

Preston & District Model Railway Society

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 31st October 2022 at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Meeting started at 1930. There were 17 members in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John Farnden, Paul Gaskarth, Kevin Truby, Neville Davis, Martin Sutcliffe, Ian Robinson, Phil Holgate, Phil Grosse.

2. The minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated to members by e-mail previously, and had been on the web site for several months, giving everyone a chance to read them for approval.

Les pointed out the date of the previous exhibition was wrong; the minutes say 2019, should be 2020. [*Secretaries note: Now corrected and uploaded*]

Approval: Proposed Les, seconded Andy J. Accepted unanimously.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

4. Chairman's report

Good evening and welcome to another AGM.

First of all I would like to apologise for the length of last year's meeting but we had to conform to the club rules, however I am sure that now we have an up to date set of rules in place these have, and will be checked at convenient interludes between each AGM and then any amendments brought to the AGM for approval, or not.

Also, just to inform you all that the Treasurer will not be attending as his wife is very poorly in hospital. I will attempt to read out the financial report which has been audited and answer questions as best as I can.

In early December 2021 we were contacted to see if we were interested in a railway collection, Andy and myself went to visit and we were impressed by what was available.

We reported back to the Committee and it was agreed that we should obtain everything.

Over a weekend in early December 2021 a few of the members went to the property and removed it all bringing it back to the club rooms and to those concerned we are very grateful.

We have made a substantial profit for the club in what we sold to members and at the exhibition.

The P4 layout will be retained by the club and a full overhaul is being undertaken, this was at our exhibition in 1996, as to the "0" gauge layout this has been taken apart and as much as possible salvaged. The future of the "0" gauge is still to be determined.

Christmas quiz was well attended and thanks to Dave Winder for getting the lush mince pies, thanks to Bill Taylor for setting the, as usual interesting quiz questions and congratulations to Ian Robinson for scoring most points.

In February we held a quick EGM to ratify all the changes to the club rules and these were approved by the membership.

Once again, a great deal of gratitude must be given to Les for another outstanding exhibition and to all members for their assistance in both set up and dismantling.

Les will give a report on the exhibition later on in the meeting and hopefully, an update on next year's exhibition.

The sad news was that prior to the exhibition we lost one of our longstanding and valued members with the passing of Alan Jackson. He was instrumental in the formation of the "N" gauge group and the construction of the club layouts in that scale. He also gave valuable assistance and guidance to any member working in that scale and was also Auditor for the club accounts.

A good representation was made at his funeral even though it clashed with the setting up of the exhibition and he will be greatly missed by the club.

I spent quite a bit of time at home finishing off the access ramps and steps to the platforms on Euxton Junction which Bill Taylor started, between us I think we have made a convincing representation.

A link has been made on Euxton to give access to the fiddle yard from the Chorley/Manchester branch this should give better operational potential especially at exhibitions.

A clean up and a few alterations have been undertaken in both of the side rooms, the junior layout and the test track dismantled again thanks to those concerned, the test track will be re-located in an area yet to be determined.

Work has at last started on the construction on the new "N" gauge layout and steady progress is being made.

Progress is also being made on the full upgrade of the P4 layout.

Changes have been made in the Committee room giving better access to the vast collection of books and DVD's.

As you will have noticed the club rooms are now well illuminated with new light fittings, thanks to all concerned in purchase and fitting of same.

It is hoped that the entrance area floor will be made safe by the Landlord.

We have over the past twelve months welcomed new members to the club and I trust that you have found us a warm and welcoming bunch of modellers that can offer advice and assistance to any problems you may have.

Information for the new members is that the annual fees are to maintain the running of the club rooms as we cannot rely on the exhibition having in the past had these cancelled and incurred financial losses.

Exhibitions attended by our members in the past twelve months

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| <i>30-31/Oct/2021</i> | <i>Great British Model Railway Show at Gaydon</i> | <i>Great Endon – Jeremy Davidson</i> |
| | | <i>Coketown – Dave Pallant</i> |
| | | <i>Falahill – Karl Smith</i> |
| <i>29-30/Jan/2022</i> | <i>Kendal Exhibition</i> | <i>Coketown – Dave Pallant</i> |
| | | <i>Upper Cwmtwych – Les Nerlich</i> |
| <i>12-13/Feb/2022</i> | <i>Festival of British Railway Modelling</i> | <i>Alderford – Carl Bowden</i> |
| <i>5-6/Mar/2022</i> | <i>Preston Exhibition</i> | <i>Great Endon – Jeremy Davison</i> |
| | | <i>Lily Lane – Les Nerlich and Grand daughter</i> |
| | | <i>Eric Farragher – Demonstrations</i> |
| <i>23-24/Jul/2022</i> | <i>DEMU Sutton Coldfield</i> | <i>Euxton Junction - PDMRS Club</i> |
| <i>10-11/Sep/2022</i> | <i>Leigh</i> | <i>Alderford – Carl Bowden</i> |
| <i>24-25/Sep/2022</i> | <i>Stafford</i> | <i>Euxton Junction – PDMRS Club</i> |
| <i>1-2/Oct/2022</i> | <i>Wigan</i> | <i>Great Endon – Jeremy Davison</i> |
| <i>29-30/Oct/2022</i> | <i>Gaydon</i> | <i>Alderford – Carl Bowden</i> |

And many exhibitions attended by Les with layouts at some - and showing his demonstration skills at others, this also gives him the opportunity to maintain his contact with other exhibitors and traders.

Thanks go to those members who take their own layouts out to the exhibitions which not only show their own modelling skills but represent the club, also thanks should go to other members who assist with the running of the layouts.

