

SACS Meeting: Letchworth 30/08/2025

What a wonderful day of displays at Letchworth on Saturday 30 August, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all 14 attendees. Bob Hill organised for 7 members to show variety of interesting displays.



Charlie Rudge started the day with a highly detailed collection of 'The RAF in Rhodesia in World War II' a collection that has taken some 30 years to collate. His knowledge of the bases and special cachets associated with them, including examples on covers, was incredible.

Nick Harris then showed us a display, in three parts, of outstanding material featuring Boer War with covers of hand drawn letters and caricatures of the characters involved. This was followed by British East Africa Airmails. Many of these scarce covers, also known as the Captain Gladstone Mail, were displayed. The first flight covers were from February 1927 and the last October 1927, a very short duration of experimental airmail. Finally, Nick treated us all to his Nyasaland Field Force Covers of the First World War, which he advised he had only been collecting for the last three years, but included many rare items. All in all, a wonderful display of exceptional quality material which was well presented and enjoyed by all.

Mike Humphries then showed his collection of Union stamps from 1910 to 1961 which, as a relatively new member of the Society, he had collected over the past 2 years. He completed his display with covers and stamps from the Centenary of the First Cape of Good Hope stamp, issued on 1 September 1953.

Nick Lindstrom focused all our minds on sheet numbers, particularly in relation to the 1951 stamp booklet. He showed examples of 1/2d, 1d, and 2d frames demonstrating the difference in the numbers and concluding that between 10,000 and 12,000 booklets were likely to have been printed. A fascinating in depth study with a request for anyone to send him copies of similar material for his research.

Tony Johnson displayed two frames, prepared for a local stamp club competition, covering the ½ d and 1d JIPEX sheets including all the panes along with a detailed show of the Bantam War stamps with all border variations.

Chris Oliver concluded the morning session with a fine display of 'South African Free Post in the Korean War', including letter sheets obliterated for Free Forces Mail, dating from 1951 to 1953.



Over lunch the 1-2-3 Cup took place with Chris Oliver's display judged as the winner. The other entrants included Tony Johnson, Bob Hill, Nick Lindstrom, Mike Humphries and Rob Lester.

Charlie Rudge started the afternoon session with the second half of his 'The RAF in Rhodesia in World War II' display, showing further bases and covers including rare training centres and medical centre cachets.

Danna Strydom presented a splendid exhibit on the Animal, Third Definitive Series from October 1954, based on animals found in the Kruger Park. Danna advised as a five frame exhibit he wanted to increase it to an eight frame with recent material he had purchased. We all look forward to seeing this as the quality of the material shown and errors noted on the stamps was exceptional.



Finally, Bob Hill showed his collection of Namibia stamps which brought the afternoon to a very satisfactory conclusion. This was probably the most varied day of displays of Southern Africa Philately and Postal History, in the 13 years of SACS day meetings at Letchworth.

Bob also announced next year's dates as Saturday 11 April 2026 and Saturday 29 August 2026. Based on the recent meeting, make sure you put these dates in your diaries.

More information will be provided in the October Springbok.