



BRITAIN'S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS

**Minutes of 2017 Spring General Meeting held at Exbury Gardens Steam Railway Exbury,
Southampton, Hampshire, SO45 1AZ on Wednesday, March 29th at 11.15**

Railways represented

Beer Heights Light Railway, Barnards Railway, Bentley Miniature Railway, East Herts Miniature Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fenn Bell Miniature Railway, Fairbourne Steam Railway, Fenn Bell Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Hambleton Valley Miniature Railway, Hastings Miniature Railway, Hotham Park Railway, Hollycombe Steam Museum, Littlehampton Railway, Moors Valley Railway, Mortcombe Railway Society Ltd, Rudyard Lake Railway, South Downs Light 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 Ian Wilson 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, Cinderbarrow Miniature Railway, Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Foxfield Miniature Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Great Laxey Mines Railway, Kirklees Light Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Perrygrove Railway, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch, Sherwood Forest Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Summerfields Miniature Railway and the Thompson Park Railway

Minutes of the 2017 Autumn General Meeting

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

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Treasurers Report

Peter Jackson presented his report

Treasurer's Report to Britain's Great Little Railways 29th March 2017 (financial year 2017/18)

Current Account Balance	1,190.60
Deposit Account Balance	3,166.33
Subscriptions outstanding Current Year	65.00
Subscriptions outstanding Previous Year	0.00
Total Funds	4,421.93

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	150.00
Website	140.00
Total Expenses to come	783.00

Forecast Balance to Carry Forward **3,638.93**

This compares with £3,254 actual carried forward from 2016/17, which means we could anticipate a profit of 384.93 this year against a loss of £47.56 in 2016/17.

Noting last year had a higher cost for design and printing of the leaflets than this year.

Membership Subscriptions

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

Subscriptions paid:	28 @ £65 and 1 @ £35 = £1,820
Subscriptions due Current Year*:	14 @ £65 = £910
Subscriptions due Previous Year	£0

Total Subscriptions for 2016/17 £2,730 compared with £2,679 in 2016/17

*These were the subscriptions outstanding as of end of the financial, only 1 outstanding at present. (Now paid)

Peter A. D. Jackson
29 March 2017

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.

The Government are trying to enact this legislation by trying to include it in suitable bills rather than producing a new bill. Work on this is ongoing and is being monitored by the 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.

The HRA is also working with the relevant bodies to get a derogation for the use of coal on heritage and miniature railways

April Newsletter

The Newsletter will be delayed until after the 26th April to ensure that all railways have completed their Easter running. Your contribution is welcome at any time up to this date.

Review of web site

The "find a railway map" has been updated with the new members and every railway now has its picture on the location pin. If you don't like your picture send me another and I will change it.

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.

One of our members asked the members present if they had any information on a derailment that occurred on the Pembrey Miniature Railway as he had been unable to obtain any detailed information. No one at the meeting knew of the incident, (Subsequent to the meeting I discovered a little more From the BBC South West Website -

"Four people have been taken to hospital after a miniature passenger railway train derailed in Carmarthenshire.

The small train came off the tracks at Pembrey Country Park at about 12:30 BST on Thursday. The Welsh Ambulance Service said an adult and three children were taken to Glangwili General Hospital with injuries, which are not believed to be serious. Four adults and nine children were treated at the park for minor injuries.

Dyfed-Powys Police said the Health and Safety Executive was due to carry out an investigation."

It is very interesting to note that this incident was reported in the online editions of both the Telegraph and the SUN. I have no information on any HSE investigation

This railway is run by the Llanelli & District Model Engineers and operates ground level 5" and 7 ¼" track, and an elevated 3 ½" and 5" gauge track, at busy times both can be in use. There is no information on which track the incident occurred.)

John MacDougal gave an update on the incident that occurred at Beer Heights in July 2014 (NB - This is John's actual report)

A driver undergoing training in July 2014 was injured when the ¾ BSP taper fusible plug blew out of the firebox crown without warning. The driver suffered quite severe burns to his lower legs as a result of cinders and steam blowing out of the hinged ashpan flap, located in the drivers foot well, blowing open. The fusible plug had blown out completely but the lead in the fusible plug was still intact.

This loco had been steamed about 20 times during the season, prior to the accident which occurred at the end of the day just prior to the loco' returning to shed. There was only 60 p.s.i on the gauge and the fire was low. There had been no signs of water or steam leakage in the firebox during the day or when it was last checked, just before the accident.

The loco had been inspected by our boiler inspector in December 2013, internally, and March 2014, in steam. In both instances, it had been given a clean bill of health.

