

MAURITIUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

QUARTERLY UPDATES

No. 1 – 2019

JANUARY - MARCH

JANUARY 2019:

The society does not hold any monthly members meeting in January mainly because of the rather extended year-end, new-year holiday tradition in Mauritius resulting in the rather low attendance at such meetings.

The management committee however met at the residence of the president at 3A La Louise Avenue, Quatre Bornes at 13:00 hrs on the 19th January to confirm the meeting calendar for 2019, to review the society's performance during 2018, to discuss details of the amendments to the rules and regulations of the society and to fix the date and agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

FEBRUARY 2019:

The first members monthly meeting of 2019 scheduled for Saturday 9th February 2019 at 14:00 hrs at College du St Esprit, Sir Virgil Naz Avenue, Quatre Bornes was not held as the total attendance was less than 10. The convocation posted from Forest Side on 26th January 2019 listed the agenda as: Review of 2018 and preview of 2019, Postal History of Mauritius, Marine life, fauna and flora of B.I.O.T.



FOREST SIDE POST OFFICE

Opened : 1884
Current Location :
Royal Road
Postcode : 74438



The convocations dated 25th January 2019 were posted from Forest Side on 26th January.

9th February was not a particularly rainy day, it was wet with occasional showers. At 14:30 hrs the 6 committee members and the 3 ordinary members present decided that should the total attendance be less than 10 by 14:45 hrs the meeting be simply cancelled and that is what happened.

It was also decided that the B.I.O.T. display be used as a backdrop to the AGM of March and that the other items on the agenda be dealt with during other meeting of 2019.

It was also noted that the college employee responsible for preparing the meeting classroom was nowhere to be seen.

For the record there was a Class I cyclone warning in force in Mauritius announced at 16:30 hrs on Friday 8th February. This was raised to Class II at 4:00 hrs on Saturday 9th February only for all cyclone warnings to be lifted at 15:00 in Mauritius. The cyclone “Gelena” was heading for a direct hit on Rodrigues 300 plus miles east of Mauritius.

2019 STAMP PROGRAMME

On Friday 15th February 2019 the government of Mauritius at its weekly cabinet meeting approved the stamp programme for 2019. The ten topics are listed under item 8 (a) to (g) of the cabinet paper. At 31st March 2019 Mauritius Post and its Stamp Advisory Committee had not issued any official list of the 2019 Stamp Issue Programme viz: subject, theme, day of issue and number of stamp per issue.

Note that the “Rescue and Life Saving”/Police Helicopter Squadron stamp of 13th March is listed a “officers working for rescue and life saving” in the cabinet paper. Needless to say no officers are depicted on the stamp which is dominated by an ungainly, lumbering Dhruv chopper which is very seldom seen in the skies of Mauritius. It stays safely grounded.

The society will publish further details only after Mauritius Post officially informs its “valued customers” and the philatelic world of the stamp programme for 2019 as recommended by its SAC.

MARCH 2019:

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 9th March 2019 at College du St Esprit at 14:00 hrs.

The press notice for the AGM was published in “L’express” on 18th February 2019 and the AGM convocations dated 14th February were posted to members early from Curepipe on 15th February as to give them enough time to consider the proposed amendments to the rules and regulations of the society.



CUREPIPE POST OFFICE

Opened : 01.07.1847
 Current Location :
 Arcades Salaffa
 Postcode : 74431



The convocations dated 14th February 2019 were posted from Curepipe on 15th February.

The AGM agenda was as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2018 AGM.
2. Report of the president for the year 2018.
3. Approval of the accounts ending 31 December 2018.
4. Approval of the budget for the year 2019.
5. Election of the committee members and office bearers for the year 2019.
6. Appointment of the auditor for the year 2019.
7. Amendments to the Rules and Regulations:

It is proposed that in the third paragraph of Article 5 - Managing Committee which reads "... shall meet at least once a month ..." be replaced by "...shall meet at least once every quarter ..." and in the first paragraph of Article 12 – Duties of the Treasurer which reads "... and shall lay every month before the Committee ..." be replaced by "... and shall lay every quarter before the Committee ..." and in the same paragraph where it reads "... He shall submit at the monthly meeting ..." be replaced by "... He shall submit at the quarterly meeting ...".

