

**(Draft) MINUTES OF 4<sup>th</sup> AGM OF THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
as a Company Limited by Guarantee  
and the  
69th AGM of the Society since its formation**

**Held on 27th June 2020 at 15:00 as a Virtual Meeting**

46 Members are present (by proxy): *Peter Kinnear, John Huxley, Peter Deacon, Brian Craven, Harry Chandler, William Grisenthwaite, Tim Bridge, Michael Sarsfield, Mr R Wolfe-Coe, Martin Brown, Peter Fischer, Lionel Kay, David Collister, Chris Gerrard, Andrew Roberts, Ian Porter, Tony Stratford, John Gilby, John Smith, Mike Swift, Paul Webb, John Organ, John Scholes, Richard Haworth, Ian Hurst, John Moore, Julian Garratt, Harry Chandler, John Kitchenman, Francis Hugh Smith, Alan Hayday, Martin Brown, Sydney Leleux, Norman Drake, Frank Stephen, David Cross, Dennis Humphries, John Price, Terence John Steele, Stewart Liles, John Davison, Gerry Cork, Bernard Gudgin, Colin Brazier, George Cash, Richard Haste.*

7 Directors are virtually present: *Steve Barber (Company Secretary), Alan Burgess (Chairman/ The Narrow Gauge Editor/ Narrow Gauge News Overseas Editor), Mick Morgan (Webmaster), Chris Roberts (Facebook Administrator), Robert Watson (Treasurer), Jonathan James (NGN Miniature Railways Editor), Paul Bennett (NGN Editor).*

13 Officers are virtually present: *Jill Everitt (Membership Secretary), Martin O'Keeffe (Assistant Librarian), Mike Jackson (Film and Video Archivist, Visits Officer), Gerry Balding (NGN UK Editor), Graham Feldwick (NGN H&A Editor), Iain McCall (NGN Event Diary Editor), Simon Guppy (Visits Officer (South)(in Waiting)), Rod Bryant (Visits Officer (North)(in Waiting)), Ken Matticks (Legal Assistant), Leslie Tindall (Modelling Secretary, NGN Modelling Editor), Dan Holbrook (Sales Officer), Peter Wilson (Librarian), Stephen Moore (Treasurer).*

The Meeting was chaired by *Alan Burgess*.

It was determined that a quorum (5 Directors and 25 full Members (in attendance or by proxy)) was present and the meeting could conduct business.

The Secretary determined that notice of the meeting had been properly given in accordance with the Articles. The Meeting has been summarily adjourned and reconvened as a virtual meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

A copy of the Minutes of the previous AGM was presented to the meeting, together with the Accounts, Officers' Reports and Appendices, which are available on the Society's website.

#### **Chairman's Address**

Dear Members, may I welcome you to our first Virtual AGM, the extraordinary circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in us taking this unusual course of action, and we hope that things will return to normal by next year.

I encourage you all to exercise your right to speak in the virtual domain and submit your Questions etc. to the Secretary for inclusion on this page and the Directors and Officers will in turn will give their responses. You can of course tackle the meeting in any order you like as it does not take place in real time, and we will look after the administration and post your question/ comment in the relevant section. I anticipate that this will deliver a successful virtual AGM

I hereby formally declare this meeting open and I look forward to receiving your contributions.

*Alan Burgess*

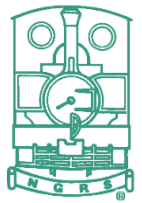
The Virtual Meeting was declared open on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## **Informal business and reports from Directors, Officers and other groups**

### **Minutes of 2019 AGM**

See Appendix C.

As no objections, corrections or items notified were received, the minutes are considered as accepted.



## **Committee Reports**

### **Chairman's Report**

Any report at this time is overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic and your Directors and committee members are focused on preserving the Society for the future rather than looking back to the last year.

However, I have to say that in March before the Government action to contain the Coronavirus began, we were in a stronger position than for some time. The impact of the resignation of two Committee members has been overcome by others stepping up to undertake additional duties, and by earlier decisions that anticipated potential problems and planned for dealing with them.