Inspection of the plug and the bush after the incident by Peco, the boiler inspector and an independent steam railway engineer, did not discover the cause of the plug inexplicably blowing out. Very minor corrosion was present within the part of the bush into which the plug located. The very crests of the two uppermost threads on the fusible plug were showed slight wear but neither of these facts were considered by any parties concerned to be contributory to the plug coming out.

The HSE carried out its own inspection and investigation and, as result, the boiler inspector was charged with failing to discharge his legal duties in terms of inspecting the engine and fulfilling his role as a "competent person". The HSE deemed that the railway had the correct procedures and practices in place and was not subject to any sanctions or restrictions.

After a three-day trial in November 2016 the boiler inspector was judged not guilty of any wrong doing by Exeter magistrates.

Following the accident, any Beer Heights Light Railway locomotives with firebox doors hinged at the bottom and normally retained in the closed position by gravity alone, were fitted with latches in order to mitigate the consequences of any failure within the fire box which might lead to a sudden and unexpected escape of steam.

The Exmoor built loco' which the plug blew out of has had the boiler removed and a new fusible plug bush fitted. The new bush is tapped 3/8 BSP as opposed to the 3/4 BSP taper thread of the original. The ashpan door within the drivers foot well is to be latched and the air holes in the door filled in before the loco returns to service

2017 Brochure and Poster

The 2017 Brochures and Posters were distributed to all members after the meeting along with a swapping of railway brochures. Brochures for Great Cockscrow were picked up by Littlehampton, RHDR by Hastings and Bickington by John Edmunds. The remainder will be posted to those members that could not attend the meeting.

Bekonscot Light Railway
Brookside Miniature Railway
Bure Valley Railway
Cinderbarrow Miniature Railway
Cleethorpes Coast light Railway
Fancott Miniature Railway
Foxfield Miniature Railway
Great Laxey Mine Railway
Kirklees Light Railway
North Bay Railway
Rhiw Valley Miniature Railway
Rhyl Miniature Railway
Sherwood Forest Railway
Shibden Miniature Railway
Strawberry Line Miniature Railway
Summerfields Miniature Railway
Thompson Park Railway

All remaining posters and brochures are located at Moors Valley, if there is any chance that you can pick them up from there please let me know

2018 Poster and Brochure

After two years producing the poster and brochure Mike Woron is no longer able to continue but has left me with a CD with all the artwork etc on it so there will be an excellent handover. BUT we are looking for someone to handover to - a volunteer please. Contact Jim or myself.

AOB

HSG 216

The following correspondence was received by BGLR

I write in my capacity as chairman of the Model Engineering Liaison Group (MELG).

You will be aware that HSG216, published in 2001 by HSE, provides guidance for the operation of passenger carrying miniature railways of up to 350mm gauge

One of our members, the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies, has been contacted by the Health & Safety Executive who advised that HSG216 has been withdrawn and that they are keen for a replacement document to be drawn up. The HSE have said that the reason it was withdrawn was because it was due for review and it did not fit the criteria to remain part of HSE's guidance suite. The resource was therefore not made available to do the work and it was withdrawn.

The HSE also said that if we choose to write some guidance for the industry we are at liberty to do so but HSE will not be involved and it will not be HSE guidance but if, when finished, we wish to get some HSE support in the form of a foreword or supporting statement this may be possible so long as the document conforms with HSE's guidelines for writing guidance. There was a caveat, if the guidance does not have the support of a considerable majority of the industry it is unlikely to receive such support.

At our meeting last week it was agreed that we form a sub-committee, chaired by myself, to undertake a re-write and that the sub-committee consist of two representatives from each of 10.1/4" Gauge Railway Society, 7.1/4" Gauge Society, Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies, Northern Association of Model Engineers and Midland Federation of Model Engineers plus representatives from the trade suppliers of locos, rolling stock, trackwork etc, and also operators of commercial miniature railways.

I have advised HSE that we are going to undertake a re-write and that the plan is for one guidance produced by, and for, the whole miniature railway fraternity

I have already secured two 'trade' representatives who are willing to join the MELG sub group. We are now looking for two commercial miniature railway operators to come on board, hence the reason for this email. Would it be possible for you to canvass BGLR members and ask if any would be interested in joining the sub group as representatives of the commercial miniature railway operators?

It is hoped to have the first sub group meeting mid week in mid/late April and the venue suggested is the clubroom of the Bedford Model Engineering Society

I hope that I have explained the situation in a clear manner but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get back to me

I look forward to hearing from you

Regards

Tony Wood

This was discussed at the meeting and the general consensus was that it was better to be on the inside if this was going to go ahead.

Iain Dinnes volunteered his railway as one representative and Peter Jackson volunteered his as the other

Date and Venue of next meeting

No member present volunteered his railway to host the Autumn General Meeting.

If any member is prepared to host the Autumn meeting would they please contact me. The timing is normally around the second week of October.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm