

Risborough & District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 7 December 2018 at the Risborough Community Centre.

Present:- Tim Peacock President

Paul Wright Chairman

Roy Norton Secretary

James Aitken Treasurer

Other trustees (Richard Neil, David Lane, Mick Moignard & Ant Mead) and 27 Full members.

Part 1 - Formal Business

1. Introduction

Tim Peacock welcomed everyone to this first AGM since the Club gained charitable status. The format would be slightly different to previous years to reflect the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Tim took the opportunity to record the Club's thanks to Pete Joels for organising the very successful 'Risborough Venturer' trip to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.

2. Approval of the 2017 AGM minutes

Agreed without change.

3. Trustees' report

Paul Wright reported on the Club's activities over the last year. Apart from the regular Friday and one Saturday per month railway modelling sessions, the Club organised three model railway exhibitions – 'Risex' (February 2018), Railex (May 2018) and 'FestiRail' (part of the Risborough Town Festival, July 2018) 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. There is no overall record of numbers (beneficiaries) attending but the Club estimated these events reached around 3000 people.

The open day was held in October 2017 and promoted the Club's education and general interest objectives. This was entry-free and it is estimated that there were around 50 -100 beneficiaries. In line with these objectives the Club provided free demonstrations and exhibits e.g. for charitable public events at St Dunstan's church.

To encourage a high level of railway modelling the Club held five skills workshops on weathering and tree-making. There was also an expert talk, in February 2018, on the painting and construction of false perspective backscenes. These events were open to both members and non-members and about 100 people attended.

As a contribution to the objective of promoting knowledge in prototype railways, in October 2017, the Club held a free talk by Geoff Plumb, for members and non-members, on railways in the 1960s. About 50 people attended. Club members have

given talks, on the development of the railway in local area to the Weston Turville Historical Society and the Aylesbury Historical Society.

Paul thanked, in particular, the car parking stewards at Railex, the cake providers at Risex, Ant Mead for organising the various social events, Gary Day for his promotional work (e.g. Youtube video), Steve Hatt for the airbrush workshop and Pete Joels for organising the Risborough Venturer trip.

4. Treasurer's report

James Aitken presented the 2017/18 accounts. Overall, it had been a good year with a small increase in funds available for future projects.

Comparing the income and outgoings for the year, there was a surplus of £2,843 for the year from an overall income of £38,080. The surplus was lower than last year by about 10%, but income was higher due in the main to the Risborough Venturer trip.

Membership has increased so net subscriptions are up at £3,470. The membership year changed during the year to begin at the start of April so the club has £2,123 in addition in the bank which are advanced subscriptions. Our expenses related to the club room have increased this year to £3,571, which is slightly more than the subscription income.

Risex and Railex turned in surpluses of £1,285 and £3,680 respectively, on incomes of £3,583 and £27,186 both marginally down on the previous year. Control of costs is essential to keep our breakeven point low, and the team running the show are very good at that. Railex costs were a lot higher this year due to a number of expensive layouts. We also ran FestiRail for the second year which generated a £117 surplus.

We reduced expenditure on layouts this year having spent nothing at all on Okehampton and £993 on Aylesbury P4. In addition we invested £144 in the shunting puzzle to help attract younger people to railway modelling.

We have funds of £12,816 in the current account and £60,178 in the savings account at the end of the year. This we believe is enough to fund our ongoing activities, provide the new building and also provide a buffer for Railex expenses which tend to drift in between now and May.

5. Election of trustees

Nominations for trustees were received for:-

Paul Wright, Ant Mead and Richard Neil.

All were agreed.

6. Election of Officers and Members' Representatives

Nominations received for:-

Paul Wright – Chairman

Richard Neil and Ant Mead - Members' Representatives.

All agreed.

Part 2 – Other business

7. Matters arising – None

8. Future Club room

Roy Norton reported that a planning application had been submitted for a new Club building at Princes Risborough School. A decision was expected on 10 December though this could be extended until 16 January if it was referred to the Wycombe District Council Planning Committee.

