



ABINGDON AND DISTRICT

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Northcourt room of the Northcourt Hall, Abingdon on Friday 30th June at 20.00

1 Present: Seventeen members including five trustees.

2 Introduction and welcome:

The Chairman welcomed those present saying that the year had started well, but turned into our annus horribilus with the flooding of our premises over the Christmas period. Now however there was light at the end of the tunnel. This added to the determination of the members not to be put off and the excellent work that had been carried out was a credit to all. He said that as we had limited time in the hall we should move on with the agenda as quickly as possible.

2 **Apologies** were noted from: C.Bishop, F.Clarke, A.Cole, S.Crook, M. Cox, H.Fielding, M.Hill, M.Lyons, D.Rodger, S.Usher.

3 **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th June 2022 – in the Northcourt Hall- Abingdon. It was brought to the Secretary's attention that there was an omission from the minutes. In section 9b. paragraph 5. *It was agreed that we would require a group of members to step up to assist with the planning and organization and Mr. Slaughter appealed to members to be part of this. It was also agreed Mr. Slaughter would provide a pre- show budget – Income & Expenditure prior to the next AGM.*

With the secretary's assurance that his omission would be corrected the minutes were accepted by the meeting.

Proposed: M. Ryder, Seconded: J. Barclay.

4 Election of Officers & Committee Members

Current Trustees: Peter Hunt, Bill Marnane, Chris Nutman, Andrew Skinner, Trevor Slaughter.

Current Committee members; Bill Marnane (Chairman), Trevor Slaughter (Treasurer), Peter Hunt (Secretary), James Barclay, Fraser Clarke, Dominic Hardisty, David Rodger, Andrew Skinner, Mike Taylor.

There were three members who wished to retire from the committee: F. Clarke, D. Hardisty and A. Skinner.

The Chairman thanked them for their contribution over the period that they had served.

Two Club members had been proposed for the committee and had agreed to stand: P. Cole, and C. Weske (see attachment A.)

Election of Committee members:

By a unanimous vote both members were elected to the committee.

The Committee for the year 2023/24 is:

Bill Marnane (Chairman), Trevor Slaughter (Treasurer), Peter Hunt (Secretary), James Barclay, Phil Cole, David Rodger, Mike Taylor, Carsten Weske.

- 5 The Chairman's and Secretary's Reports have been distributed [Attachments B. and C.](#) There were no issues arising from the Chairman's, or Secretary's reports.

- 6 Financial Report – from the Treasurer has been distributed – [Attachment D.](#)

The Treasurer opened by saying that the club finances were now more stable than they had previously been but warned against complacency. *Abraill* 2023 had shown a surplus, and the 200 club had also given us some income. This resulted in the club having a surplus at the end of the financial year of £595, but he said that this was because the refurbishment work being carried out had cost less than expected and none of the layouts currently under construction had requested any financial assistance. He continued by saying he was very conscious of the rises in cost of living and people's reluctance to give more through subscriptions.

He finished by suggesting that the membership should give the committee leave to raise subscriptions in April 2024. He concluded by saying that at this time he didn't expect that to be any more than a one pound increase.

A proposal was put forward that the Committee should have the power to raise the annual subscriptions in 2024 if thought necessary.

Proposed M. Ryder this was agreed unanimously

The Accounts were accepted by the meeting; Proposed; A, Skinner seconded: P. Robinson.

- 7 Reports from Layout Co-ordinators have been distributed-[Attachment E.](#)

There were no issues arising from the Layout reports.

8 Proposed Exhibitions

Abraill 24 – Prior to the meeting a predicted Income and expenditure account for the exhibition had been distributed to the membership – [Attachment F](#).

The Chairman reminded the meeting that at the 2022 A.G.M the membership had voted in favour of a two-day show with twenty one members in favour and two abstentions. The Exhibition Manager, Trevor Slaughter, reported that he and the Chairman had recently had Zoom meetings with both Fareham MRC and Farnham MRC, both of whom were clubs that had experience of putting on two -day exhibitions. From these meeting they had learnt a lot. He answered questions from the floor re the budget, but did say members had to understand that this was a predicted budget and as such a 'moveable feast' which would change and change again as the date drew closer. Currently 38 layouts were booked to attend, but a bigger concern was traders, the attitude of whom had changed significantly since the covid lockdown. Squires and Cheltenham model centre said they were unable to attend and Eileen's trains had gone into liquidation this was a major hole in the expected trade stands. On a positive note, all the traders that had attended the 2023 show had agreed to return in 2024, but he was confident that others could be encouraged to set out their stall.

He continued by saying that after consultation with the other clubs we really need a team, minimum of six to work on the planning of all aspects of the show. Two really important roles being people willing to collate the show brochure and someone to target companies willing to advertise in the exhibition brochure and perhaps agree to sponsor parts of the show.

Another issue was ticketing and researching the Gift Aid possibilities which could gain us more income on the day.

He concluded by appealing to members to actively consider taking on one of these roles.

After the discussion there was a vote to confirm if we should continue with the plan to hold the 2024 exhibition as a two day show. This was carried unanimously.

9 Progress of Club refurbishment

The Chairman stated there were two parts to this. The first being the work carried out by ourselves renovating the exterior of the Club, which was being led by C. Maycock

Over the past year buildings had been repainted, gutters cleared (winter and spring), the access ramps outside the main building and behind the meeting room had been repaired and a new ramp and canopy had been installed at the Pentre Rd entrance. The workshop had been re-roofed and painted and the rear outer wall of the main building had been partially

replaced after it was found to be rotting. We currently have two tons of pebbles awaiting spreading in the front yard, which will be done when the weeds have been cleared. He said that while there was still work to be done, when it was completed, the club would look as good as it ever had.

The second part was the flood damage repairs and renovation which is being carried out by the insurers. A container had been delivered and a professional team had emptied the damaged areas of the club into this to allow re-flooring to be carried out in the next couple of weeks. All the heating pipes have now been replaced and the club has financed a 'Power out' warning system that sends text messages to keyholders informing them when the power goes off (and on again) we have also had all the fuse boxes on the premises standardized and a timer fitted to the main Fuse box which will ensure that if we have a problem only the trip switch in the affected area will go and not the whole club, as has been happening up until now. It is hoped that these improvements will reassure our insurers that we are making every effort to prevent any repeat of the past problems.

The Chairman requested that any members available in the next week come up to the club and take the opportunity to do some interior decorating before the new flooring is laid. This is work which is scheduled to be done during the week commencing the 10th July so we don't have much time.

10 A.O.B –

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45 with thanks to all for attending.

Peter Hunt - Secretary