually take a little over 60 seconds to complete, with bikes reaching speeds of over 70mph along the straits, and slightly lower as the machines broadside around the bends.



Postmarks promoting British league teams from the 1980's: (a) Cradley Heath, (the Heathens) rode at the Dudley Wood sports stadium in the West Midlands from 1947 to 1995, (b) Leicester speedway operated on and off from 1928 to 1983 at the Stadium, Blackbird Road. Speedway returned to the city in 2011 at a new track at Beaumont Park.

Today in Britain the sport can be watched at approximately 30 tracks split over three leagues during a season extending from March to October. Racing also occurs in many European countries during the summer months, and there are competitive leagues in Sweden, Denmark, Poland (home of the most fanatical fans) and Russia, while there is also competitive racing in the Czech republic, Germany (where the more popular version occurs, known as longtrack or *sandbahn* racing on 1km tracks), Italy, Croatia, Finland, Norway and across the Atlantic in Canada and the USA. During the winter months in the northern hemisphere competitive ice speedway leagues are raced in Russia and Sweden, with occasional meetings in the UK (in recent years the venue has been the Telford arena). Meanwhile the southern hemisphere summer sees competitive meetings in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and South Africa.



The contrasting differences in riding style are evident in these two stamps from the motor cycle sports set from Mongolia (9v) issued in 1981; (a) 30m, ice racing (SG 1338); (b) 70m, speedway (SG 1342).



### Wembley: the Spiritual Home

Following the 1924-25 British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, it had been decided to demolish the main stadium. Arthur Elvin (1899-1957), a young entrepreneur born in Norwich and the son of a policeman, had established eight cigarette kiosks at the exhibition site by the time of its closure, and was employed as the building's demolition contractor to clear the site. However, when the stadium went into liquidation Elvin offered to purchase it for £127,000 (it had originally cost £750,000 when completed in 1923), using a £12,000 down payment, and the balance plus interest payable over ten years [2]. Elvin purchased the stadium at 6.30pm on the night of 17th August 1927, and then at 6.31pm he immediately sold it to new owners Wembley Company for £150,000. However, Elvin received his profit in the form of shares, which gave him the largest stake, and he was appointed Chairman [3]. As a fanatical supporter of speedway, and with the help of speedway promoter Johnnie Hoskins, he constructed a speedway track at a cost of £250,000 and formed the Wembley Lions who competed in the Southern League in May 1929.



*The exhibition was the first occasion the Post Office issued commemorative stamps. Designed by Harold Nelson they were issued on April 23 1924 and inscribed “British Empire Exhibition 1924”: (a) 1d scarlet (SG 430); (b) 1½d brown (SG 431). A second printing was issued on 9 May 1925 with the date changed to “1925”.*

Post-War the Wembley Lions went on to win the league title seven times, and were runners up twice in an eleven year period. The league match between Wembley and West Ham in 1946 was witnessed by a crowd of 85,000 within the stadium, while at the final meeting of the season the stadium gates were closed with a further 20,000 unable to gain entry and the meeting was relayed to them by loudspeaker. During that year home crowds averaged 52,000. Elvin ensured the popularity of the sport by introducing supporters clubs similar to modern football. Between the late 1940’s and early 1950’s the Wembley Speedway Supporters Club had in excess of 65,000 members. For his efforts in helping to organise and stage the 1948 Olympic Games (the games schedule for 1944) Elvin was awarded a knighthood by King George VI in 1947 [4].

### Staging the World Final



*The speedway track encircling the football pitch at the old Wembley Stadium staged 25 individual Speedway World Championship Finals and 3 World Team Cup Finals from 1936 to 1981. When the football pitch was in use the home and back straits of the speedway track were covered by turf. Calendar clashes between on-field and track events reduced the speedway season when Wembley was used as a league venue. (Monaco, 1963, SG 744).*

The Speedway World Final was staged at Wembley Stadium from 1936 to 1938, and then when the sport was re-introduced after the Second World War from 1949 to 1960. It was staged a further nine times, with the last event in 1981. Elvin’s entrepreneurial skills ensured the inaugural event in 1936 was a success (won by Australian Lionel Van Praag, 1908-1987).

Sir Arthur James Elvin MBE died on 4th February 1957 while on a cruise ship bound for South Africa, and was buried at sea off the coast of the holiday island of Madeira in the Atlantic Ocean. During his life he had been a tough-talking, no-nonsense businessman and entrepreneur, who persuaded the Wembley Stadium Company to invest £100,000 in the re-development of the Stadium to host the 1948 Olympics when the government had been unable to find the funds [4]. In addition to overseeing the building work, he and his team organised the competitors transport, the design and sale of the tickets for all the venues, and the entertainment for the VIPs. The attendance figures were, at that time, the highest for any Olympics, and with no so-called international incidents there is little doubt that Elvin was the presiding genius behind the events’ organisation. He was extremely modest about his achievements, commenting afterwards “the dismal jimmies who prophesied a failure have been put to rout” [5].



Elvin's vision for the Wembley complex had seen him construct a new multipurpose built sports arena alongside the main stadium in 1934. The empire pool and sports arena were built for the 1934 British Empire Games, and it was later the home venue for the Wembley Monarchs and Wembley Lions ice hockey teams. In 1990 he was inducted into the British ice hockey hall of fame [6]. He called Wembley the 'ascot of the speedways', and like the racecourse in Berkshire, the speedway attracted aristocracy, society personalities, showbiz and sporting celebrities, and royalty. In 1948 Prince Philip had presented Australian rider Vic Duggan (1910-2007) with the speedway riders championship cup. The following year 1949 saw the wife of the British prime minister, Clement Atlee, present the first post-war world championship trophy to the first British winner, Wembley Lions own Tommy Price (1911-1998).

### Post-War Masters of the Shale

During the post-second world war era to the late 1970's the motor sport of speedway racing was acclaimed as being the second highest spectator sport after football. Australian and British riders dominated the podium places at the world championships until the 1950's. In 1954 a young Swede, Olle Nygren (b. 1929) went one place better than he had in 1953 and finished third. Although Nygren never won the individual championship (he was a successful member of Swedish world team cup teams and world pairs champion), his success heralded the domination of the world championships by a young Swede, Ove Fundin (b. 1933).



*(SG 2244, Sweden, Motorbike riders, 8v, 2002). Ove Fundin, nicknamed the Flying Fox, dominated speedway World Championships for over a decade, and is considered by many to be the greatest rider of all time. Fundin made a total of 15 World Final appearances, with five wins, three runners-up and three third places. He helped Sweden win the World Team Cup in 1960, 1962 - 1964, 1967 and 1970 as well as the Speedway World Pairs Championship in 1968. He is honoured in the sport by having the Speedway World Team Cup trophy named after him.*



*(SG 2247, Sweden, Motorbike riders, 8v, 2002). Olle Nygren, or Varg-Olle as he is known to supporters in Sweden, became the first Swede to get on the podium of the individual World Championships when he came third in 1954 behind Brian Crutcher of Britain and Ronnie Moore of New Zealand. In Sweden Nygren had success in many other forms of motorsport including road racing, ice-speedway and in 1962 took part in a minor Formula 1 car race.*

Ove Fundin dominated the late 1950's and 1960's along with the two New Zealanders Ronnie Moore (b. 1933, two titles) and Barry Briggs (b. 1934, four titles), and Englishman Peter Craven (1934-1963, two titles). In the 1966 World Championship in Gothenburg a New Zealander, Ivan Mauger (b. 1939) made his debut. He went on to win six titles, three in a row from 1968 to 1970, and had a great rivalry with Dane Ole Olsen (b. 1946, three titles). During the late 1970's and early 1980's Olsen was Denmark's biggest sports star, and in 1975, after winning the World Championship for the second time, he opened his own track, the Vojens Speedway Centre in his home town in South Jutland, and inspired a generation of riders who would dominate over the next decade. Olsen had the distinction of winning the last ever speedway race held at the original Wembley Stadium.



*New Zealander Ivan Mauger is considered by many to be the greatest rider of all-time. Commemorated on this 2009 \$1.50 issue from the NZ Champions of Motorsport 5v set (SG 3118). During a 28 year career Mauger won 9 individual World Championships (six speedway, three longtrack) and four World Team Cup and two World Pairs Championships. In addition to numerous individual and league team honours he was awarded the MBE in 1976 and the OBE in 1989, and inducted into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.*

### The Grand-Prix Series

In 1995 the format of the world championship event underwent a major restructuring. Since its inception it had comprised a series of qualifying rounds that culminated in an annual individual meeting. This was now replaced by a season long series of meetings staged internationally, with riders accumulating points from each meeting to decide the eventual winner. The grand prix series was part introduced to eliminate any 'home advantage' to any one individual rider, and to ensure a larger 'live' audience at a number of venues.

