
MINUTES OF THE 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, LATIMER CONFERENCE CENTRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, 30 MARCH, 2008

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Christopher St J H Daniel at 12:40pm. He commented on the excellence of the conference and thanked all the speakers. About 50 voting members were present.

2. Apologies for Absence: none reported.

3. The minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting, held at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, on 15 April 2007, published in the *Bulletin* in June 2007, pp 59-61, were taken as read and approved by a show of hands. There were no matters arising: the minutes were adopted by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

4. Council Members' Reports

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

Secretary: Doug Bateman. Liaison. Since the last AGMI have dealt with 9 enquiries by letter, quite a number by e-mail and a few by telephone. Many have sought advice about about dials in their possession. A number have been about restoration and these were referred to Graham Aldred. Whilst we are undoubtedly helping to 'educate the public' as part of our charitable status, few of the enquiries have led to membership.

Conference 2008, 28 - 30 March. The Latimer conference centre, Buckinghamshire, is a promising venue with high standard accommodation but, disappointingly, the attendance is much lower than average with 74 participating at the time of writing.

Conference 2009, 15-17 May. The Cumbria Grand Hotel in Grange-over-Sands has been booked. This will be our 20th conference and AGM.



Editor's Report: John Davis. This has been a busy year



for publications. There have been the normal four issues of the *Bulletin*, now with a gradually increasing colour content. Slightly fewer articles qualified for the New Author Award this year but it was pleasing to see it go to an overseas team of authors. A unified listing of the contents of all the *Bulletins* since 1989 has been assembled (see the website). My thanks

to all the authors who have contributed items, no matter how long, and to Tony Ashmore for his help with proofreading.

The second edition of Jill Wilson's *Biographical Index* has been produced and we have also published, jointly with the AHS, the book of *Mrs Crowley's Sundial Sketchbooks*, edited by John Lester. For the future, another four or five BSS monographs are at various stages of preparation and will be published over the next couple of years. The topics include mass dials, altitude dials, double horizontals, stained glass and so on.

Membership: John Foad.

Over the last five years, our membership has been fairly steady, fluctuating between 470 and 490. We are currently at the lower level, with 70% from the UK, and the balance from 29 countries all around the world, including 72 from continental Europe and 53 from the USA. This is my last year as Membership Secretary, and it has been a pleasure to



have known so many of you, 'old' members as well as new. I am very pleased to say that Jackie Jones has volunteered to take over the position and will take over officially on the 1st of May.

Advertising: Mike Cowham.



My report is really the same as last year. Little has changed and the new advertiser that I expected then did not materialise. I recently quoted to Sotheby's agent for advertising but nothing more has come of it yet.



Restoration: Graham Aldred. Six sundial restorations have been completed successfully in the last year. It is quite probable that other restorations do occur that are not reported. In addition nine restoration advice enquiries have been received, some of these are progressing well, driven by local enthusiasm and appreciation of the advice that BSS freely offers.



Three restorations are in progress. Members are urged to report any recent sundial restorations that they notice and also to make me aware of any sundials that need attention. The society can be proactive and try to trigger remedial work.

One member has set up a substantial fund to be used for sundial restoration work particularly on churches or on dials in public places. This will be administered outside of the Society for reasons based on the charity status, but BSS will provide support and advice for any projects. This fund is independent of and in addition to the Somerville Fund that is available under the BSS Grant Scheme announced previously.

Reference Library at Nottingham: Graham Aldred. Sixteen new books were delivered to the Bromley House this year, with some titles detailed in a recent newsletter. Shelf space has become critical and negotiations are in hand to expand the space available for our collection and to provide more satisfactory storage for the valuable books. The charges have been increased to £130 pa which still represents a very reasonable cost when viewed against commercial storage costs, with all the additional attributes of Bromley House and potential daily access to all the BSS dialling books and material. There has been modest interest in the BSS Reference Library Catalogue and consequently there are still copies available. 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.

Fixed dial register: Patrick Powers. (April - December 2007) Members will recall that at the last AGM I



announced my intention to stand down as Registrar after some ten years in the role. The Society has been fortunate in securing the services of John Foad as the new Registrar and the formal handover took place on 1st January 2008 with John using his own PC rather than the Society's one.

Much of the period from the AGM up to that date was spent in preparing for handover and entering a backlog of sightings. As a consequence no further work has yet been done on a draft concept for electronic input of Members' dial sighting data and images.

I have much enjoyed my time as Registrar and would like to thank all those who have helped over the years in keeping the Register current by sending in their dial sighting reports and in helping me to resolve queries from time to time.

John Foad (December 2007 - March 2008) As the new Registrar who only took over on 1st January, I have as yet little to say, other than to thank Patrick Powers for the immense amount of help that he has given me. It is a privilege and a delight to be at the heart of the Society's store of wealth. I have already seen the quality of the new reports that pour in and that, with your help, will continue. New technology continues to pervade our lives, in many cases for the good, and the impact of e-mail and digital photography on how we can receive reports will be one of my priorities in the year ahead.

