

# Abingdon & District Model Railway Club

## Members present: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

J. Barclay, S. Bedding, P. Cole, J. Culverwell, B. Denton, G. Hadingham, D. Lloyd, C. Maycock, C. Nutman, A. Pearce, P. Robinson, M. Ryder, A. Skinner, M. Taylor.

B. Marnane, (Chairman), T. Slaughter, (Treasurer), P. Hunt, (Secretary),

## 17 Members

## Committee Nominations 2023/24

### Committee Nominations

### Attachment 'A'

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
CHAIRMAN	W. Marnane	J. Barclay	D. Rodger
SECRETARY	P.Hunt	J. Barclay	D. Rodger
TREASURER	T. Slaughter	J. Barclay	P. Cole
MEMBERSHIP Sec.	J. Barclay	S. Crook	D. Rodger
COMMITTEE	C.Weske	P. Hunt	J. Barclay
	P. Cole	B. Marnane	P. Hunt

### Chairman's Report

### Attachment - B

The Club continues to thrive and in spite of our flooding upheaval morale is as high as ever.

In his Secretary's Report Peter outlines all the activities of the year and the effect of our burst pipes. I will not repeat him here. Our planned programme of Club running nights and demonstrations was affected by the upheaval caused by the leaks and the consequent delay whilst insurance assessors and contractors sorted out what was needed to be done.

Happily, we can see an end as work is about to begin to restore our Club to its former glory. My thanks to all of you who gave support during these trying times.

Our new power out warning device, thanks Fraser, will give warning of a power failure. However, we have addressed the problem of power failures by having new trip switches fitted in the Club premises and the outside fuse box with built in delays that should only affect one fuse box and not the whole system. In addition, the electrician has connected the boiler to the power fail system so we will be told when the boiler goes down.

Abraill23 was a great success, thanks Dominic for your hard work organising a very well received show, with many quality layouts. The introduction of expert speakers was a new element and will be a feature of future shows. We look forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show on 2&3 March next year. Trevor has been very busy booking an impressive number of quality layouts. Use of the gym at Abingdon and Witney College is a bonus and will be a great help in staging our expanded show. We are currently actively looking for sponsorship.

We welcomed some new members to our fold and encouraged participation in Club Projects. Our efforts to recruit new members continue. Locally, at the invitation of Millets Farm we took “Thomas” and Dominic’s Lego Layout to their site. Both generated great interest. We also took the Club “Recruiting Stand” which was cheerfully manned by James. We have received an invitation to return to Millets Farm on 2 Sep and will ensure more publicity for the Club.

Minutes of Committee Meetings are published on the Club Members Area and Members are encouraged to read them so they can keep to date with Club affairs. In addition, I have instituted a policy of publishing regular “Chairmans Musings” with news and updates.

Work days continue to be productive. The Workshop has a new roof and Pentre Road now has a ramp and covered entrance. Work, guided by Chris Maycock, will continue on the last Saturday of each month.

It has been a difficult year but we have come through it in the end. As chairman I really appreciate the wholehearted support and backing of your Committee. In addition, I would like to thank all Members patience and support during the last year. Let us look forward to the future with confidence.

Bill Marnane

Chairman

## **Secretary’s report**

## **Attachment C**

This year has not gone exactly as planned! It started positively with work days on Tuesdays and Saturdays and a plan in place to refurbish the buildings both inside and out. The heating was upgraded and extended into the bunker room and meeting room, but at Christmas everything fell apart when we had a power cut and subsequently the pipes froze. When the

thaw came so did chaos. The reception, kitchen, toilet, store room part of the library all suffered water damage.

Fortunately, the insurance was up to date, but now six months in we are still in the throes of refurbishment, with a new floor about to be laid and part of the kitchen cabinets to be replaced.

On a more positive note, we have taken steps to avoid this happening in the future, with a new 'Power out' warning device linked to all the keyholders mobile phones and also the replacement of all the old 'out of date' fuse boxes.

Thanks to Chris Maycock we now have a new entrance ramp to the Pentre Rd building and canopy. Parts of the ramp behind the meeting room have been replaced, and all the building have been externally painted and resealed and a team also replaced the rear wall of the reception area which had rotted. We must all give a huge vote of thanks to Chris and the members who gave their time and effort to carry out this work, which is still ongoing with work days planned for every fourth Saturday throughout the summer.

Continuing on the positive note, a few of the club layouts have made appearances at other club's exhibitions, not least the *Great Electric Train Show*. This, along with our own very successful *Abrail23* show has gone a long way to raising the Abingdon Club's profile in the modelling world and we should be grateful to those members who gave their time to exhibit these layouts and to Dominic who masterminded what must be our best Exhibition to date.

We have also welcomed a number of new members into the fold and I say to them again welcome and despite the ongoing problems on the premises, I do hope that you are finding that being an Abingdon Club member is worthwhile.

My thanks go to all the committee and our Chairman Bill for his support throughout the year and also a special thank you to Trevor for putting the Club's finances back on a secure footing.

Next year, as you all know is the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and if Trevor does as brilliant a job at organising and co-ordinating our very first two- day show as he has with our accounts, then we should be looking forward to a very positive future for *Abingdon & District Model Railway Club*, but he can only do this if every member, without exception, steps up to support him and the Exhibition, both in the planning and the running on the first weekend of March 2024.

