



ANNUAL REPORT – THE BIRMINGHAM MEDAL SOCIETY

1. The Annual General Meeting – 2 April 2009

- 1.1 The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 2 April at King Edward's School for Boys, Birmingham are as follows :
- 1.2 Reg Cook, our President conducted the meeting, with apologies being received from Dahlia Harrison, Terry Harrison, Chris Hill, Paul Handford, Sue Handford, Roy Painter and Paul Roberts, 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 circulated Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 3 April 2008, together with the Annual Report and spoke to them briefly. The acceptance of the Report was proposed by Paul Murray, seconded by John Scott and agreed by all present.
 - 1.3.1 The Secretary circulated a suggestion list for subsequent meetings, Martin Harrison having agreed to print the 2009/10 programme.
 - 1.3.2 Copies of the Treasurer's report were then passed round. The adjusted financial position at the 30 December 2008 was £1,546 compared with £1,301 for the previous year, allowing for stock of ties as at 30 December of £269 compared with £277 in previous year. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Roger Bragger, seconded by John Barker and agreed by all present.
 - 1.3.3 An increase in rent had been notified from £600 to £720 per annum, posing the question as to whether or not an increase in the subs from £24 to £30 was called for. 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. Chris Newton proposed that the subs remain at £24, £30 for family members and £15 for out of town members, and that these be reviewed in December; this was seconded by Andrew Bostock and agreed by all present.
- 1.4 Elections – The Secretary confirmed that Bill Traynor was standing down after many years faithful service and that he had received a nomination for Mick Atkinson to replace Bill on the Committee, The Officers and Members of the Committee being prepared to continue subject to the agreement of the meeting. Dave Seeney proposed that Mick Atkinson be appointed to the existing Committee, seconded by Paul Murray and duly agreed.
- 1.5 Martin Harrison reported that so far only 15 people had agreed to attend the BMS Convention at Knowle - it was hoped that others present might attend on the 9 May. The Committee had discussed the arrangements for the day being reluctant to cancel.
- 1.6 Presentations – it was with a degree of sadness that the President announced that both Bill Traynor and Paul Faber would no longer be attending BMS Meetings due to failing health. Both Bill and Paul had done sterling work for the Society over many years and they both received very well deserved Honorary Life Membership Certificates.
- 1.7 Under AOB it was announced that our Patron Dr.Lloyd was not in the best of health.

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 in 2009/10 we have had some excellent talks Mick Atkinson *HMS Belvidera*, Dahlia Harrison with *Hospital Ships*, John Scott *Clasps to the Campaign Service Medal 1962*. Roger Bragger *The Hejaz Revisited*. Unfortunately our Drummond Lecturer Bob Rankin came with non compatible PowerPoint equipment and so we could not see the extent of his research on the Czechoslovakian Police. The January/February Meetings in 2010 were cancelled due to the bad weather and the March Meeting with Paul Murray and *the 130th Anniversary of the Battle of Kambula, March 1879* was by all accounts yet another excellent talk.
- 2.5 Time has not been on my side, the next newsletter will be distributed in June 2010 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.
- 2.6 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. The BMS continues to be well represented at the *Weekend of Medals* at Banbury in November each year.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 The 2009 Convention at Knowle on 9 May 2009 proved to be a most enjoyable day with thirty three people present. Martin is to be congratulated in producing an excellent programme which included a very powerful power point presentation on World War 11 an Overview by Martin Harrison. After lunch those present enjoyed 10 presentations of varying length many of which being done by PowerPoint. Five people competed in the President's Cup; no prizes are awarded for guessing who won.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 Thanks are recorded to all who made 2009/10 an enjoyable year and that applies equally to all members for without you there would be no BMS. 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.
- 2.11 This concludes the Secretary's Report.

Philip Wilson, 12 April 2010