

Minutes of St Neots Model Railway Club  
Annual General Meeting

**Held at Buckden Village Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

Item	Details	Action
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> 24 members attended. Roger Plummer, Andy Pilditch, Ian Cody, Bill Springbett, Andrew Moore and William Dales sent apologies. Roger Jubb thanked everyone for their support whilst he has been recovering from Covid-19. Caroline answered on the clubs behalf that we were pleased that he had recovered so well.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the previous AGM</b> It was noted that under item 8(h) That it should read Charlotte Saunderson not Charlotte Saunders.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising that are not already on the agenda</b> Club member's layouts were added to the agenda.</p>	
4	<p><b>Chairman's report</b> Caroline reflected on the strange last two years, since the last AGM. During this time Chris Langdon won Personality of the Year 2020 and we had no club meal or winner in 2021. Steve Page sadly passed away having been a member for over 35 years. A modelling open day had been held on 11th September 2021 with the layouts Kimbolton, Priory Yard, Crocklemouth, Bowaters, the test track and Charlotte's diorama on display. Caroline said how lovely it had been to see so many friends and family and thanked everyone for attending the day. She then announced that Harold would be showing a video of his trip to Fawley at the end of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p><b>Secretary's report</b> Sam informed the members that during the Covid-19 situation the committee had been working with Buckden Village Hall to allow the club to operate when possible. It was also noted that during the last two years the committee had still managed to organise eight modelling days, and new email addresses for the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Webmaster. More recently the job of producing the newsletter had been taken over by the secretary after Jackie Kneeshaw stood down. Sam reminded everyone to send anything they wanted to put in the newsletter to the club secretary email. Harold Thompson thanked Jackie for all her work producing the newsletter. Harold then asked how many meetings had the committee had. Caroline estimated approximately eight zoom meetings and a further two face to face.</p>	
6	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b> Keith reported that the club's current total monies held was</p>	

	<p>£16368.33 as of 22/9/21, the rent for Buckden Village hall was £119.95 per month and modelling days cost £92. It was reported that the club currently has 36 full members, 2 children and 1 Associate member. During the last year Keith had looked into how much the club paid for insurance. Staying with Magnet using the CMRA discount it was costing £136.08 (£151.20 without the discount) and CMRA membership cost £30, per year. Having checked with other providers this was still the cheapest option. An inventory of the clubs assets was to be conducted so that future quotes could be more accurate. Keith also reported that 123, the registered domain name provider had charged the club but not supplied an invoice. After many calls they had given the club a £10 credit and the next payment date showed that they had given us a free year as well.</p> <p>HSBC had been in contact and asked us to complete a safeguard initiative form, which had been done. They had also recently informed us that our community account was being closed and that we would need to change to a charitable account that incurs charges of £5 per month and 0.4% on deposits and withdrawals. Keith had looked at getting internet banking with HSBC but they only had a single signature account, which the clubs constitution does not allow. Keith had made enquiries with Barclays but there was currently a waiting list to get an account and needed permission from the members, as per the constitution, to move the banking. All members were happy for the committee to look into internet banking.</p> <p>Keith mentioned that there was still an outstanding loan to Exhibitions, which is not shown in the accounts. Peter Siddall questioned why. Keith said it was noted instead. There had also been a suggestion that it might be an idea to ring fence two years worth of expenditure as a safety net. Charlotte Saunderson raised the point that there was a payment under Fawley Hill for 2019/20 but the visit had been postponed. Keith advised that deposits had been made so it was correct.</p> <p>It had been agreed at committee for the subscriptions to remain the same for the next year, until they could gain a better understanding of how many members would stay following Covid-19. Keith reminded everyone that subs were due by the end of September. Caroline asked for the payment details to be put in the next newsletter. Action - Will to put in newsletter</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>WH</p>
7	<p><b>Exhibition manager's report</b></p> <p>Charlotte stated that although she had been Exhibition manager for the last two years, we had not held an exhibition in that time and that in future the show would be downsized to a one day St Neots MRC show in September/October next year, due to Covid-19 changing life styles. Adam Bussey asked about the size, which Charlotte estimated as about 350m<sup>2</sup>. Jackie Kneeshaw suggested the Huntingdon Commemorative Hall and Sandy Spark the Priory Centre. Will Heath asked about how much parking would be an issue at Buckden, Charlotte said they could always look to</p>	

