Risborough & District Model Railway Club

Draft Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 10 November 2017 at the Risborough Community Centre.

Present:- Tim Peacock President

Paul Wright Chairman

Richard Neil Secretary

James Aitken Treasurer

Plus 35 Full members.

1 **President's opening address**

Tim noted the good progress made over the year with the two Club layouts – Okehampton and Aylesbury Town. There had also been progress on the future Club room with the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in April giving the project team approval to apply for charity status (which had been successful) and to take forward discussions with Princes Risborough School. Another highlight was the enhancement of the Morris photographic collection. The *circ*a 2000 photographs had been catalogued, digitalised and uploaded onto the website – thanks to Ray Gomm, Ant Mead and James Aitken. Tim also noted the sad passing of Robin Lane and Phil Baxendale and thanked members for their help with the sale of Phil's model railway items which had raised around £4000.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Graham Bucknell, Michael Lane, Neil McKinnon, Ken Harris, Russell Burridge, Ted Smale, Ollie Morrill, Roger Noble, Ray Gomm, Kevin Wood, David Cooper and Daniel Riddoch.

3 Approval of EGM minutes

Agreed without change.

4 Matters arising

All items were covered by the agenda

5 Chairman's report

Paul commented on the loss of Phil Baxendale and, in particular, the significant contribution he had made to raising the quality of modelling in the Club and his sense of humour which would be much missed.

This was the first AGM since the Club had gained charitable status. Paul explained that on a day to day basis members would not notice any significant differences. The main changes affected the Club's governance arrangements with the need for an annual report to the Charity Commission (starting in 2018) and more regular, better structured trustees' meetings. The schedule for these meetings could be found in Footplate and the diary section of the Club website, the reports of the meetings are posted in the members' area.

The annual Railex and Risex exhibitions had been of the usual high quality – with thanks to all those involved in helping to make them a success. The Open Day had

also gone very well with modelling demonstrations and Okehampton and Aylesbury Town being worked on.

The annual Wheeltapper competition had seen a wide range of entries from across the membership. It was great to see the high standard of modelling and the sharing of experience and knowledge. It would be good to see even more entries particularly in the less well represented modelling categories – possibly, more weathered models following the successful weathering workshops! More of these workshops were planned and anyone interested should contact Mick Moignard for details. There was a positive response to the idea of scenic workshops on grass and tree making.

Paul noted that Richard was standing down as Secretary after 21 years and thanked him for his, often unseen, contribution to the smooth running of the Club. Ant Mead was also thanked for his behind the scenes work on exhibition publicity, the Club website, arranging social events etc. On the latter, Pete Joels was working on a Club trip to the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway next October.

6 Secretary's report

Currently there are 60 Club members (53 Full, 1 Student and 6 associates). There had been some non-renewals mainly due to Friday evening meetings being inconvenient.

Ken Harris would be taking over as membership Secretary and, unfortunately, the transfer of responsibilities had led to delays in the distribution of 2017/2018 membership cards. A folder had now been placed in the Club room which contained a range of forms, including membership forms, as well as copies of the Constitution, Club Rules and Vulnerable Persons Policy.

Richard concluded by saying that after 21 years he had decided to step down as Secretary. There was a vote of thanks for Richard's contribution as Secretary.

7 Treasurer's report

This was James' first year as Treasurer and he thanked Neil Fairbairn and David Powell for their help. Key figures from the 2016/17 accounts were:- annual income ≈ £31000; annual surplus ≈ £3000; income from Risex ≈ £1400; income from Railex ≈ £8000 and an overall cumulative surplus of ≈ £60000. Attendance at Railex was down reduced income was more than offset by better controlled and reduced costs.

James advised that payments to and from the Club should be preferably by bank transfer.

In response to a question about charging for materials used for laser cutting, James said many members brought their own materials; for the rest. the costs were generally minimal and not worth charging. The cost of running the machine was small and not charged. Tim pointed out that the Club had produced some items (e.g. servo mounts) which were available for sale at exhibitions etc. and this generated some income.

8 Subscription rates

This will be £70 for Full membership (£35 for Students and Associates) from April 2018. In the light of progress on a new Club room, this will be reviewed in August 2018 with any in-year change applying from October 2018 to March 2019. It was confirmed that this level subscription was set to cover expected basic running costs (mainly room rental).

9 Election of President

Tim's 3 year term had now been completed. Tim was willing to stand again and there were no other nominations. **Tim was re-elected President**.

10 Election of trustees

In line with the Constitution, all current trustees' periods of office expired at the 2017 AGM. Nominations for trustees were received for:-

Paul Wright, James Aitken, Roy Norton, Mick Moignard, Ant Mead, Richard Neil and David Lane.

All were agreed. (Note: the Constitution requires that, from 2018 onwards, one third of the trustees shall retire each year. They may stand for reappointment.)

