



# Abingdon and District Model Railway Club



## Year book 2021/22

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# **Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Northcourt room of the Northcourt Hall, Abingdon on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 20.00**

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – in the Northcourt Hall- Abingdon.

## **4. Election of Officers & Committee Members**

**Current Trustees;** Peter Hunt, Bill Marnane, Chris Nutman, Andrew Skinner, Trevor Slaughter, Eric Young

**Current Committee members;** Fraser Clarke, Dominic Hardisty, Peter Hunt, David Lloyd, Bill Marnane, Andrew Skinner, Trevor Slaughter, Mike Taylor, Eric Young.

### **Election of Committee members**

5. The Chairman's and Secretary's Reports
6. Financial Report – from the Treasurer
7. Reports from Layout Coordinators
8. Proposed Exhibitions
  - a **Abrail 23**
  - b **Abrail 24**

### **Proposal re Abrail 2024**

The committee have discussed plans for Abrail 24 and have agreed that a two day show would be most appropriate, since 2024 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Abingdon and District Model Railway Club'.

'The committee recommend to the membership the hosting of a two day show in 2024'.

## **9. A.O.B.**

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Northcourt room of the Northcourt Hall, Abingdon on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 20.00**

- 1. Present:** Sixteen members including three trustees.
- 2. Introduction and welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and verbally presented his report for the past year. Owing to a computer problem he was unable to send his report out in advance of the meeting, this has now been remedied and his report has been sent to all members.

- 3. Apologies:**

There were nine apologies from:

Mark Cox, Adrian Cole, Steve Crook, John Culverwell, Martin Hill, Martin Lyons, Andrew Mc Millan, Mike Ryder, David Willis.

- 4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020:** The minutes were unanimously agreed as a true record.

- 5. Election of Officers & Committee Members**

**Current Committee members;** Fraser Clarke, Dominic Hardisty, Peter Hunt, David Lloyd, Bill Marnane, Andrew Skinner, Trevor Slaughter, Mike Taylor, Eric Young.

**Election of Committee members:**

Mr. Bill Marnane was elected as Chairman. Proposed; Brian Denton, Seconded; James Barclay.

The current Committee was proposed 'et al' for re-election, this was agreed unanimously.

**Election of additional committee member:**

One additional member had been proposed for the committee,

Chris Maycock, who was proposed by Peter Hunt, and seconded by Andrew McMillan. Chris was unanimously elected to the committee.

- 6. Appointment and re-appointment of trustees:**

**Current Trustees;** Peter Hunt, Andrew Skinner, Eric Young

Under the charities constitution one third of the trustees should stand for re-appointment on a three-year turnaround.

Therefore, it was decided that Peter Hunt would stand for re-appointment this year. He was duly re-appointed.

It was also decided that after our first three years as a registered Charity we should appoint some additional trustees.

The members willing to stand as trustees are:-

Bill Marnane, Chris Nutman and Trevor Slaughter.

The three proposed appointees were duly appointed, This means the Charity now has six trustees: Peter Hunt, Bill Marnane, Chris Nutman, Andrew Skinner, Trevor Slaughter and Eric Young.

The two remaining original trustees must put themselves forward at the next AGM in 2022 for re-appointment.

## **7. The Secretary's Report:**

This had been distributed prior to the meeting and there were no questions.

## **8. Financial Report:**

The Statement of accounts had been distributed prior to the meeting.

The Treasurer explained the accounts in detail and brought the meeting's attention to the fact that the club had for some years been losing money, the income not covering the club's outgoings. This hadn't been helped by the *Covid* lockdown which meant we had lost the income from four exhibitions. The Treasurer also pointed out that there had been no rise in membership subscriptions for a number of years whereas our outgoing costs had risen. He put it to the meeting that, whilst as a charity we were not a profit-making concern, we should, at the very least be ensuring that we covered our annual costs with sufficient income to ensure we could continue to carry out our charitable purpose.