8. A.O.B.

Eight of the nine candidates for posts on the management committee met at 13:00 hrs to ensure that all issues concerning the AGM were in order. AGM documents, the press notice, Articles 5 and 12, ballot papers, letters of candidature, audited accounts, the budget, related listings and relevant data were appended to the notice board.

The AGM began on schedule and all business were carried out in conformity with the rules and regulations of the society. With 14 members present and 4 proxies in hand he proposed amendment to the rules and regulations were adopted unanimously.

The nine elected committee members constituted the management committee as follows:

Mico W Antoine	President
Ahmad N Maderbokus	Vice President
Alain Louis	Treasurer
Ally M Hossanee	Assistant Treasurer
Arnaud Guibert	Secretary
Sachitanand Mungra	Assistant Secretary
Jean J Auguste	Member
Thonyno Dieudonne	Member
Diane Sher Mohamedkhan	Member

After all AGM business was concluded the B.I.O.T. Fauna and Flora display dominated by marine life stamps of the archipelago, prepared by Mico Antoine, was presented. The recent “non binding advisory opinion” delivered by the International Court of Justice on B.I.O.T., the relative success of the Mauritian delegation, the USA base in Diego Garcia and other realities on the ground were discussed.

Comparisons were made between the professionalism of the quality of B.I.O.T. stamp design and choice of theme and the amateurism of the shovel loads of condescending political and historically tastelessness design and on the themes reflected on the stamps of Mauritius.

UNABRIDGED PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The society has applied to the Registrar of Association for amendments to its rules and regulations. The proposals were approved at the AGM held on 9th March 2019 as follows:

Existing: Article 5 - Managing Committee – Third paragraph

The Managing Committee meeting shall meet at least once a month and whenever the President may think it fit. Five members present shall form the quorum.

Proposed: Article 5 - Managing Committee – Third paragraph

The Managing Committee meeting shall meet at least once every quarter and whenever the President may think it fit. Five members present shall form the quorum.

Existing: Article 12 - Duties of the Treasurer – First paragraph

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all the account books of the Association. He shall receive all sums of money due or accruing to the Association and deliver receipts thereof. He shall within the least possible delay, pay into one of the local banks, chosen by the Managing Committee, all monies received by him. He shall be allowed to keep in his possession a sum not exceeding one hundred rupees, as petty cash, and shall lay every month before the Committee a statement showing the financial transactions of the association for the previous month. He shall keep a Register of members as prescribed by law. He shall submit at the monthly meeting, a list of members who have failed to pay their monthly subscription fees for three months. He shall prepare the statement of accounts. He shall effect all payments exceeding one hundred rupees by cheque.

Proposed: Article 12 - Duties of the Treasurer – First paragraph

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all the account books of the Association. He shall receive all sums of money due or accruing to the Association and deliver receipts thereof. He shall within the least possible delay, pay into one of the local banks, chosen by the Managing Committee, all monies received by him. He shall be allowed to keep in his possession a sum not exceeding one hundred rupees, as petty cash, and shall lay every quarter before the Committee a statement showing the financial transactions of the association for the previous month. He shall keep a Register of members as prescribed by law. He shall submit at the quarterly meeting, a list of members who have failed to pay their monthly subscription fees for three months. He shall prepare the statement of accounts. He shall effect all payments exceeding one hundred rupees by cheque.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

RESCUE AND LIFE SAVING

On 13th March 2019, Mauritius Post Ltd issued its first “commemorative” stamp of the new year. The stamp on the theme “Rescue and Life Saving”, the same theme as the two October 2018 “Rescue and Life Saving” stamps on “St John” and “Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service”. The first 2019 stamp is an enforced unimaginative belated tribute to the Police Helicopter Squadron as printed on the stamp. The OFDC as well as the data card features the latest addition to the unit, the Indian built Dhruv helicopter released unintentionally one day after the 51st anniversary of the independence of Mauritius. The flying machine is apparently rescuing a fellow holding shopping bags in both hands standing on either water or on a lunar landscape surface in a simulated rescue exercise – a silly Mauritius Post graphic department muck up. Look at your stamp closely.

