

Preston & District Model Railway Society

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 1st October 2018 at 7:30 pm

Minutes

Meeting started at 1930. There were 25 members in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ian Robinson, Mark Hill, Luke Ryan.

2. The minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM had been on the notice board six weeks and the web site for several months, giving everyone a chance to read them for approval.

Proposed: *Les* Seconded: *Ray*

They were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

4. Chairman's report

This has been an interesting last 12 months for the club with events that have taken place which I will attempt to go through.

Chain: Starting off with the fitting of a chain across the entrance to the parking area in front of our door this as we know was installed by the photographer because he could not gain access to his premises – this has now been resolved to, I hope, a satisfactory conclusion as long as whoever is last out of the club rooms at night remembers to put the chain back on and put the key back adjacent to the fire alarm button.

This can also work to our benefit in so far as when needing to get layouts to exhibitions we should have access for the van to be brought close to the door and not have any vehicles parked in that area restricting access.

Exhibition: The 2018 exhibition was fully organised, as usual, but unfortunately due to the adverse weather conditions that were being forecast the Committee took the decision on the Monday before to cancel, although we are able to control layouts we cannot control the weather. This is a good reminder for new and, long standing members to understand why we cannot rely on an exhibition

for the upkeep of the club rooms, the club has to be able continue to function off the members subscriptions, which I have no doubt the Treasurer will be commenting on later.

A little something for the less mature members of the club would be to read the editorial in this month's modeller about the setting up and dismantling at exhibitions.

Chairman: On the 16th April the then Chairman (Les) requested an extraordinary Committee meeting whereupon he tendered his resignation, for personal reasons, as Chairman and Committee member but, thankfully retaining his club membership and most importantly his role as Exhibition Manager – more will be said on this later in the meeting.

I agreed to step in as a temporary replacement chairman till this AGM and Roger was co-opted on to the Committee.

Club Rooms: At times the club rooms do start to look very untidy whilst it is appreciated when working on layouts there will be some mess, could all members please ensure that all of the club is looking generally tidy as this gives a good impression to visitors who may be prospective new members.

I would like to mention the Committee room, whilst a great deal of gratitude goes to all members whom have donated books, videos and DVD's etc. especially Ian it is now becoming difficult to gain access to some of the material due to the sheer volume and weight – could we all look at some way of improving the shelving and also putting everything in some sort of order, perhaps by region, or company etc.

Oh! and as a reminder if you do borrow anything will you please enter it in the book what you borrowed dates taken out and returned.

Special thanks must be given to Dave Atkins (Big Dave from Blackpool) who arranged for the bridge to be built across the steps to make it slightly easier going in and out of the club rooms. There is still a station sign that needs putting up on a wall as it is getting damaged whilst left on the floor.

Could whoever is locking up in the afternoon or evening ensure that all the lights and layouts are switched off, recently layouts have been left switched on which obviously costs us money and could be a potential fire risk.

Layouts: Starting off in the work room Carl is making steady progress in his "N" gauge layout (yet to be named) which is fully DCC and hopefully it will when complete go on the exhibition circuit to represent the club.

In the other back room, what we always refer to as the Junior layout, is now being re-wired and also having scenic work undertaken by some of our senior members, nice to still see some interest in this layout and also of note is that similar to Euxton it will be converted to partial DCC running.

In the main club room Rayton will be undergoing a scenic upgrade as it is starting to look tired.

The "N" gauge layout is running well after a few minor modifications and some members have been working on a small "N" gauge layout again good steady progress being made.

The “N” gauge group have now started to consider the construction of a new layout, this is ongoing and this layout will also have the capability of both DC and DCC running lines.

Euxton Junction is still having scenic work undertaken and is really beginning to represent its various locations very well.

What has been interesting to note is the preference of members on all layouts in what skills we have that in the end give us the excellent layouts that we all enjoy running our stock on.

DCC: To provide cover on all the club layouts it has been decided by the committee that any new club layout that is to incorporate a DCC system will be compatible, this will give us cover for any controller problems that may arise both in the club rooms and at exhibitions.

Exhibitions Attended: Les has been and will be attending numerous exhibitions details can be found on the club web site both with his layout or his demonstration stand.

Carl took Alderford to the DEMU at Burton in June.

Jeremy’s Great Endon will be attending Glasgow in February

Euxton Junction has been to York at Easter, and will be attending Barrow this month 13th. & 14th. and our March 2019 exhibition.

Thanks should also be given to those members who do go out with the layouts or demo stands for giving up their valuable time to represent the club at exhibitions.

