

NEWPORT AND GWENT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Newsletter

November 1991 (No 6)

Recent meetings

First of all, a welcome to Alan Blunt, Glyn Evans and Robert Agg. Those of you who have seen the November Gibbons Stamp Monthly will have seen a review of Alan's book "Poland? Forgery?: A handbook for the detection of forged Polish stamps and overprints". I hope that we can get Alan to give a display on this next season. Robert is a collector of Europe, while Glyn collects GB.

I hope that you all liked the first meeting of the season. Susan Oliver's display of "Philatelic Phun" had something for everyone and was based on material within the grasp of all members - it had all been retrieved from the waste paper bin! It just shows what is lying around to be discovered. Apologies for the forced move for the next two meetings and the consequent change of dates for the Lundy display. This was because "top secret" papers were being kept in the Civic Centre rooms. I would welcome your reactions to the Eton Road church hall and any suggestions for other rooms for meetings now that the Civic Centre charges have been increased.

The Lundy display by visitor David Perris was quite amazing, with the first known cover, several proofs and errors and varieties galore. The visit from Cardiff turned out to be a solo performance by Norman Clowes. Norman never ceases to amaze us with the quality and variety of his displays. This time he showed South West Africa revenues and mail to and from Japanese prisoner of war camps of the First World War.

Our first visit of the season was to Bridgend. I opened the evening with my Christmas Seals and Gwen continued the Christmas theme with a display of GB (after all it was 14 November!). The second half of the evening was filled with Roy's GB locals and Martyn's Fiji air-mails. Bridgend are due to return to us on 13 May.

Rugby World Cup

The 37p top value in the Sports set issued on 11 June was for the 1991 Rugby World Cup. The event is now over with England going down to Australia in the final and Wales faring badly once again. The Post Office arranged a press conference on 10 June to launch the issue to which four members of the South Wales Federation (myself, Norman Boscott, Neil Prior and Eric Needs) were invited. It was my first visit to the National Stadium (!). The launch took place in the Red Room with Scott Gibbs and Ieuan Evans representing the Welsh team and many notables in Welsh rugby and the Post Office also present. The Press Notice for the occasion had an interesting howler - it stated that "the

final takes place on November 2 at Twickenham, headquarters of English rugby and widely regarded as the home of Rugby Union." The second part of the sentence had been hastily snopaked out so that it did not offend Welsh sensibilities! I have a pleasant reminder of the occasion, a first day cover signed by Ron Waldron.

BPF Congress, Cardiff

A late change of venue brought the BPF Congress to the Park Hotel in Cardiff from 19 to 22 September. This was the first time that Congress had been held in Wales. I was able to attend on the Friday and can report that the talks were very interesting. The day kicked off at 9 a.m. with a comic sketch on judging seminars by the Home Affairs Committee. This went down well with the few Congress members present, although one or two of the Committee looked rather uncomfortable in their acting roles. Later there was a talk by Christian Sundman of Finland on the organization of philately in Europe and by Robert P Odenweller on computers and philately. To close the afternoon session there was a slide show on the social history of South Wales and an hour of "philatelic torture" - an incredibly difficult quiz masterminded by Susan Oliver.

The evening was given over to displays by specialist societies. I attended the Scandinavian Philatelic Society evening and displayed some Finland. Geraint Jones brought Norway pre-stamp letters, Rolf Scharring showed later Norway (posthorns and TPOs) and Susan Oliver showed Faroes while Gunnar Jessen left a display of Danish postmarks for me to present. Generally the evening displays were not too well supported and few members of local societies attended. They missed a feast of material and a chance to see inside the newly re-vamped Park Hotel.

At the end of the evening I bumped into Victor Short, whom Martyn Britton and I had met previously when he displayed his collection of stamp hinges to Bridgend earlier this year. I had acquired the souvenir label for Congress earlier in the day. The label, showing a Welsh scrum saying "right - that's it! Back to collecting rugby on stamps" after their historic 63 - 6 defeat by Australia, was designed by Victor. I now have a copy signed by him. Unfortunately, I purchased only the red label rouletted. Others were available in black, perforated and imperforate. I understand that some printers' waste exists and may find its way onto the market. This could form an interesting specialist collection!!

