



**KENT FEDERATION
of
PHILATELIC SOCIETIES**



ANDY MURRAY
Wimbledon Gentleman's Singles Champion 2013
(See article on New GB Issues inside)

No. 193

SEPTEMBER 2013

BULLETIN

PLEASE VIEW THE KENT PHILATELY WEBSITE

<http://kentphilately.weebly.com>

It supports the K.F.P.S.

Regrettably, I start this Editorial with similar news as in the May edition, we learnt at the Federation A.G.M. of the deaths of four more senior members of clubs in Kent, Geoff Barling of Medway Towns, Tony Wright of Herne Bay, Bernard Mandell of Cinque Ports and Tony Bounds of Romney Marsh. Council members stood for a minute in their memory.

Secondly, the Federation Day and A.G.M. at Sittingbourne seemed to go well, and certainly numbers attending appeared higher than of late, especially in the morning. However many disappeared by lunchtime, which was disappointing. John Shaw succeeded Maurice Flack as our President, and after a close vote, Paul Cahill (Cinque Ports PS) was elected as Vice President. Graham Boutle and Michael Dobbs were confirmed as Hon. Secretary and Communications Officer respectively. There being no nominations for the other officers, they were re-elected en-bloc. Although there were more delegates at the AGM, it was noted that there were only two apologies for non attendance, (two senior members), but some affiliated clubs were not represented.

Thank you to the club correspondents who send in their reports prior to the cut-off dates, but there are still a few who it seems do not mark their diaries, The dates quoted are to allow me and our printer Michael Thompson time to fit the Bulletin scheduling into our 'work day' timings. Should either of us be away, and delays occur, you and your Society might not have the chance to read (and take note) as in many cases, some clubs meet only once a month. This is the reason why we endeavour to publish the Bulletin 5 to 6 weeks before each of our three Kent Rallies. Incidentally, I suspect that some clubs may not be including at least one copy of the Bulletin inside their club packet so that those members unable to attend their club meetings, get to know what is happening in Kent Philately. We ask that you do this please.

Next, no one has accepted my invitation to step down as Editor, and allow a new face to take over. I feel that perhaps a gradual introduction would be ideal, over say a couple of Editions, so that a new editor can pick up the threads and formulate his or her plans for the future. I was fortunate in having my predecessor, Alec Page to advise me the best way to resolve any problems; it might be useful if my successor and I could work together for a while !

My thanks to our neighbouring Federations, Essex, Middlesex and Sussex for copies of their journals, and to Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Societies for their Newsletters. Thanks also to Michael Thompson for printing, stapling and distributing this issue.

I received the Deal PS report rather late and was sorry to learn that Dr. John Pond, their President, passed away a few months ago.

The next cut-off date needs to be 10th JANUARY 2014 so please let me have your news, or any other items for inclusion in the February issue in good time.

Hope you have enjoyed a good Summer and are now ready for a new Season.

DIARY DATES 2013

Remember, if you are planning to visit any of the events listed here, you are advised to check that neither the date, nor the venue have changed BEFORE you travel.

AUG 17 Chris Rapley Fair Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne. ME10 1JB
AUG 26 ditto... Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Rd, East Grinstead.
SEP 1 Sevenoaks Stamp Fair, Knole Academy, Bradbourne Vale Rd.
SEP 7 Beckenham Stamp Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
SEP 18/21 Autumn Stampex (France & Cols), Design Centre, Islington, London. N1
SEP 21 Chris Rapley at Sittingbourne.
SEP 28 KENT FEDERATION AUTUMN RALLY at East Malling Village Hall.
OCT 5 Beckenham Stamp Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
OCT 13 Chris Rapley Southborough, Meadows School, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0RJ
OCT 19 ditto... at Sittingbourne.
OCT 26 Kent Fed. SEMINAR The Boer War, by Richard Stock, at Wainscot
NOV 2 Beckenham Stamp Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
NOV 16 Chris Rapley at Sittingbourne.
NOV 17 ditto... at Felbridge.
NOV 17 Sevenoaks Stamp Fair, Knole Academy, Bradbourne Vale Rd
DEC 7 Beckenham Stamp Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd, Beckenham
DEC 8 Chris Rapley Fair at Rochester, Masonic Hall, Gundulph Square, ME1 1QD
DEC 21 ditto... at Sittingbourne.

NEXT CUT-OFF DATE for the next issue of this BULLETIN will need to be the 10th JANUARY 2014. Do PLEASE let me have YOUR CLUBS NEWS, or any other items for inclusion in good time. I sometimes start assembling pages before the cut-off date, so any early contributions are welcome. THANK YOU ! PJOK.