The recent death of our former Membership Secretary *Lawson Little* was a blow and we will all miss his contribution and presence. He was a real pillar of the society.

Our financial situation remains healthy and as a result we have been able to maintain what were already low subscription rates. We continue to believe that we offer excellent value for money.

Narrow Gauge News continues to thrive, with some bumper issues in the past year, and we have stepped up the frequency of The Narrow Gauge, with a particularly large edition covering the Great Bush railway.

We were planning another summer season of visits, but the early ones are already cancelled, and we have no idea whether there can be a resumption later. A great shame for those involved with their planning.

Clearly, we do not know how our year will continue. We hope to continue mailing our publications, but this depends on the printer continuing to function. The library is temporarily suspended due to the inability to access the premises.

I traditionally end this report with a moan about the burden of work falling on the Society's Officers, and this has never been more relevant. Without their help in overcoming the resignations of directors, this report would be pessimistic. We are very grateful to those who have stepped forward to help in the past few months, but it remains unsatisfactory that the vast majority of the work necessary to ensure the continuation of the society falls on a very few individuals, some of whom are doing more than one job. We should all be extremely grateful for their time and efforts. If you think you can help, please volunteer – we can find something for you to do.

I am optimistic that our core strengths mean that we will continue to be successful whenever normality returns.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Chairman's Report.

### **Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)**

As has already been referred to, *Phil Thompson* resigned in early January, having been instrumental in steadying the society's finances over the past few years and providing financial and management accounting to a standard that only a profession could. I regret his departure more than most, as it has led to me temporarily taking back the Treasurer role. The role is not particularly onerous, requiring at a minimum a few bills to be paid each month, some basic book-keeping and liaising with an accountant to produce the annual accounts. So why do I need you to consider taking on some or all of the role? The fact is that I have work and other interests which make undertaking the role an imposition and I just know that there must be at least one member of the society out there who is comfortable with numbers and who wants to play a part in planning the future of the society. Please get in touch!

*Phil* could not have left the financial management of the society in a better state – his spreadsheets for 2019 were basically finished and it has taken longer to find a local accountant and get him engaged than it has taken him to produce the statutory accounts from *Phil's* spreadsheets and his immaculately prepared information folders. Thanks *Phil!*

The key points from the accounts are as follows:

- Turnover was slightly down in 2019, primarily as a result of a small fall in membership
- Costs increased, as a result primarily of increased magazine costs
- The net effect of this is that a small loss was made overall (£1,094 after tax)
- This is very much in line with the budget, which was set to start to balance profits made in previous years – the financial object being to be 'not for profit' over the medium term.

Other points to note are:



- At a detailed level, some costs have moved from one line to another, as a result of conventions used by our new accountant (you know the story that if you ask 25 economists for a forecast you will get at least 26 different views, well this seems to apply to accountants too)
- *Phil* provided a considerable amount of extra detail, not required in the statutory accounts, but helpful to understand the detail of how the society functions financially. I have not had the time to provide this. If you would like more detail, then now is the time to volunteer to produce it!
- Subscriptions for 2020/2021 were not increased by your Committee on the basis that with no immediate need for the funds held on deposit (broadly £80,000 at the lowest point of the year, just before subscriptions start to arrive) it would be acceptable to incur a bigger loss in 2020. Subscriptions for 2021/2022 will be considered this autumn on the basis of actual expenditure for the year to date at that point and forecasts for membership and costs in 2021.

*Robert Watson*

There were no questions in respect of the Treasurer's Report.

### **Secretary's Report**

This year I have organised the usual AGM and Committee meetings (though the current Public Health Emergency has impacted on this) and prepared the agendas and minutes. It is with great regret that this year's AGM Meeting and entertainment has had to be cancelled, but I hope that you will all understand the reasons why

The AGM this year is taking place as a virtual meeting and I hope that many of you will participate. The minutes will be offered for approval at the next AGM by when I hope normal service will have been resumed

At the end of 2019 I thought that the Company was running well, however the resignation of *Phil Thompson* and *Jim Hay*, together with the sad loss of *Lawson Little* increased the workload and administration required for all the Directors and Officers. If this wasn't bad enough the impact of Coronavirus has only added to the necessary workload.

