RISBOROUGH & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 14 November 2025

Present: Rob Thompson (President), Paul Wright (Chairman), Roy Norton (Secretary), other Trustees (Mick Moignard, Gary Day, & Richard Neil) & 29 members.

PART 1 - GOVERNANCE

1. Introduction - President

Rob opened the meeting by noting there were a pleasing number of new members who were attending an AGM for the first time. He took the opportunity to introduce himself and the Club Trustees. Overall, it had been a busy year for the Club. There had been impressive progress with the museum layout at Quainton led by Ken Harris and Ric Lee and this was on schedule to be operational for Easter. Elsewhere at Quainton Paul Wright and others had been operating Aylesbury LNWR for the public virtually every Sunday. The story of establishing permanent Club premises at Quainton continued to be a mixture of highs and lows which would be discussed later in the meeting. The Club had run three very successful exhibitions, in terms of feedback and financially, at Railex, Risex and Haddenham. And Club workshops e.g. on tree making and DCC continued to be popular. Karl Crowther had been the guest speaker and judge at the annual Wheeltapper evening. Karl had presented the trophy to the overall winner, James Aitken, for his O gauge Rectank. The next Wheeltapper would be on 20 March 2026 and Gordon Gravett would be guest speaker and judge. Finally, Club funds were very healthy and we were well placed to fund the new premises project.

2. Apologies for absence received

Tim Peacock, James Aitken, Russell Burridge, Steve Lovett, Neill Dewar, David Lane, John Compton, Francis Gomme, David Moore, Roy Seawood and Graham Bucknell.

3. Approval of the 2024 AGM minutes

Agreed.

4. Chairman's annual report (for the Charity Commission)

The report was presented without comment.

5. Treasurer's report

Mick, on behalf of James, presented the 2024/25 accounts. Overall available funds were around £100K. The exhibitions (Haddenham, Risex and Railex) all contributed to the Club funds with significant funds being generated by our second-hand sales. A special vote of thanks was given to the second-hand team.

6. Election of Trustee

The re-election of Mick Moignard was agreed.

7. Change to Club Rules

It was **agreed** to change the age at which junior members require adult accompaniment from 18 to 16 to align with other similar organisations (e.g. BRC and High Wycombe MRS).

PART 2 – OTHER BUSINESS

1. Future premises – Roy Norton

Roy referred to the previously circulated update note and set out a brief history of the search for permanent premises. Over the last 10 years our plans for a building at Princes Risborough School had fallen through when the Department of Education changed the rules and banned the lease of any school land and our plans for a new building at the Bucks Railway Centre (BRC) were rejected on heritage grounds. More recently, BRC had stepped in and offered us the 'Brixton' building but this had not progressed due to the changing funding priorities of the lease holder (Winwood Trust). So, disappointing and frustrating but BRC had now proposed another option - half of an existing 'Romney' building which was expected to become available at Easter 2026. The Trustees considered this was now the best long-term option available.

The question was raised, given the history of the project at BRC, how likely the Trustees thought the Romney building option would actually materialise. Roy said the Trustees believed that BRC were acting in good faith and genuinely wanted to help the Club establish permanent premises at Quainton. We already had an agreement for the coach (housing Aylesbury LNWR) and the storage palvan which was working very well and there were plans for other collaborative projects e.g. setting up layouts in the museum warm space. It was true that timings for the new premises had proved overly optimistic and experience suggested that the timescales needed to be treated with caution, particularly as these were not entirely within QRS' control. As for the Romney building option, it remained to be seen how it would progress but with no viable alternative the Club had nothing to lose, apart from time, by letting it play out.

2. 2026 Forward look - Chair

Layouts

Aylesbury LNWR had been set up as a permanent exhibit at BRC and had been very successfully operated on most public Sundays. Many Club members had contributed to the layout refurbishment e.g. by building rolling stock, locos, signals, scenic items etc. and 18 members had helped operate the layout. Around 1000 members of the public had seen the layout running and heard the about the history of the model and the prototype including how the railway had contributed to the local economy and society. Copies of Bob Williams book, kindly donated by Wild Swan, were available for sale. Paul invited anyone interested in operating the layout to contact him. Paul received a vote of thanks for his work on the project.

Ken Harris and Ric Lee were working on a **fun layout for public** (children) in the museum at BRC. This would be in memory of QRS member Peter Lovegrove whose family had bequeathed a large amount of Peter's model railway items. This had been supplemented by contributions from the Club and BRC. While Ken and Ric were leading on constructing the layout other Club members had contributed by building kits and other scenic items as well as the electronics to provide the automatic control.

Mellin Parva continued to be exhibited and would now feature a new boat for the harbour area.

BRC had offered the Club the use of the warm space in the museum, January – March 2026, and Gary Day and James Aitken were planning to take advantage of this to set up and work on **Aylesbury P4** and **Okement Quarry**, respectively.

Okement Quarry had been exhibited at the O Gauge Guild's Kempton Park show and at Haddenham.

The **Test Track** was working well and was now set up at regular 6-week intervals. Richard thanked Aidrian Garnett for his help on Club nights and, in turn, Richard received a vote of thanks for storing and managing the test track. It was agreed that provision should be made to allow operation by smart phone.

2026 Exhibitions

Plans for Risex (February), Railex (May) and Haddenham (September) were all progressing. A new permanent manager for Risex was still needed. Roger Noble reported that **Railex 2026** would have 22 layouts of which 8 would be large. There would also be a new website. The financing this year would be very tight as the usual Olympic Lodge accommodation would not be available and the alternative hotel accommodation was about 35% more – an increase equivalent to last year's surplus. We would be looking to optimise our publicity, particularly locally, to maximise visitor numbers. A strategy was being developed for the new year and there would be a call for volunteers to help with the publicity (if every member found one other person to attend the exhibition it would raise £1000).

Bob Evans was standing down as Chief Steward (and rota organiser) for Railex and Risex. The meeting thanked Bob for his contribution over many years. A vacancy now exists (contact Tim if you are interested).

Possible future N gauge project – This had been a suggested by email. If there is sufficient interest this can be followed-up (contact Paul).

Workshops

Workshops on DCC and tree making had been well received. Future courses on signalling (by Jennifer Chybalski) are planned. Andrew David had given a talk on Uppingham at Shildon and there would shortly be a YouTube video.

3. Any other business

Subscription rates - will remain unchanged for the 2026/27 year at £11 per month (£132 per annum) for full members, and £66 per annum for Students/Associates.

Christmas Dinner - will take place on Friday 5 December at the Red Lion, Longwick.

Footplate - Paul Wright welcomed more articles from members for Footplate (particularly modelling articles).

5. Pendennis Trophy

The trophy was awarded jointly to Ken Harris/Ric Lee and John Ashby for their work on the BRC museum layout and Aylesbury LNWR, respectively.

Date of 2025 AGM - Friday 13 November 2026.

Roy Norton

November 2025