

# Preston & District Model Railway Society

Committee Meeting Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 8:00pm

## Present:

John Wilson	Chairman
Andy Joel	Secretary
John Farnden	Treasurer
Carl Bowden	Bill Taylor
Roger Hardacre	Mike Duffy-Price (seconded)

## Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting:

- The magazines are still awaiting disposal. **On-going**
- Still looking for a new venue for when the lease expires. Need to know the current area, but estimated at 60'x30', say 2000 sq ft. We currently pay £400/m. **Action: JF to find when the lease expires. Action: Everyone to find a new venue.**
- In view of the exhibition finances, it was decided that projects will continue to be on hold at least until the next meeting.
- Les has been removed as a signatory for cheques, but JW still needs to be added. **Action: JW.**
- The member who had not paid despite coming regularly since November has now started paying.
- Jeremy has been using the small room to polish his layout for Glasgow. However, he may want to do so again.

## Minutes of last meeting:

- The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 meeting were accepted as a true record.

## Exhibition:

- The committee noted the high standard of layouts at the exhibition.
- JW noted that a lot of people left saying how good the exhibition was.
- The committee thanks Sue and Ange for the teas and coffees.
- The committee thanks Bill, Ian and Dave for the running the second-hand stall.
  
- It was noted that the exhibition made only about £1000 this year, a big drop on previous years (though the exact amounts are still to be determined). Hotel, insurance and publicity have all gone up.
- Les has expressed the view that it is not worth his bother if that is all it is going to make. Despite the request at the AGM, no one has come forward willing to take over.
- The finances were discussed at some length.
  - The second-hand stall made about £800.
  - Have we accommodated more people this year?
  - Can we claim back VAT; it was thought we would need a turnover of £18k to do that.

- Do other exhibitions offer as much to exhibitors as we do? Model Rail Scotland do not offer lunch, whilst Stafford give only a sandwich, crisps and a drink. We should gauge what other shows offer and see what we can get away with. We could offer a sandwich and crisps in the coffee room.
- We could “spread bet” the hotel books, and have half uncancellable, which is cheaper.
- The exhibition fulfils a purpose besides making money; for example, it is a way of recruiting new members. However, it was felt that it is not worth doing a one-day show.
- It was noted that Les is one of the best Exhibition Managers on the circuit, able to get the very best layouts to exhibit at the show, often before they exhibit anywhere else. The exhibition would not be as good without him!
- It was decided that this needs reviewing when we have more information. We would certainly hope Les remains Exhibition Manager for the next couple of years, noting that he does already have layouts booked.

#### **Other matters:**

- We received a request from Eccles library to display a layout for a day or part day. This could help to attract new members and to publicise the exhibition. It may be a good idea to put fliers about the exhibition in various libraries in the region.
- Blackpool club may ask to borrow our barriers. It would have to be at their own risk, but we would ask that they make a donation.
- The open day will be on Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of April.

Meeting finished at 9:15 pm.

**Next committee meeting date:** Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April at 8:00 pm