Still the good news is that a number of executive positions have been filled. Thanks are due to those who have volunteered to fill them. However, as in previous years there continue to be Committee vacancies and I would encourage you all to consider if you are able to fill one of these roles or offer support in a smaller way, an increased number of Committee members are already undertaking more than one role and this limits how effectively the Directors/ Committee can operate. If you volunteer, we are happy to provide assistance, guidance and encouragement. I assure you that it is both rewarding and fun, most of us don't bite (unless it's lunchtime).

I would like to thank my fellow Directors and Company Officers whose tireless enthusiasm, input and support ensures the largely smooth operating of the Company and are doing their best to us get through the current difficulties. The Directors and Officers are continuing to examine ways to modernise the Society and provide the best value for money to the membership.

The General Data Protection Regulations have changed the way that we communicate, including by email, and we are still adjusting to the requirements, but please be assured that we take data security seriously and have taken any necessary corrective action.

I regret to report, yet again, that a new lease for the Library facilities at Apedale remains outstanding, and we are currently proceeding under a rollover lease with the agreement of the Moseley Railway Trust. The Progress with the new Museum/ Library building at Apedale is currently stalled but I remain hopeful that there will be progress soon and this matter can be progressed.

Unsurprisingly since the new year the number of items I have been dealing with has increased greatly amounting to an average 25 emails a day, fortunately it's not always this intense, normally being this number a week.

May I also extend a warm welcome to all our new members, I hope that you are enjoying our publications and events. Additionally I must also include in that welcome several new Committee members whose input helps us to keep the Society relevant and vibrant.

In summary this has been a successful year, with a secure Society; I am sure that the current difficulties will soon be behind us and things will be back to normal.

*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Secretary's Report.



## Membership Secretary's Report

Back in February *Lawson* and I discussed the Membership Secretary's report and decided we would each make a contribution. As you are aware *Lawson* sadly passed away just as the membership renewal process was starting to gather pace. I have since spoken with *Sheila*, *Lawson's* widow, on how to proceed with reporting for the past year and it was agreed *Lawson's* words should be printed exactly as he wrote them: -

2020 marks my 25th year in office, and as such seems to be a suitable point in time at which to "pass the baton". Accordingly, *Jill* is in the process of taking over the role from me, a process which will be completed after the first rush of renewals is over around May/June.

I have greatly enjoyed my tenure of office which has enabled me to make many new friends. Unlike some Committee Members I have always regarded the Society as a group of enthusiasts with similar interests rather than a business operation, and I'm sure that *Jill* will maintain that approach. Over the years I have shared many condolences and sympathies with members, who in turn I believe have appreciated the "personal approach".

Unfortunately, Old Father Time has finally caught up with me, so it's time give the keyboard a rest and leave matters to those younger and more computer-literate than I to carry the flag forward.

*Lawson Little*

With *Lawson's* agreement and encouragement, I have been performing the Membership Secretary role since the beginning of 2020. Unfortunately, I do not have all the finalised information I would like to complete this report due to the present emergency restrictions. Consequently, this report has been compiled earlier than would normally be the case and is based upon the information currently available.

Despite no major recruitment drives during the year and the effect on numbers of members who joined as a result of previous recruitment drives deciding not to renew, we ended 2019 with just 34 fewer members than we started the year – a good result considering. From current renewal figures we are experiencing a healthy renewal rate for the coming 2020/21 year. Sadly, 14 members have passed away during the year.

A collection of around 100 renewal letters was made from *Lawson's* home on 22 March and these have now been processed.

As a newbie I have been amazed at the thoughtfulness of the many members who have made financial donations to the Society as part of the renewal process. On behalf of the Society, thank you. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

As you are aware the role of the Membership Secretary had been split between three people. With my appointment it will now revert to being fully covered by one person.

I am conscious that I have some pretty big boots to fill and I hope I can serve you as diligently as *Lawson* has over the past 25 years.

*Jill Everitt*

There were no questions in respect of the Membership Report.

## THE NARROW GAUGE Editor's Report

During the 2019/2020 membership year we maintained our ambition to continue the increased level of publication and pagination of *The Narrow Gauge*. We managed five issues with 260 pages – slightly below the record 280 in the previous year, but still a credit to members' efforts.

