

**BRITAIN’S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS**

**Minutes of the 2014 Annual Autumn General Meeting held at** **The Mizens Railway, Barrs Lane, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2JW on Wednesday October 15th 2014 at 11.00 am.**

**Railways represented:**

Beer Heights Light Railway, Bekonscot Light Railway, Bentley Miniature Railway, East Herts Miniature Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fairbourne Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Hambleton Valley Miniature Railway, Hotham Park Railway, Moors Valley Railway, Mortocombe Railway Society, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Swanley New Barn Railway, Woking Miniature Railway.

**Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman expressed his thanks, on behalf of the members, to Joyce Griffiths and all members of the Woking Miniature Railway Society for hosting the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Audley End Miniature Railway, Barnards Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Bure Valley Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Great Laxey Mine Railway, Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway, Kirklees Light Railway, Littlehampton Railway, LTM Engineering, Ness Island Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Perrygrove Railway, Private Member, Simon Clarke, Private Member – John Wrangle, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Rudyard Lake Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Stansted Park Light Railway Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Thompson Park Railway and. Weston Park Railway

**Minutes of the 2014 Spring General Meeting**

The acceptance of minutes of the Autumn General Meeting was proposed by Mr R. Brown and seconded Mr. P. Smith and the resolution was carried unanimously

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer, Maureen Atkinson, circulated the report which is shown below:

**BRITAIN’S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS LIMITED**

**A Company Limited by Guarantee**

**DRAFT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT: YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2015**

 **2014/15 2013/14**

 **£ £ £ £**

**INCOME**

Subscriptions 2,615 2,450

HRA Passes 3,275 3,152

Sale of Posters - -

Interest on Deposit Account 1 1

**Total Income 5,891 5,603**

**EXPENDITURE**

HRA Subscription 280 252

HRA Passes 3,275 3,152

Production of BGLR Posters - -

Production of Leaflets 1,250 1,250

Postage of Leaflets & Posters 191 120

Stationery, Copying 50 25

General Postage 40 35

Web site costs 120 150

Companies House Fee 13 13

Expenses HRA visitor - -

**Total Expenditure 5,219 4,997**

**SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR 672 606**

**DRAFT BALANCE SHEET: YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2015**

 **2014/15 2013/14**

 **£ £ £ £**

**Current assets**

Deposit Account 2,183 1,682

Current Account 443 959

Debtors

Total Current Assets 2,626 2,641

**Less: Current Liabilities**

Prepayments - 1,015

Creditors & Accrued Liabilities 478 150

Total Current Liabilities 478 1,165

**NET WORTH OF THE COMPANY 2,148 1,476**

**Capital fund**

**Amounts brought forward from previous years 1,476 870**

**Surplus/(Deficit) 672 606**

**Carried forward to future years 2,148 1,476**

There are currently 37 Full Members and 6 Ordinary Members.

There were no questions concerning these accounts

**HRA Matters presented by Iain Dinnes**

At a recent meeting of the HRA in Ireland, which Ian attended, there was concern that the BGLR was no longer interested in the HRA. Iain explained that he was the new BGLR representative and that BGLR was still very much interested in the HRA.

Maureen expressed surprise at this information as BGLR was still in contact with the HRA during the year through contact on HRA passes and receiving their Newsletters.

One of the key concerns of HRA safety is “suicide by train” which is an increasing feature of mainline operations and could carry over to heritage railways. It is very unlikely that a miniature railway could be involved in such an incident.

**Brochures and Posters**

Mike Hanson has agreed to continue to publish the poster and brochure for 2015.

The poster will be sponsored by the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway at a cost of approx £150

The brochure print run of 50,000 will be the same as this year.

The current subscriptions will cover the costs and therefore no increase in the subscription was necessary.

Beer Heights commented that many of the pictures on the brochure were very similar and not easy to distinguish. He suggested that members varied the angle of the train and tried to include the name of the railway in the picture as this would reinforce the message. It was also stated that pictures of children in a public place without names is totally allowed.

**Request for Copy for October Newsletter**

The October Newsletter will be delayed until the second week of November to allow for the late half term and Halloween. A request was made for copy for the Newsletter from our members.

**Safe Operations of Railways**

John Macdougall, Chief Engineer at Beer Heights Light Railway, addressed the members to relate the facts behind an incident on the railway in July.

* A customer was completing his Driver Experience day.
* The day was complete and he was about to shunt the stock away. The fire was low and the steam pressure was around 60 lbs/sqr inch
* The engine being used was a privately owned, Exmoor built 0-4-2 tank engine with no tender or bunker so that the instructor could access the controls quickly if required
* Without warning the fusible plug blew out and deposited the boiler contents into the fire box
* The downward hinged ash pan door / flap blew open and allowed hot ash as well as steam into the footwell in the cab.
* The driver received severe burns to his legs and thighs.
* The incident happened in the station and the crew were able to douse the driver’s legs with cold water from the water tower which mitigated the burns to some extent. Trained first aid staff attended promptly.
* The driver was taken by air ambulance to hospital.
* The HSE were informed.
* Nothing was touched until they arrived
* The fusible did not let go (melt) – the whole ¾ inch BSP plug just came out. The plug has a tapered thread and is fitted into a boss with a tapered thread.
* The threads on the plug were in a good condition
* No definitive reason has, as yet, been found as to why the plug came out and there were no indications during the day of any problems or leaks
* A consortium of railway engineers and boiler inspectors reviewed the evidence and were unable to come up with a cause of the problem
* The HSE report is awaited and further comments should await the publication of the report
* The BHLR has very comprehensive written records for maintenance, training, competences and operation of the railway which were fully up to date and were essential in the follow up with the HSE
* Latches have been retro fitted to any firebox doors that did not have them across the fleet. All the BHLR loco's have hopper ash pans with doors on the base of the ash pan, rather than in the cab.
* The loco used on the day has not yet been returned to service pending the outcome of the report

**Fancott Miniature Railway**

Ron Stanbridge detailed a derailment of a Cromer White coach whilst in service due to a bogie coming completely off. There were no injuries.

On inspection it was found the rubber mounts on the bogie were completely perished. The use of rubber mounts is unusual as most Cromer White coaches have springs rather than rubber mounts.

**AOB**

Mike Hanson is still requesting more railways to take part in the Voluntary Inspection Scheme

Subscription renewals will be sent out by email initially with mail only to those people who do not reply. Please ensure that you pay your subscription before the end of January if you wish to be included in the poster and brochure

Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway will give a discount to BGLR members who sign up for their driver experience days in November,

**Date and Venue of next meeting**

The AGM and Spring General Meeting will be held at Ferry Meadows Railway, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough PE2 5UU on Wednesday 18th March 2015.

The next Autumn General Meeting will be held at Pecorama, home of the Beer Heights Light Railway. No date has yet been fixed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.30 hrs