The Rs 13.00 stamp affixed to the right of the OFDC is cancelled with a single strike of the First Day of Issue/Mauritius philatelic double circle Type D cds (at) 8:15 AM/(on) 13 MR/19 one day after the 51st Anniversary of the independence of Mauritius. Any commemorative intent or linkage between the 51st anniversary of independence, the helicopter squadron and the Life Saving and Rescue stamp is purely coincidental, hypothetical and unintended even if the Dhruv chopper was in the helicopter squadron's ceremonial fly-past at the Champ de Mars independence day celebrations.



The OFDC is illustrated with a composite arrangement of all the three types of the Mauritius Police Force current fleet of helicopters composed of four Indian manufactured Chetaks, the single French built Fennec, and the one and only Indian Dhruv shown in various rescue, landing and cargo delivery exercises.

The data card titled simply and only Police Helicopter Squadron gives a brief history of the squadron from 1974 to date, its 119 officers, its mission, its role and its vision in providing protection to citizens and its battle against lawlessness. Not much about “rescue and life saving” of the “aerial angels” of Mauritius nor about its better known and visible operations of uprooting marijuana plants and its search for the bodies of victims of drowning and lost hikers.

The OFDC, with the ever present Mauritius Post logo on its gumless back flap was on sale at the usual postal outlets as from 13th March 2019 at Rs 90.00 per unit.

2019 MEMBERS MEETING CALENDAR

In December 2018 the management committee decided to the 7 members meeting a year calendar. The dates of the 7 meetings of 2019 are:

9th February, 9th March, 4th May, 6th July, 7th September, 9th November, 7th December.

2nd November is a public holiday hence the holding of the members meeting on the second Saturday of the month.

FIRST QUARTER MEETINGS 2019

JANUARY: BREAK – NO MEETING

FEBRUARY: SATURDAY 9TH – 1ST 2019 MEETING

MARCH: SATURDAY 9TH – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAIN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

The average exchange rate for March 2019 was:

Rs 46.218 for GBP £1 / Rs 39.669 for EUR €1 / Rs 35.119 for USD \$1

(Source: Bank of Mauritius)

SANJIT KUMAR TEELOCK 1961-2019

A long standing member of the Mauritius Philatelic Society Sanjit joined the society during the first year of its operation when he attended the inaugural meeting in Quatre Bornes in February 1990. He was always the first to renew his membership every year and he was extremely generous to the society. He was a very knowledgeable philatelist who built up a valuable collection on several aspects and branches of Mauritian philately. He specialized in the King's Heads, early revenue stamps and the postal stationery of Mauritius. He also owned several classics and an important collection of literature on Mauritius philately.

Sanjit and the society also had one thing in common, the promotion of the English language and British Commonwealth philatelic culture. He was a very nice person, an absolute gentleman and also a decent human being.

(Most of the French language Mauritian press such as L'express, Week-end, Le Défi, Le Mauricien as well as the English language Weekly paid correct and deserved tribute to Sanjit Kumar Teeluck who passed away on 16th March 2019 at the age of 58. However one long winded biographical obituary in L'express of 26/3/19 raised some eyebrows).

THE PRESS AND THE POST

16.01.2019	Le Défi Quotidien	Deux jours pour recevoir de l'argent de Maurice (RIA).
20.01.2019	Week-end	Le colonel Nicolas Pike homme extraordinaire.
30.03.2019	Le Défi Plus	Cinq colis de drogue interceptés au bureau de poste.

Written by Mico W. Antoine – Layout Arnaud D. Guibert

Note: The material contained in this update has been compiled and collated in good faith for general information and no liability can be accepted for errors and omissions.