There were two special issues – one a particularly detailed history of the Great Bush railway. I am very grateful to *Ian Oughton* for writing this, the most complete history of a relatively small preserved railway that we have produced. I think it was well worthwhile doing so – it really got to the heart of the sheer hard work preservation involves.

The second special issue, of course, was on the Maine 2-footers, a fascinating group of lines. It was well worthwhile highlighting what remains today.

A growing resource for TNG materials is contained in additions to the library and this formed the basis for the third special issue, featuring the late Ron Redman's pictures from trips in the Society's formative years.

I still have a reasonable backlog of material but would welcome more, especially on UK subjects (an annual plea of mine). Could we persuade our more mature members to dig out their pre-1970 pictures and notes and share them for



all of us to enjoy and learn from? There must be members with memories of industrial lines and the early days of preservation: please consider writing a piece for us.

We know that some members are critical of the high level of miniature and overseas railway content in The Narrow Gauge. We can only print what is sent to us and are always willing to consider ideas for future special issues of TNG: I have only one at the moment, so the chances of early publication are good.

My thanks to members who have provided articles for The Narrow Gauge. Their number is limited, but without them the magazine could not continue.

*Alan Burgess*

*Stewart Liles* asked: Whilst I very much welcome the increase in size of The Narrow Gauge, would it be possible to use a thicker cardboard for the covers? This is particularly relevant to single topic 'Specials' which may be read and referred to more regularly than the normal issues and therefore may become creased and worn more quickly. I realise that this may add to the weight and therefore possibly the postage cost.

*Alan Burgess* responded: All TNGs should have a cover that is a heavier weight than other pages – usually 200/160gsm. It is particularly important for the heavier 'specials' such as the Great Bush, Barsi and Robert Hudson and unfortunately the Great Bush 'special' had a standard weight cover in error. We will ensure printers are instructed to use a heavier stock for the covers of future TNGs – although this is not felt to be a problem when pages do not exceed 36. There is no great financial penalty and print/postage cost is not an issue.

## **NARROW GAUGE NEWS Editors' Reports**

### **(a) Editor's Report**

Since the last AGM, six issues of Narrow Gauge News have been produced; once again I cannot thank too much my colleagues who edit sections of the publication; they are invaluable. *Alan Burgess* edits the Overseas section and *Gerry Balding* the British narrow gauge; *Jonathan James* is responsible for the Miniature Gauges section. *Graham Feldwick* continues to produce an outstanding Archaeology and History section and *Les Tindall* is developing the Modelling section. *Lawson Little* has been a superb proof-reader right up to the March 2020 edition; his sad death means that there will be more of my errors which appear in future editions; our debt to him is tremendous. *Gerry Balding* continues proof-reading so there is still some hope that my blunders will be spotted. *Alan Burgess* has offered to take over where *Lawson* left off.

There have been issues of 42, 56, 64, 58, 44 and 36 pages. I still cannot help feeling that many members visit railways without sending in a report; we often rely on websites and press releases to keep us informed when a member's comment would be very welcome. The web edition has been produced for each issue, too. Thanks again to *Mick Morgan* for his careful presentation of that.

During the year production has changed from a Windows program, Serif PagePlus, to a mac program, Affinity Publisher (both are British!). You may have noticed some glitches early on, but the editing has proved easier since the change. I am also consulting a graphic designer with a view to improving presentation still further.

The final editing of NGN still takes me about a week of work. The section editors do a great deal too. I am willing to continue for a while if the membership so wish.

*Paul Bennett*

There were no questions in respect of the Narrow Gauge News Editor's Report.

### **(b) UK and Ireland News Editor's Report**

I would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful over past year and to all those who have submitted reports and photos. Could I please ask all members that when visiting railways or special events (or even volunteering on railways) to take the time to send me a brief report and photos for inclusion in the next Narrow Gauge News. It is these reports which are the lifeblood of the section.

We are well served by news and reports from English and Welsh heritage railways (although there are still a few notable exceptions). Over the past year we have seen more reports from Ireland and some from railways not covered before. However, there are still relatively few reports received about industrial narrow gauge railways. I suspect this is mainly due to the very limited use of narrow gauge railways in industry these days. I would especially welcome any reports on this area.

