

**BRITAIN’S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS**

**Minutes of the 2014 Annual Spring General Meeting held at East Herts Miniature Railway, Van Hage Garden Centre, Pepper Hill, Great Amwell, Nr. Ware, Herts SG12 9RP on Wednesday March 19th at 11.30 hrs**

**Railways represented:**

Bentley Miniature Railway, East Herts Miniature Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fairbourne Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Hambleton Valley Miniature Railway, Hotham Park Railway, LTM Engineering, Moors Valley Railway, Mortocombe Railway Society, Perrygrove Railway, Private Member – John Wrangle, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Rudyard Lake Railway, Stansted Park Light Railway, Weston Park Railway, Woking Miniature Railway.

**Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman expressed his thanks, on behalf of the members, to Simon Brown and his team for hosting the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Audley End Miniature Railway, Beer Heights Light Railway, Bekonscot Light Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Great Laxey Mine Railway, Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway, Kirklees Light Railway, Littlehampton Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Private Member, Simon Clarke, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, and Swanley New Barn Railway.

**Minutes of the 2013 Autumn General Meeting**

The acceptance of minutes of the Autumn General Meeting was proposed by Mrs M. Atkinson and seconded Mr. R. Stanbridge and the resolution was carried unanimously

**Matters arising**

Joint Insurance Scheme - No further information was obtained about this possible scheme and the matter is in abeyance pending additional information.

**Treasurer’s Report**

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

**Treasurer’s Report to Britain’s Great Little Railways 19th March 2014**

Current Account Balance 958.93

Deposit Account Balance 1,681.64

Membership Fees to come 2 @ £65 130.00

**Total Funds 2,770.57**

**Expenses still to come in this Financial Year (estimated)**

Leaflet Postage 230.00 (£120 last year)

Companies House Fee (actual) 13.00

Heritage Railway Association Sub 260.00

Administrative Expenses 250.00

**Total Expenses to come 753.00**

**Forecast Balance to Carry Forward 2,017.57**

This compares with £1,476 carried forward from 2013/14, which means we could anticipate a profit of approximately £541.57 this year against a profit of £606 in 2013/14.

**Membership Subscriptions**

Members who do not appear on the promotional leaflet and poster pay a reduced membership fee of £35

Subscriptions paid: 35 @ £65 and 4 @ £35 = £2,415

Subscriptions due: 2 @ £65 = £130

**Total Subscriptions for 2014/15 £2,545, compared with £2,450 in 2013/14**

There are currently 37 Full Members and 4 Ordinary Members.

Maureen pointed out that a good surplus was forecast for the end of this year and that suggestions for using this surplus for the benefit of members would be considered. If you have any suggestions please contact the Secretary who will pass them onto the Directors for consideration.

**Legislative Update**

In his final contribution Michael Crofts recommended that all members logged on to the HRA website to read their Broadlines and Sidelines updates. It should also be noted that HRA Committee minutes are also available in the members section.

Michael also reminded members that in 2018 all leased commercial properties will be required to hold a Energy Performance Certificate and meet the specified energy number for that building. Some way off but worth remembering.

The members thanked Michael for his efforts over the years with a round of applause.

Our HRA representative will now be Iain Dinnes who can be contacted at iain@ehmr.co.uk

**Request for Copy for April Newsletter**

He Secretary reminded members to send in their articles for the April Newsletter which will be published after Easter.

**Review of any Safety incidents in the last 6 months**

Mike Hanson described a de-railing incident which had occurred at Rudyard Lake

Nobody had been injured and the derailment was at low speed but there were some useful lessons.

We have clarified that because we cross a highway the Office of the Rail regulator (ORR) not the HSE is responsible for enforcement and reporting. This will probably apply to other BGLR members who

have level crossings.

We reported the incident online to ORR which is easy but we had first run the report past David Nelson at Perrygrove for his views and this was useful. No action was taken by ORR.

We  took passengers affected into an area covered by CCTV and this provides useful evidence that there were no injuries.

We reported the incident to our insurers who encouraged us to do so and said there would be no impact on our premiums from doing this as it’s a pooled scheme. No claims have yet arrived.

On consideration and following a review of the CCTV of the complete incident, Mike wondered whether the clear up time was too quick as it might look as if all the possible issues had not been addressed.

The reality was that the carriage was taken out of service and the remaining passengers completed their journey after a delay of about 15 minutes. Some of the affected passengers completed their journey on the train, some on foot and some declined. The rest of the passengers, on the 8 coaches that were not affected were eager to get going.

Despite lack of injuries and the lack of interest from ORR it should be remembered that records of the incident must be kept as passenger claims can be made up to 40 years after the incident.

**Date and Venue of next meeting**

The Woking Miniature Railway, Mizens Railway, has volunteered to host the Autumn General Meeting on Wednesday October 15th.

**AOB**

The Chairman reported the death of Bob Kinnison, founder of the Cuckoo Hill Railway. It is not known whether the current operations will continue

Clive Upton reminded all members of the importance of having links to all the railways of the BGLR on their websites

There was a general discussion on the ages that unaccompanied children should be allowed to travel. There was no hard and fast rule, as age varied from under 7 to under 12 and an adult accompanying or an older child.

Maureen Atkinson stated that Cleethorpes Coast had not renewed their membership and thus one of the founding members of the organisation was no longer a member – a great shame.

There was a general discussion on the provision of first aid on railways. No railway has any obligation to have a First Aider available. It is mandatory to have an up to date First Aid box available but using it is entirely at your own discretion. It is essential that an accident book is available to record any incidents. No one is under any obligation to help someone, if you do try and help someone and then get it wrong you could be liable.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.30 hrs

**Distribution of Posters and Brochures**

All members present collected their own.

Mike Hanson has delivered to Brookside and North Bay

John Wrangle will deliver to Grosvenor Park, Kirklees, Sherwood Forest and Shibden

Barnards will pick theirs up from East Herts

Weston Park will deliver to Littlehampton