

# **The Berkshire Area Group**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

**Attendance: 16/22 Members of the Club were present**

### **1) Welcome Speech**

Richard Percy, Club Chairman opened the 2008 AGM with a welcoming speech.

Highlights of this speech include the success of the clubs Open day early in 2007. Numbers for attendance and income were both up on previous years. Feedback from those attending was well received, and all the available club application forms are handed out to interested parties.

The club layout travelled more than every in 2007, including attendance at both the N-Gauge Society AGM in Redhill and the N-Gauge Society 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Kettering. Both exhibitions were big successes for the club as well as the N-Gauge Society in overall.

Details of the club organised Earley Exhibition were already known by this point, so it was only for the chairman to repeat his thanks to all involved.

The speech closed on reflections of the clubs last exhibition attendance in Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Although this was once again a successful event for the club with much interest from the public, many lessons were learnt from its attendance in relation to what invitations the club would accept and how far it would be prepared to travel for such exhibitions.

### **2) Apologies of Absence**

Apologies were received from Dave B. Alan S. John B. Gordon M. Roger C, John Radcliffe & Paul Wagstaff.

### **3) Agreement of minutes from 2006 AGM**

Richard Percy explained that the committee had been unable to obtain the minutes from the 2006 AGM, apologising for the glitch in administration. To this end, seven club members were in agreement that this item could be skipped.

### **4) Matters arising from minutes of 2006 AGM**

Peter Davis expressed disappointment that the programme of shed refurbishment for 2007 had not been completely despite keeping to all requirements posed on him. He

furthered his disappointment in light of a proposal to install a new shed, as seen in the 2008 projects further on.

## **5) Chairman's Report**

A summary of the report has been supplied separately.

## **6) Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the Club Finances Sheet supplied at the AGM has been included separately.

**Graham G.** commented that he has not received word from the Church of an increase in Hall Hire for 2008.

With the increase in subscriptions in 2007 to 22 N-Gauge Society members and 2 Non-N-Gauge Society members, as well as the increase in grant from the N-Gauge Society that this will bring the club, **Graham G.** (carried forward from the 6<sup>th</sup> December Committee meeting) that there be no increase in Subscription to the club for 2008 (currently £27\*).

Subscription income alone for 2008 is predicted at £582, with a Hall Hire fee of only £495 (based on 2007 figures).

### Members Comments

**Peter S.** – Subscriptions should rise annually in a gradual manner to prevent any sudden hike in the future.

**Keith D.** – Subscriptions should only rise in relation to expenditure. If the income exceeds the outgoing, no raise is required.

**Peter D.** – New N-Gauge Society members in the Berkshire area should be communicated to the club. (**Richard P.** noted this and will action)

**Doug L.** showed interest in knowing how the Hall hire charges were structured in relation to others wish to hire the venue. This was met with comments from **Richard P.** and **Peter D.** that the club was not aware of any structured pricing by the church.

The item was closed with all club members acceptant of the Report.

## **7) Election of Committee**

The item was opened with a concern from Peter D at the size of the 2007 committee and that it did not abide by the constitution of the club. In response the Committee agreed to restructure in order to meet the constitution (as per discussions from the Committee Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December).

For 2008 the committee would consist of: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

The Committee proposed that in light of work commitments on **Roger C.** that **Adam L.** should take over role of Secretary until further notice.

Concern at this action was expressed by **Peter D.** and **Keith D.** that in light of Rogers absence a decision should not be made until Roger himself could take part in the discussion. The Committee agreed to this.

To close the item, a proposal was made by **Richard H.** that the three Committee positions remain as per 2007, and that **Adam L.** is co-opted to undertake Secretary tasks until the matter could be resolved. This was seconded by **Robin C.** and the proposal was accepted by all Club members.

### **8) Area Group Open Day 2008**

In light of the clubs full backing of the Open Day event from previous AGM, the body of this discussion involved thoughts on changing the location for 2008.

**Peter D.** commented that – Accepting noted restrictions the location should remain as the Church. This is our Club Open Day and not an Exhibition, so people should see our Club as it is.

All members of the Club agreed to keep the Open Day at the church for the foreseeable future.

### **9) Earley Exhibition 2008**

The date of the 2008 Exhibition is noted at 27<sup>th</sup> September.

All members were requested to make the presence available.

It was sighted that no changes were planned as the current arrangement of the Exhibition has always been a success.

**Keith D.** requested special thanks be noted for the excellent work Roger C. does on this front.

**Peter D.** commented that in light of the Lions donating their share of the Exhibition takings to Charity, that the Club could also look to make donation to Charity.

**Richard H.** added that although this may be the case, the exhibition is held to support community activities also, which included the Club itself. So it was not unjust for the Club to keep its takings. Further discussion on this matter is to take place at a later date.

**Richard H.** requested assistance in changing the Exhibition booklet for 2008 to a modern locomotive. Offers were made by **Adam L.** and **Robin C.**

#### **10) Application for membership support of the 2008 Earley Exhibition**

12 Members answered the request to make every effort of attendance at the Exhibition.

**Keith D.** and **Peter S.** were unable to fully confirm their position in light of other commitments.

#### **11) Proposed activities of 2008**

Opening the 2008 Activities, **Richard P.** reassured members that any unfinished work from 2007 should and would not be forgotten. Efforts are to be made to ensure all projects in progress from 2007 would be finished.

The Club was not opposed to the idea of a new shed being built, despite outstanding refurbishment work to be carried out on the present shed. **Peter D.** commented that this may be more difficult than first thought, as another club using the Church were still awaiting a response to their plans, after more than 6 months.

The Club was in agreement that extra storage capacity was central to future expansion, so every effort would be made to further development in this area going forward.

The Chairman accepted responsibility for undertaking an exploratory letter to the Church proposing installation of a new shed.

**Guy B.** accepted to continue heading the shed refurbishment work with assistance from other Club members.

**Keith D.** requested specific evenings be put aside to work on Fleischmann Joiners.

**Adam L.** accepted to supply details to the Club and Committee regards holding a Rail Simulator evening as well as plans for an external corner board for the Club Modular Layout.

**Robin C.** and **Richard P.** discussed contacts they had made that would be able to provide craftsmanship demonstrations at the club, as well as provide external construction services for those members wishing to purchase a completed board (minus scenery).

**Keith D.** offered use of a jig system for building modular boards, from his Beaconsfield Model Railway club.

## **12) Any other business**

**Peter D.** commented that he was happy to continue organizing Club branded clothes for new and existing members in 2008. He sighted however that he would need an order in the region of 10 or 12 items to proceed.

**Keith D.** requested that the committee make available copies of the Club constitution in both soft and hard copy format.

**Peter D.** outlined the current state of the N-Gauge Society Mini Stand. Details include organizational re-arrangements and instating Peter as Regional Mini Stand Manager. A refurbishment of the current stand would take place, to which Peter asked for assistance from other Club members and time during evening meetings. New N-Gauge Society kits are to be supplied and would require construction. Peter D. is central to the related activities going forward and that communication about these would be critical to their completion.

**Peter S.** questioned the feasibility of a modeling competition to take place at future Club AGM's. Further discussion on this would take place during the 2008.

**Richard H.** thanked the Club for its support of the Medway Queen Preservation Society. He reported that special commission wagon sales were going great and asked for input into the next batch of wagons he would be arranging soon.

## **13) Date of next AGM**

Date of the next AGM is set for 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.