The format allows for 16 riders to compete in each grand prix meeting over the course of twenty heats. Each of the riders races every other rider, with the top eight advancing to two semi-finals, and the first and second from those contesting the final. Apart from the final, where race points are doubled (6-4-2), individual point scoring is the conventional 3-2-1 for first to third respectively. Riders for each grand prix comprise fifteen regulars (ten of whom were seeded from results obtained the previous year, and five through qualifying), while the sixteenth is a 'wildcard' qualifying, nominated or selected for just one meeting. Although the grand prix series dominates the European season, for 2012 and 2013 the first round was staged in New Zealand in late March, with the remaining rounds competed in Europe. The British Grand Prix has, for over a decade, been staged at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

The first grand prix series was won by Hans Nielsen (Denmark) amassing 103 points from six events, continuing the Danish domination (17 podium places by Danish riders since 1984). It was Nielsen's fourth world title. Ironically, the man who came second, Tony Rickardsson, was the final winner of the last single event format in 1994. However, he was to go on to dominate the first decade of the Grand Prix series winning it five times, the last in 2005.



*Previous page:*

*SG 2245, Sweden, 5kr Motorbike riders, 8v, 2002). Swedish rider Tony Rickardsson has won six World Championships, five as Grand Prix Series champion, twice as runner-up, and third-place twice.*

Recent winners have included Australian Jason Crump (three times), Dane Nicki Pedersen (three times) and Greg Hancock (USA, 1997 and 2011, a 14 year gap between championships, to date, the longest of any ride and the only rider to have competed in every grand prix), Tomasz Gollob (Poland) and current champion Australian Chris Holder.



*Recent philatelic racing action: SG 4154, Poland, 1,25z Motor sports, 4v, 2004); a mini-sheet from Togo (2010, SG unclassified).*



Today the sport of speedway has a fanatical following in East Europe, and particularly in Poland where for the 2013 grand prix series three rounds will be contested (Bydgoszcz, Gorzow, Torun). Freedom of movement throughout an enlarged European Union has resulted in many of the top riders opting to compete in the Polish, Swedish and Danish leagues in preference to the British League. Riders are conscious that regular league competitions on the permanent tracks around Europe that stage rounds of the grand prix has the potential to make them more competitive for the big events.

However, during the Communist era, when the Iron Curtain was in place and travel restrictions existed between West and East European countries there was one event that many considered on a par with the world championship, and to which the best Western based riders are invited to compete. The Golden Helmet is one of the oldest speedway events in the world, where races are between six riders rather than the usual four. Apart from the years of world conflict and occupation, the competition, the Zlatá Přilba or Golden Helmet, has been hosted annually usually in September, in the city of Pardubice in the central Czech Republic state of the same name since 1929, and has an impressive list of international winners [7-9]




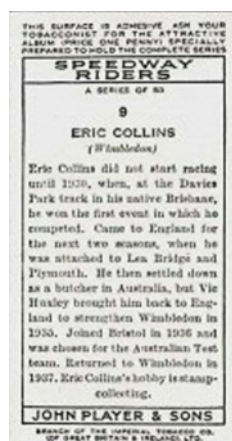
*(SG 1335, Czechoslovakia, 1kr Speedway rider, 1963). Commemorating the 15th "Zlatá Přilba Města Pardubická" (Golden Helmet of Pardubice) speedway event. The meeting was won by Czech rider Antonin Kasper Sr., (who rode in the UK for Coventry in 1968-69 and West Ham in 1970), and whose son Antonin Kasper Jr., (1962-2006) won the same event in 1991. Danish rider Ole Olsen won this title a record seven times between 1970 and 1980.*

Hold the page up to your nose, and take a deep breath – I am convinced I can smell the methanol used to fuel the bikes, and if I put my ear to the page I can hear the roar of the 500cc engines revving at the tapes cheered on by an 80,000 plus crowd!



## A Cartophilic Footnote

I could not let this brief thematic outline of speedway and philately pass without mention of a 1937 Players cigarette card from the 'Speedway Riders' set of 50. The card illustrated is of an Australian Eric Collins (1910-1954) who rode for the pre-war Wimbledon Dons. But for the Second World War, Collins may well have achieved more World Championship appearances. The short biography on the back concludes with the sentence that "Collins's hobby is stamp collecting." One can only wonder where this collection is now? 



*Australian Eric Collins (1910-1954) raced in the UK for Lea Bridge in 1931, Plymouth in 1932 and Wimbledon from 1935 – 39. He qualified for the 1939 World Final and*

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[8] *Zlatá přilba*  
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# JERSEY NEW ISSUES



**Dragonflies and Damselflies**  
Commemorating the 30th year of The British Dragonfly Society these stamps illustrate insects native to Jersey.

**Visiting Tall Ships**  
Traditionally-rigged sailing ships regularly visit St. Helier, Jersey's main harbour.



## Military Vehicles

A selection of Jersey's privately-owned military vehicles. The stamps feature the H4HJ logo: Holidays for Heroes Jersey, formed in 2008 to provide respite need for those injured by military service.



## **Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Swinpex, St Joseph's Roman Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR**

**Present:** There were 23 members present

The Acting Chairman, Simon Moorcroft, welcomed everyone to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting particularly those who had not attended our AGM before,

**1) Apologies:** John Hayward, Richard Wheeler, Frank Spencer, Margaret Morris, Paula Cant and Bob Lee.

### **2) Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

These had been published in Themescene September 2012 and were circulated at this meeting. Jim Etherington proposed and Barry Stagg seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record – *agreed unanimously*.

### **3) Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4) Chairman's report**

This was read by the Acting Chairman on behalf of the absent Chairman:

Let me commence my report by referring back to the BTA's AGM last year because that is where the strategic path we have been following ever since originated. Members may recall that there was considerable discussion about widening the role of the BTA to embrace the increasingly popular disciplines of Open, Postcard and Social Philately (the Pictorial Classes), which were not represented by any particular philatelic association in the UK, as part of a drive to halt the loss of members and to attract new members. There was even a suggestion that we change our name. In addition it was suggested that we strengthen our role with the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). During the year we have spent much of our time on the future role of the BTA, though thankfully we have not changed our name! We have re-acquired, on the demise of Friends of Thematica, the Fosbery Trophy, the national competition for Open Philately with no rules, and this will be staged along with the BTA Cup & Inter-Federation Thematic competition at the Sussex Federation's Convention at Ardingly in October. And before moving on I must record the BTA's grateful thanks for the donation we received from the Friends on their cessation. Your Committee has decided that the BTA's future role should definitely embrace the Pictorial Classes and the result of that decision may be seen on today's agenda where we propose to amend our constitution accordingly. This move is to gain and represent collectors of this very attractive form of philatelic material just as much as it is to become involved in exhibiting in this area.

We have also decided to re-emphasise the fun of thematic collecting and this has been reflected in articles in Themescene and the national stamp magazines (where possible) with a separate page now in Themescene covering exhibiting. The invitation by John Baron at last year's AGM to strengthen our role with the ABPS is about to take off, as at Autumn Stampex 2013 we are hoping to run a thematic exhibiting seminar open to the public, and an informal appraisal for potential thematic exhibitors at national and international levels. There are also moves afoot regarding promotion of the Pictorial Classes and the BTA at Spring Stampex 2014. Watch this space!

Another upbeat move since Autumn 2012 has been the promotion and sale of Margaret Morris's CD, *Introduction to Thematic Collecting*. Margaret spent a great deal of time with assistance from Wendy Buckle preparing this excellent showcase for thematics. There are still some available on the BTA's table today. It has sold like hot cakes with 111 sales to date, although we are still

awaiting sales in the USA where the American Topical Association's *Topical Time* has yet to carry a review of the CD for us. All these upbeat moves have unfortunately not yet generated the influx of members we would like to see, but the Committee is confident they will eventually reap dividends.

I have mentioned some changes we have made to *Themescene*, our quarterly magazine that Wendy Buckle so ably and unstintingly puts together every quarter, and which is the lifeblood of the Association in doing the job it is intended to do. We cannot thank her enough for her efforts. *Themescene* received a silver medal in a literature competition in New Zealand earlier this year, with considerable criticism in my view, but we have decided nonetheless to undertake a detailed review of the content and format of *Themescene* in the light of those comments to see if it can be improved. This will also include a review of our website which James Wigmore keeps up to date for us – many thanks to James.

