

# Preston & District Model Railway Society

## *Annual General Meeting*

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 7:30 pm

### Minutes

Meeting started at 1930. There were 24 members in attendance.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Chris Wilkes, Andy Postlethwaite, Dave Atkins, Karen Paqarina and Keith Cranfield.

#### **2. The minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been available on the web site for several months, giving everyone a chance to read them for approval. Copies were circulated at the meeting too.

#### **3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

#### **4. Action in response to the rent increase**

*This was early in the agenda to ensure it was resolved before we had to vacate the room.*

It was noted that the landlord is imposing a 43% rent increase on us. This is the first increase in many years, as they had lost our contract, and the new rate is not unreasonable for the premises. While the increase is a shock, the new rate is not excessive.

The committee proposed a £2/month increase (adjusted proportionately) this year, with an understanding that a further £2/month increase is likely next year and the year after (to be confirmed at later AGMs). This would eventually get us on a level to more-or-less break even, and the shortfall before then would be taken from club funds. The increase would be from 01/Nov/23.

*Can the club afford that? Will there still be enough left to cover expenses if the club folds?* Yes. It was noted that prior to the price increase the club was doing very well financially, in part because electricity bills were much lower than expected. Also noted that all members have been paying up on time.

*Can we look for alternative premises?* We did look at that last year, and we concluded we would not find anything as central, with parking and enough space.

Proposed: Les. Seconded: Daryl. Taken on a general "aye".

**Action:** AKJ to send an email alerting all members

## **5. Chairman's report**

*Good evening and welcome to another AGM.*

*The last couple of annual general meetings have been held in the club rooms but it's nice to be out again and many thanks to Les for arranging the use of this room with the college.*

*Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Neville Davies (March) and Barry McDonald (April) whom we sadly lost this year. Barry joined the club in the late 1960's and Neville in the early 1970's they both served on the committee holding various offices within, they did a lot of work behind the scenes that went unnoticed by the majority of the membership. A more extensive recognition to each of them was produced in April and May and placed on our web site.*

*A very warm welcome to all our new members who have joined our ranks this year we hope you are enjoying joining our club and will remain a member for years to come.*

*On the 12th. December, we held the Christmas gathering on what was a bitterly cold evening, many attended and thanks for making the effort to get to the club. As usual there were mince pies (thanks to Dave Winder), hot drinks and the quiz which as usual was diverse in its questions again thanks to Bill for that.*

*Improvements are still being made where possible to our club rooms and this year we had the entrance area completely floored out to provide a level and safer area with, if needed, storage underneath for our trolleys, extension cables and anything else that will fit under.*

*The stairlift had developed a minor fault and we had a repair and service carried out on it and this has now been put on to an annual contract.*

*At the exhibition it was found that the old water boiler had developed a leak at the seal around the tap and, thanks to Les's son in law this has now been fixed.*

### **Layouts**

*Our "00" club layout Euxton Junction was the feature layout in the March BRM magazine and has also been invited to attend Doncaster Festival of Railway Modelling next February.*

*The P4 layout has been taken over by another member to work on.*

*Construction continues on the new "N" gauge layout at a good pace, with all low level track laid and wiring (droppers) progressing well.*

*Chelthwaite Mills has returned to the club rooms and is being repaired and upgraded and hopefully will start appearing at exhibitions again.*

*A couple of members are working on their own small layouts in the club rooms whilst space permits.*

***Exhibitions attended since the last AGM.***

*Just to update our new members not only do we have Euxton but some of our members have their own layouts that do attend exhibitions and represent the club and for this we are truly grateful.*

*The stock that is used on the layouts again belong to club members but I'm sure the visitors who attend exhibitions to see layouts appreciate the high standard and detail of the stock and that again is a credit to those concerned.*

*Euxton "00" (Club Layout)*

*Preston 4th. & 5th. March 2023*

*Leigh 9th. & 10th. September 2023*

*Coketown "N" (Dave Pallant)*

*Stafford 23rd. & 24th. September 2023*

*Great Endon "00" (Jeremy Davison)*

*Canterbury 21st. & 22nd. January 2023*

*Jarrow 21st. & 22nd. May 2023*

*Alderford "00" (Carl Bowden)*

*GBMRS 29th. & 30th. October 2022*

*Ally Pally 18th. & 19th. March 2023*

*St. Andrews 13th. & 14th. August 2023*

*Falahill "N" (Karl Smith)*

*Leigh 9th. & 10th. September 2023*

*Liverpool & Thornton*

*Les has (as usual) attended many exhibitions too numerous to list, as a visitor, or with his layouts and also as a demonstrator showing various techniques.*