Stamp Fairs

There has been quite a glut of stamp and postcard fairs. Several of us went to the Portishead Convention in August. I won a subscription to GSM in the annual crossword competition. This follows up Newport's success last year when Gwen Hussey won a Penny Black. I was the sole

2. Uvitec lamp - good for looking at phosphors and fluorescent papers - can take a bit of practice and a dark room (be careful not to drop the stamps!) but is invaluable for looking at modern stamps - if you haven't got one yourself, give it a trial and you will soon be hooked.

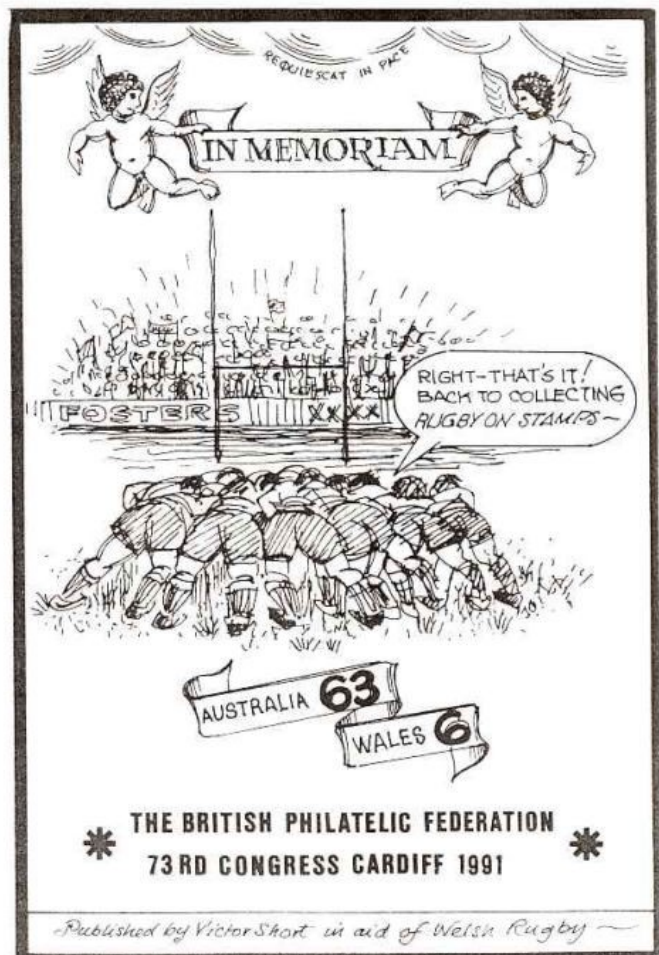
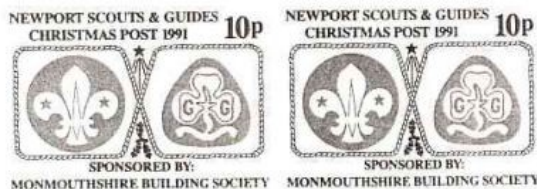
3. Morley Bright watermark detector - difficult to master but claims to bring out watermarks even on stamps on postcards - if anyone has time to spare, give it a go and then show the rest of us how to use it.

4. Stamp Mail - this goes round with the stamp box first and is then put in the library - it's now mailed from Malta so Fred Scott does well out of it.

Postscript

I try to produce this newsletter every six months. This issue is number 6. If members have any contributions or want to ask for information, get rid of stamps or acquire stamps through it please write it down on a scrap of paper: I will do the rest.

John Perry
Hon secretary
Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society
18 November 1991



Club library

All items can be borrowed from Ivor Bennett (tel 274971). New acquisitions for the library are:

1. SG British Commonwealth 1990 edition - simplified but still very good.