One innovation which was a great success in 2012 was the BTA Weekend at Oxford – thoroughly enjoyed by all participants and hugely rewarding for our long serving Secretary, Anne Stammers, whose organisation of the event was of the highest order. We intend to repeat the Weekend in Autumn 2014. I cannot let Anne escape though without a further word about all the essential work she does as our Secretary – agendas, minutes, correspondence etc. – thank you Anne.

We have continued our presence at various events in the last year and holding members' meetings. We had tables/stands at Swinpex 2012 and ThematiX 2012 with very successful sales of material at the latter. Thanks to Gerald Lovell for organising the table rotas at these events. We are supporting both events again this year plus Midpex 2013 next month and the Sussex Federation Convention in October. We held a meeting for our Scottish members at Perth in October 2012 and must thank Wendy and Anne for making the long trek to run the meeting. Another successful members' meeting was held in London in April 2013 and we shall be running one more during Spring Stampex 2014.

At last year's AGM it was suggested we run an auction once again to raise funds. Jim Etherington has organised the potential lots for an auction and the latest news is that it will definitely go ahead. I will ask Jim Etherington to bring you up to date on the auction under "Any Other Business". Thanks to Jim for his work so far.

On the international front we have maintained our affiliation with the American Topical Association with access to their considerable volume of topical handbooks and check lists, although members should make greater use of them via Jim Etherington. Exhibiting in the international thematic class our members have been awarded a large gold medal at Australia 2013 (Lesley Marley), the first ever by a UK entrant, a gold medal at Indonesia 2012 (John Hayward) and large vermeil medals at the European Thematic Championship at Essen 2013 (Richard Wheeler, Peter Weir and Ron Backhouse). Peter Weir came third in his category to gain a Bronze Medal.

At the beginning of last year Peter Denly suggested we should be going out to Philatelic Societies giving displays on behalf of the BTA and singing its praises. This has been done in conjunction with an expansion to our Speakers List. So far we have visited or arranged to visit around 50 Societies mainly in the South of England, but moves are in hand to give displays in the North-East and in Scotland. Peter has also initiated changes enabling members with the same collecting interests to get in touch with each other much more easily. We should record our thanks to Peter for these initiatives, and in his role as Membership Secretary for his maintenance of our records and the thankless task of pursuing member subscriptions, despite not being in the best of health.

On a rather sad note I am sorry to mark the passing during the last year of three of our members. John Miller was an honorary life member of the BTA, a founder member, Committee Member and our Librarian for many years. Alan Sabey was also a founder member and our Public Relations Officer for 9 years. Dorothy Martin was a stalwart thematic collector and BTA founder member too. And we must not forget the late Michael Berry who donated the Healey & Wise Salver for the Inter-Federation thematic competition which the BTA will be running in October.

It is customary to thank various members of the Committee at this time and there are some I have not mentioned. Wendy Buckle I have already thanked as Editor of Themescene, but she has also done a splendid job as our President. I have come to rely on her good advice more and more. She is stepping down as President, but not for too long I hope. Thank you for your efforts Wendy – it cannot have been too easy fulfilling the Editor's role at the same time. Peter Wood as Treasurer manages our finances so well. Like the rest of us he will have been disappointed in the declining membership and therefore income about which he will no doubt inform us during his report. Hearty thanks are due to Peter. Simon Moorcroft continues to fulfil his roles of Vice Chairman and Publicity Officer with great enthusiasm. He may have problems persuading the stamp magazines to publish his articles on the BTA's activities, but he has done remarkably well in liaising with the ABPS regarding the BTA's participation in Stampex Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014. Michael Blackman must be thanked for his efforts in attracting £548 of advertising to Themescene in 2012 during very difficult financial times. Charles Oppenheim and Barry Stagg must be thanked too for their part in the unseen work they do as Committee Members, and Ron Backhouse as well for his undertaking of the BTA library which really needs to be used more by you, the members. My final thank you is to that wise old head, Brian Sole, who I usually turn to when I am stuck for something or need good advice. He still does a lot for the BTA and continues organising the competitions. He even found time to remarry last year. Thank you Brian for all your work and advice.

Finally let me come to my own position. You will have read in this month's Themescene that I am stepping down after this AGM. Not altogether completely, but I am handing on the Chairmanship to Simon Moorcroft, the Display Organiser's job to Gerald Lovell, the FIP Co-ordinator's job to Jim Etherington and the BTA Archives to Barry Stagg. I shall still be around to provide the BTA with the benefit of my experience and hopefully will enjoy the results of the various initiatives the BTA is currently embarked upon to widen its remit and increase its membership. I have greatly enjoyed my time with the current Committee – they have been a great team to work with. I know the BTA is in good hands for the future and will be able to celebrate its 30th Birthday next year in fine style.

Charles Oppenheim proposed and Mike Blackman seconded that the Chairman's report be accepted, *agreed unanimously*.

Simon Moorcroft proposed a vote of thanks for John Hayward for all his work, second time round as Chairman and also as our display organizer for a number of years. His work is much appreciated.

#### **5) Treasurer's report**

*[Accounts were published in June 2013 Themescene]*

In his remarks Peter said that 2014 was likely to see a deficit due to the plans for the displays and possible presentations at Stampex and therefore it was good that a profit had been made in 2012. Gerald Lovell proposed and Barry Stagg seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted, *agreed unanimously*.

#### **6) Election of Officers**

As shown on the Agenda – Chairman Simon Moorcroft, Vice-Chairman Jim Etherington, Secretary Anne Stammers, Treasurer Peter Wood. John Baron proposed and Peter Weir seconded that they be elected 'en bloc'. This was *agreed unanimously*.

#### **7) Election of Committee Members**

Wendy Buckle proposed and Anne Stammers seconded that John Hayward be elected onto the committee. *Agreed unanimously*

Gwyn Hughes proposed and Pauline Bodye seconded that the present committee members be re-elected 'en bloc', *agreed unanimously*.

### **8) Ratification of the Librarian & Examiner**

Peter Denly proposed that the positions of Ron Backhouse (Librarian) and Grahame Boutle (Examiner) should be ratified, seconded by Charles Oppenheim, *agreed unanimously*.

### **9) Motion for Discussion**

This meeting agrees to amend the Constitution as published in Themescene June 2013. The Chairman said that this was to include the wider role of the BTA which will cover all pictorials including open class and postcards in its Aims and Objectives, instead of only Thematic Philately. John Baron proposed and Charles Oppenheim seconded that the constitution be altered, *agreed unanimously*. The altered constitution is as published in this Themescene.

### **10) Topic for Discussion – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BTA in 2014**

The Chairman said that Stampex 2014 would be emphasizing the ‘Pictorial Classes’ in the exhibition area, and the BTA Committee were planning exhibits and also seminars jointly with ABPS. It was hoped to have a table and Helpdesk where people would be able to get help and advice regarding their collections / exhibits. It would not be dealing with valuations.

There was, in principle, agreement to have a commemorative BTA display, near the competitions, in 50 frames so that all members, who wished to, could put up a frame.

It was also hoped to hold a meeting on the Saturday Morning with Jorgan Jorgensen giving a display – he is an International judge, member of the European Federation and a winner of a ‘Large Gold’.

A drinks reception maybe held after the meeting.

This is all part of the wider effort to become more involved with the ABPS for the benefit of our members.

Those present were asked for their suggestions for ways of celebrating our 30th anniversary, but as none were forthcoming they were asked to let a committee member know if they have ideas later on.

### **11) Any Other Business**

a) Auction It was suggested at the AGM 2012 that the Committee look into running a Postal Auction. This was being held and the closing date for bids was 3rd August. Information regarding bidding etc. has been sent out to all members / vendors. 300 lots are needed to make this viable. Jim Etherington would be happy to receive lots and answer any queries.

b) BTA Weekend 2014 Anne Stammers was pleased to announce that this would take place over the weekend of Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th October 2014 at the Oxford Spires Hotel. The price was going to be a little higher than 2012, which was only to be expected, but would include a pre-dinner drink and wine with dinner. Further details would be in September Themescene, early booking was advisable. Comments from the previous weekend had been noted and would be taken into account.

c) Postcard clubs could be found throughout the country and John Baron said that we should advise them of the BTA’s new remit and invite them to affiliate to the Association.

d) Vote of Thanks John Baron, who as Chairman of the ABPS, said he knew there was a lack of appreciation for the work involved for committees running organisations such as the BTA, and he gave a vote of thanks and appreciation to this committee who worked hard, made a profit and worked for the members.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.12p.m.

The meeting was followed by a display on ‘Banking and Lotteries’ by John Baron.

