

RISBOROUGH & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB



Risborough & District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 8th November 2024

Present: Rob Thompson (President); Paul Wright (Chairman); James Aitken, (Treasurer); other Trustees (Tim Peacock, Mick Moignard, Gary Day, and Richard Neil) and 24 members (see Appendix A).

PART 1 - GOVERNANCE

1. Introduction - President

Rob welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM. Overall, it had been a good year for the Club. Whilst there has been disappointment with our rejected Planning Application for the new premises, we have developed a good working relationship with the Quainton Railway Society (QRS) and are now progressing a move to rented accommodation in the Brixton Building. There has been good progress made on the Okement Quarry layout and setting up Aylesbury LNWR in the coach at Quainton. Club nights have been well attended with circa 20 people present and good use has been made of the Test Track. The Club has put on some excellent courses including Tree Making and DCC with thanks going to the presenters. Quality models were presented at our annual Wheeltapper competition and submissions are welcome for next year's competition on 11th April 2025. Rob recognised the contribution that the Trustees had put in during the year, with special thanks going to Gary Day for his marketing on social media.

2. Apologies for absence received

Andrew David, Jon Hill, Roy Norton, Ted Smale, Russell Burrridge, Ray Gomm, John Jewitt, Steve Lovett, and Neill Dewar.

3a. Approval of the 2023 AGM minutes

Agreed.

3b. Approval of EGM minutes

Agreed with one abstention.

4. Chairman's annual report (for the Charity Commission)

The report was presented without comment.

5. Treasurer's report

James presented the 2023/24 accounts. There was an in-year surplus of almost £4,000 and an overall surplus of £83,430.07, which is currently generating £2,000 per annum in interest. Our exhibitions (Haddenham, Risex and Railex) all contributed to

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the Club funds by over £8,000, with significant funds being generated by our second-hand sales. The Club also put on a Quiz Night which generated a £445 surplus.

Our costs were principally made up from hall hire, modelling materials and storage rental at Quanton. The Club also incurred costs for Planning Permission (£3,500), laser cutter service (£1,183) and Quanton's solicitor (£900). The contribution by the Club's solicitor, who worked free of charge, was recognised with a meal out and a case of wine.

Rob requested that the Balance Sheet was distributed to members (see Appendix B).

6. Elections

The re-election of Gary Day, Richard Neil and Paul Wright (Chairman) was agreed.

PART 2 – OTHER BUSINESS

1. Future premises

Tim gave an update on the latest position for the Brixton Building, which the Club will rent from QRS at annual cost of £2,500 (including the cost of the coach and Palvan in the Museum). QRS and the Winwood Trust convened a meeting during the week commencing 28th October 2024. Approval for the expenditure of external works on the Brixton Building is expected during week commencing 11th November 2024, with all work on the building forecast to be complete by Easter 2025. The Winwood Trust has agreed in principle to our proposals for the internal layout of the building, albeit with a staircase “ready” option for the main room. Working with QRS, the Club is also planning to install a Portakabin next to the Brixton Building which will act as a Workshop area. David Powell raised a question about security of the building. This will be funded by the Club. Peter Edwards raised a question about insurance, which will also be funded by the Club and has been factored into the budget.

2. 2025 Forward look

LAYOUTS

Work is progressing well on reinstating Aylesbury LNWR as a permanent exhibit in the coach at Quanton. All boards, except for the station area have been erected and 80% of the electrics have been checked. Andrew David is heading up the production of the display of the layout's history (both model and the real thing).

The baseboards and track on Okement Quarry are now complete and ballasting is ongoing. Good progress is being made on the scenery and buildings.

Mellin Parva was exhibited at the Didcot exhibition. The layout is in good condition, but more refurbishment work is planned next year.

The Test Track is working well, with little repair required. The Test Track's next outing will be on Friday 15th November 2024.

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2025 Exhibitions

Our smaller shows (Risex and Haddenham), which are planned for 2025, present a good surplus with little effort. Railex is planned to take place in the Main Hall at Stoke Mandeville stadium next year. However, Railex takes considerable effort, and a request was made for more volunteers to assist. Our second-hand sales at the exhibitions significantly contribute the Club funds and thanks was made to those members who man the stall. Contributions are also welcomed for cakes at our Haddenham and Risex shows. Paul Wright made a request for members to look out for any layouts that could be exhibited at our exhibitions (make a note of layout details and location of exhibitor, see Appendix C for Guidance Sheet). Paul also asked for members to distribute exhibition flyers at any shows they attend.