Objections had been raised by the Youth Club as they had been using the building plot for outdoor activities. The local Council had also objected in support of the Youth Club. We understood that these objections did not constitute material planning considerations and were likely to be rejected. Our application included an alternative for the 'coach turning circle' which was currently planned for the building plot. Overall, we were optimistic about the outlook.

David Powell noted the invaluable advice Paul Jones (Warley MRC) had given to help the Club establish charitable status which was fundamental to the future plans of the Club. **The meeting recorded its formal thanks to Paul.**

9. Layout reports

9.1 Okehampton. James Aitken said activity had been limited with a few repairs being carried out to allow running at FestiRail. Further fettling was planned for the Spring.

9.2 Aylesbury Town. Steve Lovett reported progress on completing the mainline running loops, track-laying in the scenic area, snagging the fiddle yards and the P4 wagon construction project. For the future, the priorities would be scenics, lights, back scenes and platforms. Steve thanked all who had helped. Anyone interested in getting involved in the project would be very welcome.

9.3 Aylesbury LNWR. Nothing to report.

9.4 Test track. Richard Neil said the new storage trolley was nearly complete and thanked Ken Harris for his help with its construction.

9.5 Shunting puzzle. John Hipwell said this was operational and had created a good deal of interest, particularly with the young, at FestiRail and St Dunstan's. The scenic elements would now be developed.

10 Exhibition reports

10.1 Railex. David Lane reported another good year with good feedback. Thanks to all members for their help. Planning for 2019 was well underway. Help from club members was always welcome – the more the merrier!

The Railex team had met with Serco, who were now managing for Stoke Mandeville facilities, and they were very positive about continuing the relationship with the Club and continuing to host Railex. Hall hire rates were likely to rise modestly but accommodation rates were expected to fall. The small exhibitor catering room will not be available in 2019 so alternative arrangements were being explored.

10.2 Risex. Tim Peacock, on behalf of **Adrian Harford**, said this had produced a modest surplus. The main issue continued to be finding traders. The cake stall was a

major draw. There was some discussion about merging Risex and FestiRail but it was pointed out that there was no guarantee that the Club would have the whole Community Centre available for FestiRail – it depended on other demands for space. Also, if the Centre was provided free, the Club could not charge for entry.

10.3 **FestiRail**. We were waiting to hear whether the whole Community Centre would be available for 2019. Assuming it was, it was suggested we set-up a Club stall in the High Street to direct people to the Centre and we also explore inviting other societies (Colonel Stephens, S4 etc.).

11. Other business

11.1 **Subscription rates** - This will be £75 for Full membership and £37.50 for Students and Associates from April 2019. Depending on progress with the new Club room, this is likely to be reviewed and adjusted during the year.

11.2. **Club equipment** – **Paul Wright** said there was now an asset register to enable members to see what was available.

11.3 **Footplate** – **Paul Wright** was pleased with the contributions he had received but there was always room for more! So keep them coming, photos, model reviews, 'how to' projects etc.

11.3 **Great Model Railway Challenge** – A second series of the TV programme was in prospect. Any Members interested in forming a Club team were asked to contact one of the Trustees. **Barry Cossins** said he was happy to offer advice based on his experience of series 1. Barry also said he was hopeful of using follow-up interviews etc. to promote Railex and Risex.

11.4 **Severn Valley Railway driver experiences** – **Pete Joels** was organising this trip for June 2019. Anyone interested was asked to contact Pete.

11.5 **Community Centre** – **Paul Wright** noted that management of the Centre was changing. It was moving from a charitable trust to direct Council control. The building was also being expanded and developed probably starting in March 2020. This could affect our use and maybe offer opportunities e.g. for a larger Risex.

12. Pendennis Trophy

Nominations had been received for Gary Day (work on the new Club building and general support for Club activities), Steve Lovett (project managing Aylesbury P4), Pete Joels (Risborough Venturer trip) and John Hipwell & John Casson (Shunting puzzle). The Trophy was awarded to **Gary Day**.

Date of 2019 AGM - This will be Friday 8 November 2019

Tim Peacock
President

Roy Norton
Club Secretary