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# MINUTES OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

No 8

## ACCOUNTS FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,

15 AUG 2007

15 APRIL 2007

RECEIVED BY POST TEAM,  
COMPLIANCE DIVISION

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Christopher St J H Daniel, at 12:47 pm. He remarked that it had been a marvellous Conference, with excellent speakers. He thanked all taking part, especially the many members from abroad. About 70 voting members were present.



2. Apologies were received from David Young, Andrew James, Michael Maltin, Michael Lowne, Wilf Dukes and Nick Nicholls.

3. The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held at the Collingwood Conference Centre, Durham on 23 April 2006, had been circulated in advance, were taken as read, and were approved by a show of hands. There were no matters arising and the minutes were adopted, and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Council Members' Reports

The reports of the Honorary Secretary and other members of Council had also been circulated, and are shown below.

#### Secretary: Doug Bateman

*Liaison.* Since the last AGM I have dealt with 17 enquiries by letter, quite a number by email, and a few by telephone. Many have sought advice about setting up dials or information about dials in their possession.

Whilst we are helping to 'educate the public' as part of our charitable status, few of the enquiries have led to membership. The number of enquiries is fewer than those made in the previous year.

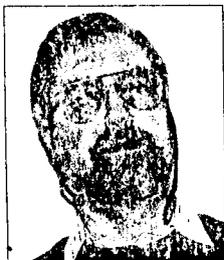
*Unauthorised use of our logo.* Last year we had a case on leaflets in garden centres. After giving advice we were informed that the logo had been removed. Similar instances have not been reported.

*Conference 2007, 13-15 April.* At the time of writing 110 have booked and we have a very good programme, entirely based on suggestions and offers from members.

*Conference 2008, 28-30 March.* The Latimer conference centre, Buckinghamshire, has been booked.

#### Editor: John Davis

*Bulletin* production has run smoothly: special thanks are due to Tony Ashmore for his careful proof-reading. Suggestions from the Readership Survey have started to be incorporated and more will follow. The New Authors Award had 11 authors to choose from and was won by the excellent paper on London stained glass dialmakers from Geoffrey Lane. The



exercise is due to be repeated for more new authors in 2007. Some progress has been made in digitising *Bulletins* before 2004 and we will eventually have the complete set (from 1989) in a form that can be indexed.

No new BSS Monographs have been published but there are several in various stages of production. The nearest to completion is the second edition of Jill Wilson's *Biographical Index of British Sundial Makers*. Also, John Lester has done a great deal of research in preparation for the publishing of the dial drawings of Mrs Crowley, a joint undertaking between the BSS and the AHS.

#### Membership: John Foad

Membership stands now at a healthy 482, eleven up from this time last year. 71% are UK residents, with the rest being split about equally between Europe, where 27 countries are represented, and the rest of the world, including 41 members from the USA.



#### Advertising: Mike Cowham

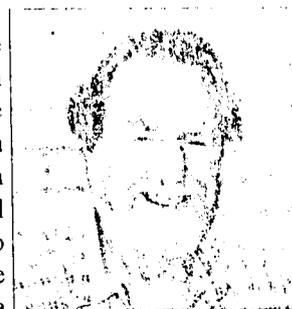
In the last few issues we have carried adverts from Green Witch showing some of their range of affordable replica dials. They are paying for their adverts by giving us some of their dials which we are using for prizes for the Photo Competition and Best New Author awards. Other advertising has been at a low level but at least one new advert is in the pipeline.



#### Restoration: Graham Aldred

Several sundial restorations have been completed successfully in the last year. These are the Guisborough Market Cross, with three cardinal dials and a spherical dial, a vertical declining dial at Painswick, to which BSS contributed, a slate Melville sundial, a replica

heliochronometer at Bromley House, Nottingham, a Helio-Chronometer in New Zealand and a Sol Horometer in Wales. It is quite probable that other restorations do occur that are not reported. About a dozen restoration advice enquiries have been received, many of these do not result in any follow up leading to a restoration but there are three that could be classified as optimistic with reasonable support from the custodian or owner. The most interesting of these is at Glasgow University, a complex multiple sundial based on a sphere, probably quite unique, thought to



have been designed by Lord Kelvin and moved from his house to the University in 1971. Another is an interesting vertical declining dial, dated 1627, with nodus and declination lines in North Wales. The restoration of the Mansfield Market Cross with four vertical declining dials should proceed this year; it is in the final stages of tender with contractors. Unfortunately the fine polyhedral sundial at Nelson became a victim of vandals recently, it is badly damaged but repairable.

