

Minutes of a St Neots MRC Committee Meeting Buckden Village Club, Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Caroline Hoy, Chris Langdon, Will Heath, Thomas Hoy, Charlotte Saunderson, John Kneeshaw, Harold Thompson.

Item	Details	Action
1	Apologies None.	
2	Minutes of previous committee meeting No amendments or comments.	
3	Matters arising None	
4	Treasurer's Report The Club has a healthy bank balance. However, with the current year seeing a reduced membership (34), our outgoings account for almost all our income. Hall rental is 84% of predictable expenditure, with average ancillary costs leaving just £300, not allowing for any modelling days (£100 per day) or any layout expenditure. The solution is to attract more members (see item 11.) HSBC bank has still not confirmed the changes to the mandate with new officers' signatures, so although we now have an on-line account with NatWest, the switch from HSBC to NatWest has not yet completed. Chris will continue to monitor the situation. We still have a NS&I postal account, which currently pays almost no interest. However, as no suitable alternatives have been identified, it was decided that this safe instant-access account could be invaluable in the future, so it was agreed to continue with it.	CL
5	Exhibition Manager's Report Charlotte submitted a written report (appended) with two discussion points. It was agreed that the SNMRC constitution could be sent with the grant application. It was also agreed that the charity donation from this year's exhibition should be made to a Parkinson's disease charity in Steve Page's memory.	CS CS
6	Club Layouts Report (a) Bowaters – The progress report of 8 th October 2021 was submitted (appended), and there were no questions. (b) The unsigned Burbury End report was submitted (appended), together with comments from the team to the effect that wiring was ongoing, and that no significant funds would be needed in the short term. The committee asked for the team to appoint a project lead. (c) Test Track – Roy's notes were submitted, and Charlotte asked on behalf of Robert that 're-numbering' be added. It was confirmed that Robert would be project lead, with Roy's support. East Quay will be added to the Club layouts list for future reporting. Further reports should be on a "by exception" basis, including funding proposals.	HT CS WH Leads

7	<p>CMRA Membership</p> <p>It was agreed not to renew our membership of CMRA. It was felt that, with scaled-back exhibitions, and a maintained virtual presence with our website and Facebook page, continued membership did not meet the Club's current needs. Will to let CMRA know of our decision, and thank them for their support over the years.</p>	WH
8	<p>Storage Unit</p> <p>There is a substantial volume of exhibition material that needs storing. At present, it occupies a significant part of the cupboards behind the stage at Buckden Village Hall, plus space kindly provided by Gwyn Williams off-site. The committee felt that it was time to find our own solution to the storage issue. Commercial units start at £45pcm, which is not viable under the current financial position. Will to ask Jackie to ask members in the January newsletter if they have dry storage that could be used.</p>	WH
9	<p>Club Facebook Page</p> <p>The Club has two Facebook pages, a 'public' one (viewable by the public but not used) and a 'private group' one (with a 'public' front page) accessible to members. The front screen of the 'private' page carries a link to the Club website, and it was felt that this was sufficient. Thomas will make the 'public' page un-viewable.</p>	TH
10	<p>East Quay</p> <p>Chris was happy to be project leader for the recently acquired East Quay. It is an exhibition quality layout, requiring some minor work, but he raised the fundamental question "What does the Club want to do with it?" It is a DC layout and could be used regularly at Club for running 00 DC stock. However, as a fine exhibition piece, it would benefit from sound and DCC control. There was some debate, and the committee finally agreed to consider further options in more detail.</p>	CL
11	<p>St Neots Directory and Recruitment</p> <p>Keith Titmuss has suggested that we use the newly created 'St Neots Directory' to advertise the Club. This was agreed. Will to arrange an entry carrying the chairman's Gmail address and website link. On the broader topic of recruitment, Jackie has suggested that we resurrect the Club bi-fold leaflet for distribution to local venues. This was also agreed, using the previous versions as a template but with more pictures and less text, plus the website address and two Gmail addresses as contacts. Caroline will pull some information together, and John will arrange production.</p>	WH CH JK
12	<p>Membership List Circulation</p> <p>A copy of the membership list had been requested by a club member, and Will asked for guidance as to what form this should take under GDPR regulations. Thomas would work on this with Will.</p>	TH/WH
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Will asked how we provide membership cards for new members between renewal dates. It is not feasible to ask Sandy to produce one-off laminated cards. It was therefore agreed to return to non-laminated members cards that can be issued at any time, and do not need to be worn on lanyards. John would look into their production. Chris has already thanked Sandy for all his effort and generosity with the laminated cards over the years.</p>	JK

The next committee meeting will be held at Buckden Village Club on Tuesday 26th April at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.