

ANNUAL REPORT – THE BIRMINGHAM MEDAL SOCIETY

1. The Annual General Meeting – 3 April 2008

- 1.1 The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 April at King Edward's School for Boys, Birmingham are as follows :
- 1.2 John Scott, our President conducted the meeting, with apologies being received from John Barker, Andrew Bostock, Reg Cook, Roy Painter, Terry Harrison, Dr.Lloyd, Jim Middleton, Chris Newton and Malcom Brown. With 23 members and one visitor present. The President thanked the ladies for their continued support in providing refreshments at meetings.
- 1.3 The Secretary gave a very short report thanking all Officers and Members of the Society for their continued support, explaining he had managed to leave his papers at home, despite putting them in his car, unbeknown to him they had been removed. Copies of the printed Report have since been made available, for it dealt with the proceedings of the previous Annual Meeting held on 6 April 2007 as well as providing a summary of the Society's activities for 2007/08. The report was accepted.
 - 1.3.1 The Secretary circulated a suggestion list for subsequent meetings and confirmed the Committee would be meeting in April to plan the 2008/09 programme.
 - 1.3.2 Copies of the Treasurer's report were then passed round. The adjusted financial position at the 30 December 2007 was £1,301 compared with £916 for the previous year, allowing for stock of ties as at 30 December of £277 compared with £285 in previous year. Keith Brown was thanked for obtaining a significant reduction in the insurance premium, there being no increase in rent notified. However there was a discussion on the need to look to expand the membership with members being requested to recruit an additional member which would then help to keep costs down. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Roger Bragger and seconded by Martin Harrison and was duly carried. The subs for 2008/09 would remain as the previous year - Ordinary Member £24, Family Member £30 and Out of Town Member £15.
- 1.4 Elections – The Secretary confirmed he had received only one nomination for the post of President - Reg Cook proposed by John Scott and seconded by Dave Seeney, this was then endorsed by a proposal from Bill Traynor and seconded by Roger Bragger that Reg Cook be duly appointed for a three year term as President - duly accepted by all present. It was agreed that Reg Cook would receive the badge of office at the next meeting from the retiring President John Scott, who would then become the Vice-President.
- 1.5 The Secretary confirmed the existing Officers and Committee were prepared to continue if the members so wished – there being only one nomination received for Dave Seeney to fill the vacant post on the Committee - this was then endorsed by a proposal from Martin Harrison and seconded by Dahlia Harrison that Dave Seeney be elected to the Committee - this was accepted by all present. Keith Brown proposed that the existing Committee be re-elected, seconded by Mick Brown and this was duly accepted.
- 1.6 The Secretary thanked John Scott on behalf of all present for his tenure of office, who in turn asked the members if they were happy with the way the Society was being run. It being noted that it had not been possible to produce a monthly or quarterly newsletter for some time. There being no volunteers forthcoming to assist the Secretary although John did volunteer to print newsletters in future. The members said they were more than happy with the BMS and enjoyed attendance at meetings.

2. Secretary's Report 2008/09

- 2.1 We place on record our thanks to Bill Traynor for obtaining the continued use of this room on favourable terms. Attendances throughout the year have been fairly good although slightly down on previous years. Good to see new members and of course sad to see others leaving either through old age, prolonged illness, death or re-location.
- 2.2 Try as we may not everybody signs the attendance register - the reason for doing so is to provide a record of those attending - for in the case of fire or disaster we may not be able to account for you especially if you have not signed the register. Please try to remember to wear your name badges for it certainly helps.
- 2.3 Earlier this year you had an opportunity to submit your suggestions for 2009/10 programme and I am pleased to say we have an outline programme ready and this will go to print shortly, for thanks to Martin Harrison he has been able to find a printer on very favourable terms.
- 2.4 Each of us will have our own views as to what appealed to us in our varied programme last year – clearly power point is becoming the in thing and we had some excellent talks during the year: Paul Murray *The First Boer*, Roger Bragger *The Battle of Britain*, Chris Hill *Congratulations to my remotest Naval Expedition*, Dave Rowland The Drummond Lecture *Amelia's Boys – The Flying McCuddens* and Martin Harrison with *The Benefits of Research Part 2*. Unfortunately the February Meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather and Roger Bragger's talk *The Hejaz Revisited* is now scheduled for November.

Despite my having retired from full time employment there is a back log of quarterly newsletters to catch up on and I have commenced to produce a précis of these. The first quarterly newsletter will be distributed in June 2009 and if you wish to receive it by email then please provide your details on the form which is circulating in the room. I hold a register of names and addresses of all current members and but sadly do not have many current email addresses. It's much easier to contact people by email then use the phone.

- 2.5 The BMS is a separately constituted organisation and whilst many of us are also members of the OMRS – some choose not to be. For many years now the BMS has continued to forge good links with the Northern and Cotswold Branches of OMRS. We have approached the OMRS Branches in the hope that their members will support the BMS Convention scheduled for 9th May 2009 at Knowle. Likewise the BMS continues to be well represented at the *Weekend of Medals* at Banbury in November each year.
- 2.6 The BMS does not operate a research service but occasionally when your Secretary receives enquiries the enquirer is provided with just sufficient information to enable them to contact the appropriate Museum or Archive direct.
- 2.7 The success of a Society is judged by the continuing interest and support it generates as well as the willingness of its members to contribute, imparting and sharing knowledge in the process. We are fortunate in this respect for there are many serious researchers in the BMS.
- 2.8 Thanks are recorded to all who made 2008/09 an enjoyable year. To our Patron Dr Lloyd and to all officers and members of the Committee and especially all members of the BMS for without you there would be no BMS. In conclusion we rely on your support and for this we are grateful. Those who have joined us in the year, thank you, you're continued attendance indicates you likewise enjoy the opportunity to meet new friends and learn more.
- 2.9 This concludes the Secretary's Report.

Philip Wilson, 1 April 2009.