MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 75th Annual General Meeting held at the Caledonian Hotel, Osborne Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on Saturday 16th April 2011.
The Meeting commenced at 16.15 hours.

Present: Hugh Gould (President), John Redgate (Chairman), Alan Cooke (Secretary), Callum MacLeod (Managing Editor – *The Railway Observer*), Reg Wood (Treasurer), Gordon Davies (Branch Liaison Secretary), David Kelso (Publicity Officer), Terry Silcock (Librarian), David Jackman (Webmaster), Richard Morris, David Pick and Bob Ellison (Committee Members) and 58 other members giving a total of 69 members present.

1] Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from 29 members.

2] Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Derby on 24th April 2010: There were no alterations to the minutes so they were proposed for adoption by the Chairman John Redgate (13470), seconded by Tom Reardon (4441) with all present voting in favour. There were no matters arising.

3] Chairman's Address: The Chairman, John Redgate (13470) opened his address by welcoming everyone to the Society's 75th AGM and expressed his appreciation to see so many supporting the meeting. This Weekend's event has been arranged on behalf of the North East Branch to coincide with its own 75th anniversary by Jim Sedgewick, David Tyreman and the North East Branch, to whom he said that we all should express our collective thanks for the overall organisation of the weekend.

He went on to say that whilst there have been no changes to the Management Committee during the past twelve months, he pointed out that the agenda states that Callum Macleod will be standing down as the Editor of the RO to be replaced by Mike Robinson. Callum came to the rescue when David Bird stood down without too much notice and I am very grateful that he has given us time to find his successor over a 12 month period.

The Chairman then introduced the members of the MC and the President who travel far and wide to attend MC meetings coming from within the boundaries of 12 different Branches.

He reminded everyone that last year Bob Ellison had been appointed an Assistant Treasurer looking after Branches and added that he was delighted to announce that Noel Machell has agreed to take on a similar role looking after publication sales and stock management. In addition Bob Ballard has decided after almost 22 years to stand down as the Society Exhibitions Officer and is replaced by David Elsdon from the Hitchin Branch. Notable during the past twelve months we said farewell to Mike Burnett ,Stan Dart , Russell Leitch , Stuart Little and Tony Scarsbrook.

At the closure of the 2011 renewals period the number of non renewals and resignations has increased over the 2010 figure by 15 to 163. Much hard work is undertaken during the renewals period by Steve Ollive and Richard Morris to whom he extended his thanks on behalf of all the membership.

He mentioned in his notes in the April RO that one of the major decisions that the Society has to make in the next 12 months will be the location and future scope of our Library, We have a Library Sub Committee chaired by David Pick looking at these issues, however a key part of these discussion will be the appointment of a successor to Terry Silcock who is standing down as the Society's Librarian at the end of this calendar year. Due to the growth of the Library under Terry's enthusiastic stewardship we have reached an appropriate time to evaluate the purpose and scope of our Library in the 21st century. John felt sure that he will be a very hard act to follow but was confident that the Library sub-committee will find a suitable candidate to succeed Terry.

Finally he paid tribute to all the MC members for all their efforts and hard work over the last 12 months and especially Gordon Davies the Deputy Chairman who has chaired MC meeting recently in his absence. In addition he extended his personal thanks to all Branches, Society Officers, RO Editors and sub-committee members for all their hard work, it's the team effort that makes the Society so successful. It is thanks to you the members that we have a Society that continues to flourish.

4] President's Address: The president, Hugh Gould opened his address by saying that he was pleased to be back in Newcastle, a place of which he had many pleasant memories.
In his 18th year as president he reported that matters had not gone according to plan; firstly he missed the Members' Weekend due to a Silver Wedding celebration but actually spent the weekend ill in bed, then in February a friend's funeral clashed with a visit to the South Wales Branch and he now expects to out of circulation due to a stay in hospital which will upset any visits in that month. But the last year has been a marvellous one for the Society which goes from strength to strength and by sitting in on the MC meetings he realises he is part of a society to be proud of, and hoped to be able to do so in the future.
He added that the amount of work undertaken by all the branch and sub-committees continued to amaze him, these were the means by which all disputes and problems are soon resolved.
He managed to visit eight branches in the last year and so far had invites to visit nine in the forthcoming year which he is looking forward to.
In closing he said that we had one of the best hobbies and wished everybody well.

5] Adoption of Management Committee Reports and Accounts: These were published in the Special Supplement for the AGM that accompanied the April 2011 *RO.*

5a] Questions Relating to the Report on Activities and Administration – None.

5b] Questions Relating to the Financial Report – None.

5c] Questions & Comments Relating to *the Railway Observer:* Tom Reardon (4441) expressed his thanks for the continued high standard of the RO.
Alan Bowman (9272) asked how many copies of the RO were printed each month, Callum Macleod (12817) replied that it was currently 3200.

Adoption of the Reports was proposed by Bob Ballard (10372), seconded by Bob Barby (5843) and carried unanimously.

Adoption of the Financial Report was proposed by Malcolm Hammond (17454), seconded by John Day (8775) and carried unanimously.

6] Election of Management Committee Officers: The Chairman announced that he had received nominations for the following Officers to serve on the Management Committee.

For one year:
Chairman **John Redgate**

For three years:
Managing Editor, The Railway Observer **Mike Robertson**

Committee Member **Richard Morris**
Committee Member **David Pick**

Proposed by Jim Sedgwick (7292) and seconded by Tony Skinner (13596).

There being no others the nominations were carried unanimously.

7] Appointment of Auditors: John Redgate (13470) proposed and Reg Wood (10811) seconded that Richardson, Watson and Co. be appointed as Auditors for the Financial Year 1st November 2010 to 31st October 2011. This was approved unanimously.

8] Date and Venue for the 2012 AGM: Alan Cooke (17050) announced that as no branch or Regional group had volunteered to organise next year's AGM it will again be organised by the MC at a date and location to be arranged. He added that part of the deliberations in choosing a date is ensuring that we do not clash with the AGMs of the SLS or LCGB. John Lewis (6473) asked that Alan also contacts the Industrial Railway Society to avoid a conflict of dates with them as well; which he agreed to do.

9] Any Other Business: David Tyreman (7972) reminded everybody that spare stocklists from the morning's visit to the Weardale Railway were still available.
Malcolm Hammond (17454) praised the Mystery Photographs pages of the Society website and the effort put in to them by Cyril Crawley and webmaster David Jackman. John Redgate reminded everyone that this is another means for members to interact with each other.
Ronnie McAdam (16090) said that recent issues of the *Railway Herald* were only publishing details of meetings at Milton Keynes. In reply, David Jackman (16198) said that he would contact then to find out what the problem was.

Gordon Davies announced that the there would be no Members' Weekend this year. However there would be a one day event consisting of a morning visit followed the Officers' Conference in the afternoon. This would be on 16th October at the Hallmark Hotel in Derby. Further announcements would be made in the RO.

The Meeting Closed at 16.55

Alan Cooke
Society Secretary