A number of railways have been very helpful in supplying reports and photos on request. This has proved fairly successful as they recognise the value of the publicity their reports and photos in Narrow Gauge News can provide.



Indeed, some have gone further and commented on the positive role of the Society in their journals and encouraged their members to join.

More and more reports these days are coming via Facebook and other social media. There currently seems to be a trend for reporting news on social media rather than by press releases or via websites. Whilst I will use these (where possible) the format and quality of these articles makes the collation of a concise report for British and Irish Narrow Gauge News difficult. Hence, members' reports are crucial.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in mid-March, the supply of news has all but dried up. While this situation is likely to continue for some time, the impact on railways and the content of British and Irish Narrow Gauge News is difficult to anticipate. It is my intention to continue work and to produce British and Irish Narrow Gauge News as far as available reports allow.

A pleasing feature of the past year is to see some new projects getting off the ground, new locomotive builds progressing and existing projects developing their facilities and running lines. It seems the narrow gauge scene is thriving (notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic) and a lot of excellent work is being undertaken. I wish them all every success for the future and look forward to reporting their progress.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

*Gerry Balding*

There were no questions in respect of the UK and Ireland News Editor's Report.

### **(c) Miniature News Editor's Report**

I have continued to receive a good supply of miniature railway reports for Narrow Gauge News during the year, including a few from members who have not contributed previously. It would be great to see this continue throughout 2020 and into 2021, especially when we get past the current restrictions.

A number of lines have a healthy volunteer network but miniature railways of all sizes are expensive to run, and a number are commercial operations that rely on summer traffic.

Once that the current restrictions are lifted, I hope that members will make some time to seek out their local miniature railway, spend some money, and send me a report.

Whilst the current restrictions are in place, it would be great to hear from members who have private lines, so that we can keep the pages of Narrow Gauge News alive. Information about the location of these railways can be restricted to protect individuals' privacy.

We have also forged a friendship with the 10¼ inch Gauge Society, who carried an advert for the NGRS in their winter newsletter, and in return we carried an advert for them in our March newsletter.

*Jonathan James*

There were no questions in respect of the Miniature News Editor's Report.

### **(d) Overseas Editor's Report**

The NGN overseas news pages ticked along much as before, with the increase in number and quality of pictures maintained – to the point where selection of illustrations by the overseas editor is necessary in order to provide the editor with a manageable choice. Even so, the editor also has to cull quite a few.

Do please not let this selection process put you off submitting accounts of your visits, and accompanying pictures. We do try to print at least one illustration with each story, and we rarely omit reports – this only happens when duplications occur, usually on the more popular lines in France and Germany. It certainly does not happen when members visit rarely accessed locations in Bangladesh and rural Russia!

My thanks as usual to the relatively small number of members who take the time and trouble of contributing. We do rely absolutely on them. Sadly, I anticipate a rapid decrease in reports received as the world locks down for the coronavirus crisis and railways everywhere close.

Thanks go again to *Paul Bennett* for making an excellent job of editing NGN. I would readily recommend it as the best read on the market in the overall narrow gauge and miniature field.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Overseas Editor's Report.



### **(e) Archaeology & History Editor's Report**

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who has submitted reports and photographs of former narrow gauge and miniature lines during the past year, all of which resulted in a rich mix for the Archaeology & History Section (A & H) of NGN. Thank you too if you helped with my requests during 2019 for sightings of preserved roadside tubs and other wagons – the response to this was very good and the resulting booklet, to be produced in due course by the IRS, will reflect how many of these there are across the UK.

The extensive use of narrow gauge railways over the years has, of course, been both widespread and varied and, whilst we all enjoy visiting working narrow gauge lines, the importance of recording the remains of former locations is vital in order to continue and complete the history of them, and cannot be underestimated. From the trackbeds and buildings of well-known former passenger-carrying lines, whose histories are recorded in books and on websites, through to the humble, but no less important, lines that once were a vital part of a long-gone industry and are now remembered through a short length of track across a roadway or some stone blocks or rusting rails in the grass, all have their place in the history of narrow gauge, as have the smaller gauge lines that have gone before in the world of miniature railways.

