

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pavilion, Whitehead, Saturday 6th June 2009

Lord O'Neill chaired the meeting and 42 members were present.

Apologies

Garret FitzGerald, H.Boomer, B.Carse, B.Garrioch, I.Gilmore, R.Henderson, C.Holliday, L.King, F.Lee, R.Linsley, L.McAllister, C.Meredith, R.Morton, I.Sinclair, L.Walters, J.Williams.

Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The minutes, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of H.Ritchie, seconded by W.Riddall.

Chairman's Report

The report was adopted on the proposal of D.Mackie, seconded by N.Foster.

Secretary's Report

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of N.Poots, seconded by F.McDonnell.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer commented that he was pleased that the 2007 deficit had been turned round to a surplus in 2008, despite the current economic climate.

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of D.Humphries, seconded by J.Darling.

Appointment Of Auditors

Dunne McNulty Nannery were re-appointed on the proposal of P.Marsden, seconded by D.Humphries.

Reports Of Operations Officers

The reports of the Operations Officers, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of H.Ritchie, seconded by T.O'Shaughnessy.

Reports Of Locomotive And Carriage Officers

The reports were adopted on the proposal of S.Boomer, seconded by B.Skingle.

Election Of Council and Office Bearers For 2009

The Secretary reported that nominations had been received for all posts. A challenge for the post of Dublin Area Operations Officer had been withdrawn at a late stage so there were no contests.

The following members were elected to serve on Council:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Johnny Glendinning
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	David Houston
<i>Secretary:</i>	Paul McCann
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Peter Marsden
<i>Locomotive Officer:</i>	Peter Scott
<i>Carriage & Wagon Officer (Southern):</i>	Tony O'Shaughnessy
<i>Carriage & Wagon Officer (Whitehead):</i>	Francis Richards
<i>Belfast Area Operations Officer:</i>	Mervyn Darragh
<i>Dublin Area Operations Officer:</i>	Mark Tyrrell
<i>Business Development Officer:</i>	Fergus McDonnell
<i>General Officer:</i>	Mark Walsh
<i>General Officer:</i>	Joe McKeown

Any Other Business

J.Glendinning asked for the opportunity to outline to the membership some of what is required to run the Society from one General Meeting to the next. There is: the Finance Committee, becoming increasingly important as Society business expands; Belfast and Dublin Area Operations Committees, very busy in organising trains; sales and catering teams, the members of which normally don't have a minute to spare when the trains are moving; two Health & Safety Officers, very understanding gentlemen who will normally step in with timely warnings; Workshop Management Committee; Museum Committee; 2020 Committee, tasked with looking to the future and applying for grant aid; Inchicore Relocation Committee; Whitehead Youth Group. Important tasks for the year ahead are: identifying a new base in the Dublin area as Inchicore is being re-developed as part of the interconnector tunnel under Dublin; further IÉ driver training; NIR driver assessor training; identifying further NIR drivers as trainee firemen; Stables roof repairs; Diner 87 restoration as a tea bar and exhibition area; grant applications to replace site fence, fix the entrance road and erect a station building on the platform; seek HLF aid for a carriage shed extension and workshop, locomotive workshop extension and a new tarry.

J.Friel commended the current Society officers, as they had to contend with substantially more regulations in comparison to the free and easy 1970s when he was on Council.

P.Scott said there was substantial goodwill to the RPSI within Irish Rail but this did not always translate to practicalities. A very serious concern had arisen if the Society wished to continue to operate trains from Dublin as facilities at Inchicore and Connolly were set to disappear. The incoming Council will have to give the matter its highest attention as substantial funds will need to be raised to put a replacement in place.

J.Glendinning agreed and noted that a decision will also be needed as to the use of Irish Rail facilities, if available, or premises of our own. Sir Kenneth Bloomfield recommended that the Council consider using the experience of the Society's President and Vice-Presidents to influence negotiations with the railway company and/or government. D.Humphries agreed that this would be useful if and when it becomes necessary, but not yet. D.Henderson suggested Dundalk as a base. T.O'Shaughnessy said that Dundalk had been considered, along with a dozen other locations, but priority would be given to sites nearer Dublin to facilitate volunteers. D.Young noted that empty train mileage would also be an issue if based away from Dublin.

J.Glendinning reported that the Heritage Council is introducing museum accreditation status in the south, with accredited museums in the north having automatic acceptance, and vice versa. Hence, the Society would be an accredited museum throughout Ireland, a useful position to be in when seeking grant aid.

That being all the business, Lord O'Neill thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____ *Chairman* _____ *Date:* _____