



MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 76th Annual General Meeting held at the Britannia Hotel, Fairfax Street,
Coventry on Saturday 28th April 2012.

The Meeting commenced at 13.30 hours.

Present: Hugh Gould (President), John Redgate (Chairman), Alan Cooke (Secretary), Mike Robinson (Managing Editor – *The Railway Observer*), Reg Wood (Treasurer), Gordon Davies (Branch Liaison Secretary), David Kelso (Publicity Officer), David Jackman (Webmaster), Richard Morris, David Pick and Bob Ellison (Committee Members) and 63 other members giving a total of 74 members present.

1] Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from 36 members.

2] Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Newcastle on 18th April 2011: 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 welcoming everybody present to the Society's 76th AGM. He added that it was very much appreciated to see so many here today to support this meeting and asked if anyone attending their first Society AGM today that they would please show their hand.

He went on to describe how the programme for the day had been arranged by various members of the MC with the assistance of West Midlands branch members to whom we should express our collective thanks for arranging today's meeting and presentations. Thanks also were expressed to David and Sally Goddard who had been selling the new improved range of Society clothing.

During the past twelve months the changes in the composition of the MC had Mike Robinson taking over as RO Editor from Callum MacLeod from the June 2011 edition and the retirement of Terry Silcock from the MC on 31st December after 37 years of outstanding service to the Society.

He extended special thanks on behalf of everyone to both Terry and Callum for all their hard work and effort over the years on behalf of the Society. Further changes to take place this year will see Gordon Davies taking over as Chairman, Alan Cooke taking over from Gordon in the role of Branch Liaison Officer and in turn Bob Green the West Riding Branch secretary is taking over from Alan as Society Secretary; these changes will take effect on or before 1st June 2012.

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 10 different Branches.

He reported that at the closure of the 2012 renewals period the number of non renewals and resignations has reduced below the 2011 figure by 19 to 144. Much hard work is undertaken during the renewals period on our behalf by Steve Ollive and Richard Morris to whom he extended his thanks on behalf of all the membership. The £18 offer of a reduced rate subscription to new or lapsed members joining at Branch meetings has resulted in 22 new members being recruited by the end of March. New members this year to date stand at 54 as compared to 30 at the same time last year.

David Cole one of our Vice Presidents fell off a ladder before Christmas, from which he had

recovered only to suffer another fall this month and he felt sure everyone would wish to extend their best wishes to David for a speedy recovery. Notable during the past twelve months we said farewell to Terence Barry and Peter Fox.

On the public facing side of the Society he expressed his thanks to the small band of members who represent Branches and the Society at over 60 Exhibitions each year. It is important that as a Society we are visible to potential new members and this helps not only raise Branch funds but also recruit new members to the Society. Although Income was down overall, the number of events attended increased with Croydon and South London, Hitchin, Humberside, Ipswich and North East all attending five or more events

He reported that there are a number of things to look forward to this year-

1. Publication of the final part of the BR Standard Series will be launched hopefully in the late summer.
2. The RO Editor is carrying out a tender exercise with various printers concerning the future printing and distribution of the RO and a decision is expected on this before the summer. We hope this will allow us to move to a 72 page RO each month as compared to every other month adding a further benefit to our members.
3. Expansion of the Members and Officers only section on our website which was launched last month.
4. Expansion and promotion of our Photographic portfolio which currently has over 30,000 photographs catalogued and over 50,000 slides, prints and negatives to be sorted and this is being added to on an almost monthly basis.
5. In June we celebrate the 1000th edition of the RO with a special supplement of 24 pages.
6. A decision on the future location of the Library, when hopefully this will coincide with the appointment of a new Librarian.
7. Schools class 30925 Cheltenham will hopefully be making an appearance at Railfest being held in York between 2–10 June and it is reported its first revenue earning appearance will occur during the Mid Hants Gala being held between 7–9 September.