I'm always very pleased to receive details of anything that you've come across, and I can often add a few more details if required, so whatever you find please report it, photograph it and send it in to me!

*Graham Feldwick*

There were no questions in respect of the Archaeology & History Editor's Report.

### **(f) Modelling Secretary's Report**

The Modelling Section in NGN has been a feature for a few months now with photos of layouts and exhibitions from a number of members plus new product information and dates of upcoming exhibitions.

It is difficult to gauge how many readers have an interest in modelling, but I would like to expand the current single page to two pages. To achieve this are there any members out there who would like to send in short articles and photos on "how they made" a loco, wagons, coaches, buildings, scenery etc. Hopefully this may inspire other to recreate their favourite line, engine or era in miniature and ensure the continuation of this section.

*Leslie Tindall*

There were no questions in respect of the Modelling Secretary's Report.

### **Sales Officer's Report**

Following the resignation of *Phil Thompson*, I took over the role of Sales Officer as a temporary measure. Sales in the first few months were reasonably good with circa £185 of sales up to the beginning of March. As a temporary measure the sales stock has been held in the Library, the items being despatched through the good offices of *Martin O'Keefe* (Thank you *Martin*).

The current Coronavirus Pandemic has resulted in the Library becoming difficult of access due to the Apedale Country Park being closed, we are therefore unable to fulfil any pre2020 orders.

In addition, our regular trade outlets have closed and have cancelled their repeat orders. The 2020 issues will be offered through the website and I hope that some of those who purchased from the trade outlets may come to us directly.

I hope that we may find an online retailer, who will take our magazines and offset what appears to be a long period of minimum sales, which will obviously have an impact on our accounts.

I hope that the current situation will not last too long and that the retailers will survive to take our publications once more.

*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Sales Officer's Report.

### **eBay Shop Administrator Report**

There have been no eBay Sales in the 2019/2020 year

*Robert Watson*

There were no questions in respect of the eBay Shop Administrator's Report.



## Publishing Report

The Directors have determined that the Role of Publications Officer would be undertaken by the Editors of The Narrow Gauge and Narrow Gauge News, with additional input from the Membership Secretary.

There were no questions in respect of the Publishing Report.

## Legal Assistant's Report

Over the past twelve months, I have been asked to opine on two important issues. The first is General Data Protection Regulation (known as "GDPR"). The concern is what measures the Society must take to protect the data of our members, especially the officers of the organization. We now believe that how we store and protect data is in line with GDPR.

The second major issue involved how to handle our inability to have a "live" AGM and whether we could have a virtual AGM. Neither the Companies Act 2006 nor our organizing documents contemplated a situation where we could not actually have an AGM in the time specified and we could not determine when a live AGM might be held. The officers determined a procedure for calling the meeting to order, and lacking a quorum, adjourn it to a later date to be held virtually.

Both of these issues were novel and unique. With the first, our goal for the GDPR issue was to comply with the law as closely as possible. With the virtual AGM question, the goal was to meet the standard of fairness to the membership that is part of our by-laws and by Corporations Act.

*Ken Matticks*

There were no questions in respect of the Legal Assistant's Report.

## Librarian's Report

Before I report on progress with the society library, I would like to express thanks to firstly *Jim Hay* and secondly to *Iain Logie*.

*Jim* recently stepped down as society librarian a post he has held over a number of years. *Jim* has been responsible for developing the library at Apedale a fairly mammoth task, as well as dealing with the plethora of tasks associated running the library. Much of this is done behind the scenes but recent changes in personal circumstances has meant that his time to devote to the society has been very much restricted and *Jim* felt he ought to step down. Thus the society is now looking to find a new librarian. I very much enjoyed working with *Jim* and would like to pass on my personal thanks to him.

*Iain* has been very much involved in recent years scanning and documenting material from the NGRS photographic collections. Whilst much of this has been carried out at home, *Iain* has also been assisting me at Apedale which is much appreciated.

