



## **BRITAIN'S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS**

**Minutes of the 2017 Autumn General Meeting held at the North Bay Railway, Burniston Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 6PF on Wednesday October 11th at 11.00 am.**

### **Railways represented**

East Herts Miniature Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fenn Bell Miniature Railway, Fairbourne Steam Railway, Fenn Bell Miniature Railway, , Hambleton Valley Miniature Railway, Kirklees Light Railway, Moors Valley Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, Stansted Park Light Railway, Thompson Park Railway, Weston Park Railway, Whitfield Light Railway and Woking Miniature Railway.

### **Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman expressed his thanks, on behalf of the members, to David Humphries and his team for hosting the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman welcomed Ian Whitfield, our newest member, to the meeting and thanked Roger Griffiths for attending after the passing of his wife, Joyce, so suddenly soon after our last meeting.

### **Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Beer Heights Light Railway, Barnards Railway, Cinderbarrow Miniature Railway, Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Great Laxey Mines Railway, Hastings Miniature Railway, Hotham Park Railway, Rudyard Lake Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Summerfields Miniature Railway. Swanley New Barn Railway.

### **Railways that did not attend**

Bekonscot Light Railway, Bentley Miniature Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Bure Valley Railway, Foxfield Miniature Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Hollycombe Steam Museum, Littlehampton Railway, Mortocombe Railway Society, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway,

### **Minutes of the 2017 Spring General Meeting**

The acceptance of minutes of the Spring General Meeting was proposed by Mr I Wilson and seconded Mr. P. Wenham and the resolution was carried unanimously

## Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## Treasurer's Report

As the Treasurer was unable to attend due to work commitments, the Chairman circulated his report.

Treasurer's Report by Peter Jackson

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

After a lot of working through how these were calculated for previous the updated accounts are now below. A change to how we accrue in particular HRA passes has had to change in keeping with Companies House technical advice, which they were not happy with, this has thus seen a spike in the HRA passes for 2016/17 (previously HRA passes purchased in January would move to the following year accounts). It also highlighted a few minor calculation errors, these have been fixed and discussed with Companies House, These changes have been updated into the 2018 accounts, which I took advantage of Companies House technical advice to also work through. The updated accounts are now below and need approval.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
**ACCOUNT: YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
**JANUARY 2017**

	<b><u>2016/17</u></b>	<b><u>2015/16</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	2,694	2,900
HRA Passes	3,410	2,625
Interest on Deposit Account	11	14
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,115</b>	<b>5,539</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
HRA Subscription	318	300
HRA Passes	3,410	2,625
Production of Leaflets	1,936	1,300
Postage of Leaflets & Posters	262	-
Stationery, Copying	18	15
General Postage	-	18
Web site costs	140	173
Companies House Fee	13	13
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,098</b>	<b>4444</b>

<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,095</b>
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**BALANCE SHEET: YEAR ENDED**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2017**

	<b><u>2016/17</u></b>	<b><u>2015/16</u></b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Current assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	3,165	2,999
Current Account	2,015	1,518
Debtors: Printing prepaid & O/S subscription	-	1,401
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>5,918</b>
<b><u>Less: Current Liabilities</u></b>		
Prepayments: Subs and Inter Rail passes	1,860	2615
Creditors & Accrued Liabilities		
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>2,615</b>
<b>NET WORTH OF THE COMPANY</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>3,303</b>
<b>Capital fund</b>		
Amounts brought forward from previous years	3,303	2,208
Surplus/(Deficit)	17	1,095
<b>Carried forward to future years</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>3,303</b>

**For the present financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018,**

Our remaining expenditure based on previous years will be HRA Subscription (last year £318) and the companies House fee of £13

We are presently carrying a profit of £747, meaning we should excluding any un-expected costs see a profit in the region of £400.

The increase in profit is from two areas a small increase in membership, while printing and postage costs of the leaflets/posters has reduced.

It would be sensible to ensure we are not over producing leaflets, and it would be sensible to see which railways are not getting rid of leaflets, while others may need more, namely are we doing the leaflets efficiently.

HRA passes, this a pure pass through from and to the HRA which is a lot of organising on behalf of the treasurer, where the cost of postage of the passes from myself to members has been covered by a quantity of stamps received from previous treasurer. These have now run out. Should the BGLR pick up the cost of postage (ie a loss per postage bundle) or should we add a postage charge. It would not seem sensible to increase the membership fee as most railways do not take advantage of the HRA passes. Note I open the idea to the floor and I am not worried about the result but I think it is worth noting.

The bank balances are solid with £4,067 in the accounts, and I see no need for changing subscription charges, our most major expense in on the production of the leaflets, and unless this is expected to dramatically increase we should not need to increase our subscription costs.

I would remind members that all subs are due before the end of January to allow sufficient time for leaflet design to occur. I believe at the last meeting it was also noted that if a member has not renewed by the end of January 2018 then they will not be included in the poster and leaflet and the renewal will drop to the lower level of £35.

A proposal to accept the Report was made by Mr R. Trout and seconded by Mr W. Pearson and the meeting passed it unanimously. It was also agreed by the meeting that railways requesting HRA passes would pay the return postage

## **Legislative and HRA Update - Iain Dinnes**

### **HSG 216 Rewrite**

As reported in the minutes of the Spring GM a group has been set up to rewrite the now defunct HSG 216. The first edit of the new document should be made public early in the New Year. This will then be circulated to all members for their comments which will be fed back to the Committee

### **New Boiler Test Code to be issued by MELG later this year**

The Model Engineering Liaison Group will be issuing an update to their 2012 Boiler Test Code later this year. This **Code** does not affect any railway that uses an external boiler inspector, only railways carrying out their own boiler inspections should be aware of any possible changes to the Code.

### **Coal as a Banned Substance**

Ireland has banned the use of coal and now realise that this effects the Heritage Steam and other steam railways. They are trying to get the necessary derogation to cover these applications built in to the regulation.

This does not apply to the UK and the HRA is lobbying to ensure that any banning of coal in the UK does not include steam railways. This is considered unlikely in the medium term as there are still a handful of coal powered power stations still generating electricity in the UK.

### **Request for Copy for the October Newsletter**

To allow for half term and Halloween the October Newsletter will be published in the first week of November but please send me your articles as soon as you can.

### **Review of Website**

No comments or changes were received

### **Review of Safety Incidents for the last six months**

No incidents were reported

### **2018 Brochure and Poster**

Once again the Chairman requested a railway to volunteer to produce the 2018 brochure and poster and once again the request fell on deaf ears. If there is no member who is prepared to help out, then we will have to use a professional company to do it for us which will substantially increase our costs.

A request was made to identify the programme used to produce the Brochure since this may limit the availability of personnel capable of producing the document.

The poster will continue to be sponsored by Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway and the brochure run will continue at 50k.

The demise of our previous publisher was solely due to very late changes to their entries by members so could all members respond quickly and positively to any requests for info when they are sent out.

### **AOB**

There was no other business

### **Venue for 2018 AGM and Spring General Meeting**

The Chairman offered his railway, Moors Valley, as the venue which was accepted by the meeting. As Easter is at the end of March next year the proposed date is Wednesday 7th March. If anyone knows of any clashing dates would they please let me know before I finalise it.