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FUTURE EVENTS FOR 2014

JAN 17/18 York Stamp & Coin Fair York Racecourse
FEB 19/22 Spring Stampex (Thematic & P/Cs), Design Centre, Islington, London. N1.
MAR 22 KENT FEDERATION SPRING RALLY, Hosted by Bromley & Beckenham
Philatelic Society at Langley Park Boys School, Beckenham. BR3 3BP
JUN 28 KENT FEDERATION DAY / A.G.M. Hosted by KFPS at Ashford
JUL 11/14 British Phil. Congress (Provisional date) Ypres in Belgium.
SEP 17/20 Autumn Stampex (Germany & Cols) Design Centre, Islington, London. N1.
OCT 4 KENT FEDERATION AUTUMN RALLY Hosted by KFPS at Dartford
Grammar School for Boys, West Hill, Dartford, DA1 2HW

I understand that further details can be seen at :- www.abps.org.uk (Exhibiting tab).

Regret dates for other more local events not yet to hand. They may be at the next Fairs.
MARK YOUR DIARIES NOW & DON'T MISS OUT ! E&OE

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.

I would like to take this quick opportunity to pen a few words about being President of the Kent Federation. The last two years have passed so quickly the time has flown by. I would like to thank all the local societies in Kent who invited me to display to their clubs - it was nice to see old friends and to meet new members of various clubs. Thank you !

I must take the time to thank all members of the Executive Committee who have worked along with me during the two years. The 'team' try to ensure the Federation runs smoothly and moves forward with the changing times. I am proud of all the Executive Committee members for the time devoted to Federation affairs, and their endeavours to smooth the path along the Philatelic Highway. You are a great credit all of you. The affiliated clubs should all be proud of the fantastic Executive Committee who are dedicated to working tirelessly for and on behalf of all of you. I also wish to thank you all for your support, which is needed and appreciated, especially when as President, I was also Competition Secretary and Seminar organiser - again thank you ! My time is up and I will now revert back to being just the Federation Hon. Competition Secretary, (plus Seminar organiser), both jobs that I do really enjoy doing, and I look forward to your continued support.

Finally, I hope to see you all at Malling on the 28th September.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Flack.

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Editor's Note: Maurice is of course still young enough to have a full time job which takes up a lot of his time, and he has endeavoured to look after 3 'spare time' jobs on behalf of the Federation which few others would have been prepared to take on. Despite a number of members criticising him (unfairly) it would have been better if they had checked the facts before making their views public. Criticise yes, but be constructive, otherwise offer to do it yourself ! There is a moral here, Do not burden anyone with too many tasks ! Let everyone share and all do their bit for the Benefit of all ! PJOK.

The A.G.M., held at Sittingbourne on July 27th.

The 'Official' minutes not being available as we go to print, I noted the following points were discussed - they might not be in order, nor can I Guarantee that I have got them 100% correct. (please remember, I was not responsible for taking the appropriate notes)

The meeting was about 3 minutes late getting started as the President, wearing his hat as Competition Secretary was finalising matters with the Judges, so we got underway about 11.03 am.

The Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies were received from Derek Hamilton Smith (Edenbridge) and Ray Jeal (Bexley). Four members of affiliated clubs have joined the Great Philatelic Society in the Sky, and we all stood for a minutes silence in their memory.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read, and I don't remember any matters arising. The Hon.Sec. gave a resume of the Federation activities during the year. The Treasurer presented the Income & Expenditure sheet and the Balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2012 - it seems we are managing to stay solvent, but he announced that membership of affiliated societies had dropped by 70, based on the returns for 2011. Was this figure 'doctored' by societies or had we really lost so many members ? The audited accounts were accepted, then the accounts examiner pointed out that the figure £1476 shown in the accumulated fund for 2011 should be £1819 (rounded up) - it was only a printing error'. Next the retiring President, Maurice handed over the Chain of Office to the Vice President, John Shaw, commencing his two years life sentence, both being roundly applauded. Then the climax of the meeting, with two nominations for Vice President, both the candidates left the room, then both were invited back separately to give a statement of their views and thoughts on how they would handle the job, and answer any questions. Both left the room and a secret vote was taken: Two independent souls from different clubs counted the votes, and the Chairman announced that Paul Cahill was elected.. Other Officers were re-elected en-bloc as there were no other nominations. The New President then presented the Lingley Shield to this years winner, Colin Tobitt (Eltham & Woolwich) and our Hon.Treasurer. The A.G.M. was followed by a Council Meeting, with reports from other Officers, and on recent events, plus progress reports on future events. One comment noted that Seminars were always held at Wainscott - the reason for this being that it was convenient for the organiser who lived only a few doors away. If anyone else is willing (and able) to organise a Seminar at another venue, Maurice would like them to volunteer to do this. Federation can give advice and help. An enquiry regarding the replacement of 'Social Philately' by 'Open Philately' raised the question whether Federation might have to change its Competition Rules was answered that as soon as the Powers that be (A.B.P.S. ? or the F.I.P) produced the International Rules, the Kent Federation would. Decide what steps we needed to take.. Mention was made that next years A.G.M. and Federation Day would be held at a school in Ashford, and it would be hosted by KFPS. The booking was made before, the Ashford P.S. resigned from Federation. Still no reason for their resignation is known.