	alternative parking such as school playgrounds if there wasn't enough.	
8	<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p> <p>The following people were elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Chairman - Caroline Hoy</li> <li>b. Vice Chairman - Thomas Hoy</li> <li>c. Treasurer - Chris Langdon</li> <li>d. Secretary - Will Heath</li> <li>e. Member representatives - John Kneeshaw &amp; Harold Thompson</li> <li>f. Web master - Thomas Hoy was co-opted</li> <li>g. Exhibition manager - Charlotte Saunderson</li> </ul> <p>Caroline thanked the out-going committee members, Jackie, Sandy, Keith, Ian and Sam for all their time and effort.</p>	
9	<p><b>Club Layout Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Burbury End - Colin reported that the boards had been modified and re-laid with cork but there were issues regarding the amount of different ideas within the team. John suggested a committee member should meet with the group to help, Harold volunteered. Adam Bussey stated that he wanted to help but felt he couldn't join in.</li> <li>b) Bowaters Paper Railway - Will stated it had been three years since the idea was muted and estimated that it would take at least another two years to build. The structure and track were built before lock down. Luckily the team had been able to take parts home and during the lock down they had been working on the wiring, which was now finished, and the buildings. They were still working on the control systems and lighting. Adam Bussey offered to submit a lighting plan, which Will said would be considered against the two other plans that had been received already. Will also advised that members of the team were visiting the Bowaters site on Sunday, and the layout already had it's first booking when it was finished, in Glasgow. It was suggested that it would be good for the layout to be put up on a club night so that members could view the progress. Dates were discussed but a decision had yet to be made. Peter Siddall asked how long it took to put it up, currently it was estimated two people half an hour.</li> <li>c) Test Track - Roy Gill advised that there had been problems with parts of the track being broken and was concerned this had been caused by it being mishandled. He asked all members to handle it with care. He stated that it needed more shelving, electrics checking, plugs changing and repainting. Jackie asked if it needed a bigger controller as the larger locomotives may need 5 amps rather than the current 2.5 amps and also that the instructions to put it up needed updating. Roy suggested having a meeting next</li> </ul>	All

	<p>week with Robert Potter and Caroline Hoy.</p> <p>b) Members layouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bankfield Road - Currently due to go to York and Great Central</li> <li>• Crocklemonth - All previous bookings had been moved to future dates due to Covid-19</li> <li>• Spirit of Swindon - Will had let the layout go due to storage issues and moving house.</li> <li>• Passage Lane- All previous bookings had been moved to future dates due to Covid-19</li> <li>• Oakwood Lane &amp; London - Adam had bought a horsebox that he would be using to transport his two layouts. He offered it to members for transporting their layouts.</li> <li>• Priory Yard - Malcolm's layout was part-finished and still being worked on.</li> </ul>	RG, RP, CH
10	<p><b>Website</b></p> <p>Thomas advised that the website had moved from Webs to Vista print and thanked Ian for over seeing the move. Unfortunately the pictures were still not working and edits were not appearing on the live site. Thomas advised that he was going to look into a new website. Charlotte Saunderson asked if members should still email details of their layouts going to exhibitions so he can update the website. Thomas agreed and asked members to email him with any details.</p>	All
11	<p><b>Modelling days</b></p> <p>Caroline asked the members how many modelling days they felt the club should have a year, suggestions of 4 &amp; 6 were made. Will Heath and Chris Langdon said they had been highly valued at critical build times of Bowaters, as an evening was not always enough time to complete tasks. Peter Siddall asked if/why members wanted them, Jackie Kneeshaw replied saying that it was personal choice but essential sometimes when building club layouts. Will Heath suggested that the project leader should add it into the costs in any future proposed layouts. Keith Titmuss stated that four had been suggested for the purposes of calculating running costs but was concerned that more than that may be too advantageous for Associate members, John Kneeshaw felt that this would not be an issue. Jackie Kneeshaw felt that to recruit more members there was a need to offer more facilities such as modelling days. Harold Thompson felt there was a need to broadcast future dates. Sam Clemens advised the committee should be mindful that any cancellations within 56 days of the hiring incur costs. Richard Hind asked about hiring charges, which were confirmed as £92 per day 9am until 5pm for the hall. Adam Bussey suggested donations towards the modelling days might be an option. It was agreed that this should be discussed and decided by the committee.</p> <p>It was mentioned that Bowaters had provisionally booked the 16 October 2021 for the next modelling day however they could no</p>	Committee

	longer make this date and it would need to be cancelled. Action - Sam to cancel.	SC
12	<b>Club meal</b> There was interest in having a club meal. Jackie offered to organise it, and suggested going back to Brampton Mill. If anyone has any other ideas, to let her know. Action - Will to put a note in the newsletter asking members if they have suggestions for an alternative venue.	WH
13	<b>Excursions</b> Fawley Hill had been cancelled due to Covid-19, Andy Pilditch and Harold Thompson had visited this year but it was hoped that this trip could be offered to other members next year. Jackie Kneeshaw suggested other excursions such as a boat trip and the Bluebell Line. The committee advised they were happy to organise, but the club could not subsidise any future trips at present.	
14	<b>AOB</b> <u>Membership cards</u> - Jackie Kneeshaw raised the issue of who would be creating the membership cards with Sandy Spark moving away. It was advised that Sandy had already offered to continue to produce the cards. Jackie reminded everyone to wear their membership cards to allow others to learn/know other member's names.  <u>Duchess issue from Newsletter</u> - Harold Thompson and Adam Bussey offered to help with the issues a member of the public had been having, Caroline to discuss with them.  <u>Club layouts</u> - Peter Siddall asked how many club layouts we now had. It was stated that we had two. Peter felt that we should be thinking about new ones. Action - Will to put it in the newsletter  <u>Accounts</u> - Keith reminded all to carefully destroy copies of the accounts that they had been given at the meeting.  <u>Subscriptions</u> - A reminder was given that subs could be paid by BACS. Action - Will to put a message in the newsletter.  <u>Calendar</u> - A draft proof of the club 2022 calendar was circulated so that members could view it.	All  CH, HT, AB  WH  All  WH

Meeting closed at 9.50pm after Harold's film.