

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St George's Hall, Belfast, Saturday 9th November 2024

Dr Joan Smyth chaired the meeting and 22 members were present.

Those present stood as a mark of respect to members deceased during the year, notably past chairman Denis Grimshaw and his wife Jean. A letter of thanks was read from John McKegney's partner for helping her commemorate John's life.

Apologies

D.Carse, J.Cassells, G.Ebrill, J.Harcourt, B.Humphries, J.McKeown, R.Morton, J.Smyth, M.Walker, M.Walsh.

Minutes of the AGM on 7th October 2023

The minutes, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of J.Richardson, seconded by D.Houston.

Chairman's Report

P.Rigney updated his previously published report by commenting on the effort going into the progressing of the NI Safety Management System and Railway Undertaking application by J.Clinton, J.Friel and M.Walsh. An outcome is expected in early 2025, with a follow-up to consider how best to approach crewing in NI.

The Railway Undertaking licence in Dublin is expiring in December 2025 and D.McCabe is putting a lot of work into its renewal. The renewal will now be dealt with by the railway authorities in Europe rather than the CRR in Dublin, as previously.

The Chairman thanked outgoing General Manager Lisa Adair, and welcomed her successor Yvonne McIlree, wishing her well and offering her the co-operation of all volunteers.

Operations from Dublin were generally good during the year, but crewing has become an issue and steps are being taken to address this.

The report was adopted on the proposal of W.Riddall, seconded by J.Williams.

Secretary's Report

P McCann reported that there was a possibility in future for an option to receive Five Foot Three electronically.

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of S.Harpur, seconded by R.Harris.

Treasurer's Report

J.Friel, representing the Finance Committee, noted the regular transfer of funds from Dublin to Whitehead. He thanked G.Nortje for the financial administration he undertook in the office at Whitehead.

D.Humphries queried the lack of clarity in the accounts in regard to what expenditure items actually cover. He had asked the question last year but the issue remains. N.Foster noted that the published accounts from earlier years were much simpler and easier to understand. P.Rigney said the layout of the accounts, as previously advised, is dictated by company and charity law.

D.Humphries said he was concerned that the accounts showed an operating loss and he asked was the Board equally concerned. P.Rigney assured him that the Board was fully aware of the situation and was taking all possible steps to address it.

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

Appointment Of Auditors

Finegan Gibson were appointed on the proposal of J.Friel, seconded by P.Rigney.

Reports Of Operations Officers

M.Devlin outlined the Dublin operations during the year as reported in Five Foot Three.

P.Rigney noted the very innovative series of Christmas events at Whitehead.

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

Reports Of Locomotive And Carriage Officers

P.McCann referred to a recent Locomotive report which had been circulated.

P.Rigney reported on changes at Inchicore which had made a number of storage facilities available to the Society.

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of K.Walker, seconded by J.Richardson.

Election Of Board and Office Bearers

P.McCann reported that nominations had been received for all posts, except Treasurer, and there were no contests. He advised that D.O'Hara had stepped down as an external director, and thanked him for his help in the complicated area of human resources.

There being no further nominations from the meeting, the following were elected to serve on the Board:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Peter Rigney	<i>Directors:</i>	Jonathan Clinton	Joe McKeown
<i>Treasurer:</i>			Martin Devlin	Mark Parker
			Sue Harpur	Peter Stark
			Rachael Harris	Mark Walsh
			Paul McCann	

The President welcomed new director Peter Stark who had been co-opted during the year.

Any Other Business

The President read a letter of thanks on behalf of HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, for the kind welcome he had received on the occasion of the launch of No.171 "Slieve Gullion" at Whitehead.

She noted the recent appointment of Frank Allen as a Vice-President in Dublin, and hoped it would not be long before we could appoint a northern VP.

The President paid tribute to all volunteers who kept trains running, saying every one was important. She challenged every member to recruit a new member, if not a volunteer.

With that, she closed the meeting with a thank-you to all who had attended.

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