

# **Risborough & District Model Railway Club**

## **Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 8 November 2019 at the Risborough Community Centre.**

Present:- Tim Peacock, President; Paul Wright, Chairman; James Aitken, Treasurer; Trustees: Mick Moignard, David Lane and Richard Neil; 23 Full members and others.

### **Part 1 - Formal Business**

#### **1. Introduction**

**Tim Peacock** welcomed everyone to the 2019 AGM, second since the Club gained charitable status, noting several new members since last year, all of whom share the club's doing things culture.

Tim noted the intentions for the 2019 Xmas charity donation: the intended charity is Cystic Fibrosis. There will be boards to sign and donation boxes towards the end of November.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Roy Norton (Club Secretary), Ted Smale, Jon Jewitt. Mike Morley, John Casson, Gary Day, Chris Morrill, Jon Hill, Steve Lovett, Anthony Mead.

#### **3. Approval of the 2018 AGM minutes**

Agreed without change.

#### **4. Chairman's Trustee report, as reported to the Charities Commission.**

Throughout the year, the Club held regular Friday evening, and one Saturday each month, railway modelling sessions for members. These contributed to the objective of developing skills and knowledge to construct working railway models and to research prototype railways.

The Club organised two model railway exhibitions – 'Risex' (February 2019) and Railex (May 2019) which contributed to the objectives of advancing education and promoting general interest. These provided the public with 'hands-on' experience opportunities, expert advice, demonstrations and inspiring railway models. The Club estimates these events together were attended by around 3000 people.

Also in line with the objectives of promoting education and general interest, the Club provided free demonstrations and exhibits for local charitable public events.

To encourage a high level of railway modelling the Club held seven skills workshops and talks covering weathering techniques, model tree making, air-brushing, resin casting and the use of Light Emitting Diodes. There was also an expert talk, in April 2019, by Kevin Wilson on O gauge modelling and the construction of his iconic 'Bucks Hill' layout (this was part of the Club's annual 'Wheeltapper' railway modelling competition). These events were open to both members and non-members and over 100 people are estimated to have attended (many of the events were free-entry).

As a contribution to the objective of promoting knowledge in prototype railways the Club organised:-

- in October 2018, an entry-free talk by renowned photographer Geoff Plumb on railway operations in 1968.
- in September 2018, a trip to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway to learn about its history and operation.
- in August 2019 a visit to the Fawley Hill Railway and museum.
- in June 2019, a course in firing and driving a steam locomotive on the Severn Valley Railway.

A combined total of around 150 people (members and non-members) attended these events.

Club members have also exhibited their railway models at other exhibitions, given public talks on railway modelling and aspects of prototype railways and contributed to training courses, railway magazine articles, blogs, website discussions etc.

A comment from the audience was made highlighting the contribution that our activities made towards member health and well-being.

## **5. Treasurer's report**

**James Aitken** presented the 2018/9 accounts.

We have had a successful year again financially with a reasonable contribution towards our future.

### Highlights

Comparing the income and usual outgoings for the year, we have a surplus of about £5,700 for the year from an overall income of nearly £42,000. Income has increased this year, partly because the club handled the money for the engine driving course organised by Pete at the Severn Valley Railway. The surplus has been spent largely on some of the steps towards the new club house. In particular we applied for planning permission which cost us £2,300, we had a tree survey and then some tree cutting, and also some solicitors fees to get the heads of agreement done. In all some £4,700 was spent on the new club room.

Membership has increased so net subscriptions are up at £4,104. The membership year is now from the 1st April so the club has £2,253 in addition in the bank which are advanced subscriptions. Our expenses related to the club room have decreased this year to £3,231, due to not having an open day with the previous Festirail taking its place. The room cost and insurance was less than the membership income. This has always been our aim that the membership pays for the rooms and basic costs. This year we have achieved that, largely due to our increase in member numbers.

Risex and Railex were successful this year, turning in surpluses of £1,636 and £6,075 respectively, on incomes of £3,710 and £28,251 both marginally up on the previous year. Even though Railex visitor numbers were about the same as the previous year at about 2000, our costs for both exhibitions were well controlled and lower than before.

We have reduced our expenditure on layouts this year having spent nothing at all on Okehampton and £937 on Aylesbury P4. In addition we have invested £179 in the shunting puzzle buying an engine to help attract younger people to railway modelling.

We spent more than last year on materials, a service and new laser for the laser cutter which continues to see a lot of use. There are few weeks when it is not in use, and I'm glad to see new members starting to use it.

Our income stream benefits from the courses we run, namely weathering, LEDs and trees. This is an aim of our charity status. Course income was £120 and related expenses was £348.

This year I have introduced payment of membership fees by monthly standing order and a few of you have taken that up. If any other members would like to pay this way when renewing in April just let me know. I have also introduced an ability to take credit cards for Railex tickets, a feature which about a quarter of visitors used. There were a few teething problems with it, but it was felt to be well worthwhile. We also use the facility for second-hand payments.

#### Bank account

We have funds of £13,970 in the current account and £60,291 in the savings account at the end of the year. This we believe is enough to provide us with our new building and also provide a buffer for Railex expenses which tend to drift in between now and May.

#### Highlights

##### Risex

Income: £3710 which was about £127 more than last year.

Outgoings: £2073 down from £2297

Surplus: £1636 compared to £1285 previous year

##### Railex

Income £28251 which was about £1000 more than last year.