**Reference Library at Nottingham: Graham Aldred.** During the last year the first edition of the BSS Reference Library Catalogue has been produced and is now available. Full details of pricing and purchase options are given in the March newsletter. Recognition should be made of John Foad's considerable efforts in managing the production of this publication. It is hoped that this catalogue will reveal the extent of the BSS collection of dialling material and stimulate members to visit the attractive location at Bromley House. Copies will be available for sale at the annual conference or by post from Peter Lane the Sales representative. The Society has responded to the Bromley House Library 'Adopt a Book' appeal, which involves repair and conservation of some of the old books in the general library.

**Fixed Dial Register: Patrick Powers.**

I am pleased to report that the number of errors in Register 2005 identified over the ensuing year has been rewardingly small. Data entry into the database has continued without much incident though the Society computer facility is showing its age. Tests are in hand (on a separate machine!) to establish the viability of future operation under the new MS operating system Vista. A little further work has been conducted into the ways in which Members might eventually be able to submit records and images electronically. Work on this is expected to increase in the coming year in order to accommodate the ever increasing use of digital photography.



The design of the mass dial database is now complete and Tony Wood is busy getting his and Edward Martin's backlog entered.

At this year's conference I shall have completed my tenth year as Registrar and shall be standing down from that role although I expect to remain involved as needed to provide support for the two databases. I would like to thank all those who have helped over the years both with sending in dial sightings and in helping me resolve queries from time to time.



**Mass Dial Group: Tony Wood**

There has been considerable activity with regard to mass dials: Chris Williams in Kent has made a statistical survey of all the English counties in respect of survival rates and distribution. This is a major achievement and the results are to be published shortly. The

Mass Dial Register has been set up and data is being entered. To date the regions entered are the counties of Devon, Cornwall, Lancashire, Greater London, Rutland and West and South Yorkshire together with Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Printed versions have been distributed for comment. The layout follows on the Lincolnshire listing of Bob Adams but with metric measurements now being used. The reporting of new dials at a lively level has continued from a small group of experienced recorders and further information via NADFAS and our website has been received. Sadly, Edward Martin died at the end of February. He was the pioneer of computer recording of mass dials, being the first to gather together the data from disparate counties and create a database with pictures. His legacy is the existing database mentioned above. Special thanks to various members who have investigated reports of mass dials for me.

**Saxon Dials: Tony Wood.** Mike Cowham is undertaking an extensive survey of Saxon dials and has raised many questions over the status of currently recorded mass dials. He hopes to publish eventually.

**Museums Survey: Tony Wood.** The Museums Survey has reached its final phase and I am awaiting replies from the last batch of forms sent out. Prior to that I covered Ireland, both North and South, with a reasonable response and new dials can now be added to Michael Harley's existing Irish Register. It has been requested that the results be published and Ian Butson has said he will undertake this with some help initially from Jill Wilson. It seems to be agreed that it has been a worthwhile exercise and many dials of interest and indeed importance have been uncovered. Makers' names are passed on to Jill Wilson for the Biographical Index and other interested parties are informed about particular dials. It is also worthwhile mentioning that the Society has been able to assist some museums on occasion.

**Exhibitions: David Young.** A small team represented us at the British Horological Institute last summer. I am very grateful for the hard work, for little reward, that is entailed. I am also happy to continue archiving Society records.



**BSS Website: Chris Lusby Taylor.**

There have been no significant changes to the BSS website in the past year. If any member has website experience and would be willing to help, the Webmaster would love to hear from them.



**Publications Sales: Peter Lane**

A flyer for publications was included with the December Bulletin and this led to a significant increase in orders. The exercise may be repeated for other sales items. In particular, the EoT monograph, the CD for Mass Dials of Lincolnshire and the old but trusty software 'Sundial Constructor' have sold quite well. Back issues of

the Bulletin continue to sell, and I expect that the planned CD of the complete run of Bulletins will also sell well. On the other hand, there are a number of unsold hard-copy Registers. Overall, sales are a steady activity and bring revenue to the Society. Finally, due a career change I will have to relinquish the role of Sales and hope that a volunteer will come forward fairly soon.

**Foreign Tours 2006 & 2008: Mike Cowham.**

Ludwig and Luise Engelhardt were our hosts as a group of 29 BSS Members visited Nuremberg in October. We were able to see many of the fine dials in the area and visit some of their best museums. In the Gernamisches National museum we were able to see a good selection of Nuremberg Ivory Dials and many fine works of art. A day tour to Rothenberg-ob-der-Tauber and another to Franconian Switzerland allowed us to see the surrounding area and some further interesting dials.

