

**BRITAIN’S GREAT LITTLE RAILWAYS**

**Minutes of the 2018 Autumn General Meeting held at the Bure Valley Railway, Aylsham Station, Aylsham, Norfolk, NR11 6BW, on Wednesday October 10th at 11.00**

**Railways represented**

Bure Valley Railway, East Herts Miniature Railway, Evesham Vale Light Railway, Exbury Gardens Steam Railway, Fancott Miniature Railway, Ferry Meadows Railway, Hastings Miniature Railway, Hambleton Miniature Railway, Kirklees Light Railway, Hotham Park Railway, Moors Valley Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Swanley New Barn Railway, Weston Park Railway and Woking Miniature Railway.

**Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman, Iain Dinnes, thanked Andrew Barnes, Susan Munday and the rest of the Bure Valley team for organising the meeting and providing such beautiful weather for a train ride.

**Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Beer Heights Light Railway, Bekonscot Light Railway, Bentley Miniature Railway, Bickington Steam Railway, Barnards Railway, Brookside Miniature Railway, Cinderbarrow Miniature Railway, Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, Eastleigh Lakeside Railway, Exmoor Steam Railway, Fairbourne Steam Railway, Foxfield Miniature Railway, Great Cockcrow Miniature Railway, Great Laxey Mines Railway, Hollycombe Steam Museum, Littlehampton Railway, Mortocombe Railway Society Ltd, Rudyard Lake Railway, South Devon Miniature Railway, North Bay Railway Company, Rhiw Valley Light Railway, Rhyl Miniature Railway, Sherwood Forest Railway, Shibden Miniature Railway, Strawberry Line Miniature Railway, Summerfields Miniature Railway, South Downs Light Railway, Thompson Park Railway and the Whitfield Light Railway

**Minutes of the 2018 Spring General Meeting**

The acceptance of minutes of the 2018 Spring General Meeting was proposed by Jim Haylock and Paul Cook and the resolution was carried unanimously

**Matters arising**

**HSG 216 Replacement**

The draft of the rewrite of HSG 216 was circulated to all members for comments. Many comments were received up and until the deadline date.

The HSE contact on the Committee has changed and a new person has been appointed who has asked for more time to review the draft. He has also questioned why the new document cannot use relevant paragraphs from the original document and has referred this to the HSE for comment.

The proposed review meeting has therefore been delayed and as yet no date has been set for this meeting.

There were no other matters arising.

**Treasurer's Report**

BGLR is heading for a small(£350) profit for the year due to lower postage and printing costs than last year. As a result the Treasurer recommended that no change to subscriptions were necessary.

HRA passes

Peter reminded the meeting that railways should honour these HRA passes on their railway and that members applying for them next year would be charged for the return postage,

**Legislative and HRA Update - Iain Dinnes**

The HRA is still pushing to change the 1920's Childrens Act so that children aged between 14 and 16 can work on Heritage Railways. The All Party Parliamentary Report on the matter is [here](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59f1c5ec51a58457c01eaed0/t/5b5078ad8a922dd648dc87b3/1532000435684/APPGHR%2Breport%2Bon%2BYoung%2BPeople%2Band%2BHeritage%2BRailways%2B19-07-18.pdf)

The HRA is working on a derogation for steam railways from the potential banning of bituminous coal in the UK but there is no specific activity to report. Bure Valley have very recently spoken to Hargreaves, their coal supplier who stated that they have at least 10 years supply. (but the supply would of course be dependent on the legislation)

**Request for Copy for the April Newsletter**

Due to the Half Term and the fact that many railways are operating Halloween trains the Newsletter will be delayed until mid November. The deadline for articles for inclusion in the Newsletter will be November 7th

**Review of Website**

There was considerable discussion on the essential role of Facebook in promoting individual railways and how a BGLR page could link to them all. No one at the meeting knew if this was possible but the Chairman requested that Rob Hart our new Director and an IT boffin could look into the possibility of a BGLR Facebook page.

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

**Tripping Hazard**

The Fancott railway who reported a claim for a trip when crossing a level crossing reported back that the Council accepted that it their responsibility and not the railway.

**Tipping of Sit Upon Carriages**

It was generally agreed that sit upon carriages are very difficult to tip unless the passenger makes a special effort such as standing up or deliberately swaying. Suitable announcements or prominent notices are required to help prevent this happening and also to protect the railway in the event of an incident. There was a discussion on narrow and wide footplates on the carriages. The wide footplates can be a hazard in themselves as passengers use them to lever themselves off the carriages but can be safer when travelling. It was suggested that a railway with narrow footboards should have a risk assessment carried out which indicates that they consider this to be the safest option.

**2019 Brochure and Poster**

Jim Haylock has a lot of undistributed posters and brochures available at his railway. Please contact if you require more for your railway.

The meeting agreed that the print run for 2019 should be reduced to 40k

It was also agree that as the brochure and poster did not have a prominent year date on them that they could also be used in 2019 to supplement any shortfall from the lower print run.

**Closure of Brookside Miniature Railway after 38 years of operation**

As a founding member of BGLR it was noted that Chris Halsall has had to close Brookside Miniature Railway after 38 years of operation due to the termination of his lease. All of his rolling stock have found new homes and the memorabilia which surrounded the track is being auctioned off.

Their Facebook page stated the following:

Thank you for all your support over the 38 years our final train left at 1530 on the 2nd September.
WE ARE NOW CLOSED END OF AN ERA

**AOB**

Jim Haylock noted that Tinkerbelle was 50 years old this year and celebrated by being at the Tyseley Works 50th year celebration on 29/30th September where it was first unveiled. It was also subject to celebrations the weekend before at Moors Valley Railway.

**Venue for 2019 AGM and Spring General Meeting**

Offers to hold this meeting came from

Cleethorpes Coast Railway

Fancott Miniature Railway

Thompson Park Railway

Hastings Miniature Railway

The Chairman and the Directors will decide on the venue considering the need to have the maximum possible distribution of brochures and posters to reduce BGLR costs.

The meeting closed at 12.15