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

### 1. Title

The Association shall be known as “The British Thematic Association” (BTA)

### 2. The membership of the BTA will consist of :

- a) ordinary members
- b) family members i.e. a second adult and all children under 18 years of age in the same household
- c) junior members i.e. under 18 years of age
- d) Societies, i.e. any National, Specialist, Federation or local philatelic organisation with an interest in theme based philately or postcard collecting. Members of such Societies are not themselves full BTA members and services which are provided must be requested through the Secretary of the Society.
- e) Honorary members, who may be elected by the committee from time to time for outstanding services to thematic philately.

### 3. Aims and Objects

- a) To promote, encourage and assist the study and development of all theme based philately and postcard collecting and to promote the wider understanding of them within both philatelic organisations and non-philatelic clubs, societies and other organisations.
- b) To provide the means to record the collecting interests of ordinary, family and junior members and to endeavour to put members in touch with other collectors with similar interests.
- c) To encourage the formation of new specialist theme based and postcard Societies or Groups.
- d) To publish and distribute the magazine "Themescene" a number of times per year and to issue any other publications whenever considered appropriate by the Committee.
- e) To provide:
  - i. a library service for members, with the option to borrow items or to purchase photocopies of articles.
  - ii. an auction service for members so long as appropriate material is available.
  - iii. a panel of speakers willing to visit Societies.
  - iv. for the training of judges at Local, Federation and National level by means of workshops.

3. Aims and Objects (cont.)

- f) To organise from time to time exhibitions, meetings, seminars, workshops and any other appropriate event.
- g) To affiliate to other philatelic organisations as decided by the Committee.
- h) To maintain a website containing information pertinent to the activities of the BTA.

4. Business Organisations

- a) The business of the BTA shall be conducted by an Honorary Committee consisting of its Officers and elected members.

- b) The Officers elected by the membership shall consist of:

a Chairman who shall act as chief executive of the BTA and take the chair at meetings of the Committee; in the absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman the Committee shall elect an acting Chairman for each particular meeting. The term of office of Chairman shall be limited to a maximum period of 4 years.

a Vice –Chairman: the term of office of Vice –Chairman shall be limited to a maximum of 4 years

a Secretary who shall be the Chairman's principal assistant in dealing with day to day matters and shall have particular responsibility for the agenda and minutes of Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings.

a Treasurer who shall be responsible to the Committee for the management of the financial affairs of the BTA, shall keep proper books of account and once a year as soon as possible after the close of the financial year submit all books and vouchers to the examiner. He shall prepare a set of audited accounts for the presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

Such additional officers as the committee may deem it necessary to appoint. Such appointments shall be submitted to the next Annual General Meeting for ratification by the membership.

- c) Members of the Committee shall hold office for 12 months, and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Casual vacancies within the Committee may be filled by the committee by co-option. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the next AGM but shall then be eligible for election.
- e) The Committee shall:
  - i) meet not less frequently than half-yearly, and Committee members shall be given not less than 14 days notice by the Secretary. Four members shall form a quorum.

4. Business Organisations (cont.)

- ii decide on the acceptability of applicants for membership of the BTA and lay down procedures for applications, membership and resignation of members.
  - iii have the power at its absolute discretion to suspend or terminate the membership of any member whose conduct is considered prejudicial to the BTA.
  - iv delegate any of its powers (other than those in c II and e III) as it may think fit. In carrying out its duties it may appoint such committees, sub-committees and working parties as it may deem appropriate.
  - v have the power to elect a President for a maximum period of 4 years. The President shall not be entitled to a seat on the Committee by reason of that office.
  - vi submit a report of its activities during the year to the AGM
  - vii have the power to fix the subscription rates.
- f) An Examiner of the BTA's accounts shall be appointed at the AGM. No member of the Committee shall be Examiner
- g) The BTA's Financial Year shall end on 31 December
- h) All members of the Committee and co-opted Members of the Committee shall be entitled to re-imbusement of expenses incurred on BTA business subject to individual items in excess of £50 requiring authorisation by two of the Officers.
- i) In case of the BTA ceasing to exist, any residual funds will be vested in the Association of British Philatelic Societies or any such other philatelic ruling body having similar objectives which may be in existence at the time.

5. Annual General Meeting

- a) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year not later than ten months after the end of the financial year on 31 December.
- b) Resolutions proposed and seconded for inclusion on the AGM agenda must be received by the Secretary at least 8 weeks before the AGM.
- c) Nominations for election to the Committee must be received by the Hon Secretary at least 8 weeks before the AGM.
- d) The Secretary shall give notice of the AGM to all members at least 4 weeks in advance.
- e) All members are entitled to speak and command one vote at the AGM. A family membership will command one vote. Societies may nominate 2 delegates in

5. Annual General Meeting (cont.)

advance, to attend and speak at the AGM but each Society will have only one vote. No voting by proxy will be allowed.

6. Extraordinary General Meeting

- a) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by the Committee by giving members four weeks notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- b) A minimum of 20 members may by notice in writing instruct the Secretary to call an EGM. The Secretary shall send the notice required by rule 6a, within 28 days of receiving such instructions.

7. Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> February each year and are to be sent to the Hon. Membership Secretary. Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 30th April will be deemed to have resigned from the BTA and shall cease to be entitled to the benefits of membership.

8. Amendments to Rules

These rules may only be amended at the AGM of the BTA, or an EGM called for the purpose.

S.A.F.

1-7.95 (adding President and 4 year limitation of office)

M.A.S.

24-6-2000 (Clause 4h inserted, committee expenses)

26-6-2004 (Clause 4b and 4f (twice) change auditor to examiner)

M.A.S.

09-6-2012 (Clause 3d removed 'publish other booklets, newsletters' inserted 'issue any other publications' instead)

M.A.S.

*June 2013 (Clause 2d removed Thematic collecting and replaced with 'theme based philately or postcard collecting').*

*(Clause 3a removed thematic collecting and replaced with 'all theme based philately and postcard collecting')*

*(Clause 3b removed 'thematic')*

*(Clause 3c changed 'thematic to theme' and added 'based and postcard'*

*(Clause 3f removed 'thematic' and 'and' added 'seminars, workshops and any other event deemed appropriate'.*

*Added Clause 3h*

*(Clause 4e spelling of quorum corrected)*

*(Clause 5e 'by' amended to 'but')*

*(Clause 7 1<sup>st</sup> April altered to 30th April)*



# BANKING AND LOTTERIES

*John Baron entertained members at the AGM*

Invited to give this year's AGM display, John Baron started by expressing his view that Open / Social philately should be part of the BTA's remit. This is an area he has been collecting for many years, and as a retired bank manager he was attracted to banking as a theme. But a dealer first drew his attention to the first half of his display: lotteries, starting not with the UK National Lottery dating from 1994 but from the very first lottery held in 1565. There were similarities: it too was launched to raise money for good causes, in the case of the first Elizabethan lottery for UK harbours which had fallen into a state of disrepair. Rebuilding seems to be a theme. In 1736 the River Thames froze, damaging the wooden supports to Westminster Bridge, and a lottery was run for the rebuilding fund. The odds on being a winner in the 1565 lottery were – incredibly – 100%. All prizes were donated and everyone who bought a ticket won a prize. It didn't stay that way, later on letters were sent out notifying all those who did not win; a nice gesture, until you remember that prior to 1840 you paid for your letter on receipt.



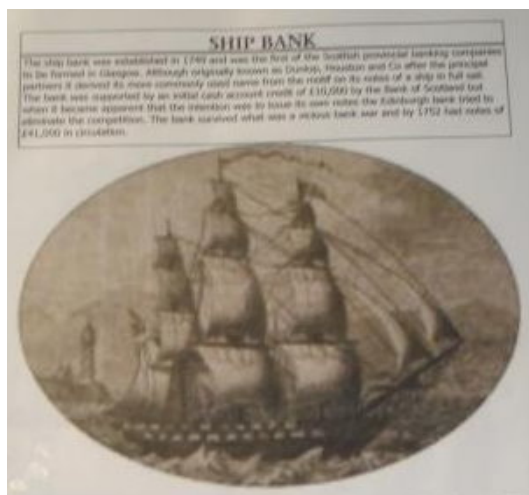
*Hornsby & Co. Leaflet for the lottery in 1806.*



*Advertising leaflets and lottery ticket from the 1820s by J. & J. Sivewright, lottery agents*

John's 'Banking' collection specialises in Scottish banks, a good subject to choose because there the banks never destroyed anything. Private banks of course no longer exist, and John showed material from the Ship Bank, now a pub. The Union Bank of Scotland took over many smaller banks. Banks were not always profitable, and as now there were banking collapses, caused by fraud for which bankers were jailed. Why not jail the current

lot John (and his audience) wondered? In 1822 a bank was embezzled to the tune of £30,000, which equates to £23 million today. Not surprisingly the bank went bust.



*1824 flyer printed by Whiting & Branston at Beaufort house*

Much fine postal history was shown in this part of the display, illustrating the philatelic knowledge needed to put together an Open collection. 📖



*Simon and John*

# BTA NEWS

## MIDPEX

For the second time running Midpex was held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, a venue ideally suited to the occasion, with all the dealers in one - huge - area on the ground floor, with two extra rooms available for specialist society meetings (eight meetings held during the day). The BTA had decided against holding a meeting there, since we suspected most people attending the event would want to concentrate on getting round the 61 dealers. However we, like 39 other specialist societies, did have a table for the day. As you can see, Midpex is a BIG event. Despite the startling hot weather it was very well attended, and the BTA attracted plenty of people to our stand, which thanks to our Publicity Officer and Displays Organiser looked very professional.



Staffed by a rota of BTA Committee members it gave us a chance to talk to people about the attraction of theme-based collecting, and as well as very successful sales of stock we signed two new members.

Midpex was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Midlands Philatelic Federation, for which celebratory first day covers were on sale. And if 'nature' is your theme Post and Go machines were selling the first day of issue of the Pond Life series.



## THEMATIX



Keeping up our commitment to promote the BTA as much as possible we also had a table at ThematiX, held at Chessington the following week. It was, if anything, even hotter, which may explain the rather quiet attendance over the two days. The venue had free parking and provided excellent catering. It is always a pleasure to spend time with specialist thematic dealers, and our stand again resulted in a new member.

Thanks are due to all those BTA Committee members who staffed both stands.



# HERE AND THERE

## **STAMP & POSTCARD FESTIVAL, Ayrshire, Scotland**

South-West Scotland Philatelic Societies will be holding their annual Stamp and Postcard Festival & Exhibition on Saturday 5th October. Collectors and non-collectors alike are invited to come along to a warm welcome at the event being held at Prestwick Community Centre, Caerlaverock Road, Prestwick, Ayrshire, KA9 1HR, from 10am to 4pm. Dealers from across Scotland will be present with their stocks of stamps, postcards and accessories. There will be outstanding displays of stamps and postcards from our group of societies. Junior collectors are greatly encouraged and there will be an activity room for young collectors, with stamp-related crafts, puzzles, displays and demonstrations. Why not bring the children or grandchildren! On show will be a number of award winning displays from some of the most talented young philatelists in the UK.

This year our friends from Kirkcudbright Philatelic Society have designed a cover which commemorates the 'Galloway' car. Galloway was a Scottish car maker founded in 1920 as a subsidiary company to Arrol-Johnston. It was based at Tongland, Kirkcudbrightshire, and from 1923, at Heathhall, Dumfries. These special covers will be on sale at the Festival. Entry to the event is free, refreshments will be available, and there is plenty of free parking. The nearest train station is Prestwick.

Further details can be obtained from Ian Barker on 01294 276990.

## **ALL WORLD NEW ISSUES**

### **COUNTRY OR THEME**

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# CONFESSIONS OF A THEMATIC COLLECTOR!

*Barry Stagg comes out of the closet*

I have a dark secret. A secret I'd like to share with you – I have a 'traditional' collection of Edward VIII! Weighed down by this guilty secret my wife and I travelled to Sotheby's on the 11th July to witness the sale of some of the British Postal Museum and Archive's treasures. There were a number of Edward VIII items that would be put under the hammer but as the cheapest estimate was £2,500 I left the credit card at home! This event was a double first for me; my first proper auction and this was my wife's first ever philatelic venture with me. As I have never been to a proper auction before I did not know what to expect. Is it a suit-wearing event? Will we be let in? Will my wife, who is a non-philatelist, be let in? Will we get a seat? With 191 lots this is going to take at least an hour so we aimed to arrive early to ensure we got a seat. Once we had navigated past the street protest outside Sotheby's



and the two or three gentlemen keeping an eye on them we got into the auction house, passing yet more suited staff (I'm sure there's less security at Buckingham Palace!). We headed past the coffee shop (yes, past the coffee shop – a first for my wife) into the auction room with only 30 minutes to go. Will we get a seat or will we have to stand? I would be telling a lie to say we were first there as my memory suggests two or three people were sitting down before us and at least one of those were staff. Which seat to pick? So, with traditional British reserve we sat towards the back and waited for the flood of bidders to arrive. More of a trickle to be honest. By 1.45pm, with 15 minutes to go, eight people occupied the 49 available seats. To pass the time we counted the phones; twenty of them! Then a surge at 1.50 as a further ten people turned up and sat down. A handful of suited men now stood at the back: were they staff or secret bidders or did they know how uncomfortable the seats were!! Then the excitement started – two staff turned up to man the phones. At 2pm the auctioneer arrived – the first disappointment of the afternoon as, according to my wife, he looked a lot better in his photo in the catalogue than real life! A total of 31 people were seated and we were off.

Have you ever been recommended a good restaurant but when you went the chef was on holiday? This is the feeling I had during the auction. Hardly any items sold. Although many lots had bids few got close to their minimum estimate. It was fun to see and watch, great setting, lovely staff, but pity there were no bidders! In the end it took until about 3.30pm to 'sell' all the lots and by then many of the public had gone. Staff outnumbered the public. Very sad, especially for the BPMA. In the end it felt more like a wake than an auction. But it was an experience. I was glad I went and I've got a great Edward VIII reference catalogue. And my wife enjoyed the experience so I'm planning another joint stamp venture – I wonder if she would like to go to New York in 2016? 📖

## *Editor's postscript*

Only 29 of the 191 lots sold, the total realisation being £400,920 (including buyer's premium) against a projection of £5 million. Bitterly disappointing when the aim was to raise funds for the new postal museum.

# AUSTRALIA FIP WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION 10 – 15 MAY 2013

MELBOURNE, WORLD HERITAGE ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING

*Lesley Marley relives her wonderful success*

After a good journey to Australia we arrived the evening before the opening and were able to get a good nights' sleep for the thrilling days ahead. The tram system in Melbourne took us straight from the hotel to the Exhibition Building, a very impressive place with plenty of room to accommodate all the exhibits: a total of 3,400 frames, the largest number since Washington 2006. There would be plenty to see and to keep me occupied for the next six days, the daily schedule giving people plenty of choice to attend meetings of Societies and Clubs, or attend the different stamp launches. There were a lot of thematic entries, open class and one frames to look at.



I was able to get our ticket early as I was an exhibitor and we managed to see the opening ceremony, it was then open to the public at midday. We were unable to see the exhibits as they were still putting them up, they were able to use the upper gallery floor as well which gave plenty of space to view.

Australia Post was the principal sponsor of the exhibition, coinciding this year with the Centenary of the first postage stamp of the Commonwealth of Australia – the iconic Kangaroo and Map; and while releasing a number of new issues there was a special interest in celebrating the centenary of this wonderful stamp. The awards took up this theme and every medal had a facsimile of the Kangaroo and Map stamp with the Large Gold having a £2 one descending down for the lower medals, the Obverse had the show logo and date. As you can imagine the post office was crowded from the first minute it opened and people had to queue every day for two or three hours to get what they wanted. In addition to the stamp releases they provided a Personalised Stamp Production; a Designers' Gallery, a shop to purchase the many souvenirs and collectibles, many of which were exclusively available at the exhibition.

I have had a pen pal in Australia for 20 years who also collect 'Whales' and was able to meet up with him. He treated us on the first night to an Australian Rules Footie game. He supports Geelong, the stadium was huge, and after an exciting game our team won. In the interval they bought on teams of children to demonstrate and learn about the game. We both fell into bed that night after an exhausting day.



At last I was able to get to the Thematic entries, what a feast. My entry was in Nature, only 15 entries and I thought I had a chance to do well. Damian Läge had his new entry in '**Fascination with feathers: how man looks at birds**' which

was awarded *Large Gold and Special Prize*. Another one I liked was '**Stories about**

**weather and climate**', *Gold*; and I was over the moon to learn '**A whales' tale**' received a *Large Gold*. It was nice to be at the show and receive my Medal at the Palmares. Christine A. Earle received a *Gold and Special Prize for Treatment* for '**Extracts from a war time diary 1939-1945**'; Birtha King also received a *Large Gold and Special Prize for Treatment* for '**Denmark: conscience, conflict and camps, 1932 - 1949**' in the Open Philately, and so did Pat Grimwood Taylor a *Large Gold* '**The postal history of South Australia to 1891**'. It was lovely to see two of our youth exhibitors displaying, Claire Mitchell '**Is it a bird? Is it a plane?** *Silver Bronze* and Lynne Mitchell '**Bobbing along on the canal**' *Bronze*. I hope you will continue exhibiting, you were up against some stiff competition in Australia, well done girls.