I have now been Secretary since 2016, and unless one of you out there has ambitions to take it on, I am happy to continue – cos I just enjoy it!

## Layout Reports

## Attachment E

**Bishop's Hill** is currently in the process of being dismantled so that the room can be cleared for new flooring to be laid.

Once back up and tested we can concentrate on the development of the layout.

The electrics are being addressed by Dominic, Phil and Carsten. Control boards for point operation and extra electronics for slow running are well advanced.

Further developments that need to be addressed are:

- Station
- Goods Yard
- Village
- Area under the bridges and viaduct
- Engine Shed area including Coaling Stage; Ash Tower, and turntable
- High level low relief street scene
- Signals and signalling
- Addition of detail such as buffer stops
- Scenery generally

The good news is that once the layout is reassembled running can recommence. It is always a good feeling to have trains running.

In advancing the developments outlined above there will be ample opportunity for all Members to contribute to Bishop's Hill whether assembling building kits, placing scenery, painting and generally adding detail. It means that new skills can be learned and taught. There is no restriction to the number of Members who can be involved!

Bill Marnane

**Carlisle Canal Shed** - steady progress has been made despite the uncertainty produced by the flood. The cobbled floor has been laid and now work has started on the internal detailing of the workshop inside the shed.

The roundhouse has been fixed down and the roof sections have been built and weathered, with landscaping, the static grass has been laid and a cycle shed has recently been added.

We are hoping to get the electrics completed and have our first running session soon. Watch this space!

Eric Young

**Didcot A Power Station** - After the last AGM we took Didcot A off the circuit for a major overhaul and this has commenced in recent weeks with the wiring form board 1 being removed and the fiddle yard being taken up to reduce the tight bend on the oil line, we have started on board 2 to lift and relay the oil line to work out what the issue with power in the area. In regards to what is happening with Didcot A when work is well and truly showing progress I will be inviting the Chairman of Didcot Railway centre and Roger Orchard to the club to discuss its future, to cover the issue with funds to this overhaul currently the Didcot A team are buying what we need and with thanks to the Bishops Hill team donating wiring to the project we have got off to a flying start. At this time I would like to thank the Didcot A team that has now grown since the last AGM and we hope to get the layout up to a running soon I cant give a time but we will (hopefully) have it running by ABRAIL 2024.

James Barclay

**Edgeholme Quarry** - the Club's O16.5 layout, was last exhibited on 22 Feb 2020 at Since then necessary repairs have been made to the trackwork and, more recently, planned modifications to the wiring, to allow separate throttles to control two locos simultaneously, have been completed.

Some minor scenic embellishments are still needed to make the layout 'exhibition ready'.

Brian Denton

**East Street Wharf** - Margaret Evans' 8'x2' EM Gauge shunting layout as featured in BRM in 2006, has now returned to the club after a bit of a facelift and re-wiring. It now has 4x early BR DCC locos and the beginnings of a roster of wagons - members will be encouraged to build and detail wagons for it from a range of kits and EM wheel-sets.

Dominic Hardisty

**Leicester Belgrave Road** has been up in the clubroom and successfully operated for the last year.

In January it went to Southampton exhibition and was very well received. On its return it was left boxed up to allow space for storage of other layouts during the reflooring of the rest of the clubrooms, but it has now been put back up and is available for any club members who wish to learn how to operate it (or just to "play trains")

Its next outing is to **Folkstone** in **October**, this will be a **Three** night stayover, so please let me know if you are available.

Eric Young

**Three Bridges (2mmFS)** - Work has resumed and steady progress is being made , albeit with reduced participation.

The 'Orange' river bed has been cut and installed and its associated railway bridge and abutments have been constructed and are awaiting installation

Trackbed baseboards are being levelled and installed to both Upper and Lower circuits and it is anticipated that track construction and laying along with the associated electrics to the upper circuit will start soon.

The base for the narrow gauge 'shuttle' between the Power station and the Colliery has also been cut and installed .

Scenic bases are in the process of being shaped and cut for all boards and rough contour levels are in the process of being cut and shaped using 'Celotex' foamboard, starting from the river end.

Don't be put off by the scale - the techniques are applicable to any scale !

Chris Maycock

**Three Points** - Work on the layout is still going albeit slowly, with effort being concentrated on the back scene buildings. A signal box is the current building being built and it is hoped that a number of structures are being planned by Chris will be delivered in the near future for fabrication.

Work has slowed with part of the NOOG team concentrating on getting the Abingdon layout ready for Abrail 2024.

Mike Taylor

**Thomas** – layout, more correctly known as Sodor Island, continues to be a hit with younger members of the public, and Club. It is currently erected and functioning in the Pentre Road cabin. It is used most Fridays and indeed, in the absence of our test track has been used as a test track.

The layout is designed to be run by junior members of the public using the 2 controls at the corners. These no longer function as required. So, we need to replace them and link them to the main controller which regulates the speed at which junior members of the public wish to run the trains.

The next planned outing for “Thomas” is at Millets Farm on 2 Sep (and maybe 3 Sep!). It is essential to have the electrics fixed by then. A volunteer to do so would be greatly appreciated. In addition, we need someone willing to take responsibility for the layout, stock and operation.

Bill Marnane