*In April and May Les, Daryl and myself spent a few days, at the request of his family, going through Neville's collection and producing a full catalogue. This was done including pictures, mainly of locomotives. The original intention was for the club to sell these through various means, but it was decided that this would be hard work for the membership to undertake, so it eventually will go, as agreed with the family, to auction.*

*And to our exhibition again as usual it was very well attended and Les will give his usual report on that plus, an update on next year's exhibition. Thanks again must go to all members who did their bit from Friday lunchtime to close on Sunday, plus leaving the College in record time and I'm sure exhibitors and traders appreciate the assistance given by you to get them away as quickly as possible. Daryl will give a report on the exhibition accounts in due course.*

*Club funds are in a healthy position due to a good working relationship between our Treasurer and Auditor and John will give his report to the meeting in due course.*

*Just to inform our new members the funds we pay monthly are to ensure we have the club rooms as we cannot rely on the exhibition to fund our base. In the past the exhibition has had to be cancelled which caused financial difficulties, but due to prudent management these difficulties were overcome.*

*A few clubs that did rely mainly on exhibition income have had to fold especially as Covid closed everything so leaving them with little or no income.*

*I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the Committee for their help and assistance over the past twelve months and also to, Les and Daryl for their running of the exhibition. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that you don't see, as boring as it may seem these things have to be done to make the club and exhibition a safer place to be.*

*Many thanks to Sue for coming along and seeing to the refreshments both at the exhibition and tonight.*

*If throughout the year any member has any comment or proposal for improvements to the club, please don't hesitate in coming forward to any committee member with your suggestion, we always welcome your ideas.*

There were no questions.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

*It has been a difficult year for me, as you may be aware, with the serious illness of my wife and her passing at the end of May.*

*Despite not being a regular visitor to the Club for several months at the end of last year and beginning of this, I have still been able to keep our accounts in order. I have also been able to keep in regular contact with our Chairman, John and Secretary, Andy.*

*On our Auditor's suggestion I have submitted our accounts to him every three months for checking.*

*I have also liaised regularly with our Landlords regarding various issues. Although, I have to admit that I did not see the 43% rise in rent coming.*

*Even with a small increase in subs, our Club reserves will still need to be used towards paying for this large increase.*

*Fortunately, our electricity bill did not increase as much as we anticipated, but most other bills did increase.*

*I have also been liaising with our Bankers regularly. They now have to see our audited accounts, and do regular checks on what we have coming in and going out. Just recently myself and our secretary had to sign and return a form confirming that we weren't money laundering or financing terrorism.*

*I am happy to remain your Treasurer should you decide that you would like me to continue.*

*How much is there in the club funds altogether? About £25k.*

*Does the savings account earn interest? Yes, at 5% currently.*

*Approval: Proposed Les, seconded Jeremy. Accepted unanimously.*

## **7. Auditor's report**

The chairman readout the report from the auditor

*This is the second year I have had the pleasure of auditing the Preston and District Model Railway Accounts.*

*I am delighted that my suggestion of looking at the accounts and financial transactions every three months has been accepted and actioned. This makes life so much easier when it comes to the end of your financial year, it also enables me to promptly pick up any errors or accounting problems quickly.*

*I am delighted to work alongside your Treasurer, John Farnden. Despite the difficult year he has had personally, he has continued to maintain your accounts diligently and accurately. His liaisons with Barclays, your Bankers, has meant that your old-fashioned cheque issuing has decreased, and most bills are now paid either by Standing Order or Direct Debit. This makes my own life so much easier.*

*I am aware of the substantial increase of over 40% in your rent; but would advise you all that the amount you are paying for the size of premises you have is still extremely reasonable.*

*To finalise, I am happy to remain your auditor for the coming year. I hope that I can continue to work alongside John and ensure that your Bankers continue to be satisfied that the accounts are being properly kept and audited.*

*Finally, I have reminded John that a copy of the audited accounts should be handed to Barclays next time he has business there. You may be aware that they now are checking constantly that Clubs' and Organisations' monies are not used for money laundering or financing terrorism.*

*Stuart M Gray MBE JP ACA BFP FMAAT*

*26th September 2023*

## **8. Exhibition report**

*Exhibition 2023*

Best scenic award went to Humphry Road Sidings (Norman Raven), while best layout as voted by other layouts was Eli Wood (Eric Farragher). All reports seem to suggest that all exhibitors were very happy.