An article is being produced and sent to BRM magazine for publication, it is hoped it will be an issue prior to our 2023 exhibition, accompanying photographs were taken at the Stafford exhibition last month.

Hopefully the next twelve months will see the club progress further and that we have yet another successful exhibition.

Questions and comments

There were no questions.

5. Exhibition report

Exhibition 2022

This year's exhibition, although a little down on numbers, still made a profit for the club. From these profits we were able to buy:

- *Replacements lighting throughout the club rooms*
- *Track and equipment for the N gauge and OO gauge layouts*
- *Laser levelling equipment for setting up layouts*
- *Numerous small items as needed*

It should be noted that we cannot spend all the account as I still need to have funds in the account for 2023 Exhibition; before we get anyone through the door I have to lay out about £6,000 up front (hotel, publicity, insurance, tables, etc.), and after the exhibition there is £2,500 for the hall and about £1,800 for food.

Exhibition 2023

We have 20 layouts booked in various scales and gauges, two new traders (Sawyers Models and Train Stuff, three demonstration stands and three society stands – 48 stands in total, or 50 if you include the refectory and our information desk.

If you have any second hand to sell see Chris or Ian.

Questions and comments

There were no questions.

Treasurer's report

Firstly, my apologies for not being present today. My wife was recently taken seriously ill and admitted to Blackpool Victoria Hospital on Thursday afternoon. I had to stay all night on Thursday with her whilst she underwent several tests. She has lots of tests and treatment still ongoing and is unlikely to be out of hospital before Friday.

Her health is important to me, and I do think I should be visiting her at the Vic tonight rather than attend this meeting, important as it is.

The committee will be my spokesmen tonight, so please be gentle with them. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have; any they can't answer will be emailed to me and I will personally answer them.

But I would suggest you read the minutes of last year's AGM, as a number of questions were answered there.

We currently have 41 members.

If everyone pays subs at their current rate for one full year, total received will be £6876

Total rent for year will be £4545, water will be £426, Electricity (Projected) £780, although Landlord says this could be as much as £1300 or more, depending on Government decisions etc. Club Room Insurance £314, Building Insurance £539, Fire Extinguishers £200 (?) So, projected total for 22/23 £6804 (depending on electricity).

The Bank Balance (as at 31/08/2022) was £6657.23 (balance at of 31/08/21 was £6653.54.) Remember our subs dropped to £4338 in 20/21 and £4724 in 19/20 due to Covid, members not paying/joining etc. We still paid some electricity, full rent, and insurance, although no water in 2020, but this is back up and running again on standing order.

We appointed a new auditor in 2021. Stuart Gray was recommended to us by Barclays Bank. He is an ex-accountant who already audits some large accounts, including a large church in Lytham. He is a magistrate, chairman on benches at Preston and Blackpool, and was awarded an MBE for charity work in Gambia and the UK. He does not charge us a fee.

He has pointed out that a copy of the accounts signed by me and him should be given to our Bank after the AGM.

Questions and comments

Tom commented that we count as a business, so should not expect the cap on energy prices to apply.

Variation in costs for fire extinguishers was discussed. This was because some years they just need inspection, other years they need to be serviced.

Someone asked why there was a large expenditure on layouts in the accounts as this is done via the exhibition account. This is a hangover from when all such expenditure went through the club account, which then claimed back from the exhibition account.

JW raised the issue of raising subscriptions. This is deemed necessary because of rising prices across the board, but especially electricity. A rise to £18/m for full members, £13.50 for seniors and £9/m for juniors was proposed.

Approval: Proposed Les, seconded Jeremy. Accepted unanimously.

6. Auditor's report

[*Secretary's note:* In my view this was not the proper report; it was however the best we had in the absence of the treasurer.]

Thank you for our long chat yesterday, I do hope that you understand what went wrong with last year's accounts.

Basically, you took the ending bank account balance as at 6th September 2021, which according to your bank statement for that date would be correct. But.....your accounts end on 31st August and START on 1st September., so you included 6 extra days in those accounts. An easy mistake to make, but not entirely correct, as it causes problems with the next year's accounts, especially with subs. The 21 to 22 subs include 6 days of subs which

were already included in the 20 to 21 subs, and as quite a few members appear to pay on the 1st of each month, that is quite a lot of money.

To get around this, I have made a note on the appropriate bank balance and the subs for this year's accounts. We cannot go back, only with an explanation, as last year's accounts were accepted (and audited, although I understand the previous auditor was very sick).

So, an easy mistake, not rectified for last year but explained for this.

Questions

There were no questions.

8. Exhibition Treasurer's Report

The exhibition treasurer presented the exhibition accounts.

A discrepancy was noted, spotted during auditing, regarding the second hand stall. We took about £6,000. This should translate as about £600 to the account. For reasons as yet unclear, the spreadsheet took this as £1870.

This was the first exhibition where card payments were allowed. We did have an issue that at £5,000 is stopped working as it required verification. Fortunately this was later on on Sunday. Verification has now been done, and this will not be an issue in the future. The card costs were about £80 (0.7%).

An issue to be aware of is we may not have enough cash for paying layouts; Daryl said he would withdraw £2k in advance to cover this.

Questions and comments

Jeremy suggested paying layouts directly into their accounts, and this was discussed at some length, but it was felt cash was the preferred option.

There was a query about different amounts for layouts appearing in the accounts. This was due to one being an estimate and the other the actual amount.

9. Election of committee members

The positions of chairman, secretary and treasure were unopposed, and given to the current incumbent in each case.

There were six candidates for the unspecified committee positions. After secret ballot, Carl Bowden, Tom Springett, Chris Wilkes and Dave Pallant were duly elected.

10 AOB

There were no AOB.