Mass Dial Group: A.O.Wood. Agreement has been reached with the Borthwick Institute Archive in York for the safekeeping of our mass dial records, which now number over 5000 and occupy a substantial space. It is



hoped to make the first deposits shortly and then continue as the database/register is compiled. Alan Cook has completed a comprehensive survey of O.S. square SE, centred on York and this will be published as a monograph. Reports continue to come in from our small band of regular recorders led by John Lester, Ian Butson and Irene

Brightmer. NADFAS, as ever, are very good at alerting us to any dials they find and a recent report from Eydon, Northamptonshire, claims some dials on local houses as well as the church.

Modern (1912) scratch dials have appeared at Canna Island in Scotland and are noted for future reference if they were to be reported again. Chris Williams has completed his statistical analysis of dials countrywide and the results are to appear in the Bulletin.

Saxon Dials: A.O.Wood. The position regarding Saxon dials is still unsatisfactory but Mike Cowham's recent studies have shown that there is still a great deal to learn

about them. Currently they are mainly included with mass dials. It is hoped that Mike Cowham can publish his findings in the not too distant future.

Museums Survey: A.O.Wood. The Survey has been 'completed' in 18 phases and has covered the whole of the British Isles. Much interesting information has surfaced and been passed on to specialists, in particular to John Davis for 'classic' dials and Jill Wilson for Sundial Makers. It has been requested that the results be published and Ian Butson has agreed to edit the returns into book form and will initially receive assistance from Jill Wilson.

Exhibitions: David Young. I have had no requests for exhibition material, but a successful display took place in Brighton during February. Personally I have given several talks locally including U3A Science section, Round Table and Historical Societies. Archives are slowly mounting up and I have received some worthwhile early history of the Mass Dial Group from Tony Wood.



Website: Richard Mallett. The Society website www.sundialsoc.org.uk has been transferred to a new hosting company (AFMU) which will enable the use of more features such as photo galleries, forms and search engines on the website.



The Society also owns two domains www.sundialsociety.org.uk and www.britishsundialsociety.org.uk which are currently 'parked' with a different hosting company. These will also be transferred to the new hosting company (AFMU) and one of them will be used to recreate the Society website to World Wide

Web standards, which will make it easier to maintain in the future using Microsoft software.

The currently active website www.sundialsoc.org.uk will be kept up to date while the new site is being developed.

Publication sales: Peter Lane. Sales continue to remain steady. The BSS Monograph No 1 (Analemma) has now sold out although the occasional order is still received with most enquirers happy to receive a copy of the Bulletins which featured the original article. The campaign to reduce and sell the remaining BSS 2005 Full Registers has been successful with only a few copies now remaining on stock. There are however a significant number of the Abridged version remaining. The BSS Monograph No 2 (Biographical Index) and Mrs Crowley's Sketch-



book have been introduced this year and are selling steadily. Mike Cowham's book *Sundials of the British Isles* is also available along with the BSS Library Index although the latter is available to members only. We have also managed to sell on to new members full sets of the BSS

Bulletin. These sets have been donated to the BSS and then sold on at a modest but reasonable profit. Sales for 2007 have been successful, exceeding £2000. A member of the BSS has now come forward to take over the Sales role and arrangements are in place for transferring the stock and ensuring a seamless transition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting me in the Sales Coordinator rôle.

Foreign tours 2008: Mike Cowham. *Alsace, 5 - 11 September.* At the moment the numbers are 39 against a maximum of 40. Past experience is that the numbers drop through illness but are unlikely to fall below a minimum of about 30.

5. Treasurer's Report: Graham Stapleton. This year, work has been done to ensure that the Society both stays in a comfortable state and can meet its future requirements. Better use of our reserves have come from the change to a more favourable bank account. Likewise, Council members have contributed by promoting income and finding savings. Our present good state means that there is no need for an increase in the subscription rates this year and, potentially, none next year.



A data security exercise was completed in compliance with new finance industry regulations, which allows the Society to continue taking

credit card payments. We are not, however, emulating the arrogance of other large organisations – cheques will remain very welcome at all times.

In an early response to the new Charities Act, a sub group of the Council is preparing a new form of budgeting. With this, it will be possible to show that the Society has proper funds to maintain its functions in future years. Also, we will be able to securely allocate sums for projects, publications and dial restorations.

6. Election of Officers. Nominations had already been proposed and seconded according to the constitution, and all were approved by a show of hands, as follows.

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

Members of Council. Jackie Jones, John Foad, Graham Aldred and John Davis.

The Chairman noted that Patrick Powers had resigned from the post of Registrar and Tony Wood wished to continue as a mass dial specialist, but be co-opted as necessary rather than be a trustee. They were thanked for their work to very warm applause.

