

**BRITAIN’S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS**

**Minutes of the 2015 Spring General Meeting to be held at the Ferry Meadows Railway, Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Lane, Peterborough, PE2 5UU on March 18th 2015 immediately following the AGM**

**Railways represented**

Cleethorpes Coast Light 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, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Rudyard Lake Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, Stansted Park Light Railway, Thompson Park Railway, Woking Miniature Railway.

**Welcome by the Chairman**

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

**Apologies for Absence**

Beer Heights Light Railway, Barnards Railway, Bekonscot Light Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Bure Valley Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Great Laxey Mine Railway, Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway, Hollycombe Steam Museum, Kirklees Light Railway, Littlehampton Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Private Member, Simon Clarke, Private Member, John Wrangle, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Summerfields Miniature Railway, Swanley New Barn Railway, Wells and Warsingham Railway and Weston Park Railway.

**Minutes of the 2014 Autumn General Meeting**

The acceptance of minutes of the last AGM was proposed by Mr David Cogin and seconded Ron Stanbridge and the resolution was carried unanimously

**Matters arising**

One member asked if there was any further information on the incident which occurred at the Beer Heights Railway and was the subject of a presentation by John MacDougall at the meeting. The Chairman replied that the report had not been published and therefore there was no new information available.

**Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer had circulated her report to all members prior to the meeting. In her absence the Chairman summed up the financial outlook as very satisfactory and that no increase in subscriptions or other changes were required. If the surplus continues to grow then one consideration would be to increase the brochure print run as this would be seen as a benefit to all members.

The members for 2015 are 47

**Legislative Update and HRA Matters**

Iain Dinnes stated that the HRA had recently issued a draft code of conduct which is being reviewed by its members. This draft code has also been circulated to all members of BGLR. It is clear that not all aspects of this code of conduct apply to our railways. The relevance of this document to our members will be discussed at our next meeting when it should have been ratified by the HRA,

The ORR has made some changes to its operations and they will be reviewed by the RHDR at our next meeting.

**April Newsletter**

The editor requested copy for the April Newsletter which will not be published until late in the month following the Easter school holidays.

**BGLR Inspection Scheme**

Mike Hanson, who will retire at the end of the year, is concerned that this initiative will fade away. He reiterated that this was a good policy for a railway to have in place to improve its operations and was an essential insurance policy if the railway was subject to an unfortunate accident.

There are currently two active groups reviewing each other's railway at approximately two year intervals, one centred on Rudyard Lake and the other on Moors Valley. The Littlehampton railway has requested to join the southern group.

Please contact Mike if you want to set up your own mutual inspection groups.

**Review of any Safety Incidents during the past 6 months**

There were no safety incidents reported

**2015 Brochure and Poster**

Mike Hanson handed out a copy of the new brochure to the members present. He noted that this year the print run had been increased to 55K and that the brochure was at its maximum with the 4 sides at the current membership. The size of the brochure would have to be increased if we gain more members.

Mike pointed out that he would be retiring at the end of the year and therefore not available to edit the brochure and poster next year. We need to appoint a new publisher at the Autumn Meeting. The major effort is the setting up and Mike is prepared to assist in any training the new person requires.

The posters and brochures were distributed after the meeting closed.

**Date and Venue of next meeting**

The venue for the Autumn General meeting was agreed last year and will be at the Beer Heights Light Railway in Pecorama. The date has not yet been set as it is essential that we don't have a clash as we had at this meeting with the HRA.

**AOB**

Maureen Atkinson has informed the board of her intention to retire at next year's AGM. BGLR is seeking a replacement Treasurer and if anyone is interested please contact the Chairman or myself.

Ron Stanbridge addressed the meeting to give them an update after the fire at the Fancott which destroyed the engine and carriage sheds of the railway. He said that the fire was believed to have started in the bins behind the pub's kitchen which then spread to the railway as well as destroying the kitchens. All of the railways rolling stock was destroyed and it is considered unlikely that anything can be resurrected.

Ron was overwhelmed by the offers of help he has received from our members and the public but until new sheds are built nothing can be stored at the Fancott and without the pub being open it is not really possible to run the railway. Ron has been told that the pub insurance covers the railway. Updates can be found at the Fancott's Facebook page.

Bob Trout asked the members present whether any of them who run in a council park had to have an annual track inspection. An annual inspection was not required at any of the members railways. Bob indicated that Kirklees was currently carrying out the inspection for him.

The meeting ended at 12.05.