

Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers Annual General Meeting, 2012
Peterborough Suite, East of England Showground, Peterborough
At 2pm on March 31st 2012

Present ; Nigel Town Chairman, Gareth Jones Secretary, Phil Thompson Treasurer, Richard Cable, Alan Regan, Tim Gregson, Andrew Charman, Rob Bennett, Ian Shields, 50+ members.

Apologies for absence; David Rhodes

Nigel Town introduced the Directors and Officers. Phil Thompson ran through the Association accounts. He commented that we had recruited 100 new members in March alone. He commented on the events and milestones of the past year. We had a surplus on the year of £7,000.

Questions on the accounts;

1. Bob Coates asked if we could look at other postage providers?
 - a. Phil responded that our postal arrangements are already providing 40% off the prevailing rates but that we will be looking at other options. We did move to 1st class postage in the UK to reduce complaints regarding variations in receipt of SMT.
2. Chris Riley asked if the surplus will carry on?
 - a. Phil responded that the annual budget is set at a breakeven.
3. Mr Martin stated that catering was a problem at Peterborough venue.
 - a. Richard responded that the caterers had restocked within the last few minutes.
4. Michael Bastow asked why do we have £1,000 bank charges when we run the account in credit?
 - a. Phil responded these are mostly PayPal charges. Pure bank charges are £30. The PayPal charge arises from the payment of on-line subscriptions which are made using PayPal. The PayPal charge will be better identified in the accounts next year.

Resolutions put to the meeting;

1. Accounts Proposed by Mike Riley Seconded by Paul Welling - Unanimous
2. Andrew Charman proposed for re-election: Proposer Robin Willis, Seconded by David Pritchard - Unanimous
3. Gareth Jones proposed for re-election Proposer John Neale, Seconded Roger Coleman - Unanimous
4. Alan Regan proposed for re-election Proposer Chris Bride, Seconded Robin Willis - Unanimous.
5. Phil Thompson proposed for re-election Proposer Doug Silk, Seconded Robin Willis - Unanimous.
6. Andrew Charman to use computer equipment Proposer Phil Thompson, Seconded Robin Willis - Carried with one Against.

Close of formal business

Looking into 2012 the current membership is 3,333, with 200 new members so far since Jan 1st setting new records. Planning another special issue in Autumn. Need to review membership secretary database because of activity volumes.

Other business

Suzanne Bradley co-opted to board to take over bulletin from Ian Shields.

John Wenlock proposed a vote of thanks to Ian Shields carried with acclamation!

Nigel thanked Ian for his work as editor and presented him with a Darjeeling wagon kit.

Presentations

- The Lamb Trophy was presented (outside the meeting) to Richard and Shirley from Brandbright nomination from David Rhodes.
- In answer to a written question Nigel explained that he would be happy to take nominations from any member for the Lamb trophy for future years.
- Kevin Steele was presented with the one of the Chairman's award, recognising his continued contribution to the production of the DVD.
- The second chairman's award was made to Robin Willis, recognising his contribution to the production of the PQR guide.

Questions from the floor

1. John Nield asked if we had considered merger with 7/8th society?
 - a. Nigel responded that he had raised the subject twice over the last 3 years ago but no response or interest.
2. Mr Martin asked why did we only send one book of 5 raffle tickets out in each mailing not two books of 10?
 - a. Phil responded that we do send one book of 5 in each of two postings (November and February). We could consider sending 1 additional book in future. More sales would lead to more prizes. A quick straw poll showed that most were against a change, the majority preferring a single book in each of the two mailings. Martin East observed that additional tickets can be purchased on day.
3. Chris Riley asked is Peterborough a good venue?
 - a. Phil and Richard responded that initial feed-back was positive. Clearly there are some lessons on catering to be learned. The venue management has been responsive. Next year will have an additional food pod and more tables. Gordon Gill praised venue.
4. Tony Jenkins lives abroad pays sub through PayPal can he pay for draw tickets via PayPal?
 - a. Alan responded that he will take payments for draw tickets for overseas members only, provided they provide make their request early.
5. Gavin Davies asked can we make SMT available to public and if it is limited to 72 pages can we have more issues?
 - a. Andrew Charman responded as a practical matter of his time as a volunteer and SMT is already a substantive commitment with four issues. Anything additional is too much.
6. Gerry Waclawiak asked is there going to be an alternative for cheques.
 - a. Phil and Alan responded that we will look at this with the threatened demise of the cheque at but the current time the key challenge was dealing with the volume of transactions.
7. Paul England asked how the PayPal fee is covered.
 - a. Phil confirmed that it is covered by the Association for renewals.

8. Robin Willis as an officer of Penrhyn Railway Society thanked the Board and the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers for support and guide, extending their gratitude specifically to Rob Bennett.
9. Robin Willis asked the question as we have members joining in second half of the year but not first is the timing of the marketing focus right?
 - a. Alan responded that the pattern is not marketing but seasonal issue.
10. Robin Willis asked if we should we change renewal dates?
 - a. Alan responded, no, but there were lots of rejoiners for publications.
11. Norman Thompson asked could we put numbers on stands at the show
 - a. Nigel and Phil responded that we have done before will look at again.
12. Mr Martin stated he had not been asked for sight of his tickets at door.
 - a. Nigel commented that this was interesting and we would investigate.

Nigel closed this final part of the meeting by requested that the online show evaluation forms to be completed to inform our ideas for setting the 2013 show. Also noting that new boiler testing adapters were available to be collected by boiler testers at the show

Meeting closed 2:57 pm