Chairman’s Report 2021

I am retiring as Chairman this year, I can’t cope with the Zoom meetings so it seems the right time to look back over the last few years.

When I was invited to become Chairman, I agreed on the condition that members stopped bickering and talking down the club in public. If you don’t get on with someone, then come on a different night, or work on a different layout. Slowly with the help of Peter, I like to think we have turned the club around and our public image has never been better. The Web site produced by Fraser, and the appearance of Belgrave Rd in the Hornby magazine has helped to raise our profile and encourage new members. During lockdown we have had a number of enquiries re visiting and joining the club and these prospective members have been invited to our open day this weekend and we must all make a real effort to impress them and encourage them to sign up.

During my term in office a number of members worked very hard to gain the club charitable status, and now we are a charity the local council can no longer fine us for advertising our fundraising activities, and it also means we can claim gift aid on our subscriptions a very welcome addition to our income. The surprise element of course has been the generous grants that we have received to offset the loss of income during the pandemic, because we could not run our exhibitions. This has enabled us to upgrade our heating system and begin a major maintenance and refurbishment programme. The working parties have been a good opportunity for the members to work together and it is good to see so many members taking an active part, my thanks goes to Chris Maycock for his efforts to get us all working.

We must be aware that our future finances depend on the membership numbers, so Sunday’s open day is of paramount importance to the club. It is up to us all to make these visitors welcome, the club’s future depends on us.

Thank you to you all for your support over the years.

Eric Young,

Chairman. 2021