

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 157

Chairman's Report – AGM 28 April 2018

You will all have received the Annual General Meeting (AGM) supplement by the time you receive this newsletter and will have had the chance to read it. The reports were all submitted for publication but, unfortunately, although correctly submitted, a paragraph was deliberately omitted from the printed version of the Chairman's report in the AGM Supplement. The missing paragraph is an integral part of the report to set the record straight on the discussions about the possibility of the "The Railway Observer" being produced in the slightly larger B5 size. The missing paragraph reads as follows:

The minutes of the AGM held in Coventry last year and published in the July RO gives detailed information on all that transpired in discussions relating to proposed change of size from the current A5 to B5. Again, misinformation has appeared in some of last year's ROs regarding the proposed increase in size. So let me remind you that the MC, at the June 2016 meeting, were shown sample copies of the new size RO and were informed that the extra cost would be about £10 per month, giving a total of about £240 per annum. The Editor, Mike Robinson, was asked to go to the printer and ascertain the true cost. Less than one day prior to the MC meeting on the 3rd December it was disclosed that the cost of production of the B5 RO would incur an additional expenditure of nearly £5,000 per annum – an increase of approximately 12%, which would thus necessitate an increase to membership subscription costs. The MC decided at that meeting that quite a few issues required to be resolved and that all the membership should be consulted if a change of size was to be put in place. Mike conducted an unofficial survey in the November 2016 RO but failed to cover all aspects of that which the MC required to be asked of all the members. Even though I was not at the 2017 AGM John Redgate read out my address in which it was stressed that no change to the size of the RO would be agreed without fully consulting with all the members. After all this is your magazine. The MC requested that in order to reduce the envisaged production costs Mike should seek quotations from other printers. This however was not done and has further commented that he will have nothing to do with a consultation process with our members. A B5 RO is not dead but is deferred until the full picture becomes known.

The magazine gets a hearty endorsement in the Chairman's Report for the high standard and for all the work that goes into producing it each month.

Please add this paragraph to your copy of the Chairman's Report to ensure that you have the complete document. Paper copies of the missing paragraph will be available at the Society AGM on 28 April 2018.

Thank you.

The information contained in this newsletter is for use of RCTS Officers and Members only and should not be communicated outside of the Society

Recommended Speaker – Robin Gibbons

Robin Gibbons comes with a recommendation from East Midlands Branch where he is a member. He has recently given a presentation there entitled “The Locomotives of China Series – a Venture into Self-Publishing” and you can see a brief report in the branch pages of the April 2018 RO. He is prepared to travel to the following branches if anyone is looking for a good presentation:

Any branches in England north of a line running approximately from Bristol to Hitchin – please ask if you are interested but are unsure about whether or not he will be able to travel to your branch.

His contact details are as follows:

Robin Gibbons, The Plumtree, Saddlers Yard, Plumtree, Nottinghamshire NG12 5NT

Email: robin.gibbons88@gmail.com

Kind regards

Irene