There will be no tour this year but one is being arranged for 2008 to the Alsace region of France. This area is rich in dials and we will be visiting Strasbourg, Colmar and Freiburg (Germany) as well as many mediaeval wine producing towns and villages. For more details contact Mike Cowham.

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There were no comments from the floor on these reports, but Doug Bateman and Chris Daniel made the following points:

Patrick Powers, who has acted as Registrar for ten years, is looking for a successor. It is hoped that a volunteer will be found soon. Some computer experience is required, but Patrick will give a very full handover. The position is an opportunity to obtain a knowledge of the dials of the British Isles that is second to none. The workload is not intense, amounting to perhaps one hour a week, and there are no deadlines. There is also an opportunity to take the Register to the next stage, allowing Members to submit their photographs and reports in digital form.

Chris Lusby-Taylor, who manages the Society web site, would like some assistance in this task.

Any members willing to help in either respect should please contact Doug Bateman.

**5. Treasurer: Graham Stapleton**

In taking over the post of Treasurer from John Davis in June 2006, I inherited a very well maintained set of accounts with a spreadsheet system that ensures accurate monitoring of the Society's position. The accounts, kindly audited by Geoff Parsons, are shown separately. The



headline figure shows an increase of almost £14k, but this is artificial in that Fitzwilliam College have charged the bulk of their fee much later than other venues have done. The underlying turnover is quite similar to last year, even though there was a 'safari' – it is greatly to the credit of Mike Cowham and the Durham

Conference organisers that the balance has been so favourable.

Two other components of this buoyant figure have come through the work of John Foad in making a Gift Aid claim very close to last year's despite a lower membership roll. Peter Lane is likewise to be thanked for his proactive marketing and management of sales, which continue to bear fruit. Changes in the charities law have required Council to start examining how Society funds will be apportioned in future. This will allow us to know exactly how much is available for restoration grants and projects in future.

**6. Election of Officers.**

Nominations had already been proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations from the floor, the following were again proposed by John Lester and were approved by a show of hands, and the Chairman declared them duly elected.

*Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.* Chris Daniel, Doug Bateman and Graham Stapleton respectively.

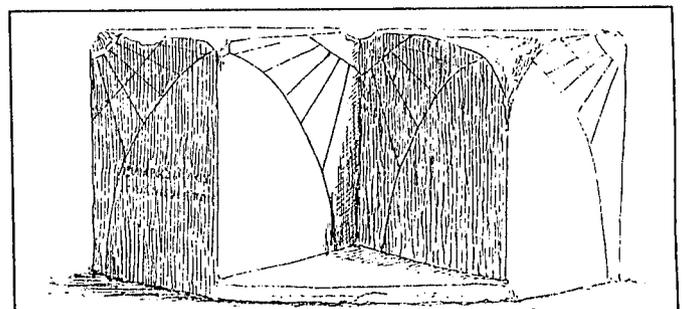
*Members of Council.* John Davis, Graham Aldred, Patrick Powers, Tony Wood and John Foad.

*Audit.* Geoff Parsons audited the accounts for 2006, and had kindly agreed to do so again for this year. His appointment was approved at the meeting by a show of hands.

**7. Any Other Business**

Maurice Kenn proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was strongly supported by applause from the meeting.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:54 pm.



A rather unusual Greek dial in white marble. It was brought from Athens by Lord Elgin and is now in the British Museum. One face bears the inscription:

ΦΑΙΔΡΟΣ : ΖΩΙΑΟΥ : ΠΑΛΑΝΙΕΥΣ : ΕΠΟΙΕΙ  
(Phaidros son of Zoilos a Pæanian made this)

Phaidros is thought to have been an architect living in the second or third century AD. *After Gatty.*