Once work on Aylesbury LNWR is complete, the Club plans to exhibit it during key events in Quainton's calendar. This will be a good opportunity to promote the Club and encourage membership growth.

Workshops

Mick Moignard's and Paul Wright's workshops on DCC and tree making were respectively well received during 2024. Future courses on airbrushing for beginners, soldering (including resistance soldering), CAD (2D/3D), track construction, and signalling (by Jennifer Chybalski) are all planned for 2025.

3. Subscription rates

Subscription rates will increase from April 2025 to £11 per month (£132 per annum) for full members, and £66 per annum for Students/Associates. This is the first increase in membership fees since April 2020, which will remain in place until April 2026.

4. Christmas Dinner

The Club Christmas Dinner will take place on Friday 13th December 2024 from 19:00 at the Harrow in Bishopstone. Menu choices need to be advised to Gary Day by Monday 11th November.

5. Footplate

Paul Wright welcomed more articles from members for Footplate (particularly modelling articles). The next publication will be distributed in January 2025.

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6. Pendennis Trophy

The trophy was awarded to Kelvin White and Patrick Smith for their work on designing the new clubroom layout at Quainton.



7. Date of 2025 AGM

The next AGM will take place on Friday 14th November 2025.



Gary Day (pp Roy Norton)
Club Secretary
November 2024

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APPENDIX A – List of Attendees

Peter Edwards
Gary Day
Paul Wright
David Lane
Steve Walker
Roger Noble
Tim Peacock
John Hipwell
James Aitken
Rob Thompson
Ric Lee
John Ashby
Tony Bucknell
Tony Elliman
Mick Moignard
Ken Harris

Neil Fairbairn
Ian Gearing
Michael Lane
David Powell
John Clarke
Steve Probets
Paul Seward
Roy Seaward
Richard Neil
Bob Evans
Mike Jordan
Patrick Smith
David Moore
Kelvin White
Jennifer Chybalski

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APPENDIX B – Balance Sheet

RISBOROUGH AND DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB Balance sheet for the year 01 Sep 2023 to 31 Aug 2024

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| Assets | | | last year |
| current account | £ | 10,461.88 | £ 8,464.62 |
| reserve account | £ | 21,221.88 | £ 20,919.52 |
| Savings account | £ | 51,746.31 | £ 50,118.79 |
| | £ | 83,430.07 | £ 79,502.93 |
| contents (last year) | £ | 959.58 | |
| add capital purchases | £ | 490.08 | |
| total | £ | 1,449.66 | |
| depreciation | £ | 483.22 | Fraction: 0.33 |
| total assets: | £ | 966.44 | |
| cash plus assets | £ | 84,396.51 | |
| liabilities | | | |
| subs paid in advance | £ | 875.00 | |
| capital balance (last year) | £ | 80,462.51 | |
| capital added | £ | 3,894.00 | |
| subs paid last year | £ | 835.00 | |
| total liabilities: | £ | 84,396.51 | diff: 0.00 |
| Income | £ | 41,849.51 | |
| Advanced subs | £ | 40.00 | |
| net income | £ | 41,889.51 | |
| outgoing | £ | 37,962.37 | |
| diff | £ | 3,927.14 | |
| diff in bank | £ | 3,927.14 | |

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APPENDIX C - Guidelines for Finding Layouts for Railex

Bearing in mind we are a finescale show, layouts should be of an overall high standard.

- The following scales are acceptable
 - 2mm finescale - N if it is very well executed.
 - 3mm.
 - HO.
 - 4mm: P4, EM, OO finescale.
 - 009 if it is very well executed.
 - S.
 - 7mm finescale or Scale7.
- Visible track work and scenery should be to a high standard and where appropriate track work should be hand built e.g. no Peco streamline.
- Rolling stock should be well executed and weathered to suit the overall look of the layout.
- Extra interest if the rolling stock is unusual and/or kit built.
- Should run well – not only smoothly but at a reasonable pace and frequency that will maintain interest.
- There should be a back scene.
- Operation should be realistic within the constraints above.
- Operators should engage with the public.

Get details from operators

- Name of layout!!
- Contact details.
- Leaflet and/or website, if they have one.
- Estimate of size & style (e.g. end-to-end, roundy-roundy).
- Where do they come from.
- How many operators.
- What do they use to transport it: Car, Van, Lorry, Bike...

Give them rdmrc.railex@gmail.com if they want a contact.