Auditor. Geoff Parsons had kindly audited the accounts for 2007 and was willing to do so for 2008. The appointment was approved by a show of hands.

7. Any Other Business. There being no other business the meeting was closed at 12:55pm.

The 2007 Accounts will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

BRITISH SUNDIAL SOCIETY - Accounts for 2007

Income and Expenditure

	INCOME		EXPENSES		
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
General					
Subscriptions (1)	£12,715.89	£12,789.59	Subscriptions	£107.00	£73.00
Gift Aid (2)	£1,802.74	£0.00	Bulletin (5)	£7,892.88	£7,921.97
			Publications (6)	£399.45	£787.00
			Officers (7)	£3,049.46	£3,499.07
Events					
Durham 2006	£12,546.09	£0.00	Durham 2006	£12,147.72	£0.00
Nurnberg 2006	£12,670.00	£0.00	Nurnberg 2006	£11,787.14	£0.00
Cambridge 2007	£7,212.00	£12,065.10	Cambridge 2007	£1,248.00	£15,473.80
Latimer 2008 (8)	£0.00	£380.00	Latimer 2008 (8)	£0.00	£150.00
Sales etc					
Sales (9)	£2,083.80	£2,335.70	Sales (9)	£366.52	£154.17
Auction (13)	£1,082.00	£0.00	Auction (13)	£27.50	£0.00
Advertising (3)	£50.00	£10.00	Advertising (3)	£70.00	£0.00
Donations (Somerville) (13)	£777.86	£190.00	Donations (Somerville) (13)	£0.00	£500.00
			Library (10)	£100.00	£236.16
			Internet (11)	£193.88	£0.00
Finance					
Interest	£2,138.94	£3,153.93	Banking/Insurance (12)	£817.74	£712.46
Special					
Design Competition	£0.00	£0.00	Design Awards	£0.00	£0.00
			Photo competition	£126.51	£0.00
Other					
Offprints	£0.00	£0.00	Offprints	£790.00	£0.00
Misc	£137.83	£0.00	Misc	£129.70	£0.00
St. Katherine Cree Fund (4)	£0.00	£0.00	St. Katherine Cree Fund (4)	£0.00	£0.00
TOTALS	£53,217.15	£30,924.32		£39,253.50	£29,507.63
Net income	£13,963.65	£1,416.69			

Notes for 2007

- 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.
- Gift Aid for this year has been received, but will appear in the 2008 accounts (= £1796.53)
- Advertising income for adverts in the Bulletin & Newsletter, expenses for Society publicity in other journals etc.
- These donations, held on behalf of the St. Katherine Cree Sundial Restoration Fund, are **not** part of the BSS assets.
- Four editions paid for in the year. Includes postage costs.
- Printing of the publication(s): Biographical Index.
- Includes postage, leaflets, travel, computing sundries, meeting room costs etc.
- Advance deposit for the 2008 Conference and early payments from members.
- Sales of booklets, sweatshirts, slides, ties etc by Peter Lane, Jane Walker.
- 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 Conference auctions are automatically 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 with allowances for inflation and new purchases.




General Notes.

- A. 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.
- B. The year-end funds are held mainly in approved investment accounts as well as current accounts.
- C. Events are priced not to make a loss, with contingencies plus a gross margin of 10%.
- D. 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.

	2006	2007
Current account balance	£3,559.18	£823.75
Deposit account balance	£16.59	£4,539.22
BSS USA current account balance (approx) (1)	£1,904.76	£1,075.13
Charities Office Investment Fund	£52,840.25	£56,761.55
TOTALS	£58,320.78	£63,199.65
Change in funds during the year	£13,738.74	£4,878.87
Income received during the year	£53,138.15	£30,924.32
Expenses incurred during the year	£40,296.36	£29,507.63
Excess of income over expenditure	£12,841.79	£1,416.69
Andrew Somerville Memorial Fund	£3,182.15	£2,872.15
St Katherine Cree Restoration Fund (4)	£1,148.42	£1,148.42
Library Valuation	£16,635.00	£16,635.00

Auditor's Comments

- a. The treasurer has made every effort to maintain accurate records and balance the account but further work is need to resolve an accounting error.
- b. The Society Funds and Accounts was checked against the statements on 15 Mar 08 and the total credit confirmed as £63,037.33.
- c. It is recommended that future accounts be closed at the end of the calendar year.
- d. It is recommended that separate accounts be maintained for the current and deposit bank accounts.
- e. Mixed payments and multiply cheques paid into the bank account on the same day are difficult to reconcile against the bank statements.
- f. It is recommended that a separate record showing the breakdown of the individual bank payments is maintained.
- g. It is recommended that quarterly checks of the accounts are undertaken.

NAME	POST	SIGNATURE	DATE
G Stapleton	Treasurer		22 VI '08
G Parsons	Auditor		25/6/08
C Daniel	Chairman		02/07/08.