11 Election of Officers and Members' Representatives

Nominations received for:-

Paul Wright – Chairman

James Aitken – Treasurer

Roy Norton – Secretary

Mick Moignard, Richard Neil, Ant Mead and David Lane - Members' Representatives.

All agreed.

12 Exhibition reports

12.1 Railex. 2017 was David Lane's 13th year as exhibition manager. He reported another very good year with good feedback. Thanks to all members for their help with special thanks to Richard Neil and Ant Mead. Planning for 2018 was well underway and David was already booking layouts for 2020. Help from club members was always welcome – the more the merrier! For 2018, there was a particular need for help with the bus team as some of the regular family members would not be available.

In response to questions about future costs, David and Richard noted that costs had reduced rather than increased. James said as a charity the Club could now ask for VAT on advertising purchases to be zero rated. Zero rating may also apply to hall hire **(To be investigated)**.

12.2 Risex. Adrian Harford said this had produced a modest surplus of ≈ £1400. The main issue was limited space and finding traders. Layouts were booked for next year but changes at our regular caterers meant we would be looking for new suppliers.

There was a discussion about the possibility of a further Club exhibition tied in with the 2018 Risborough Festival. Francis Gomme advised that the Trustees of the Centre would confirm asap whether the charities who decided to relocate from the Centre on Festival Saturday 2017 were planning to return in 2018. He was pleased that the club had been able to exploit this opportunity and hoped that space could be offered again next year. The Centre Trustees would be in touch as soon as this matter was resolved and also when the actual date in July is confirmed by the Town Council. It would not be appropriate for the Club to charge for such an exhibition (as the rooms would be provided f.o.c.) but it could charge for refreshments. **Trustees to consider.**

13 Layout reports

13.1 Okehampton James reported that there had been plenty of activity on the layout in the run up to the Binfield exhibition. Much of the work had been carried out in James' shed on weekdays. While some fettling could now be carried out on Club nights and scenic items would continue to be worked on, further significant work would await the time when the layout could be set-up in the new Club room. Rob Thompson drew attention to the imminent auction of an Okehampton station sign.

13.2 Aylesbury Town Steve Lovett said progress had been continued on the basis of Phil Baxendale's strategic plans. Priority had been given to laying the fiddle yard tracks and stock was now running on 5 or 6 boards. Next step was to work on the track for the scenic boards and, over the next 12 months, have the layout ready as a 'work in progress' for Risex 2018 and a future Scaleforum. Anyone interested in getting involved in the project would be very welcome.

13.3 Aylesbury LNWR Nothing to report.

13.4 Test track Richard Neil drew attention to the new storage trolley (thanks to Ken Harris).

14 Future Club room

Roy Norton briefly explained the background for new members and, in particular, the decisions taken at the April EGM. Since then the Club had successfully applied for charitable status. This would provide a number of benefits including an 80% discount on building rates. This provided a good degree of certainty on the financial viability of the project.

Progress with the School had been delayed by a complication around the plot of land identified for the Club room. The School was in the process of applying for planning permission for new buildings which would not, in themselves, affect our plans. However, the highways department wanted to include a turning circle on the 'Club room' plot. The School were opposed on cost and safety grounds and had been successfully trialling an alternative drop-off arrangement which it was proposing to the highways department but it was likely that it would take some time to resolve this issue. The project team planned to meet the school in December to take stock and plan the way ahead. This was a standing item at the regular trustees' meetings and the update reports were posted in the members' area of the Club website.

15 Club equipment

Paul said there had been no major purchases; the main items were drill bits. Any ideas for new equipment should be given to Paul. James was compiling an inventory for depreciation and asset value purposes.

16 Footplate

Paul was pleased with the contributions he had received but there was always room for more! So keep them coming, photos, model reviews, 'how to' projects etc.

17 Any other business

Ant reminded everyone of the **Christmas dinner** on 14 December and the 17 November deadline for payment and menu choices.

He also highlighted the **Morris collection** as a reference source. It covered locos and rolling stock from many railway companies and provided a valuable modelling

aid. Members wishing to use the photos could request a copy (from Ant) without watermark provided it was for private non-commercial use.

Mick Moignard drew attention to the **2022 NMRA Convention** in Birmingham – only the second time it had been held outside the USA. This would be a week-long event with exhibitions, visits, demonstrations, presentations etc. It was not just concerned with US models and prototypes; layouts, demonstrations etc. from UK modellers would be very welcome.

18 Pendennis Trophy

Nominations had been received for Richard Neil (long term contribution as Club Secretary), Phil Baxendale (significant contribution to the Club) and Roy Norton (for work on future Club room and the application for charitable status). The Trophy was awarded to Roy Norton.

19 Date of 2018 AGM

This will be Friday 9 November 2018

Tim Peacock	Roy Norton
President	Club Secretary