Outgoings £21875 compared to £23205 the previous year

Surplus was £6075 compared to £3680 in 2017-18. This shows what happens when the costs are controlled carefully.

##### Subs

This contributed slightly more than we spent on the premises costs.

#### Expenditure

This has been carefully controlled. We have spent sensibly. Each activity of the club has a budget, and I look at where we are with the budget as costs are incurred. I can then update project managers with their project's status at any time.

There was a question from the floor over budgets, and a second one on accounting for depreciation, which James answered. We're also getting a little more interest on our bank accounts. It was also noted that we are close to the total limits of guarantees on accounts in the same banking institution.

We now have 52 Full time members and 12 Associates.

## 6. Elections

### Trustees

Mick Moignard and David Lane retire as Trustees by rotation and stand for re-election. No other nominations had been received.

**Mick and David were re-elected unanimously.**

### **Officers and Members' Representatives**

Nominations received for:-

Paul Wright (Chairman), Roy Norton (Secretary), James Aitken (Treasurer)

Richard Neil, David Lane, Mick Moignard, Anthony Mead - Members' Representatives.

**All re-elected unanimously.**

## **Part 2 – Other business**

Paul opened the second part of the meeting by pointing out that we are growing; everyone has the opportunity to join other clubs, but they have chosen the R&DMRC. Paul thanked everyone who has contributed to all our activities, particularly those who do this unseen by everyone else, mentioning in particular the two exhibitions.

Paul also noted the break-ins that we had earlier in October. We have lost some property, but fortunately nothing irreplaceable and no layout damage was done. An insurance claim is being made.

We've offered various workshops, weathering, tree making, CAD, LEDs and others. Future offerings will include DCC sound, and 3D CAD workshops and others as required. Suggestions were also made on subjects such as soldering, kit assembly, electronics and MERG, and Templot.

### **1. Matters arising from the 2018 meeting**

Rob Thompson asked about the asset register and making it public.

### **2. Future Club room**

The new premises are progressing – the various agreements are being formalised with the school, by Roy Norton.

Tim explained that we have planning permission, and we have agreement with Bucks CC. However, as the school is now part of an academy group, we have had some delays on the various agreements. The Youth Club have warmed to our proposals recently, too, which is gratifying.

We're now getting groundwork quotes, and we are hoping to look at some buildings next week. The project really depends on finding the buildings at prices we can afford, at which point we should be able to move quite quickly. It was also noted that we will need considerable assistance from members in the fitting out and commissioning of the building.

### **3. Layout reports**

- a. **Okehampton. James Aitken.** No significant progress, which is as expected until it can be erected in the new building.

- b. **Aylesbury Town. Steve Lovett.** Considerable progress in the last year, tracklaying and wiring, and the start of buildings. Work has also occurred with non-layout items such as legs and so on. A lot of learning has happened, particularly in dealing with minor issues encountered. It's also been noted that one of the boxes was damaged in the break-in, but that damage is largely cosmetic. A first appearance has been pencilled in for 2021 Railex.
- c. **Aylesbury LNWR.** Nothing to report. The plan is still that it will go to AIMREC once they have premises to house it.
- d. **Test track. Richard Neil.** It's been well used in the last year, and remedial maintenance has taken place as required on wiring and trackwork as required. There are plans to renovate the two P4 tracks and convert the second one to operate on both DC and DCC.
- e. **Shunting puzzle.** John Hipwell. There is work still to be made, but it has been out and used more than once.

#### 4. 2020 Forward Look

- a. **Railex. David Lane** reported another good year with good feedback and thanks to all members for their help. Planning for 2020 was well underway – layouts, traders and floorplan are all largely completed, and there is a 2020 website up and running. There are some traders dropping out and some new ones coming. Publicity is underway. The Railex team is always looking for more volunteers to help make future Railexes work.
- b. **Risex.** No report was made as Mark Bacon and Anthony Mead were both absent.

#### 5. Other business

- a. **Subscription rates** - This will be £80 for Full Membership and £40 for Students and Associates from April 2020. Depending on progress with the new Club room, this may well be reviewed and adjusted during the year. It was suggested that the added value that members will get from the new premises should be highlighted.
- b. **Footplate – Paul Wright** was pleased with the contributions he had received but there was always room for more! So members need to keep input coming, photos, model reviews, 'how to' projects and so on.
- c. **The Community Centre.** The CC is to be extended in 2020; we believe that the work will commence after 2020 Risex and will take 9-12 months. The expectation is that the Carrington room will not be affected until late in the build. We do hope that we will be in our new premises before we're affected. The 2021 Risex may be in the school rather than in the CC, depending on the build state.
- d. **50 Years of the RDMRC.** David Lane pointed out that in 2021 the club will have been established for 50 years, and a commemorative trip should be organised. It was also suggested that one or both exhibitions that year should feature club projects.

## **6. Pendennis Trophy**

Nominations had been received for:

- Steve Lovett and Chris Morill (project managing Aylesbury P4)
- Pete Joels (Risborough Venturer trips: Severn Valley Footplate Experience and Ted Martin Woodland Railway in Thame.)

The award was made to Peter Joels.

**Date of 2019 AGM** - This will be Friday 6 November 2020

Tim Peacock  
President

Roy Norton  
Club Secretary

Mick Moignard  
Minute-taker.  
11 Nov 2019