To remedy the structural deficit, The Treasurer proposed that an increase in subscriptions from £13.00/month to £18.00/month with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 was required to address the current structural deficit of about £2,000/annum.

While it was accepted by the meeting that a rise was indeed necessary, some members felt that such a steep rise could lose us members, which would give us a further reduction in income thus creating a greater problem.

After a lengthy discussion a proposal was reached. This proposal reads:-

The meeting recognizes the serious nature of the structural deficit raised by the Treasurer. We charge the committee with developing a plan to address this, and to present it to the membership on a timescale of not more than three months. This should include a proposal for a one-off uplift in subscriptions to address the immediate problem. A standing annual increase to recognize long term cost increases and a plan for investment in the club with the explicit aim of increasing membership.

This was agreed by the meeting.

## **9. Reports from Layout Coordinators**

These had been distributed prior to the meeting and there were no questions.

## **10. A-brail 22 Exhibition**

The Exhibition Co-ordinator spoke re the proposed exhibition to be held in March 2022. He pointed out that there were currently three known unknowns to consider.

One, with the current rising trend in *Covid* cases, would there be another lockdown?

Two, would the Abingdon College allow an organisation out with the 'college bubble' to use their premises?

Three, how many members of the public would be willing to attend, or bring their families to an indoor event while there was still so much *Covid* uncertainty.

He said that there was still plenty of time to consider this with a possible cut off being the beginning of January 2022

## **11. A.O.B.**

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 21.40 with thanks to all who had attended.

**Peter Hunt,**

**Secretary.**

## Chairman's Report 2021- 2022

In spite of the Covid restrictions the Club has continued to function and even expand. Our decision to have "Individual Layout" evenings meant that activities could continue and the Club continued to be alive and thrive.

In his report Peter has covered the major issues of the year. The principal cause for concern being the financial state of the Club. The reluctant decision to raise subscriptions was supported by the Club Members. Here it is appropriate to offer my personal thanks to Peter for his hard work as Secretary. I really appreciate the wisdom and patience he brings to the office of secretary and his support to me as a very novice Chairman.

The uncertainty generated by Covid clouded preparations for ABrail22 but thankfully Dominic and Peter took the optimistic view and went ahead with booking the venue, layouts and traders. In the end the ABrail22 went ahead at Abingdon and Witney College and was a great success. Special thanks to all Members who supported the event. And of course, the surplus of nearly £3,000 was a very useful addition to Club Funds.

The the building improvement work continues. The heating system has been extended and the external lighting improved, but there is still work to do. A new entry ramp for the Pentre Rd cabin is being planned by Chris Maycock, with work on this to be started hopefully very soon. I am grateful to Chris Maycock for his itemising of work to be done and supervising our Work Days.

Planning for ABrail 2023 .is now underway. The venue, Abingdon and Witney College, has been booked for **Sat 4 March**.

2024 is a significant year for the Club as it will be 50 years since ADMRC was founded. We consider it would be appropriate to mark the occasion with the best show we can put on. We therefore propose that we should have a 2-day event. Members will be asked to vote on this proposal, that ABrail2024 be a 2-day show, at the AGM.

As chairman, I have safely managed to get through this first year of uncertainty for the Club, with Covid and other issues. with the wholehearted support of your committee. In addition, I would like to thank all Members for their enthusiastic participation in Work Days (more to follow!), and Club evenings. I sense morale is high; long may this continue.

Thank you all.

**Bill Marnane**

**Chairman**

## **Secretary's Report 2021- 2022**

The committee has met six times throughout the past year, all of which have been Zoom meetings. It was felt by the majority of the committee that having the meeting in the comfort of their own home was a lot easier than taking up valuable modelling time at the club.

One major issue that took up time, was the *Abrail* show which was organised almost at the last minute because of Covid uncertainty, but which proved to be an outstanding success, and our thanks goes to the Abingdon College for allowing us to host the event on their site.