**BRITISH SUNDIAL SOCIETY**  
**Accounts for 2006**

**Income and Expenditure**

	INCOME		EXPENSES	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
<b>General</b>				
Subscriptions (1)	£13,203.64	£12,715.89	Subscriptions	£52.00
Gift Aid	£1,819.79	£1,802.74	Bulletin (5)	£7,866.13
			Publications (6)	£3,007.64
			Officers (7)	£2,331.27
				£3,049.46
<b>Events</b>				
Holloway 2005	£13,513.70	£0.00	Holloway 2005	£14,515.13
Durham 2006 (8)	£4,567.00	£12,546.09	Durham 2006 (8)	£67.00
Nurnberg 2006	£0.00	£12,670.00	Nurnberg 2006	£0.00
Cambridge 2007	£0.00	£7,212.00	Cambridge 2007	£1,248.00
				£1,248.00
<b>Sales etc</b>				
Sales (9)	£5,149.60	£2,083.80	Sales (9)	£620.59
Auction (13)	£0.00	£1,082.00	Auction (13)	£0.00
Advertising (3)	£55.60	£50.00	Advertising (3)	£0.00
Donations (Somerville) (14)	£249.15	£777.86	Donations (Somerville) (14)	£0.00
			Library (10)	£131.00
			Internet (11)	£146.88
				£193.88
<b>Finance</b>				
Interest	£1,573.43	£2,138.94	Banks/Insurance (12)	£749.67
				£817.74
<b>Special</b>				
Awards 2005	£0.00	£0.00	Awards 2005	£2,198.05
			Photo competition	£83.09
				£126.51
<b>Other</b>				
Offprints	£0.00	£0.00	Offprints	£0.00
Misc	£0.00	£137.83	Misc	£27.75
St. Katherine Cree Fund (4)	£0.00	£0.00	St. Katherine Cree Fund (4)	£0.00
				£790.00
				£129.70
				£0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£40,131.91</b>	<b>£53,217.15</b>		<b>£33,044.20</b>
				<b>£39,253.50</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>£1,813.25</b>	<b>£13,963.65</b>		

**Notes for 2006**

- Balance held in the U.S.A. Amounts paid in US dollars have been converted to sterling at the exchange rate in force: on 31/12/2006, when notified of balance, or when sums were repatriated.
- (Intentionally blank)
- Advertising income for adverts in the Bulletin & Newsletter, expenses for Society publicity in other journals etc.
- These donations held for the restoration of the St. Katherine Cree Sundial, are not part of the general assets.
- Four editions paid for in the year. Includes postage costs.
- Production of the BSS Register (CD version).
- Includes postage, leaflets, travel, computing sundries, meeting room costs etc.
- Advance deposit for the 2006 Conference and early payments from members.
- Sales of booklets, sweatshirts, slides, ties etc by Margery Lovatt, Peter Lane, Jane Walker & David Young
- Subscription to the Bromley House Library (Nottingham) and purchase of books.
- Hosting of the BSS website and domain name costs.
- Bank costs (inc international), credit card costs, Society liability insurance.
- Proceeds of the auctions at Conferences are added to the Somerville Fund
- The Andrew Somerville Memorial Fund contains all donations to the BSS and its reserves are part of the general BSS Assets. Expenses include the annual Somerville Lecture and grants.
- The BSS Library valuation is based on the 2003 value by Rogers Turner Books.

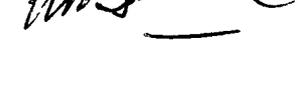
**General Notes.**

- The accounts are prepared on a payments and receipts basis. That is, money is booked when it is received or spent (i.e. when cheques are written, not presented). This is in line with the Charity Commission's guidance.
- The year-end funds are held mainly in approved investment accounts as well as current accounts.
- Events are priced not to make a loss, with contingencies plus a gross margin of 10%.
- Stocks are valued at nil as they are unlikely to have any value if the Society were to be wound up. This does not impact our cash flow.

	2005	2006	Delta
Current account balance	£1,771.33	£3,559.18	£1,787.85
Deposit account balance	£16.51	£16.59	£0.08
BSS USA current account balance (1)	£1,028.81	£1,904.76	£875.95
Charities Office Investment Fund	£41,765.39	£52,840.25	£11,074.86
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£44,582.04</b>	<b>£58,320.78</b>	<b>£13,738.74 inc cheques not presented</b>
			<b>£13,717.74 excl cheques not presented</b>
Change in funds from previous year	£7,510.27	£13,738.74	
Income received during the year	£40,131.91	£53,138.15	
Expenses incurred during the year	£33,044.20	£40,296.36	
Excess of income over expenditure	£7,087.71	£12,841.79	£875.95
Andrew Somerville Memorial Fund	£1,322.29	£3,182.15	Included in above amounts
St Katherine Cree Restoration Fund	£1,148.42	£1,148.42	Included in above amounts
Library Valuation	£16,635.00	£16,635.00	Not included in above amounts (note 15)

**Auditor's Comments**

- The accounts have been well run using the spreadsheet developed by the previous Treasurer.
- The ownership of the Katherine Cree Fund is not clearly stated; a strategy for managing this fund should be determined.
- Greater clarity is desirable in the allocation and recording of amounts to the Somerville Fund.
- The Council's proposal to retain up to 20% of the excess margin from events is considered appropriate.

NAME	POST	SIGNATURE	DATE
G Stapleton	Treasurer		12/11/07
G Parsons	Auditor		12/14/07
C Daniel	Chairman		12/14/07