There were 69 thematic entries with only five Large Gold and eleven Gold. There



seemed to be a lot of first time entries from South East Asia. The One frame exhibits ranged from 63 to 90 marks; I thought that some of the entries were too big a subject for one frame hence the large amount of low marks. The Open Class, which now has FIP status, had nineteen entries mainly from Australia and New Zealand, and

were very interesting. While I was looking round the exhibits I met BTA member Greg Wynn who I first met at the BTA Weekend last year, who thought he would visit the exhibit while on holiday. I also met another BTA member Tono Dwi Putranto from Indonesia who had an entry in the Technology class of thematics, his entry was called '**Czeslaw Slania's burin traces, legacy of the beautiful engraving masterpieces**' *Vermeil* which he was very pleased with. It is nice to see other members of the BTA competing.

Well the show soon came to an end, there were many dealers to see, and I managed to find the G.B. Post and Go Machine as I has instructions to buy some 'Post and Go' labels for an old friend from Plymouth. While I was there I made myself some 'Smiler' stamps: I took a photo in the Museum opposite the venue of a lovely skeleton of a blue whale and had that inserted next to the stamp.

We then motored to Sydney where I was invited by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales to their meeting at Philas House in Sydney and out for lunch after, I was able to see round the Building and see their Library and offices. We spent six weeks touring Australia, we were able to visit the Eden Killer Whale Museum, and after flying to Perth were able to drive down to Albany to visit the Cheyne Beach Whaling Station, which started in 1948/49 and in 1978 was the last station in Australia to close. After whaling ceased, Whale World was created to show the legacy of whaling: the site still has all the machinery and a Cheynes IV Whalechaser. The whale oil storage tanks have been turned into cinemas, and we were able to look out in the bay and see Humpback whales playing with no fear of being slaughtered. At our last stop on the way home we went to the Singapore Stamp Museum, a super place to introduce kids and their parents to stamp collecting. Colin and I love 'Thematics': look where it takes us to. Mind you he prefers the après stamps, but said he would never have seen so much of the world if it hadn't been for those little bits of paper that take up so much room in the house. Happy collecting every one. 📖




# HOW I STARTED

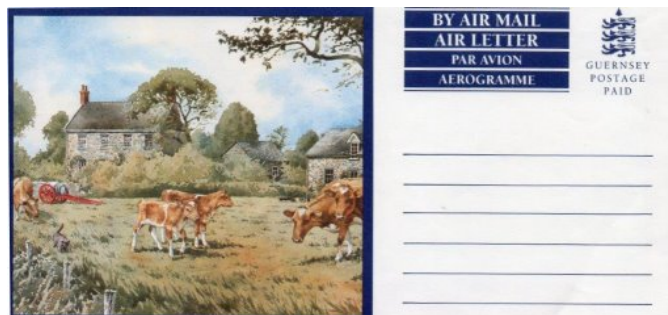
*Anne Stammers' interests just kept widening*

In the mid 1970's working in a science research centre I heard people discussing their stamp collections and was encouraged to join the Philatelic Society they belonged to. I unwisely said I would like to collect Gems on stamps – no problem was the reply! Being of a slightly competitive disposition when the club requested a page of 'the ugliest stamps' I had a go using Letraset to do the line or so of write up!

Realising there was a competition being held I wondered what to do and decided on the 'Story of the Coronation' as there had been various omnibus issues illustrating the Queen's Coronation 25 years before. Looking back it was all stamps and very little write up, using an electric typewriter but it was a beginning. 'Churches' followed and my interest in 'telling a story illustrated with stamps' grew and I attended the very first meeting of the BTA and was hooked.

Realising that items other than stamps could enhance the story and with a society nine page competition looming I looked through my collection of GB, Channel Islands and New Zealand and found many 'Nature' stamps and also aerogrammes, meter marks and a (modern) cover or two – How to use these in an interesting but uncomplicated way? 'A Child's Guide to Nature' came to mind – it has grown somewhat, as I was asked to put it in the BTA Village Green display at Stampex in 2006 and I still add to it every now and then. It had cost very little as I was using material I already had and it was an excellent way to find out if I wanted to really get involved with Thematics and to concentrate on Gems and Jewellery. I decided Yes, but that is another tale!

I have found collecting this way has enhanced so many things such as holidays, unexpectedly finding appropriate exhibitions and visiting them; buying attractive books on the subjects; meeting friends and dealers at exhibitions and BTA meetings; and just doing research into the subject and the philatelic material, postcards, maps and other items, not to mention visiting museums to see the jewellery and gold exhibits. What other hobby has such a wide scope of possible interests. I strongly recommend it! 





# EXHIBITING PAGE

## **LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX: COMPETITION RULES NOW AVAILABLE**

LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX international stamp show is pleased to advise that the rules for competitive exhibits are now available at [www.london2015.net](http://www.london2015.net).

LONDON 2015 will be held at the Business Design Centre, London on 13-16 May 2015 with patronage from the European Federation of Philatelic Associations and recognition from the world philatelic body FIP. There will be 1,400 frames for competitive exhibits in the following classes: Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic Philately, Open, Revenues, Postal Stationery, Youth Philately and Literature. Frank Walton is the Commissioner General and Commissioners have now been appointed by almost all the members of the European Federation.



The application form to enter the competitions can be downloaded from: [www.london2015.net](http://www.london2015.net). It should be submitted through the National Commissioner in each member country. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2014.

The exhibits will need to have achieved the required standard to qualify for entry. This is that the exhibit should have achieved at least Vermeil in five frames at a national exhibition in the last five years. The last opportunities to qualify in the UK will be at the national exhibition Autumn Stampex on 18-21 September 2013.

LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX is the only European international show planned in the next few years. Take full advantage of this opportunity and apply to enter!

## **STOP PRESS: THAILAND 2013 - RESULTS**

Many congratulations to BTA members Peter Weir for winning a Gold medal at Thailand with “Blood - Liquid of Life” and to Richard Wheeler for a Large Vermeil for “Evolution of Puppetry”.

## **BRASILIANA, Rio de Janeiro, 19-25 November 2013**

An exhibiting seminar, addressing new and currently active exhibitors will be held during Brasiliana, on 24th November. The seminar will be based on the FIP SREV and Guidelines for thematic philately. The aim of the seminar is to establish the mission statement of the Commission by talking about the “generation process” of a thematic philately exhibit, the evaluation of thematic exhibits and how one can improve one’s exhibit. The seminar is open for everybody and is a qualifying seminar for FIP juror apprenticeship application. The seminar will be run by Jonas Hällström, Chairman of the FIP Thematic Commission together with two Commission delegates José Ramón Moreno (Spain) and Damian Läge (Germany).

## **BTA ANNUAL COMPETITIONS 2013**

It is not too late to enter the annual competition for the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy or the BTA Cup. Full details with entry form are available in *Themescene* June 2013, page 39, or downloadable from the BTA website: [www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/hotnews.htm](http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/hotnews.htm). Closing date for applications is 14th September.

# MAXIMAPHILY

If anyone is reading this heading and thinking Maxi... what? they will find the answer in an article published by the F.I.P. Commission for Maximaphily, which explains that a Maximum card is made up of three elements:

1. The postage stamp.
2. The picture postcard.
3. The postmark.

Of course it's not that simple. These three elements need to be linked in a precise way. There should be a single stamp on a postcard which predates the date of stamp issue, tied with a clear, relevant cancellation; and all the elements need to link to tell a coherent story. Maximum cards were born towards the end of 19th century, with the appearance of illustrated postcards and postage stamps. From the 1920s, with the growth in issues of commemorative stamps, Maximaphily started attracting more interest and the first Maximaphily association was born in 1945 by French collectors. These days it is a popular area of collecting, with its own F.I.P. Class, and much information can be found about it at

[www.maximaphily.info/index.html](http://www.maximaphily.info/index.html)

During 2012, about 1400 different Maximum Cards were created worldwide by National Maximaphily Associations, local clubs or individuals, as reported to the Commission, with GB contributing 54 of them. However there is no Maximaphily class at regional or national level in the UK, although of course they can be included in Thematic or Open class entries. This makes all the more impressive the achievement of Brit Ian Billings in winning the Best Maximum Card World Competition of 2011 with his entry *Atlantic puffin with thrift plants*. Ian has kindly supplied *Themescene* with an illustration of his card:



The postcard is published by John Hinde, based on a painting by David Teague. The First Day cancellation of Marloes, Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire (Habitat place) has a special mention in *'Birds of Britain'*. The stamp is part of the 4th set of Post and Go stamps depicting seabirds found on islands off Britain's coasts. Atlantic Puffins are found in the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean. In Britain the largest colonies are found off NW Scotland on Staffa Island and the Outer Hebrides and in the west on Skomer Island off Pembrokeshire Coast.

