

Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers

Annual General Meeting, 27th April 2013 at 14.00, Peterborough Arena

The Chairman welcomed participants to the meeting, counted heads and confirmed that a quorum (in excess of 50 members) existed. The Board of the Association present were:

- Nigel Town – Chairman
- Andrew Charman – SMT editor
- Tim Gregson – IT Director
- Suzanne Bradley – Bulletin Editor
- Alan Regan – Membership Secretary

The following agenda was presented by Nigel:

- Overview of Year
- People dynamics
- Proposal for elections
- Questions of business of AGM
- Close of AGM
- Awards
- Non Business questions

The presentation given by Nigel is included in appendix A.

The Board of the Association

- The meeting was invited to elect Suzanne Bradley as a Director of the Association – the vote was unanimous with no abstentions
- The meeting was invited to elect Tim Gregson as a Director of the Association who was retiring by rotation as required in the constitution – unanimous with no abstentions
- The meeting was advised that Rob Bennett has decided not to stand as a Director but would continue as an Officer to support the production of special publications like the Leighton Buzzard railway guide

The meeting was also informed that Phil Thompson had resigned as Treasurer and Company Secretary on the afternoon prior to the show. This change and Rob's decision not to stand for re-election had occurred since the invitation for nominations as a director prior to the AGM, which left the Association with a depleted board. The following people had volunteered in the past 24 hours to join the Board, subject to nomination and resolution by the meeting:

- Helen Gregson (as Company Secretary)
- Richard Cable
- Ian Shields (as interim Treasurer)
- Derek Wiggins (as Heritage Director)

In addition to the above, as he had resigned and been co-opted back to the Board in the weeks prior to the AGM, the meeting needed also to elect Nigel Town as a director

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Rather than to nominate and elect each person individually, the meeting was invited to nominate and vote on the group. David Rhodes (1213) proposed this and was seconded by Gavin Davies (8905). The vote was unanimous with no abstentions. Nigel confirmed that such proxy votes as had been received did not impact the outcome.

The newly elected Board confirmed that it would agree and elect a Chairman.

Peter Adams (2978) asked what had brought about Phil's resignation. Nigel explained that:

- The January 2013 board meeting agreed a set of actions vis-à-vis a specific topic
- Nigel proceeded with the agreed actions, Phil objected to the manner in which Nigel carried out the actions and gave Nigel an ultimatum to stand down. Nigel did so but was subsequently co-opted back onto the board.
- There followed comments on and between individual board members of a personal nature. Phil apologised for his behaviour and offered Nigel his resignation on the afternoon before the AGM. Given what had previously happened, Nigel felt unable to accept the resignation without consultation with other board members, which he duly did. The remaining board members agreed to accept Phil's resignation. Phil resigned with immediate effect the same afternoon.

Roger Coleman (2612) asked whether the board was content that the constitution allowed for the election of the new directors in the manner chosen. Nigel explained that the board's understanding of the provisions of article 31(iii) did cater for this.

Norman Drake (727) asked whether these awkward decisions had majority support by the board and were in the best interest of the Association. Alan Regan stated that the presence of the remainder of the board at this meeting showed that it was.

Minutes from 2012 AGM

Tim Roy (3483) congratulated the board on publishing the minutes from the 2012 AGM and stated in his opinion that they were complete. He applauded the fact that they were published online but questioned the decision not to send them out on paper. Nigel stated that not to have done so was an error and would be corrected in regard to the minutes from this AGM. They would be published online as soon as possible and target publication on paper was in August Bulletin.

Lamb Award

Lamb Award for 12 years' service was presented to Paul Mellor (5000) for his work on Member to Member sales; however, as M2M was still in full flow, the award would be made to Paul after the AGM.

Chairman's Award(s)

There were none this year.

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Bus Transfer

Geoff Lumsdon (2810) commented that the service had been very well used. He reported that the bus driver ran out of tickets on the 10:30 service and suggested that a steward be assigned to sell tickets where the bus picked up passengers in Peterborough. There were comments made to the effect that the bus was crowded at times.

Insurance & Boiler Testing

Andy Cooper (3493) asked a number of questions related to Southern Federation of Model Engineers (SFed):

1. Did we attend their AGM?
 - Yes.
2. Were we involved in the management committee?
 - Yes, Nigel was on their committee but had resigned when he resigned as a Director of the Association as referred to above. Nigel intended to approach the committee to request reinstatement.
3. Was the Association's Public Liability (PL) insurance tied to the position on boiler tested being taken by SFed?
 - No. The Association would like to work with SFed but if unsuccessful we would adopt an independent position consistent with its prevailing recommendations. Nigel confirmed that Walker Midgley (the Association's PL insurers) confirmed that they would continue to offer this insurance whether the Association was part of SFed or not. Finally and in response from a contribution from Edward Hodson (748), Nigel confirmed that the Association's current recommendations in this area remained unchanged.

Richard Cable (5684) asked whether the Association was working with Gauge 1 (G1MRA) in this area. Nigel confirmed that it was.

Keith Bucklitch (709) provided the following comments both as a 16mm member and G1MRA Technical Director:

Where we run as a club, e.g. Beds and Surrey Area Groups, the club has to provide PL insurance cover. There are 2 brokers providing such cover, neither of which requires a boiler test certificate for their insurance to be valid. SFed has documented in one of its bulletins that it will accept 16mm NGM Association certificates. He categorised the net effect of this as "a bugger's muddle". He concluded by stating in regard of the position currently being adopted by the Association that insurers, the Health & Safety Executive and MLEG are all happy.

Other comments

Brian Dominic (1535) recognised Phil's contribution to the Association over many years and asked whether he could remain a channel to the Board for matters related to junior members. Nigel responded that Phil would be welcome to do this if he wished.

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A contributor from the floor complimented Nigel on the slides used in the presentation as he “did not like slick”.

Norman Thomson (4848) asked whether additional signage could be erected high up, in each corner of the hall, to assist in navigating the show. He also commented that in his view the catering had not improved.

Norman Drake (727) – at the show from Australia – thanked the Association for the fantastic value that it delivers, especially in regard to recent reduction in the cost of his annual member subscription. Nigel observed that this was partly attributable to Phil’s and Alan’s work.

Tim Roy (3483) raised a question regarding point 11 from the 2012 AGM report which Nigel agreed to review.

Tim Steven (5578) asked whether the Association could engage, on a paid basis, casual labour to steward the show.

Meeting closed at 14.45