

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Whitehead Community Centre, Saturday 13th February 2016

Dr Joan Smyth chaired the meeting and 39 members were present.

Dr Smyth asked those present to stand for a minute's remembrance of the Board member, volunteers and ordinary members who had died during the past year.

Apologies

Lord O'Neill, M.Healy, D.Humphries, G.Huxley, A.Hyland, D.Mackie, A.Maxwell, F.McAllister, P.McKeown, G.Mooney, B.Mullally, P.Newell, J.O'Meara, H.Ritchie, M.Walsh, D.Young.

Minutes of the AGM on 24th January 2015

The minutes, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of R.Morton, seconded by J.McKeown.

Chairman's Report

The report was read and was adopted on the proposal of D.Houston, seconded by F.McDonnell.

Secretary's Report

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of W.Riddall, seconded by S.Timmins.

Treasurer's Report

W.Garrioch thanked the members of his Finance Committee and those involved in commercial fundraising.

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

Appointment Of Auditors

Guardian were re-appointed on the recommendation of J.Glendingning, seconded by D.Houston.

Reports Of Operations Officers

J.McKeown updated his circulated report with details of upcoming trips to Carrick-on-Shannon and Rosslare. He also reported that the Society's three GM locomotives in Inchicore, 134, B141 and 175, were being made ready for transfer to Connolly Shed, hopefully within a few weeks.

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of A.Gray, seconded by W.Riddall.

Reports Of Locomotive And Carriage Officers

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of D.Houston, seconded by C.Ragg.

Election Of Board and Office Bearers

Dr Smyth noted that members owed a great deal of gratitude to the Board, and to volunteers north and south, for the tremendous work done over the previous year.

P.McCann reported that three nominations had been received for the four vacant Director posts. There were no nominations for Vice-Chairman.

There being no further nominations from the meeting, the following were elected to serve on the Board on the proposal of R.Morton, seconded by J.Darling:

Chairman:	Denis Grimshaw	Directors:	Eileen Armstrong	Fergus McDonnell
Vice-Chairman:			Stephen Comiskey	Joe McKeown
Secretary:	Paul McCann		Mervyn Darragh	Phillip Newell
Treasurer:	Bill Garrioch		David Houston	Peter Scott
			Dermot Mackie	Mark Walsh

Any Other Business

J.Glending reported that, in his role as HRA Chairman in Ireland, he had attended the HRA's annual dinner at which the RPSI had been given a runner-up place in the John Coiley Award. The award had been made in recognition of the work carried out in returning locomotive No.131 to traffic. He said that when consideration was given to the competition from GB societies the significance of the achievement by HEI and Society volunteers could be understood. The award certificate was presented to P.Scott.

R.Moran asked that consideration be given to paying when overnight accommodation is required for volunteers. S.Timmins suggested perhaps a contribution towards the costs might be acceptable. D.Grimshaw said it would be brought to the next Board meeting.

M.Halliday said he noticed a drone flying over the locomotive on a recent operation. He suggested that a request be published that discouraging this new trend.

M.Halliday requested that one of the Belfast evening meetings be named in honour of the late Fred Cooper each year.

M.Halliday suggested that Carrick-on-Shannon was not a suitable destination so early in the year as March.

W.Riddall asked why the prices on the annual railtour were not given in Euros as well as Sterling. P.McCann replied that the railtour was traditionally administered by the northern team and most of the clientele were from GB. He said he was not keen to introduce a two currency pricing system, but there was a Sterling to Euro converter on the bottom of the form.

J.McBride asked had the RPSI been in touch with Derry City Council in the past year to discuss the future of the railway museum and exhibits in the city. D.Grimshaw said that the Board had little time and availability to do so.

D.Chambers noted that it was great that the Gatwick coaches had been saved but wondered why not likewise with Irish Rail Mark 2 coaches. Dr Smyth replied that it had been her privilege to have helped negotiate with the NIR board to get the coaches saved for the RPSI at a nominal price.

P.McCann added that perhaps more of the Irish Rail coaches could have been saved, but there was little prior warning that they would become available and indeed scrapping started with a few days of withdrawal.

R.Morton thanked the Board and the 2020 Committee for all the work undertaken to bring No.131 back to traffic and for the ongoing effort in developing the new Whitehead Railway Centre.

Dr Smyth thanked everybody for attending and that being all the business she brought the meeting to a close.

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