PJOK

MORE G.B. NEW ISSUES

Despite the announcement a few months ago that Royal Mail had decided to include a second class value with all 'new issue' sets, they do not seem to have remembered to tell either the designers or the printers yet! On July 11th, a set of 10 first class stamps depicting butterflies was issued. Then on August, 8th, a set of four "special" stamps commemorating Andy Murray's 'Wimbledon' win in miniature sheet format with values two at the first class rate and two at £1.28 each. A few days later, on August 13th, we have another "special" set of six stamps, all are 1st class values, depicting British Auto Legends, plus a different set of 4 stamps as a miniature sheet, (also all 1st class values) depicting what the Royal Mail refer to as 'workhorses'. These include a Post Office Morris Minor van, a black taxi, a Ford Anglia Police car, and a Land Rover. The 'Legends' stamps are in two se-tenant strips of three. (incidentally, Gibbons spell it se-tenant, but the Royal Mail have it with an extra letter 'n' in their advertising brochure) all look quite nice, but will the general public use them? or is it up to the better off collector and dealers who will buy them? The Andy Murray stamps are on the front cover, with the other illustrations below.

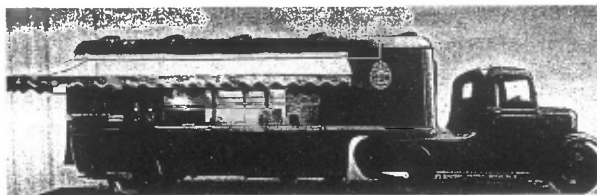


MOBILE POST OFFICES

Peter O'Keeffe

The Postal Authorities found that the general public and business community often had need of a Post Office at certain large events or where large outdoor gatherings occurred. These might include exhibitions, sporting occasions, fairs, flower shows or at show-grounds anywhere in the country, where temporary postal facilities might be required.

The first "Mobile Post Office" was displayed at the Post Office's King Edward Building, London E.C. on the 30th September 1936 and was used for the first time at the 'Marden & District Commercial Fruit Growers Show' in Kent over the weekend of the 7th and 8th October 1936. It comprised an articulated lorry pulling a caravan type trailer fully equipped as a Post Office. It had a retractable canopy fixed on one side above three opening windows. There were three separate counter positions.

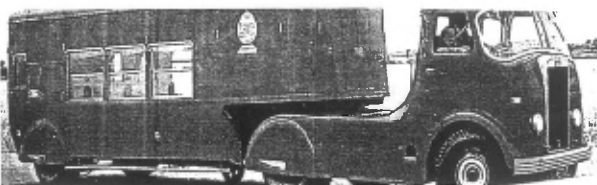


G.P.O. 1

It seems that customers had to line up or queued outside. The vehicle would be parked in a suitable position and virtually all the usual Post Office services were available.

During the Summer of 1937, the M.P.O toured all around the country appearing at some 40 events such as Golf Competitions, Horse Shows the Manchester Test Match, the Bath & Wells Show, the Henley Royal Regatta, the Great Yorkshire Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury Musical & Floral Fete, the Cowal Games at Dunoon in Scotland, plus several Horse Racing meetings.

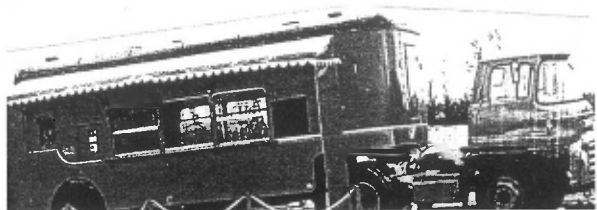
The facility proved successful and a second M.P.O known as GPO 2 was introduced in April 1938. (These should not be confused with the Travelling Post Office which was sited on the railway).



G.P.O. 2

Like the TPO, the M.P.O. had their own special handstamps for all their services. The mail handled would usually be transferred to a local sorting office for onward transmission.

During WWII both the vehicles were used as mobile radio stations, resuming their normal duties afterwards when the prewar round of social events returned. In 1947 a third MPO was introduced, this was known as GPO 3. Sadly the first MPO vehicle was wrecked and written off in a road accident. GPO 2 was later retrieved from a breakers yard, and in 1984 it was restored. It is now in a Post Office Museum.



G.P.O. 3

Many of these M.P.O's had telephone cables and when these were connected to the local exchange they could deal with telegrams or provide telephone communication for the public. The telephone cubicle was inside, with access via the rear door.

(continued on next page)

THE MOBILE POST OFFICES (continued)

The first type of postmarks used by the M.P.O did not have a number but they did have a code letter, 'A' or 'B' or 'C' (fig 1) to differentiate between up to 3 counter clerks. When the second MPO was introduced, it had the number '2' added. (fig 2).



Fig 1



Fig 2

The Post Office is well known for the number of errors with its postmarks - I have one used on a cover in 1990, with the last two digits of the year inverted, so it appears to have been used in 1906 !

On the 6th August 1941 a 'Mobile' Post Office (non vehicular) was erected in Aldersgate, in the City of London to demonstrate the services which could be offered. It was a temporary structure, made of canvas stretched over a steel framework, with wooden boards for the counter. It had its own unique rubber skeleton hand canceller, which included the word 'Mobile' and this was used on that afternoon only. (fig 3) L.P.R. being the London Postal Region. This mark is extremely rare - if you have a spare, please let me know.



Fig 3

Over the years other postmarks have been used and sometimes these have shown the name of the event at which they are used. Some are illustrated below. (fig 4)



Fig 4



As times changed, more modern vehicles were introduced with the trailer types becoming obsolete. Two recent types of M.P.O.'s are shown below: surprisingly these are a greenish colour rather than the usual Post Office RED !



Cornwall & Devonshire



Carlisle



The Royal Show at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire used to have a MPO in attendance, but from 1980 to 1996 they used a permanent building, but now there is no postal facility other than a few post boxes - apparently the demand no longer exists. Mobile phones and e-mails seem to have taken over.

In Blackpool, the Post Office operated a tramcar which could be considered as a Mobile Post Office - but that is another story !

PJOK

HERE & THERE

In the May Bulletin I enquired if any reader knew anything about, or had any of the GB Postal Stationery Insurance cards, which I believe were available to travellers to purchase cover for their journeys. I understand that these were in use, certainly around the early 1950's (I have a few with KGVII stamps printed thereon) ranging through to just after decimalisation. I still wish to find out how they were dispensed, either through a machine, a travel agent or a ticket office. Those I have appear to have been issued at Airports, Rail Termini or Docks, and as they were used in conjunction with a machine which printed validation details on the cards. I want to acquire a photograph or other illustration of such a machine. So far no one has answered my appeal. Does anyone out there have any knowledge of this facility ?

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I have several pristine copies of earlier issues of the Bulletin for disposal. If you want any please let me know before October 17th otherwise they will be recycled ! They are FREE and can be handed over at Malling on 28th Sept or perhaps other arrangements can be made.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

HAS YOUR Society sent your next season's programme details to Mike Dobbs yet ? ? so it can be in the next listing ?

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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SOCIETY NEWS ROUNDUP 1

SEVENOAKS & DIST. PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The display on May 1st by Peter High, President of the Forces Postal History Society, was all about 'Hospital Ships' and although rather specialised it did include many interesting and little known facts covering various conflicts around the world including both World Wars.



Our A.G.M. in June continued the trend of many other societies, with all the existing Officers and Committee re-elected for a further term. It would be nice and about time too for a few new faces to volunteer to do their bit for the club. The AGM was followed by a small auction which profited the club by a few pounds. It seems that unused albums, stock books, leaves and page protectors plus some philatelic publications are still sort after ! July 3rd was Presidents Night, and Peter O'Keeffe gave a very varied display of mainly G.B items, including postally used envelopes made from old maps, late use of QV stamps even into the 1940's, mixed reigns and mixed values, numerous funnies that all went through the post. With no meeting in August, our next get together is on Wednesday, 4th September, when we hold our competitions, this time its for the three letters U, V and W. It is eight pages for the "Theo Jones" Trophy, plus a four page and a single sheet competition just for fun. On October 2nd, we look forward to a display of Croatia by Tony Bosworth, and our member Gordon Darby is to show us his New Zealand collection on 6th November. We hold our main auction on the 4th December, and have our Cheese & Wine Social scheduled for the 8th January (Note; we are NOT meeting on the first Wednesday of the New Year - it will be on the 2nd Wednesday, i.e. the 8th !) Our acting Hon.Secretary, Richard Hart is to show us his collection of South West Africa on February 5th.

