

MODEL



ABINGDON AND DISTRICT
RAILWAY CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Northcourt room of the Northcourt Hall, Abingdon on Friday 7th June 2024 at 19.30

- 1. Present:** Eighteen members including five trustees.
- 2. Introduction, and Welcome:**

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone present and gave a brief synopsis of the agenda. He commented that all the reports had been sent out to the membership prior to the meeting and hoped everyone had taken the time to read and digest the contents.
- 3. Apologies:** were given by: S.Bedding, A.Cole, C. Maycock, S.Numan, J. Winchester, E.Young.
- 4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th June 2023 in the Northcourt Hall- Abingdon.**

The minutes of last years meeting were accepted unanimously as a true record. Proposed J. Barclay, seconded by M. Ryder.
- 5. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 6. Election of Officers & Committee Members**

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

All the trustees agreed to continue in post for the coming year, but A. Skinner gave notice that he intends to stand down as a trustee in 2025.

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

All the current committee members with the exception of P. Hunt (secretary) had agreed to continue in post, but it was noted that C. Weske had resigned from the club after illness. The Chairman will try to contact him and pass on the best wishes from the membership.

The Secretary (P. Hunt) had notified the membership of his intention to stand down from the committee this year. P. Cole had agreed to take up the position as Secretary, proposed by M. Taylor and seconded by G. Hadingham - carried unanimously.

The Chairman, notified the membership of his intention to stand down from the role in 2025 and it was agreed that we would appoint a Vice Chairman to work alongside Bill with the intention of stepping up into the Chairman's role at the AGM in 2025.

G. Hadingham was proposed as Vice Chairman by M. Taylor and seconded by S. Crook, this was carried unanimously.

The Committee for 2024/25 is: Bill Marnane (Chairman), Trevor Slaughter (Treasurer), J. Winchester (Assistant Treasurer), Phil Cole (Secretary), G. Hadingham (Vice chairman), James Barclay, David Rodger, Mike Taylor.

After the formulation of the new committee, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Secretary for his work and support throughout the past eight years.

The Chairman's and Secretary's Reports – See attachments 'B-C' which had been sent out to the membership prior to the meeting. There were no questions re the reports.

7. Financial Report – See Attachment 'D' which had been sent out to the membership prior to the meeting.

The Treasurer presented the financial report, saying that currently the finances were in good shape, but there had been a major outlay of £1,974 for electrical work to upgrade the fuse boxes throughout the club. This work had been necessary to ensure that the power supply would be much more reliable and hopefully prevent a recurrence of the problems we had encountered in 2022/23. As yet the accounts had not been examined as required by the Charities commission, but this was in hand with the proposal that we would have them examined by the Treasurer of another club in exchange for our Treasurer doing the same for them, this would save both clubs money. There is currently an action, from a recent committee meeting, on the Treasurer to action this proposal.

As at year ending March 2024 the Current Account was £6,114, the Deposit Account was £9,829, Total amount £18,226

The Financial Report was accepted by the meeting. Proposed: A. Skinner seconded: M. Taylor.

A Proposal was Tabled: To gain the members agreement, that the committee should have a mandate to raise the annual subscriptions by a maximum of £1.00 per month, should it be deemed necessary within the year to ensure the club's financial stability.

This was agreed unanimously. Proposed: C. Nutman, seconded: D. Crook

The Chairman suggested that in order to lessen the pressure on the Treasurer to produce the Financial Report with Final Accounts for the AGM, and *Abraill25* along with the draft Budget for *Abraill26* the AGM should

be scheduled for late August or early September. There was general agreement with this suggestion and it will be brought before the Committee for discussion and a decision made.

There was a discussion re insurance cover for rolling stock currently on layouts in the club. It was agreed that the layout coordinators should be asked to list the members stock currently on their layouts, but member should be made aware the stock on these layouts was their own responsibility. The only stock currently owned by the club was that of the 'Sodor Island' layout. There is an ongoing action re insurance with the committee.

8 Reports from Layout Coordinators – Attachment 'E' which had been sent out to the membership prior to the meeting. It was noted that the 'Pentre Rd' report was missing from the list, this was due to the report not being presented before the deadline. The report was now available and has been added to attachment 'E'.

9 Proposed Exhibitions

a Didcot 24: In the absence of the exhibition manager D. Hardisty the secretary gave a briefing re progress. Up to the present time, thirteen layouts have been booked to attend, with up to three of the Club's layouts making up the numbers. Four Traders were currently signed up with another two in the pipeline. Notification of the show had been sent to the main modelling magazines with prices set at £8.00 + 70p booking fee for advanced booking and £10.00 on the day. As is club policy up to two Children will have free entry when accompanied by a paying adult. It is hoped to have financial support towards the cost of the show from *Network Rail's* 'Stay off the track' team. This had been agreed in principle, with *Network Rail* but confirmation was still awaited. P. Hunt is continuing to work on this.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that P. Hunt would ask the show manager, D. Hardisty to produce a proposed budget for the show. This was felt necessary, as the success, or failure of this show would significantly impact on the *Abrail* show preparation. The Treasurer offered to assist the Dominic in the preparation of this budget. It was also agreed that the *Abrail* subcommittee would also step up to assist in the planning and presentation.

b. Abrail 25: T. Slaughter, the show manager gave a presentation of the draft budget for *Abrail 25*. see – attachment 'F'. He was at pains to point out that this was his personal opinion based on *Abrail 24's* costs. and the budget had yet to be discussed by the *Abrail* committee. He pointed out that there would be a reduced number of layouts at next year's show (35) and an increased number of Traders. He also felt that in retrospect for a show the size of *Abrail 24* we had undercharged for entry and he was proposing an increase for 2025. He was confident that after the outstanding success of the 2024 show the public would be happy to pay an increased amount, and that, with the decision to

continue allowing accompanied children free entry, families would still view it as a cheap day out.

There was a brief discussion re the public catering which had appeared to overwhelm the catering staff, but this was cut short by the Chairman who deemed that the AGM was not the place for this discussion, pointing out that the *Abraill* committee were well aware of the shortcomings and would be dealing with it when they met.

10. A.O.B.

It was proposed that we should be offering another open day for the public to come along and see what the club had to offer. It was suggested that this should happen after the Didcot show and be linked to the member's family day, which had been so successful last year. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that another open day should follow the *Abraill 25* show next March.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.18.

Peter Hunt (Outgoing Secretary)