

Basildon Philatelic Society ABPS 10th Anniversary Smilers



The Basildon Philatelic Society produced two special covers and a presentation pack in November 2004, on the occasion of the 5th National Philatelic Exhibition, organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). The special covers and presentation pack labels were produced to promote 5th National Philatelic Exhibition but were also a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the ABPS, and the 60th Anniversary of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies (“AEPS”). The event was held on 20th – 21st November 2004 and two special postmarks were available, one on each day of the event.



To service both the covers and presentation packs a number of customised Rule Britannia Smilers sheet were produced by the society, featuring specially designed labels designed by C. W. Meade. A total of 100 presentation packs and 100+ pairs of covers were produced which sold at the event for £2 each.



The first printing can be identified by the Royal Mail order reference printed in the lower left hand corner of the sheets. The original printing order reference was 32639 and a total of 30 sheets were printed. This print run was used almost exclusively to service the presentation packs and special covers available at the event. A second printing of 20 sheets was commissioned to meet the requirements of members and that order reference was 43713. A third and final printing, reference 56966, was made and a total of ten sheets were printed with that order number in the lower left hand corner. Whilst a total of 60 sheets appear to have been produced, taking into account the number of sheets broken up for covers and presentation packs, the total number of whole sheets surviving is estimated at c. 30.