The main issue, after last year's AGM, was the recognition that we needed to raise the subscriptions to a level which ensured we could pay our outgoings without dipping into the club's reserves and to back that up we required a major recruitment drive encouraging more people to join. We have been pretty successful in these aims, but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels and I am sure our Treasurer will have something to say about this in his annual report. We have also publicised our long awaited '*Health & Safety document*' along with a Club '*Risk assessment*' and these can be found on the notice board outside the library.

The first phase of the building improvement work has been completed, with the heating system extended and the external lighting improved, but there is still work to do and a new entry ramp for the Pentre Rd cabin is being planned by Chris Maycock, with work on this to be started hopefully prior to the AGM.

The planning for the *Abrail 2023* show is now underway and one thing you should all be aware of is that the date is changing to the first Saturday in March (4<sup>th</sup>) this is to avoid the clash with the Ally Pally show which has been a problem for us over the last two exhibitions prior to the lockdown.

Work has also started on the planning for *Abrail 2024* this is a significant exhibition because it is the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and we really do want to make it a special year with events that will raise the club's profile both in the town and beyond. This anniversary year will need the clear support and participation of all the members. We cannot do this without you, and planning has to start now. We already have the backing in principle of Abingdon College for a two- day show, but this will ultimately be down to you the members as to whether it is possible or not.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank Bill Marnane, our Chairman, for his support throughout the year, the committee for their continued work and Chris Maycock for his very significant effort to keep us all working to improve the club buildings and grounds.

**Peter Hunt,**

**Secretary**

## **Annual Layout reports**

### **Bishop's Hill**

Progress continues and it is pleasing to report that all circuits are "live" and trains can be run.

Thanks to the generosity of Members loaning stock, we already have a good selection of trains filling the Fiddle Yead. The ability to run these on Club Evenings adds interest to the layout and is an incentive to progress the scenic side of the railway.

Current work in progress:

- Wiring the points to control panels
- Fitting and testing of the turntable

Planning for the Station Area is in hand with a mock-up of the station building placed over the tracks to aid positioning. The next task will be to build platforms. It is anticipated these will hold trains up to at least 8 coaches long. We have now been donated (thank you Peter) MDF strips with which we can construct the platforms. This is an ideal opportunity for less experienced Members to learn the art of platform construction. Peter has volunteered to demonstrate and supervise this work with active participation of Members.

The Scenic areas are being addressed and it is hoped work will start very soon.

- A disused track and platform alongside a canal have been proposed for the "Viaduct Area". This idea is well supported and more detailed planning is in hand
- A raised area near the entrance to the fiddle yard is actively being discussed. It has yet to be decided if a village or Church is best suited to the area available. In any event it is considered that a portable and interchangeable scene would be a good way of developing modelling skills.
- The Goods Yard area has yet to be addressed.

Overall, a good year for Bishop's Hill with additional active participation of new members.

**Bill Marnane**

### **Carlisle Canal**

Progress has been good despite the Covid restrictions. Static grass now covers the open area and we have backscenes in place. The Roundhouse now has two parts of its roof completed and we have begun work on the shed floor.

**Eric Young**

## **Didcot A Power Station**

Since lockdown has been relaxed and *Didcot A* power station could go back into the exhibition circuit, it has been out to the South West Herts Model Railway Club show at the beginning of May. I would like to thank the team again who assisted with the layout at that exhibition. *Didcot A* is in need of some renovation work to help keep it on the circuit for more years to come and we will be starting work ASAP - if you are interested in N gauge or just the power station model, please come and join the team you will be most welcome. New team members will be bribed with biscuits and (if I can get them) doughnuts. Also, just to confirm, it still smokes like a WW2 battleship.

Thanks all

**James Barclay**

## **Edgeholme Quarry**

'Edgeholme Quarry', the Club's O16.5 layout, was last exhibited on 22 Feb 2020 at Risborough & District MRC's exhibition in Princes Risborough.

