



BRITAIN'S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS

Minutes of the 2016 Autumn General Meeting held at the Fancott Miniature Railway, Luton Road Toddington, Bedfordshire, LU5 6HT on Wednesday October 12th commencing at 11.00 am.

Railways represented

East Herts Miniature Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Fenn Bell Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Hambleton Valley Miniature Railway, Hastings Miniature Railway, Hotham Park Railway, Moors Valley Railway, Mortocombe Railway Society, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Stansted Park Light Railway, Swanley New Barn Railway, and Woking Miniature Railway.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman expressed his thanks, on behalf of the members, to Ron Stanbridge and his team for hosting the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also pointed out that Dan Radcliffe from the Hastings Miniature Railway was attending prior to his joining BGLR in 2017.

2. Apologies for Absence

Beer Heights Light Railway, Barnards Railway, Bekonscot Light Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Bure Valley Railway, Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Fairbourne Railway, Foxfield Miniature Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Great Laxey Mines Railway, Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway, Hollycombe Steam Museum, Kirklees Light Railway, Littlehampton Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Perrygrove Railway, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Rudyard Lake Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Summerfields Miniature Railway, Thompson Park Railway, Wells and Walsingham Railway and the Weston Park Railway

3. Minutes of the 2016 Spring General Meeting

The acceptance of minutes of the 2016 Spring General Meeting was proposed by Mr Roger Brown and seconded by Mr. W. Pearson and the resolution was carried unanimously

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes

5. Treasurers Report

Peter Jackson, Treasurer circulated an update of the current accounts

BGLR Mid-Term Accounts

Account Balances:

Current account: £231.35

Deposit account: £3358.23

TOTAL £3589.58

£237.18 less than this point last year

Expected Expenses:

HRA Subs - £290

Companies House - £13

General Expenses - £150

Forecast balance to carry forward **£3136.58**

Profit and Loss

The increase in costs associated with the poster and leaflet in terms of design and postage has seen the company expected to make a small loss of £350 this financial year compared to a profit last year. The final profit/loss will be dependent on the arrival of the subscriptions before January 2017.

6. Treasurer's Recommendation for Subscriptions

Subscriptions.

No need to change subscriptions from present level.

£65 for inclusion on the leaflet/poster

£30 for non inclusion on the leaflet/poster

Estimated income from subscriptions is £2,600 for 16/17 with an estimated outgoing not associated with HRA Passes £2,400

It was agreed at the last meeting, see minutes, that subscriptions for 2017 would be collected in November and as a result the Treasurer will be sending out renewal notices shortly. The reason for this change is so that we can confirm the number of railways on the poster and brochure before January.

7. Legislative Update and HRA Matters

Young Volunteers

I have included the relevant section from the previous minutes as this was the subject of much discussion at this meeting.

The HRA has issued a guidance note, Working with Young Volunteers which has been issued to all members. The key reason is that current legislation precludes young people from working on a railway. This legislation was passed in the 1920's and although revised since, the basis that young people cannot work on a railway is unchanged. The legislation was aimed at working full time on a mainline railway and the HRA wishes to change the legislation to allow young people to work on heritage railways and include Sunday working which is currently not allowed.

Iain is working with the HRA to add Miniature Railways to the Heritage Railways exclusion clause. There was then some discussion as to what is a heritage railway and the HRA needs to define that description.

The easiest solution would be that any member of the HRA would be included in the definition of Heritage Railway regardless of the age of the railway or rolling stock. If this was the case then BGLR members would automatically be included as we are members of HRA.

The key to employing young people on a railway is that every job they are asked to undertake has been subject to a risk assessment and that the young person has been trained to carry out the job with due regard to the risk assessment. It should be noted that all volunteers are considered by the HSE as employees and require the same training etc as full time employees.

Ian Wilson pointed out that Exbury Railway used Work Experience to allow young volunteers to work on the railway but that this has to be agreed and set up with the local council and the relevant schools

Railway Consumer Legislation

New consumer protection legislation will allow passengers to claim for the non running of trains. This could apply to pre-booked trains on our railways such as Santa Specials. All advertising should emphasise that train runnings are subject to weather and other operating conditions.

8. Request for copy for October Newsletter

Most railways will be running during the school half term and Halloween so I will delay the October Newsletter until the second week of November. Could you please let me have your articles and pictures by November 11th.

9. Review of web site

The website is receiving around 1000 hits per month increasing to 1,200 during the school holidays so it is important that your railway page is up to date. All of what's on your railway page can be changed at anytime by emailing me the new contents in .docx format with pictures attached as .jpg. If you need a new video it is much easier for me if you post it on You Tube and then I can link to it.

I will keep the members section as up to date as possible. You access the members section with the password Jim Haylock - The capitals and the space between the names is essential.

Paul Wenham from the Fenn Bell Railway noted that many of the links to the Safety and other forms on the website were broken. This resulted from the poor handover from the old website but I will check and replace as many as I can. Having a collection of Safety Check forms is a valuable contribution to the Members Area and I would ask all railways to send me a copy of their checklists so that I can include them on the website.

10. Review of any Safety Incidents during the past 6 months

RHDR

As has been reported widely in the National Press a tractor was hit by a RHDR engine which subsequently derailed. The tractor saw the train approaching and reversed at the last minute but left

the front counterweight overhanging the track which was hit by the engine. There were no injuries and the passengers were evacuated by a special bus. The incident occurred on a private farm crossing which had a telephone installed with the instruction that anyone crossing the line had to ring and find out if a train was due. The phone was not used prior to the incident and the HRE are investigating the actions of the tractor driver.

Fancott

There was an incident when a motorist opened the level crossing gates to the overflow carpark despite a train approaching and his car was brushed by the locomotive. The car was scraped but there was no consequences for the train. The gate is now kept locked and cannot be opened by the general public.

Fenn Bell

A passenger complained of people taking pictures of passengers on the railway and became very heated. It was pointed out, absolutely correctly, that people are allowed to take any pictures that they want in a public place.

11. 2017 Brochure and Poster

The 2017 poster will again be sponsored by Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway, for which many thanks from our members.

Some railways had run out of brochures prior to this meeting whilst some still had plenty left. Before finalising the brochure print run for 2017 I will email every railway asking them how many brochures they require. The standard number is 1,000 but that gives plenty of scope for railways to have more.

12. AOB

Mortcombe have removed their railway from Chilton Nursery but hope to have it up and running at their new location in May 2017

Peter Jackson will contact Grosvenor Park Railway to understand whether they will continue their membership following the passing of Stephen Hardin.

Eastleigh requested members to pass on their information on water treatment as they have recently made a change at their railway.

Date and Venue of next meeting

Ian Wilson has volunteered to host the AGM and Spring General Meeting at Exbury Gardens Railway. I have provisionally suggested March 29th as the date but if there are any known clashes with other railway meetings let me know and we can adjust accordingly

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm