



REFERENCE 1906

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered with the Charity Commission
Registered Number: 1169995

**Minutes of the Management Committee held on 15th June 2019
At The Somers Town Coffee House, 60 Chalton Street, London NW1 1HS
Commencing at 14.10hrs**

PRESENT

BA	Brian Arman	(President)
WGD	Gordon Davies	(Chairman)
WRG	Bob Green	(Secretary)
ARW	Reg Wood	(Treasurer)
MSR	Mike Robinson	(Managing Editor – “The Railway Observer”)
ILR	Irene Rabbitts	(Branch Liaison Secretary)
DPG	David Goddard	(Membership)
APD	Andy Davies	(Library & Archive)
DB	David Bird	(Chair – Publications Sub-Committee)
PC	Paul Chancellor	(Chair – Development Sub-Committee)
JR	John Redgate	(Committee Member – Co-opted)
DK	David Kelso	(Trustee – Invited for input to Photo Archive discussion)

1906.01 APOLOGIES

DJ David Jackman (Web)

1906.02 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING 1903 (Dated 30th March 2019)

All delegates agreed the minutes to be a true and accurate record of the meeting.
BA proposed that they be approved – seconded by DPG. They were signed off by the Chairman and will now be posted on the website.

1906.03 MATTERS ARISING/ACTION POINTS FROM 1903

With the exception of 1903.10.02 (Photo Archive Profitability) all of the Action Points from 1903 have been actioned, or will be discussed within the meeting.

1906.04 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MATTERS

- .01** MC Co-options: Following the AGM two co-options were put before the meeting
- i. John Redgate – Proposed by WGD – Seconded by DB.
 - ii. Paul Chancellor – Proposed by WRG – Seconded by APD.

The co-options were unanimously confirmed by the Committee members.

- .02** Officer Vacancies: Further to the advertisement in the May RO seeking nominations for the MC posts of Chairman and Secretary, applications for these two positions have been received. Callum MacLoed and Geoff Adams respectively have confirmed their interest. Both will be invited to attend MC meetings ahead of their formal appointments at the 2020 AGM.

As things currently stand there have been no applications in respect of a replacement National Exhibitions/Events Officer. Similarly no one has yet surfaced to take up the role of Members' Weekend Co-ordinator. A note was to appear in the July RO telling that unless someone comes forward the 2019 event at Loughborough will be the last. However BA made it known that if all else fails he would approach Roger Newman of the Bristol Branch proposing that the Branch takes up the mantle for 2020's gathering.

- .03 Honorary Life Memberships: Since being awarded HLM status at the 2019 AGM both Alan Cooke and Bob Ellison have sent letters of appreciative thanks to WGD.

Further detail REDACTED

1906.05 ARCHIVE/LIBRARY

- .01 Leatherhead Update:
- APD informed the meeting that stock checks are almost finished. 90% of the work has been carried out.
 - The opening times have now been standardised and the detailed information is to be found in the RO and on the website.
 - A steady trickle of member visitors and a number of local residents are making appearances.
 - Issues of damp continue to persist albeit at a reduced level. This has been referred back to the builders.
 - Improved safety access needs to be incorporated into the short stairway leading into Room F1 from the upper floor. Some safe means of reaching to the upper shelving level requires to be purchased. DK suggested that this might be a small set of steps.
- .02 Librarian: It was proposed that Peter King, currently operating as Deputy Librarian, be officially recognised as the Society's Librarian.
WGD proposed the move. This was seconded by APD and all agreed to the change.
- .03 Photographic Archive:

REDACTED

1906.06 BRANCH LIAISON

- .01 Regional Meetings: Each member of the MC who attended the meetings as an MC Representative reported back on the findings. The agendas sought to establish members' views with regard to the new Website, Officers' Handbook, Long Service Awards, Speaker costs at meetings and establish interest levels in the development of social media. In addition to this each MC representative reported on activities, actions and developments at Management level that the Society has undertaken within the last year. No contentious matters were tabled but it was generally noted that little interest was shown in recognising long service membership. The need to implement the Officers' Handbook ASAP was very apparent and the sooner the better. Inter-Branch communications within the region would be a welcome development.
A simplified method of recording (minuting) the individual reports into a combined document was thought to be beneficial as that currently used is somewhat cramped.
- .02 AVR: The principles of AVR have now been approved by the members at the AGM and is now to be implemented through the 2020 renewals process. A comment made at the AGM regarding Branch nominations made the point that perhaps it would be more equitable if the proposed recipients be broadened out to include hard working branch members rather than limited to Branch Officers. The MC agreed that this should be implemented. A Newsletter to the branch Secretaries will be circulated in the near future as nominations are required before the commencement of the annual renewals process. **Action: ILR**

