

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

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

**North Star Hotel, Dublin, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

D.Houston introduced new Vice-President Robert Guinness and thanked him for agreeing to chair the meeting. 48 members were present.

### ***Apologies***

Lord O'Neill, K.Bloomfield, H.Boomer, B.Carse, D.Carse, T.Casterton, M.Darragh, N.Foster, M.Glendinning, B.Hill, D.Mackie, F.McDonnell, J.McKeown, C.Meredith, N.Owen, F.Richards, A.Richardson, J.Richardson, L.Sheehan, J.Smyth.

### ***Minutes of the 2011 EGM***

The minutes, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of T.O'Shaughnessy, seconded by J.Darling.

### ***Minutes of the 2011 AGM***

The minutes, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of M.Hoey, seconded by B.King-Wood.

### ***Chairman's Report***

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of N.Kelly, seconded by S.Boomer.

### ***Secretary's Report***

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of H.Ritchie, seconded by B.King-Wood.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of A.Hyland, seconded by B.Mullally.

### ***Appointment Of Auditors***

Dunne McNulty Nannery were re-appointed on the proposal of B.King-Wood, seconded by J.Darling.

### ***Reports Of Operations Officers***

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of M.Healy, seconded by W.Molloy.

### ***Reports Of Locomotive And Carriage Officers***

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of M.Tennis, seconded by A.Hyland.

### ***Election Of Board and Office Bearers For 2012***

P.McCann reported that a vacancy existed for the post of Treasurer and for one of the 11 general directors.

D.Houston reminded those present that the post of Treasurer was vital to the running of the Society, but the post was well-supported by a very competent finance sub-committee and so was not exceptionally onerous.

There being no further nominations from the meeting, the following were elected to serve on the Board on the proposal of M.Hoey, seconded by N.Kelly:

<i><b>Chairman:</b></i>	David Houston	<i><b>Directors:</b></i>	Mervyn Darragh	Tony O'Shaughnessy
<i><b>Vice-Chairman:</b></i>	Denis Grimshaw		Mark Healy	David Orr
<i><b>Secretary:</b></i>	Paul McCann		Dermot Mackie	Francis Richards
<i><b>Treasurer:</b></i>			Fergus McDonnell	Alex Richardson
			Joe McKeown	Peter Scott

## ***Special Resolution (1)***

It was proposed that the text of Article 9 be amended from:

*If the Board shall be of the opinion that it is not in the interest of the Company that any member shall continue to be a member thereof, the Board may request that member in writing to resign from the Company. Thereupon his name shall be removed from the Register, and he shall forfeit his interest and privileges in the Company. Provided always that any member in relation to whom any such action is proposed shall be entitled to address the Board in regard to such action.*

to:

*Membership will be terminated if the member concerned:*

*(a) Gives notice of resignation to the company.*

*(b) Dies.*

*(c) Is six or more months in arrears in paying the relevant subscription.*

*(d) Is removed from membership by resolution of the directors on the grounds that in their reasonable opinion the member's continued membership is harmful to the company*

*This will only take place after the member has been notified in writing and given an opportunity to give written representations to the directors.*

The resolution was proposed by H.Ritchie, seconded by D.Humphries, and agreed without dissent.

## ***Special Resolution (2)***

It was proposed that Company's annual account reporting date be moved from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The resolution was proposed by T.Dean, seconded by D.Humphries, and agreed without dissent.

## ***Any Other Business***

M.Hoey asked what was being done to progress the setting up of a base in the Dublin area. D.Houston said that Connolly shed had been offered on a temporary basis for locomotives only. The railway company was sympathetic to the Society but when last discussed had no suitable premises to offer on a long-term basis. D.Grimshaw said a green field site was not really an option as track and signalling connections to a running line would involve costs of at least €500,000, and possibly much more. P.Scott said it was vital for the continued operation of steam locomotives from Dublin that premises be found. He said what would be considered relatively minor defects if based at Whitehead have become difficult, if not impossible, to deal with in Dublin at present. T.O'Shaughnessy recommended setting up a Dublin-based 2020 committee to focus on the provision of such a Dublin base and D.Houston undertook to have the Board deal with it.

P.Scott reported that No.85 was 90% complete mechanically and tubing and boiler fitting were imminent. He hoped to steam the locomotive by summer 2013. No.171 will be next in line for overhaul.

D.Grimshaw reported that outline architect's drawings and cost estimates were being produced to have them available should funding become available for the proposed museum and storage facilities at Dundalk.

P.Scott told M.Hoey that moving of coach 5408 to Whitehead was dependent on the NIR acceptance procedure, the next panel meeting being due in September.

D.Houston told D.Seymour that no general letter of apology had been written to participants on the May 2012 railtour in respect of the enforced termination of the train at Dundalk.

J.Gunning complimented J.Richardson's sales team for the efforts being put into raising funds for the No.171 Appeal.

J.Gunning said at least 18 trains had to be cancelled or operated without steam since last year. He asked had the Board's policy changed in relation to ensuring steam locomotives were available for all operations. P.Scott replied that it had never been Society policy to ensure operation with steam, but rather to operate with steam locomotives if and when they are available. And it was up to the operations committees to draw up realistic programmes based on the locomotives expected to be available. He reiterated the need for a Dublin base and said it was his intention that locomotives would not be permitted to run-in on publicly advertised trains. For instance, No.461 should not have been permitted to operate the tour to Rosslare earlier in the year. He hoped that the setting up of the

engineering subsidiary would introduce a more professional and cost-accountable approach, making the overhaul process more predictable. F Gallagher suggested that it should be viewed as an achievement that steam-hauled operations ran at all. G.Mooney noted that the Irish Rail crews had shown a great commitment to operating steam, despite the recent problems. P.Scott said that the immediate plan was to get No.461 to Inchicore where the damaged wheelset could be removed for repair at Whitehead.

L.Mooney noted that the recent failure at Kilkenny had highlighted a lack of communication in the footplate, operations officer, stewards chain. It was also noted that a working PA system would help to maintain an information flow to passengers; it was agreed that this should be a priority.

That being all the business R.Guinness thanked those present for attending and put forward a vote of thanks to all the Society volunteers.

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