

# ***Railway Preservation Society of Ireland***

## **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**St Jude's Hall, Belfast, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 1981**

Lord O'Neill presided, and 43 members were present. Apologies were received from Denis Grimshaw, Sam Carse, Les McAllister, Paddy O'Brien, John Lockett and Michael Henderson.

The minutes of the 1979 AGM were taken as read and adopted on the proposal of Paul Newell, seconded by William Coates. The minutes of the November 1980 EGM were also taken as read and adopted, proposed Alan Love, seconded Neil Hamilton.

The Secretary read his report, and it was adopted on the proposal of Dermot Mackie, seconded by Charles Friel.

The Treasurer read his report, and it was adopted on the proposal of Neil Hamilton, seconded by John Beaumont.

Lord O'Neill said nominations had been received for all council posts with the exception of Commercial Officer and Publicity Officer. He invited nominations for these two posts, and John Beaumont was proposed for the former post by Colin Holliday, seconded by Robin Morton, while John Friel was proposed for the latter post, proposed by Alan Love, seconded R.Morton.

There being no contests, the 1981 council was then deemed elected thus:

Chairman: Robert Edwards, 61 Ballynahinch Rd., Saintfield, Co. Down.

Secretary: Robin Morton, 2 Cranmore Park, Belfast 9.

Treasurer: John Richardson, 18 Downshire Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim.

Loco. Maintenance: Peter Scott, 17 Finaghy Park Central, Belfast 10.

Loco. Running: Paul Newell, 15 Barnhill, Donaghadee, Co. Down.

Coach Maintenance: Alan Edgar, 152 Cavehill Road, Belfast 15.

Coach Running: Neil Hamilton, 10 Lintagh Park, Hillsborough, Co. Down.

Whitehead site: John Glendinning, 23 Beechdene Gardens, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

Operations: Denis Grimshaw, 14 Craigdarragh Park East, Craigavad, Co. Down.

Commercial: John Beaumont, 148 Dublin Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

Publications: Alan Edgar, address as above.

Publicity: John Friel, 103 Wynchurch Road, Belfast 6.

Dublin agent: Sam Carse, 38 Oakley Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

London agent: Les McAllister, 26 Regent Way, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.

R Edwards paid tribute to A.Love, who was standing down from council.

W Coates proposed that the number of council members should be formally stated to number 12 plus office bearers, and he was seconded by Laurence Morrison. Tony Ragg proposed an amendment, seconded by Paul Newell, that the issue be referred back to the council. The amendment was carried by 37 votes to 2.

In the absence of D.Grimshaw, R.Morton outlined the 1981 tour programme, details of which had already been circulated to members. Arthur Wickham suggested the Flyer extension to Derry be repeated, but P.Newell said that working the train through was unlikely to be popular with the NIR loco crew, who found it a long enough day. It was likely, he said, there would be two Castlerock extensions, with the loco turning at Derry.

Brian Hill and Charles Friel expressed concern about the growing trend for tour trains to be based away from Whitehead for lengthy periods, but R.Morton said such manoeuvres represented a significant reduction in overheads.

P Scott then outlined the Loco. position as follows:

- 3 In traffic (Whitehead)  
Completed: Vacuum brake, replacement of some tubes, hydraulic test.  
Proposed: Repairs to leading axleboxes, new brake blocks.
- 3BG In store (Whitehead).
- 4 General overhaul (Whitehead).  
Completed: New tyre fitted, keep plates fitted.  
In progress: Retube and hydraulic test; bearings re-metalled; rebuild ashpan, overhaul boiler fittings, new piston and valve rings.  
Proposed: Overhaul pony and bogie trucks, repair bunker and tank.
- 23 In traffic (Whitehead).
- 27 In store (Whitehead).
- 85 General overhaul (Harland & Wolff).  
Completed: Welding repairs to firebox.  
Proposed: Retube, hydraulic test, re-assemble.
- 171 Partial overhaul (Whitehead).  
Completed: Repairs to smokebox shell, repairs to superheater.  
In progress: New set superheater elements, new piston heads, hydraulic test, tender tank repairs, smokebox door repairs.
- 184 In traffic (Mullingar).  
Completed: Fit tender ex 186, minor boiler repairs.  
In progress: replace some boiler tubes.  
Proposed: None.
- 186 In store (Whitehead).  
In progress: Repair firehole ring patch.  
Proposed: New set elements, replace flue tubes, repair smokebox door, new firebars.
- 461 General overhaul (Mullingar).  
Completed: Remetal axleboxes, dismantle, including seized piston and valves.  
Proposed: Renew tubes, stay nuts, etc., new piston, overhaul motion, replace fittings, replace blast pipe, overhaul brake cylinders and rigging, repair tender tank.

P.Scott said that for once, there were encouraging trends on the manpower front.

J.Friel proposed a motion expressing thanks to the council and active membership for a very successful 1980 tour season. W.Coates seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

W.Coates then proposed that members who made a written request should be entitled to receive copies of the RPSI Articles of Association. The motion failed to find a seconder and fell. R.Edwards pointed out that a copy was available for consultation at the Treasurer's house, and also at the Companies Office in Belfast, where copies could be made for a small charge.

Nevin Hamilton then asked if progress was being made towards providing a carriage shed at Whitehead and the re-commissioning the turntable at Portrush. A.Edgar said a carriage shed would be very expensive, but plans were being made for a small storage shed. R.Edwards said negotiations were in progress between NIR and the Government over the re-siting of Derry turntable.

As there was no further business, the meeting was declared closed. Members enjoyed a film show featuring material from Harry Frazer and John Friel.

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Chairman*      *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_