During the pandemic lockdowns, it remained in the Clubrooms awaiting minor track repairs to problems arising at Princes Risborough. These have now been done and planned modifications to the wiring to allow separate throttles to control two locos simultaneously will be implemented shortly.

Once these tasks have been completed it will be business as usual and the layout will be ready for its next outing, whenever that might be!

**BRIAN DENTON**

## **Leicester Belgrave Rd,**

Is now a fully operational exhibition layout, it was booked to appear at the Southampton show earlier this year, but this was cancelled due to Covid restrictions and it has been rescheduled to attend in 2023. However, It did make an appearance at our own *Abraill* show in March.

We now have a team of competent operators and it has become a good starting point for some of our new members, learning the technicalities of its operation, and also how to operate to the timetable when out at exhibitions. Eric and myself gain great satisfaction from seeing how the younger members of the club gain the skills of coupling and uncoupling as well as signal, point and section operation. It is due to go to Leicester for a one day show in August, where I'm sure it will be viewed with great interest, gaining further kudos for A.D.M.R.C.

**Peter Hunt**

## **Pentre Road**



Pentre road has continued in its usual slow and steady fashion. We've acquired a few new contributors in the past year, and all aspects of the layout have seen process with our characteristic alacrity. Martin and Andy have committed to Tuesday daytimes, and have completed the last few structures for the layout. The station footbridge is resplendent in crimson lake – presumably recently repainted by the LMS joint owners? Dave has, for his first ever scratch building project, constructed the underbridge by the station, and together with Logan the overbridge and started making good the road surface. Fraser has even started on the first sections of static grass... Alan has commenced a thorough quality improvement programme on point mechanisms and core wiring; taking each board in turn. Some of the electro-mechanical aspects of the layout are nearly twenty years old, and we have been increasingly suffering from failed screw and solder joints. The control system for Pentre road has gained an apocryphal level of notoriety, but whilst it is complex, Howard has done an excellent job of documenting it. We're getting to grips with it, and have some ideas for how to make it a bit more user-friendly in the future.

We have taken part in a few of the nascent 'Friday night running' sessions, with the aim of running the layout on average once a month. This seems to be a good compromise between allowing us to work on the layout, forcing us to have it in a usable state, and helping to debug the layout operations - a productive development cycle!

**Fraser Clarke**

## **Report on Three Bridges – 2mm finescale**

Construction of Three Bridges, the layout of the Oxford Area Group of the 2mm Scale Association, has recommenced. The current focus is on contour profiling and the track bed for the upper circuit of the front scenic section. Work on the river bridge is also in progress.

Track laying for the upper circuit will begin shortly.

**Brian Denton/Chris Maycock**

## **3 Points**

Following the return to club nights after various lockdowns we have started to progress again and we have welcomed Keith and William who have joined the club

and are bringing their skill and talents to bear on 3 Points. Modification of the four small control panels has been completed to allow us to remove them when transporting the layout has been completed. Focus has now returned to the buildings and scenic areas of the layout:

- The bridge at the tight hand side receiving the first decking piece
- Derelict warehouse nearing completion
- Signal box well under way
- Warehouse at the far left at the rear is being redesigned.
- Surveyors have been sent to the Isle of Man to survey a particular pub for inclusion in model form.
- Planning/design of a water tower and electrical sub-station building are well under way on CAD.

**Mike Taylor**

## **200 Club**

A useful contributor to Club Funds, with an opportunity to win cash, is the “200 Club”.

Tickets cost £5 per month and currently prizes are £20 per month with £50 in December and June. Club members are encouraged to join. We have 19 Members signed up and of course the more tickets we sell the more prize money we can allocate. Members can contribute to more than one ticket!

Mandate forms are available in the Club.

**Bill Marnane,**

**Chairman**