## *Exhibition 2024*

We have 22 layouts booked. One new trader, otherwise the same as last years, demo stands likewise the same as last year.

Now that the Wigan show is no more, we are probably the best show in Lancashire, if not the northwest.

Two layouts booked for 2024 are having to be replaced, one because it has been dismantled and the other because the owner has died, but alternatives are in hand.

*How many people attended the exhibition?* About 1500 over the two days.

### **9. Exhibition Treasurer's Report**

The exhibition treasurer presented the exhibition accounts.

The exhibition fund is in a healthy state, such that we can readily survive a cancellation should that happen. Note that we have to pay £6-7k in advance for each exhibition.

The fund has been used to finance several projects, most notably the flooring in the club rooms and the new N gauge layout. This spending was £1751.53 for the last year.

We made a profit of about £1400 from the last exhibition.

Daryl pointed out that we do not know how successful the exhibition is until about three weeks later – so please do not ask him during the exhibition!

JW explained that we keep club and exhibition funds separate so that if one fails, the other can continue. Martin related how the club nearly folded many years ago when an exhibition was cancelled.

The exhibition accounts have been audited and no issues were found.

*Approval:* Proposed: CB. Seconded Michael DP. Reported accepted unanimously.

### **10. Election of committee members**

The positions of chairman, secretary and treasure were unopposed, and given to the current incumbent in each case.

There were four candidates for the unspecified committee positions, so these also were unopposed, with a new member, Andy Postlethwaite.

Chris Wilkes was thanked for his service over the year as a member of the committee.

Proposed: Jeremy. Seconded: Michael DP

## **11. Proposal: Discontinue the Annual Modelling Competition**

The competition has been suspended for a number of years, originally due to COVID. It was noted that ready-to-run models are of such a high quality that they surpass our own efforts.

The trophies could be given to the exhibition team for their use.

There were four votes opposed to the motion, and the rest supported it; motion carried.

Meeting ended at 0816

*Appendix 1*

**Preston and District Model Railway Society Account Summary**

01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
subscriptions	6972.94	Premises	6349.42
refreshments/door	320.17 NET		
Warner Group	240		
Bank	6557.23	Bank	7740.92
TOTAL	14090.34	TOTAL	14090.34
Deposit Account		Premises Costs	
17223.77		rent	4545
		electricity	376.04
		water	399.38
		Building Insurance	588
		Club Room Insurance	441

Based on Bank Balance only as at 31/08/2023. Predicted amounts for subs based on balance. Can get it auditted once statement for August arrives



**Appendix 2**

**Preston & District Model Railway Society Exhibition 2023**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Money In</u>		<u>Cheque</u>	<u>Money Out</u>	
	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Card/BACS</u>		<u>Cash</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Float In	3000.00				
Door Receipts Saturday	3740.00	2248.00		6373.00	107.96
Door Receipts Sunday	3065.00	1836.00		13.00	0.22
Meal Voucher Sales Saturday	160.00			8.00	0.14
Meal Voucher Sales Sunday	88.50				
Canteen Receipts	40.97				
Trader Receipts	3539.00	0.00	210.50		
Layout Payments				2613.00	
Club 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Stand Receipts	1970.00	2310.00			
Club 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Stand Paid to members				2930.76	
Raffle Income	160.00				
Children's Competition Prize					20.00
From Tony Wright sale	10.00				
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>15773.47</b>	<b>6394.00</b>	<b>210.50</b>	<b>6394.00</b>	<b>108.32</b>
Cash/Cheques			10420.21		
Actual Cash/Cheques Banked			10670.97		
Difference			250.76		
<b>Float Out Adjustment</b>				<b>3000.00</b>	
Sports Hall Hire					2400.00
Cost of Tables					518.00
Cost of Food for Meal Tickets					2084.40
Van Hire					255.00

Publicity and General Costs		1843.94
General Insurance		756.72
Special Events Insurance		109.00
Ibis Hotel		2000.00
Premier Inn		789.50
Chq to DW re 2 <sup>nd</sup> hand stall		50.00
Non Exhibition Expenses		1751.53
Sumup Commission Charge (1.69%)		108.32
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22628.73</b>	<b>21230.17</b>

---

**Profit/Loss** **1398.56**