Open Day: The open day was held on the 16th. May and thanks to all who attended and stayed for part or most of the day, we also had a quiz and announced the winners of the modelling competition. There was quite a lot of interest from visitors who attended most in the afternoon session.

Railway Modeller: I think the article in this month’s modeller where Euxton was layout of the month showed it off in a very good light and let’s hope we do have some requests to exhibit at other exhibitions, those members who have worked on it should be proud of their achievement.

Signing in: Will all members when attending the club rooms to please remember to sign in and put some gratuity into the honesty box – every little amount helps in the upkeep of the club.

Questions

There were no questions.

5. Treasurer's report

Exhibition account: Because the exhibition was cancelled, we lost over £5000, or which over £3000 was on the hotel (who still charged us VAT). Despite that the account is not broke. Les reported the exhibition account contains £8,654.094.

Club account: We have a small increase in members. It is good that a lot are paying by standing order and most of the rest are paying in advance.

Refreshment takings are down, partly because tea and coffee have often not been available. Attendance money in the honest box is down again. This varies a lot.

One member donated money from the sale of club mugs. Some are still available for £5 each (under the N gauge layout).

Expenditure has not gone up much.

We had a problem with Water Plus, related to us having two accounts with them (due to a mistake many years ago). Hopefully this has been resolved.

Not much has been spent on layouts; what is spent comes from the exhibition fund.

Deposit account: This is with National Savings and has not been touched for ages. Contains £15,976.47, and is for emergencies only and to cover the lease.

Questions

There were no questions.

6. Auditors report

We have three accounts. The exhibition account for projects, the reserve account for problems with rent, etc. and the normal account. This means we need enough in the exhibition account to finance the next exhibition and to cover any projects.

So we are in a good, stable position.

Proposed: *Mike DP* Seconded: *Dave G*

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

7. Election of committee members.

All the old members have agreed to stand, and there were no other persons interested.

Proposal: To accept the current committee for next year.

Proposed: *Les* Seconded: *Nev*

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

8. The exhibition

Obviously 2018 was a disaster. Les had threatened to give up if it ever made a loss, but was persuaded to stay on as it was due to the weather.

For 2019 we have lost Bachmann as they cannot find the staff, having four exhibitions in four weeks. They have been replaced by Junction Box.

Transport Models will not be attending as their future is uncertain. Replaced by Country Park Models, selling in particular Hornby spares.

There will be 18 layouts.

We have lost a squash court (this would have been true of 2018 too), so some re-jigging, and no N Gauge Society.

For 2020 all layouts booked

For 2021 about three quarters booked.

John made a plea for someone to “shadow” Les to understand how the exhibition is put together, as it is currently all Les and Nev, both of whom are over seventy.

9 Data Protection (GDPR)

The secretary talked about the new data protection policy for the club. This had been sent out to members earlier in the years. It is a legal requirement that we have the policy because of the GDPR, but what we actually do has not changed.

Questions

Do we need to register, given we are a charity? We are not a charity, but nevertheless do not need to register.

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

10 AOB

Les for President

Nev said a few words about Les: Les had been chairman for a long time and done a fantastic job developing the club.

One issue with respect to his quitting was that people expected Les to do everything. If you come up with an idea, be prepared to do it yourself. Someone needs to be prepared to take over running the exhibition.

There is no better modeller than Les in the Northwest, he is an ambassador for the club, teaching modelling skills at exhibitions and at the club too.

Proposal to make Les president for a year (and vice president permanently thereafter).

Proposed: *Nev* Seconded: *John*

The proposal was accepted unanimously, and Les accepted the position.

Help at exhibitions

This was raised by Ray, who pointed out he is now responsible for cabling and barriers, where previously just cables was between three people.

John pointed out the recent editorial in RM on just this subject.

Les mentioned that many exhibitions are now one day, and only accept small layouts (we are now the biggest in Lancs); consequently numbers are down.

A general plea was made for younger (pre-retirement) members to help out at the exhibition, especially Friday afternoon.

Subs

John spoke about subs, saying it was brilliant everyone paid on time, and pointing out subs had not gone up for the last two years. However, the committee felt a small increase to the senior rate was now appropriate; an extra £1 per month.

Standard: £16/m

Senior (65+): £12/m

Student: £8/m

Proposed: Nev Seconded Dave G

Membership numbers

Martin asked the membership numbers.

53 have paid at some point in the year, but 3 of those subsequently stopped paying.

Euxton Junc in RM

Carl mentioned the positive feedback on Facebook. A copy is available to read at the end of the layout. The club received £280.

Meeting closed at 2020