He closed by paying tribute to the MC for all their efforts and hard work over the last 12 months and especially Gordon Davies the Deputy Chairman who has chaired MC meetings recently in his absence. He added that he was delighted that Gordon will be succeeding him as Chairman later in the year and wished him every success in this role. In addition he extended his personal thanks to all Branch, Society Officers, RO Editors and Sub-Committee members for all their hard work, it's the team effort that makes us so successful. It is thanks to the membership 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 front of an audience at a national event and that it did not seem like a year since the last AGM. But he still derived great joy at being President and being able to attend branch and MC meetings.

Last year did not go according to plan due to a stay in hospital but he said that he was back at King's Cross as soon as he could manage.

He added that he had still visited many branches in the last year, all were a pleasure, all are different in their own way as the membership and committees come and go. He said he was always impressed with what he saw; the colossal amount of work he sees being undertaken throughout the society at all levels, but urged all to volunteer to enable the society to go forward.

In closing he said that he enjoyed being Society president and looked forward to meeting everybody again shortly.

5] Adoption of Management Committee Reports and Accounts: These were published in the Special Supplement for the AGM that accompanied the April 2012 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) offered his congratulations on the new quarterly freight section in the RO.

David Tyreman (7972) asked why the RO was being delivered late in recent months, in reply Mike Robinson (10606) agreed that the service we are current receiving from Stoate and Bishop is currently not acceptable. The final copy is always provided on time by the proofing team along with the images, but there are always delays in binding and sending to the mailing house, this could add up to six or seven days delay. We are so dissatisfied with this that we are currently going through the process of moving to an alternative printer. An initial evaluation of five possible companies has been trimmed down to three from whom we plan to evaluate some page and image proofs prior to making a final decision. The selected printers will carry out the whole process from printing and bagging to despatch to the Royal Mail. This we expect will shorten the timescales that we have to put up with at present.

John Day (8775) expressed his thanks to Mike and the Management Committee on behalf of the membership for addressing this issue.

John Champion (5669) requested that when groups of members are included in images in the RO that the names of the members depicted are included. Mike Robinson (10606) said that he would try to do this where possible but larger groups would make this difficult because of the extended captions required.

Adoption of the Reports was proposed by Bob Barby (5843) seconded by John Day (8775) and carried unanimously.

Adoption of the Financial Report was proposed by David Goddard (21347) seconded by Alan Donaldson (13456) 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 three years:

Secretary

Branch Liaison Secretary

Bob Green

Alan Cooke

Proposed by Steve Ollive (14617) and seconded by David Goddard (21347).

For two years:

Chairman

Gordon Davies

Proposed by Eric Palmer (3917) and seconded by Bob Ballard (10372).

There being no others the nominations were carried unanimously.

7] Appointment of Auditors: John Redgate (13470) proposed and Tony Skinner (13596) seconded that Richardson, Watson and Co. be appointed as Auditors for the Financial Year 1st November 2011 to 31st October 2012. This was approved unanimously.

8] Date and Venue for the 2013 AGM: Alan Cooke (17050) announced that next year's AGM was set for 13th April. It was expected that the same location could be used.

9] Any Other Business: John Day (8775) announced that the 2012 Members' Weekend is set for 12th to 14th October and went on to describe the outline arrangements for the weekend.

David Tyreman (7972) asked why the Society was not planning to have a stand at the forthcoming Railfest at the NRM in June. In reply, John Redgate (13470) said it was mainly due to the high cost of the stand and that other events were taking place the same weekend which will probably affect the attendance.

Tom Reardon (4441) suggested that the forthcoming 1000th RO should be used in publicising the society. David Kelso (4827) said that a 24 page commemorative booklet was planned which could be used for promotional purposes. He added that a considerable amount of text and photos had been received from members for which he was grateful.

Paul Clark (20204) suggested that the Society should advertise in all the railway press and not just the steam themed ones. He added that at his local branch the modern subjects were better attended.

Rodney Lissenden (6478) gave praise to Hugh Gould, saying that he had enhanced the role of President during his long tenure. He also offered his grateful thanks to the MC and that he was looking forward to the A4 sized RO.

The Meeting Closed at 14.35

Alan Cooke
Society Secretary