Ian told *Themescene*:

“Unlike thematic collectors, I produce maximum cards if I can find cards to go with the stamps, rather than on any specific theme. If I can get several copies of the same card (e.g. new from retailers) then I will produce several and sell the spares. I also buy older, postally used cards from postcard fairs if they are in very good condition and turn them into modern maximum cards. This can be a very low-cost way to create a maximum card, e.g. of St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London or Westminster, as these cards can cost as little as 20p.

This Puffin was an unused postcard I found (just one example of), on which both the bird and the thrift plant matched the stamp, with the postmark matching the bird element on the stamp.


Although when I make them for myself I am not too concerned with the FIP rules, this one was fully concordant, unlike many entries in the international competition. I did find many other puffin postcards but not as good as this. I also service UK cards for collectors in other countries - the gallery here:

<http://tiny.cc/maximumcards> shows many that I have produced, including those for others.”

In second place was George Constantourakis of Canada with “Winter Magdalen Mail by a Ponchon” depicting a highly unusual form of mail delivery. In the winter of 1910, a snapped telegraphic cable severed communications between the people the Magdalen Islands QC and the Cape Breton NS mainland. To overcome this Community leaders of the Magdalen Islands rigged a *Ponchon* - a large wooden barrel - with a rudder and sail, marked with the inscription “WINTER MAGDELEN MAIL.” They packed it with steel boxes filled with letters, including one explaining the situation and imploring the finder to mail the letters. It was launched on Feb. 2, 1910 and after a little more than a week it reached land at Port Hastings, Nova Scotia, where the letters were posted as requested. The stamp used on the card is part of a set honouring Canada Post's history.

Third place was Cesare Rialdi of Italy with “Trajan's Triumphal Arch, (Northwest side), Benevento”. When the Via Appia was extended beyond Capua, the first section was to Beneventum, about 35 miles away. Here an impressive Triumphal Arch was erected across the Via Appia between 114 and 166 AD in honor of Trajan. The bas-reliefs tell the story of Trajan's achievements. This image is what the traveler from Rome would see as he approached the arch on the Via Appia.

Full details of all these cards can be found on the F.I.P. Maximaphily website.

Dedicated maxi card collectors may be interested in MACSU: the Maximum Card Study Unit of North America. It publishes a quarterly magazine and runs occasional auctions. Its website is <http://www.macsu.org/> 

# 6<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THEMATIC PHILATELY 2013

*A report from judge Brian Sole*

This was held in Essen, Germany, in conjunction with a large Stamp Fair, from 2 to 4 May 2013. Although many Postal Administrations took stands, there appeared to be fewer dealers and auction houses than in previous years. However, the Fair was well supported by the public and more attention paid to the exhibits than at many other Stamp Exhibitions.



There were a total of 77 entries from 14 European countries. Not surprisingly Germany provided the most entries with 19 overall but the only other countries with entries in double figures were Switzerland and the Netherlands. The Rules and the marks were those laid down by the FIP for Thematic Philately at International level. Entries were allocated to one of eight Classes and the jury of 14, including two apprentices, was split into four teams. The top three results for each category are shown at the end of this report.

Not all the titles were in English and in some cases the titles have been abbreviated. The ninth class was open to all previous champions in any class.

There were three entries from GB. Both Richard Wheeler, who exhibited “Evolution of Puppetry” in Class 1 and Ron Backhouse’s “Anyone for Tennis?” in Class 4, gained 86 marks and a Large Vermeil medal each. Peter Weir gained 87 marks, a Large Vermeil medal and was placed 3rd in Class 6. Well done all of you!

The results were announced at the Palmares Dinner and gold, silver and bronze medals awarded to exhibitors placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in every class. The procedure to announce the Grand Prix winner began with a series of short speeches by different members of the jury, extolling the virtues of each Class winner’s exhibit. Each speaker had selected 4 pages from the exhibit, which were shown enlarged on a screen. Earlier in the day every member of the Jury had been requested to select the entry they considered to be the overall winner and to allocate 2nd to 6th place from the remaining Class winners. This information remained secret until each judge stood up at the Dinner to announce his marks. These were then instantly flashed onto the screen and rolling totals built up. This generated some excitement, as the lead changed hands early on. However the clear winner was Lutz Könitz with his Pigeons. Christoph Gärtner, the Auctioneer, had kindly sponsored the Dinner.

I was pleased to be invited to be a member of the jury. All proceedings in the Jury Room and around the frames were conducted in English, although several exhibits were written in German and a few in French. The standard overall was very high. European judges do not like to see too many postmarks, which have been cut from envelopes. Where whole covers were shown and only the postmark was relevant, they prefer the postmark to be windowed. Many “proofs” were subjected to scrutiny to check if they were valid. The Title and the Plan resulted in considerable discussion on many entries, whilst we attempted to reach a consensus.

On the Saturday all the jurors had to be present from 10.00 to 12.45 hours to meet the exhibitors who wanted a critique. In the afternoon a Seminar was held for jury members and a few qualified judges. Damian Läge spoke on the criteria Thematic Development and Thematic Knowledge. We were split into four teams and asked to review and discuss the marks for just these two criteria in four selected exhibits. After a coffee break the four team leaders had to summarise the discussions we'd had.

On Sunday morning the Jury met in the Hotel and the two apprentices gave talks on how they had developed their own International Exhibits. Peter Durnai spoke about the history of European Royal Families and Alfred Schmidt described how he had built up "the Statues of Knight Roland".

Jonas Hällström, the Chairman of the FIP Commission for Thematic Philately, explained that the Bureau for Thematic Philately consisted of one representative from each of the continents of America, Europe and Asia plus two other appointments. He considers the continuous training of jury members is important and is keen to ensure that judgments at every International Exhibition are comparable. A factor for success in his opinion is that he should have ongoing communication with the FIP President and the FIP Board members.

Jonas then outlined his plans for future seminars and added his personal thoughts for the better understanding of thematic philately by collectors and the need for national federations to attract new thematic collectors. Only collectors who have achieved at least a vermeil medal for a thematic philately entry should be considered for training as a judge. In addition it would be preferable if judges could have at least one other collection, in a different discipline, qualified to national vermeil standard or above. Judges should also continue to exhibit regularly.

Wolf Hess provided a quiz on the subject of rarity and importance. About 30 philatelic items were displayed on the screen and we had to consider whether each item was very rare or not and whether of great importance or not.

Damien Lage concluded proceedings with his views on rarity, importance and condition and the need to seek consistency when judging.

## **The Results**

### Class 1 Arts and Culture, (11 entries)

1 <sup>st</sup> Torsten Eckel, Germany - Albrecht Durer	91 marks Gold
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ulla Kempplila, Finland – The Story of a Book	90 marks Gold
3 <sup>rd</sup> Phillipe Ikeo, Austria – Photography	88 marks LV

### Class 2 History and Organisations (11 entries)

1 <sup>st</sup> Fernando Martinez, Switzerland – Nuremberg	95 marks LG
2 <sup>nd</sup> John Dehé, Netherlands – A city wall of water	91 marks Gold
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thomas Radzuweit, Germany – Die Weimarer Republik	90 marks Gold

### Class 3 Man and Everyday Life (6 entries)

1 <sup>st</sup> Hans Jürg, Switzerland – Unser Trinkwasser	87 marks LV
2 <sup>nd</sup> Xaver Menze, Germany – Das Fahnen-und Flaggenwesen	86 marks LV

3<sup>rd</sup> Marcel Jaques, Switzerland – Madame, ich liebe Sie 85 marks LV

Class 4 Sport and Leisure (11 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Ryszard Prange, Poland – Basketball Report 90 marks Gold

2<sup>nd</sup> Massimiliano Bruno, Italy – Footballers of the World 88 marks LV

3<sup>rd</sup> Danny Jimmink, Netherlands – World of Gymnastics 87 marks LV

Class 5 Transport and Technology (8 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Paolo Guglielminetti, Italy – History of African Railways 93 marks Gold

2<sup>nd</sup> Pasquale Polo, Italy – Two wheels is Life (Cycling) 90 marks Gold

3<sup>rd</sup> Nico Helling, Netherlands – Motorcycle, nostalgia & use 88 marks LV

Class 6 Medicine & Science (5 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> André Scheer, Netherlands – Masks of the Universe 92 marks Gold

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Struik, Netherlands – Mother Earth .. All Dynamics 91 marks Gold

