



BRITAIN'S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS

Minutes of the 2016 Spring General Meeting held at the Bradford Arms, Ivetsy Road, Wheaton Aston, Stafford ST19 9QT, on Wednesday March 2nd at 11.15 hrs

Railways represented

Beer Heights Light Railway, Barnards Railway, East Herts Miniature Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Fenn Bell Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Hambleton Valley Miniature Railway, Littlehampton Railway, Moors Valley Railway, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rudyard Lake Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, Stansted Park Light Railway, Swanley New Barn Railway, Weston Park Railway and Woking Miniature Railway.

Welcome by the Chairman

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

Apologies for Absence

Bekonscot Light Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Bure Valley Railway, Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Fairbourne Railway, Foxfield Miniature Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Great Laxey Mines Railway, Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway, Hotham Park Railway, Hollycombe Steam Museum, Kirklees Light Railway, Mortocombe Railway Society, North Bay Railway Company, Perrygrove Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Summerfields Miniature Railway, Thompson Park Railway and the Wells and Walsingham Railway.

Minutes of the 2015 Autumn General Meeting

The acceptance of minutes of the 2015 Autumn General Meeting was proposed by Mr Roger Brown and seconded by Mr. P. Carpenter and the resolution was carried unanimously

Matters arising

(1) There was a comment in the Autumn meeting that the Wells and Warsingham railway had had a claim against them for hearing loss due to whistle noise. There were further discussions by the members on this subject but the overall view was that whistle noise was not continuous over an 8 hour working day and was therefore not affected by any noise regulation.

(2) Voluntary Railway Inspections

With the retirement of the instigator of the Voluntary Inspection Scheme, Mike Hanson, the Chairman posed the question of where were we going with this scheme in the future. A lively discussion ensued. The key points were:

- It must remain entirely voluntary as anything else could work against the BGLR
- The inspection should not be prescriptive but helpful forms etc are available from the website to aid in the inspection
- The report, if any, should only give guidance. Any report could be seen by HSE/HMRI in the event of an incident
- It was generally considered by the members that a new pair of experienced and independent eyes on a railway was a good thing and could improve both operations and safety.

The meeting decided that if the BGLR had a list of suitably Competent Persons then a railway could contact BGLR, a local Competent Person be identified and between them they could set up an inspection.

If you or someone on your railway fits the definition of Suitable Competent Person and is willing to carry out an inspection at a nearby railway please give their name and contact details to the Secretary so that he can begin producing such a list.

Peter Jackson will also look at the need for and cost of insurance to cover the activities of a Suitable Competent Person.

Treasurers Report

In the absence of Maureen Atkinson the Treasurer's report, which had been circulated to all members, was reviewed by Peter Jackson.

Treasurer's Report to Britain's Great Little Railways 2nd March 2016

Current Account Balance	462.93
Deposit Account Balance	3,700.76
Subscriptions outstanding Current Year	605.00
Subscriptions outstanding Previous Year	65.00
Total Funds	4,833.69

Expenses still to come in this Financial Year (estimated)

Companies House Fee (actual)	13.00
Leaflet postage	150.00
Heritage Railway Association Sub	330.00
Administrative Expenses	250.00
Total Expenses to come	743.00

Forecast Balance to Carry Forward **4,090.69**

This compares with £3,303 carried forward from 2015/16, which means we could anticipate a profit of approximately £787.69 this year against a profit of £1,095 in 2015/16.

Membership Subscriptions

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

Subscriptions paid:	33 @ £65 and 2 @ £35 = £2,215
Subscriptions part paid (£35 and £10)	£45
Subscriptions due Current Year: 8 @ £65, 1 @ £55 and 1 @ £30 =	£605
Subscriptions due Previous Year	£65

Total Subscriptions for 2016/17 £2,865 compared with £2,900 in 2015/16

Notes

1. One member is now paying by Standing Order. A Standing Order form is available from the Treasurer should other members like to pay by this means in future. The Standing Order will be set up to come out on 1st February each year.

Maureen E. Atkinson
2 March 2016

Legislative Update and HRA Matters

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.

April Newsletter

The editor requested copy for the April Newsletter which will be published mid April.

Review of new web site

The new website went live in the middle of December. Every railway is featured on the front page. Clicking on the railway name takes you to the railway page. This can be as long or short as you want with as many photos as you need. It features contact details, a video of the railway and a Facebook logo which takes you to the railway's official Facebook page. Some railways, e.g. Cleethorpes seem to have an unofficial Facebook page and I have not linked to them.

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

Review of any Safety Incidents during the past 6 months

There were no incidents to report in the last six months

2016 Brochure and Poster

The 2016 Posters and Brochures were distributed after the meeting to all members present plus to those who had arranged for theirs to be picked up.

This is my list of members who did not collect their posters and brochures and they will be sent out in the next week or so but definitely before the Easter Holidays. To keep postage costs down the posters will be folded into the brochure box. If your railway is not on this list please let me know as soon as possible. If any railway can pick them up from Moors Valley let me know.

Bekonscot Light Railway
Brookside Miniature Railway
Bure Valley Railway
Cleethorpes Coast light Railway
Exmoor Steam Railway
Fairbourne Steam Railway
Foxfield Miniature Railway
Great Laxey Mine Railway
Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway
Hotham Park Railway
Mortcombe Railway Society Ltd
Perrygrove Railway
Rhyl Miniature Railway
Sherwood Forest Railway
South Downs Light Railway
Strawberry Line Miniature Railway
Summerfields Miniature Railway
Thompson Park Railway

AOB

The meeting discussed the payment of subs with regards to the inclusion of the railway on the poster and brochure. The new Treasurer suggested that payment be made in November for the next subscription year. This would ensure that all subs were collected before the brochure went into production as last minute editing is very time consuming and it will also give us more time for proof reading and elimination of errors.

The proposal to move the subscription round to November but maintain the financial year at the end of January was proposed by Clive Upton and seconded by Roger Brown. The meeting carried the proposal unanimously.

Date and Venue of next meeting

Ron Stanbridge has volunteered to host the Autumn General Meeting at the Fancott Miniature Railway. I have provisionally suggested October 12th 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