1906.07 FINANCE

- .01** Budget/Out-turn 2018/19: ARW circulated his latest report and forecast analysis which are presented as Appendix 2. From the latest figures the year is expected to break even or record a small surplus.
- .02** Assistant Treasurer: ARW made it known to the MC that Eric Rattray, who has taken over the role of Assistant Treasurer from Bob Ellison, is also Treasurer to the SLS. The role of Assistant Treasurer is largely to control and oversee financial information specifically relating to Branch funds in conjunction with an awareness of Society book stocks held by the branches. The conflict of interest was noted but was considered to be minimal. However should his position with either Society expand then clearance must be sought/given.
- .03** Travelling Expenses: As MSR now resides in Scotland travelling to/from London is somewhat time consuming, often necessitating an overnight stay nearer to London. Travel costs though are minimal being of ex-BR management status. It was proposed by JR and seconded by DB that the Society should fund reasonable overnight accommodation for one night and an evening meal. This was agreed by all.

1906.08 "THE RAILWAY OBSERVER"

- .01** Advertising Policy: This was clearly defined and agreed at the December 2018 meeting of the MC. Advertisements in the RO by Colour-Rail were subject to further discussion between PC and MSR. By mutual agreement Colour-Rail has been given a 25% discount on the standard rate of a half page advert. In return Colour-Rail is to give a 10% discount to members who purchase any of its images.
- .02** Officers' List: Normally this is published and issued twice per year but in the future will become a once/year document, circulated with the July RO.
ILR will co-ordinate the information for MSR. **Action: ILR**

MSR sought clearance to purchase some new software, at a cost of £170, which will help the downloading of PDF files. Clearance was given.

1906.09 MEMBERSHIP

- Details of the latest membership numbers as at the end of mid-June are given in Appendix 3a and the membership distribution in 3b.
- Note that membership numbers are up by 11.3% year on year.
64 new members were recruited at Crewe Open Day, but zero signed up at Ramsgate.
- Raised at a Regional Meeting – Details for Life Membership are seldom made known to the members. A note requires to be put into the RO on an annual basis informing members of the availability of life membership, particularly at the stage when the renewals process is about to begin. **Action: DPG**

1906.10 DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

PC reported the following from their June meeting.

- Ian Allan has given notice that they are no longer prepared to offer discount to RCTS members.
- PC has approached Hornby with a view to producing an HST "00" gauge model carrying the name of "The Railway Observer". They are interested but cannot give the go-ahead at the present time.
- The setting up of new branches at Stockport and Glasgow is underway but have been delayed.
- The Society will have a stand at the Carlisle DRS open day.
- Nameplates: "Sir Edward Fraser" is to be relocated at Quainton.

Peco Model Railway Products who are linked with Pecorama with their model railway circuits has been offered, and recently accepted, the loan of "Clausentum". This will be progressed.

Portsmouth Naval Museum is to be approached re the loan of "Falkland Islands".

"Jupiter" – Despite approaching a couple of preservation sites in the North East little interest has been shown in the exhibiting of this plate. Two further railways will be contacted but should this fail to find a home then the recommendation is that it be sold.

- Membership advertising is crucial. Mainstream magazine adverts (ie. "The Railway Magazine"), particularly during the months of September and October, are key. An increase of £ in the advertising budget will be requested for the next financial year thus raising the annual budgeted spend to £ .
- Consideration to be given to combining the Publication and Advertising budgets.
- Assess the suitability of enthusiast websites with which the Society might possibly link up, share data and thus increase an overall awareness by carrying the RCTS logo. Members were asked to advise PC of any website that might be suitable.
- Banner wording is in need of an update. Internal sheeting will only be required as the existing bodies can continue to be used.
- Free membership offers remain in place for those recruited at Branch meetings and exhibitions who take up digital RO membership. Other recruits at these events who request the fully printed RO will be offered membership discounted by 50%.

1906.11 PUBLICATIONS

At the last MC meeting (1903) DB reported the trialling of a new system for the selling of Society publications through the Branches. This has progressed well and 4 Branches have already taken the opportunity to try the method out resulting in the selling of 200 books.

The new methodology allows branches to purchase Society books at a discounted rate of 50% which they can then sell at a price set by themselves. There is only one exception to this. For newly launched publications cover and member prices must apply for the first year. A newsletter to this effect will be issued.

1906.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sub Committee minutes, once approved, should be sent to the Secretary who will then circulate the reports to the members of the Management Committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16.55

W R Green
Society Secretary
June 2019

Appendices attached to the Minutes

1. Record of Meeting with Geoff Corner.
2. Budget/Out-turn 2018/19.
3. a/b Current Membership Details.

NB Due to the size of the Appendices they are not published along with these minutes.

Copies can be provided, on application, to the Secretary but will only be supplied subject to any redactions that might apply.