

# Preston & District Model Railway Society

## *Annual General Meeting*

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 at 7:30 pm

### Minutes

The meeting started at 7:35, with 29 members in attendance.

#### Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Morgan.

#### Minutes of last AGM

The minutes from the last AGM had been available to read on the web site and in the club rooms so were not read out. They were accepted on a general consensus.

#### Matters arising

There were no matters arising

#### Chairman's Report

##### Membership

This year we have seen a small drop in membership down to 40 paid up members, 7 less than last year.

Unfortunately we lost Don Corner who at the last AGM was in hospital and never came home.

One member had his membership revoked due to bringing the club into disrepute (details available on request at the club rooms where all the details are documented).

Five members have not been seen since the last AGM.

Donation to the "Honesty Box" seem to be dropping although signatures are up. This box used to be equivalent to 2 members' subscriptions so as we are down in membership every donation helps.

##### Layouts

**Bee Lane** This is now scrapped and the stripped boards will be taken to the tip when a van is hired for the Wakefield exhibition (Carl's layout). The layout was offered for sale but we had no takers.

**Maudling** Not as many problems this year with the layout but less club members using it.

**Tellem Summit** All is running well, need to fix electric points at the end but rest of main tracks re-wired.

**Tin God (Tyn Godd)** Still being worked on at home by Martin Sutcliff.

**Euxton Junction** Progress and interest in this layout is very high. The layout will be ready for our exhibition in March. It has been good that members have been able to use it while construction is taking place. The finished layout already has been booked for Wigan next year and will be a great asset to the club.

**Rayton** This has been donated to the society as a junior layout. Some work has already been carried out in the way of general maintenance and it will get a makeover with static grass before the exhibition this March.

### **Modelling Competition Winner**

#### **N gauge**

Locos: no entries

Rolling Stock and vehicles: Les Nerhlich Cranes and Diggers

Scenics: Dave Pallant Multi-story car park

#### **OO Gauge**

Locos: no entries

Rolling Stock and vehicles: Karen Atherton 2 Stamer Corridor Coaches

Scenics: Ted Crosby Rock Face Scene

#### **Larger Scales**

Locos: John Wilson DJH Jubilee Kit

Rolling Stock: John Wilson Westdale Auto-Coach Kit

Scenics: Andy Joel Gothic ruin

#### **Trophy Best**

Scratch built: John Wilson A49 Euxton Road Bridge

Kit Built: John Wilson DJH Jubilee Kit

Scenic: Ted Crosby Rock Face Scene

Best junior model: Callum Nicholson Quarry Hunslet

Overall: Ted Crosby Rock Face Scene

The judge was once again Alan Judd who is a good friend of our society. He was impressed at the time Les spends with the Juniors doing their models. He highly commended James and Anna-Marie Pennington for their Bus Depot.

### Thanks

The chairman thanked the members who help to clean and maintain the clubrooms, the committee for their work throughout the year, James and Anna Maria for keeping the brew room stocked, Karen for brewing up.

Thanks also to Bill, Carl, Jeremy, Mike Eydman and members of my team for representing the club with their layouts over the past year.

### Questions

There was a question from the floor about attracting new members. Two had joined after the exhibition, and three had expressed an interest at the open night and taken application forms. It was agreed that we had to do our best to welcome new people.

### Treasurer's Report

This year's accounts covers an 11 month period. This will mean accounts to run from September to August in future years, which will allow a final bank statement to be obtained before the pre-AGM audit.

It was pointed out that the landlord makes a single charge of electricity and water, so this appears as a single item (waste water is, however, separate). The rent has not changed.

The big problem is that we have lost 8 members, which presents a significant loss of income for the club.

However, the accounts make it look worse than it is, as the amount in the bank at the end of the period does not include cash from the exhibition fund (ca. £700) nor some late subscription payments. With the latter in mind, members are encouraged to pay by standing order!

It was noted that considerably less money is being collected by the "Honesty Box" than was previously the case. There was a suggestion that a prominent notice should be placed to remind members.

There was a suggestion from the floor that members should pay a donation for biscuits, even though the club gets them for free.

## **Auditor's Report**

The accounts were described as being in good condition, and commended to the meeting. It was noted that the treasurer had done a good job.

The auditor also noted the change in the accounting period. Performance is as expected, given how it has been over the last few years.

It was noted that the capital account has sufficient funds to cover the lease for the next five years.

The chairman thanked Alan for his work.

## **Election of Officers**

All the previous committee members re-stood for their positions, and there were no other proposal. They were re-elected on a general consensus.

Proposed: Michael Duffy-Price, Seconded: Martin Sutcliff

Alan Jackson was re-appointed as auditor, and accepted on a general consensus.

Proposed: John Wilson, Seconded: Karen Atherton

## **Last Exhibition Report**

Last exhibition trophy winners

Yvonne Nehrlich Plate (best scenics): Darjeely Himalayan Railway

Dave Scott Memorial Trophy (voted by visiting layouts): Loch Tat

Best overall: North Holdeness Light Railway

This year's profit is £1505.48.

One of our long standing traders, Rural Railways, retired at our show; they will be missed.

The next exhibition will be on the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 at the same venue. There will be one or two new trade stands including Bachmann Model Railways. There will be 20+ layouts plus the usual demos, including Tony Wright who will als run a clinic for problem locos.

Wheelchair users will pay the same price as children as there might be some layouts that they cannot see.

John Farndon has a full breakdown of the exhibition account for anyone interested.

### **Any other relevant business**

There was a proposal to make John Nicholson an honorary member, as he has been part of the club for a long time, and his wife is now too ill for him to be able to attend on a regular basis. This was accepted on a general consensus.

Proposed: Bill. Seconded: Nev

There was an intention to hire a hall to erect Euxton Junction in its entirety, however this could be done at the club rooms if it was set up on the right hand side. This would involve putting Maudland into storage, and moving the N gauge layout to the other side, where it would be joined by the portable junior layout. This would be done in January.

There was a proposal to raise subscriptions by £6 per year, in part to cover the shortfall in membership. This was accepted on a general consensus.

Proposed: Carl Bowden. Seconded: Dave Winder

Jeremy thanked the club for allowing him to use the small room recently to prepare his layout for an exhibition.

The meeting finished at 8:05.