

Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the post *ABRAIL* show Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29th March 2022 @ 19.30 On Line.

This meeting was specifically held to assess the results of the Abrail show on the 19th March in preparation for the post show meeting to be held on the 1st April at the club premises.

1 Opening remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for the effort that had been put in to making *Abrail22* a great success. He went on to say the reason for this meeting was to ensure we had positive answers to any questions that the members might have at the post show meeting to be held at the club on Friday 1st April.

2 Trustees present and apologies

Apologies: E. Young **Present:** P. Hunt, B. Marnane, A. Skinner, T. Slaughter

Committee Members present and apologies

Apologies: D. Hardisty, D. Lloyd **Present:** J. Barclay, F. Clarke, M. Taylor

3 Pre show publicity

It was felt that the publicity had been ok, but it was recognised that if the show had been longer in the planning, it could have been better. This was due to the uncertainty of Covid.

- Suggested more 'Lamp post' signage within the town itself in the week prior to the show
- Take advantage of the 'Town website' which is run by the council who are making every effort to support clubs and associations within Abingdon.
- A club member to be sought to carry out the role as Publicity co-ordinator.

4 Venue

The College is an- ideal place to hold the show, but for future exhibitions we should make an effort to get the use of the Gym area which is a large hall where all the exhibits could be positioned without using the satellite rooms as we do at present.

5 Venue Preparation

It was agreed that as always, the College staff had been most helpful. Some concern was expressed about the 'flaky' Wi Fi connection, particularly during the afternoon.

- For future shows we require a concise floor plan
- A definitive plan for the caretaking staff to work with re clearing the halls and bringing in the required number of tables, which should be made available to them prior to the show weekend.
- A detailed venue plan on the club's website for ongoing future use.

6 Entry procedures – ticketing

- More ticketing desks required for the opening hour
- A separate desk for pre-paid entrants
- A back-up cashless (sum-up) machine
- A contact number for the College Wi Fi person
- More entry door signage.
- Ensure all other doors are locked five minutes prior to the show commencement time.

7 Show Layout - Traders / Exhibits

- No complaints, all exhibitors and traders happy with their positions
- Traders like to be on the left- hand side of the entrance hall because the lighting is better
- Ensure that the electrical / operating problems with the club's Thomas layout are corrected before it goes out again.

8 Opening / Closing times

- The consensus was that 10.00 till 16.30 was good, as it had been observed at previous show the numbers attending dropped off after 15.00.

9 Catering

- Very professional as always
- Good menu choice
- Members pleased with free filled breakfast baps
- All day tea and biscuits appreciated by all - Traders, Exhibitors and Members

10 Next year's date

Despite clashing with the Alexandra Palace exhibition in London the current date of the third weekend in March does not appear to affect our visitor levels. Many traders don't want to pay the inflated stand prices that the big venues charge, so this does not affect their attendance at our show.

The date for Abral 2023 will be Saturday 18th March 2023

11 A.O.I.

- Thank you's to be given in appreciation for college staff's assistance
This will be in the form of Beer, Biscuits, and Chocolates
- Thank you's to be given in appreciation for non- Club members who actively assisted at the show.
This will be in form of Chocolates and Flowers – to be organised by the Secretary.
- To avoid confusion, all items on the 2nd hand stand should be priced prior to the show. It should also be agreed with the members who put items on the 2nd hand stand what percentage of sale price comes to the club.
- It was recognised that Paul Robinson does an excellent job organising the stand, but this should be shared with another member so that it continues smoothly in Paul's absence.
- It is the intention that a working group of members should be formed to support Dominic as the Exhibition Co-ordinator for future shows and volunteers should be sought within the club.

MEETING CLOSED AT 21.40

Peter Hunt,
Secretary 30/03/22