3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Weir, Great Britain – Liquid of Life 87 marks LV

Class 7 Animals and Plants (13 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Lutz Kötz, Germany –Tauben, (the Pigeon) 95 marks LG

2<sup>nd</sup> Erika Zehnder, Switzerland - Bären 90 marks Gold

3<sup>rd</sup> Pater van Dies, Germany – The family life of Birds 89 marks LV

Class 8 Agriculture and Pets (8 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Leif Rasmussen, Denmark – Animals subjected to Man 92 marks Gold

2<sup>nd</sup> Michel Abram, France – Rencontre avec le Cheval (Horse) 91 marks Gold

3<sup>rd</sup> Géraldine Forestier – France - Des abeilles et des hommes  
(Bees & Men) 87 marks LV

Class 9 Champions Class (3 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> Michel Meuwis, Belgium – La littérature française 94 marks Gold

2<sup>nd</sup> Ernst Huhnen, Germany – 3000 years of Athletics 90 marks Gold

3<sup>rd</sup> Michel Vantillard, France – Sel et sodium 87 marks LV

A note about Essen

The Essen International Stamp Fair has been held annually since 1976. A significant presence of foreign exhibitors has become a hallmark of the Essen get-together over the years. There are normally about 40 foreign postal administrations and an average of around 80 specialized dealers, auction houses, accessory producers and publishers, with one-third coming from outside Germany. Since 2010 the German and European Championship for Thematic Philately has been hosted in alternate years together with the International Stamp Fair. 



# JUST4KIDS

By Lise Whittle

*(Adult members - please photocopy these pages and pass them on to a youngster you know, and perhaps include some stamps to help them.*

*When you photocopy this, please enlarge each page to A4 size (enlarge to 141%).*

Did you see Andy Murray win at Wimbledon? Look out for any new stamps with him on. There are lots of stamps showing tennis players, perhaps you could start a new collection of your own. Here are some stamps showing tennis moves.

## ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

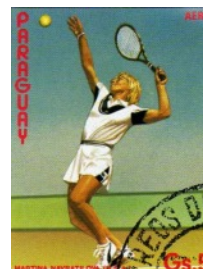
Can you play tennis as well as Andy Murray? Here are a few basic moves you could try. You will need a friend to play with you (or if there are 4 of you, you could play 'Doubles' with two players on each side.)

All the pictures showing the moves are on stamps – have you got any of them in your stamp collection?

### 'TO SERVE'

This is when you toss the ball up in the air, and on its way down you strike it with your racket towards your friend.

*Martina Navratilova serving*



### 'THE SERVICE RETURN'

The service return is when your friend hits the ball back after you have served.

*Thomas Muster waiting to return a serve*



*Boris Becker playing a backhand drive*



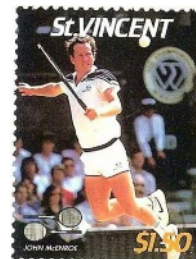
### 'GROUNDSTROKES'

Groundstrokes are played after the ball has bounced once on the ground. There are two main types, the forehand and backhand drive.

*John McEnroe trying to save a high lob*

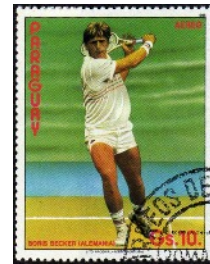
### 'THE LOB'

The lob is when you hit the ball high over your friend but it still lands inside the court.



### ‘THE SMASH’

The best return from a lob is a smash. The smash is a fast and powerful shot which hopefully your friend won't be able to control.



### ‘THE VOLLEY’

The volley is when the ball is hit back to your friend without it bouncing on the ground.



### ‘THE DROP SHOT’

The drop shot is a low shot designed to move your friend around the court and wear them out.

*A twisted backhand drop shot!*

WHO WILL BE THE WINNER – YOU OR YOUR FRIEND?



(Taken from a competition entry by Jacob Whittle, first shown 2008).

### ***ON THE WEB***

Tried out the Planetstamp website yet? (check with your parent first)  
**[www.planetstamp.co.uk](http://www.planetstamp.co.uk)**

### ***WRITE TO US!***

***Send all your jokes, poems, stories, drawings and letters to:  
Just4Kids,  
The Editor, Themescene, 87 Victoria Road, Bournemouth, BH1 4RS  
A PRIZE WILL BE SENT TO EVERYONE WHO WRITES IN***



# **BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND**

**Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th October 2014**

**Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel**

## **BOOKING FORM**

### **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

Friday evening	Welcome; brief members' displays; dinner; followed by invited display
Saturday morning	Invited display; Members displays
Saturday afternoon	Free time to visit Oxford
Late Saturday afternoon	Invited display
Saturday evening	Dinner followed by a light-hearted quiz and raffle
Sunday morning	Members displays

*Detailed programme will be confirmed on the web site and in following Themescenes*

### **COST**

#### **Full Delegate**

*Will include:*

2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast; pre-dinner drink both evenings; some wine with dinner; teas and coffees during the sessions

Two people sharing:	£220 per person
Single room supplement	£50

#### **Day Delegate**

Saturday	£12.00
Evening meal Saturday (optional)	£27.50
Sunday	£6.00

#### **All delegates**

Sunday lunch	Optional extra, payable on the day
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*\*\* Prices correct at time of going to press \*\**

### **TRAVEL**

By car: the hotel is easily reached from the A40 to the north, or the M4 to the south. The hotel has free parking.

By train: we are hoping to arrange transport from Didcot or Oxford stations.

# BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th October 2014

Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel

## BOOKING FORM

I wish to book

- Rooms based on two people sharing £220 per head  
 Single room supplement £50 per head  
 Extra bed/breakfast Thursday [  Extra bed/breakfast Sunday  
(cost to be confirmed)

Or:

- Day delegate Saturday £12.00 per head [  Evening meal (Sat)  
Day delegate £27.50  
 Day delegate Sunday £6.00

Deposit

£25.00 per person (non-refundable)

Or:

Day delegate rate per person

I enclose a cheque for ..... made out to BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Your details

Name.....

Name of partner .....

Address.....

..... Post code .....

Telephone number (home) .....

Telephone number (mobile) .....

Email.....

*Acknowledgement of booking will be sent by email where possible*

*Rooms are limited so please send this form (or a photocopy) plus deposit, as soon as possible, to:*

Mrs. A. Stammers, 40 St. Helen's Way, Benson, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 6SW

*Please do NOT book directly with the hotel*



## PHILANGLES LTD

International postage stamp & postal history auctioneers

ESTABLISHED 1990



## SELLING?

Philangles constantly requires interesting and unusual material, perhaps material you don't readily have clients for. We also require high value single stamps, collections and entire dealer stocks.

Contact Simon Carson directly, home visits can easily be arranged. Simon Carson has been a professional philatelist for over 25 years and is a member of PTS (London) and ASDA (New York)

[WWW.PHILANGLES.CO.UK](http://WWW.PHILANGLES.CO.UK)

Carson House, 44 Legh Street  
Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1UJ

Telephone: 01925 231151 Facsimile: 01925 232204

Email: [philangles@btinternet.com](mailto:philangles@btinternet.com)



## BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME 2013

- February 20th - 23rd      Spring Stampex  
Specialist Exhibition Cinderella and Revenue (no meeting)
- April 20th                      Members' Meeting  
Royal Philatelic Society London,  
41 Devonshire Place,  
London, WIG 6JY.  
Speaker Stuart Henderson; Members displays; Bring & Buy
- May 2nd - 4th                  ECTP 2013  
European Championship for Thematic Philately.  
Essen, Germany.  
International competitions and stamp fair (no meeting)  
[www.ectp.de/home-englisch.htm](http://www.ectp.de/home-englisch.htm)
- June 8th                        BTA Annual General Meeting at Swinpex  
St Joseph's Roman Catholic College,  
Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR.  
AGM and display by ABPS Chairman John Baron
- July 6th                         Midpex  
Warwickshire Exhibition Centre,  
The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire, CV31 1XN.  
BTA Table (no meeting)  
<http://midpex.co.uk/>
- July 12th - 13th                Thematix 13  
King George Field Indoor Bowls Club  
Jubilee Way, Chessington,  
Surrey, KT9 1TR  
BTA Table; specialist thematic dealers (no meeting)
- September 18th - 21st        Autumn Stampex  
Business Design Centre,  
52 Upper Street,  
Islington, London, N1 0QH  
Full National Exhibition all classes (no meeting)
- October 12th                    Fosbery Trophy and BTA Cup  
South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention  
South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground,  
Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL.  
Competition entries (no meeting)  
[www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South\\_of\\_England\\_Stamp\\_Fair.php](http://www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php)