ROMNEY MARSH PHILATELIC & POSTCARD SOCIETY



Since our last report we have lost 2 members, John Caryl whose obituary was published in the last Kent Bulletin, and another popular member, Tony Bounds has also passed away. Tony's main interest was aerophilately and he told us many stories of how he obtained signatures from Battle of Britain pilots, and others for his large collection. In April we had our joint annual meeting with the Hastings & East Sussex

P.S., with displays given by members of both societies, ending the evening with the usual auction. Unfortunately, the number attending was down this year, the weather not helping. Next came our A.G.M in May with everyone being re-elected. Also in May, our member John Edwards gave an excellent postcard display, which he had compiled over 30 years covering the locality's of New Romney, Littlestone, Greatstone and Dungeness. In June, Chrissie Baker, from the Cinque Ports PS, and Chairman of the K.F.P.S. visited us and showing a really interesting display on the Boer War. What surprised me most was how little we knew about it, especially the treatment of P.O.W.'s and how far afield they were scattered. Then in July, Ernie Warden from Maidstone PS, came to display and talk about Hong Kong, right up to and including its return to Chinese rule. Another evening much enjoyed by our members. Our last meeting of the season will be a members evening, which often produces something unusual.

SOCIETY NEWS ROUND-UP 2

ORPINGTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY Our 2012/2013

Programme went very well, with our members being entertained with a wealth of Philatelic material, information and knowledge which all of those attending enjoyed according to the comments made at the end of each visitors display.

Our new programme for the 2013/2014 season will again include a number of visiting speakers. On October 9th, Ian Nutley will show us 'Zeppelin' mail, on November 14th, Robin Morton will display used KGVI & Empire items. Then into the New Year, on March 12th, Peter O'Keeffe will show G.B. Military of WWI, and on June 11th, Tony Hickey will display "Victory & Peace". On the 9th April, the Sidcup P.S. will be visiting us, and we are to visit the Eltham & Woolwich Society on the 20th February, and the Lewisham PS on the 4th November. Our full programme can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary and visitors will be most welcome at our evening meetings which are held at the Orpington Methodist Church Hall, Sevenoaks Road. The extra meeting in June 2013 was successful, so we are holding another June meeting again in 2014, but due to doubtful weather patterns, we have decided to forego a meeting in January. The number of members attending meetings is increasing and we hope this will continue.



SWALE PHILATELIC & POSTCARD SOCIETY On the 19th



Founded 1926
Reformed 1991

April, Martin Lynes, from the Maidstone & Mid-Kent P.S was our guest speaker showing Military Mail from the 1691 'Battle of Aughrim, Ireland through the Jacobite Rebellion and the 7 years war of 1756/63, up to the 1914/18 and 1939/45, World Wars, covering Prisoner of War & Internees mail of the Franco Russian conflict, the Boer War and many others, too many to mention. Martin gave a good account of the history of each period. He showed a cover from the first P.O.W. of the Royal Flying Corp. censored mail, and one from the German Peace delegation to Berlin for the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. He also has a signed letter of King George V, an avid stamp collector. His second half display led to the occupation of Czechoslovakia, Finlands winter war showing Norwegian and Danish volunteer covers. There was also a cover to Hastings museum from a Local Defence Volunteer service, acknowledging receipt of a sporting gun for use in the force. On the 24th May, we held our AGM which was the last meeting of the season; we now have a Summer break of three months and start again on September 20th. All Officers were re-elected to serve another year, with Alan Blackley rejoining the Committee. The two competitions we hold at the AGM were well supported, judged by the members present at the meeting resulted in Brian Day gaining first place in the Postcard Cup, and Marion Jordan taking first place in the Members Cup, which originally started as a fun competition for members. After the competitions there were displays by members from their collections, in all a very enjoyable evening.

Patience is the ability to put up with somebody you would rather put down.

Public speaking is a little like taking a holiday, It helps to know the right place to stop!