British Association of Paper Historians

Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth Annual General Meeting held at Exeter Rougemont Hotel, Friday 19th September 2025 at 1804hrs

1. Members / Guests present:
Moira Buick, Irene Campden, Daven Chamberlain (Chairman), Phil Crockett (Treasurer), Geoffrey Day, Richard Donkin, Alan Donithorne; Barbara Dye, Ian Dye, Megan Gent, Mike Gent, Colin Harris, Miquel Guitiérrez-Poch, Rod Morley, Alison Muir, Neil Robertson, Barbara Venables (Secretary), Anne Willitts, Riq Willitts.

1.1. Apologies for absence were received from:
Peter Bower (President), Proinsias De Rossa.

2. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting 23rd August. 2024, New College, Oxford
The Minutes of the thirty-fifth AGM had been made available online previous to the meeting, and printed copies were circulated ahead of the meeting.

Vote to accept minutes as a true representation of the meeting without alteration:
Proposer: Anne Willitts / Seconder: Irene Campden / Vote: carried unanimously.

3. Matters arising from 35th Annual General Meeting
There were none.

4. Chairman's report
4.1 The Chairman's report was made available online ahead of the meeting, and was presented in printed format to those present at the meeting. (Report appended to these Minutes). Since it was only supplied to those attending moments before the meeting commenced, the Chairman then proceeded to give a short summary of what it contained. There was a single question about K-C investing in hydrogen.

5. Treasurer's report
5.1. The Treasurer's report was presented in printed format before the meeting. (Report appended to these minutes.) Phil Crockett then read the report, the most salient point being that in the last year we made a surplus of £1862 (against a loss of £1779 the previous year).

It was noted that we are now paying 50% of the cost of the paper supplied by Croppers; even with this additional expense (£1418 for two-years' worth) we have still returned a profit!

PC noted that we have not touched the deposit account at all, which now stands at £11,842 (having earned £174 in interest).

Vote to accept the report as a true representation of our financial trading over the year:
Proposer: Irene Campden / Seconder: Geoffrey Day / Vote: carried unanimously.

5.2 As part of his report, Phil Crockett noted that, in discussion with our auditor, it was suggested that we enact a policy of raising subscription values each year, roughly in line with inflation, but making it a round number of pounds increase. After discussion with those present it was put to a vote and agreed:
Proposer: Neil Robertson / Seconder: Ian Dye / Vote: carried unanimously.

One caveat here – it was noted that student subscriptions should not be raised by much. It was agreed that the value of all raises should be at the discretion of the Committee.

6. Election of Officers & Committee
The following Officers were elected to Committee:
Chairman: Daven Chamberlain
Proposer: Ian Dye / Seconder: Colin Harris / Vote: carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Phil Crockett
Proposer: Geoffrey Day / Seconder: Rod Morley / Vote: carried unanimously.

Secretary: Barbara Venables
Proposer : Daven Chamberlain / Seconder: Miquel Guitiérrez-Poch / Vote: carried unanimously.

The following members were re-elected to the Committee: Peter Bower, Irene Campden, and Rod Morley:
Proposer: Neil Robertson / Seconder: Phil Crockett / Vote: carried unanimously.

7. Appointment of Examiner
Neil Robertson stated that he was willing to re-stand as Examiner.
Proposer: Phil Crockett / Seconder: Ian Dye / Vote: carried unanimously.

Those present were unanimous in thanking Neil for having acted once again as Examiner.

8. Annual Conference 2026
There was a long discussion about what we might do next year for a conference. Prior to the event, Peter Bower had suggested Kent for the next conference, with possible visits being DS Smith Kemsley Mill, and Shepherd's Neame brewery (the oldest brewers in the UK). However, during this discussion it was pointed out that numbers are going down, which make the conference less profitable (potentially loss-making) to organise, coupled with the fact that we are an 'ageing' Committee, and really could do with more help and new blood. There was no offer of extra help. As such, the Committee will discuss what to do next at a subsequent meeting. Options include (1) to hold another conference; (2) to hold a couple of one-day events, (maybe at St Bride) as was suggested at last year's AGM; (3) to cease holding an annual conference.

Subsequent to the AGM, a proposal was made to the Chairman to contact The Paper Trail (which should be re-opened next year) as a possible venue, and get them to help organise the event. This will be added to the conversation at the next committee meeting.

ACTION: COMMITTEE

9. Future day meetings and visits 2024/5
9.1 Spring Meeting, Passmore Room, St Bride Institute, London, is booked for Tuesday 3rd March 2026. ***NOTE THE CHANGE TO TUESDAY FROM WEDNESDAY ***

9.2 PC noted that other ad hoc visits might be organised during the year.

10. Any other business
10.1 MG sent an email prior to the conference, suggesting that BAPH offer 'life membership' as an option. A counter proposal was made by AM during the meeting, that BAPH offer a multiple year option (maybe 3-year or 5-year). This was debated at length, but without a definite decision. Importantly, it was noted that this could complicate administration of the Association. Again, we will discussion this at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION: COMMITTEE

10.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 1911hrs.

Daven Chamberlain (Acting AGM Minutes Secretary) 20th September 2025