Perhaps I should explain what has been going on at the library in recently. I had been assessing the material from *WJK Davies* and that has been added to the catalogue albeit in summary form. Material continues to be added and more is in the offing. *Iain* and I have regular visits to the library so we can keep an eye on things and deal with administration matters.

A series of open days had been planned for 2020 but sadly the health emergency has put everything in abeyance. Once things return to normal a new set of dates will be announced. In the meantime, we are happy to endeavour to answer queries by email and I am very grateful to a group of members who have come forward with specialist knowledge to help answer these.

Given these difficult times it seems a good opportunity to review aspects of the library to see what can be done to meet the changing circumstances which will no doubt follow. One area is digitizing more of the collection, some of this has already be done but undoubtedly this is an area that could prove useful in both ensuring conservation of material and making it more accessible.

Finally, can I also thank our friends at Mosley Railway Trust for making us feel welcome when we are on site.

*Martin O'Keeffe*

There were no questions in respect of the Librarian's Report.



## Film & Video Archivist's Report

Another very quiet year with no loans or donation of material or requests of transfers from VHS to DVD.

Master DVDs are now being transferred to an external hard disc & thanks are due to the Hon. Secretary for doing this work.

An updated Library List will be published soon, meantime 105 DVDs are available for loan.

No action has been taken with the suggestion that the contents of the library are transferred to the internet for members' viewing - quite beyond the limited computer skills of the Video Librarian & no pressure is felt as there seems to be no demand from the membership to watch the library.

However, if anyone would like to take on this project, I'm happy to resign & pass the Video Librarian's post over to him [or her].

If no volunteers come forward, I'm agreeable to remain 'in post' for another year if the membership so wish.

*Mike Jackson*

There were no questions in respect of the Film & Video Archivist's Report.

## Webmaster's Report

A very different year for everyone, and no different for the Webmaster who was tasked with updating and amending every page of the website, deleting and changing some and adding renewed linked company documents.

Many new pages were produced to encourage new members with offers for Facebook users, Statfold visitors and visited railway operators. New pages and folders were also produced and have been constantly reviewed for members to show information about Visits and about the AGM and virtual AGM with their relevant application forms. However, the Corona virus made it necessary to re-provide many of these pages as circumstances changed during March.

Membermojo has automated the issue of emails to all members and everyone is advised to check their email addresses, particularly if they have changed this year. Email accuracy is crucial for everyone, especially as ALL members are emailed with a link to the electronic NGN every two months, not just the e-Members.

Thanks go to Local Area Groups who are advising and promoting their meetings and other events of interest during this year, it does show the outside world, as well as ourselves, that the NGRS is alive and active in local areas, both for its members and potential members with similar interests.

There have been no member contributions of pictures, videos or articles specifically for the website this year, although these may be being made directly to magazine editors or to social media such as Facebook instead. Do consider sending in notes and/or pictures as both members and prospective members do find them interesting and useful. For information, the website address remains <http://ngrs.org> (or [www.ngrs.org](http://www.ngrs.org)).

If you do have contributions, you can also send them to the Yahoo Group "NGRailwaySociety", which has 247 members or to our new io Groups "NGRailwaySociety" which currently has 36 members (in March). The new NGRailwaySociety.groups.io is an un-moderated site and was set up when Yahoo advised it was closing all their groups down. The site does provide a trickle of news, views and questions to a wide audience at home and abroad and advance announcements can be useful via this medium. It is however clear that the NGRS Group audiences are very different to IRS Group visitors and Facebook visitors, Facebook in particular attracting a more vibrant group of people who require instant attention and answers.

Unlike the IRS, the move of the NGRS to Groups does not seem to be particularly useful to members and unless more use is made of this medium, consideration will be given to both groups' closure.

Do promote the group among your friends because the NGRS membership is a vast knowledge pool which should be shared with people of similar interests.

Looking forward, we will soon have TNG's and NGN's online in an NGRS-Library cloud and once a good index and access to them has been improved, members will be notified.

*Mick Morgan*

There were no questions in respect of the Webmaster's Report.



## Facebook Administrator's Report

This report is being written on 30th March 2020 at a time when social media of all types are facilitating social interaction when most other forms are impossible. Many railway enthusiasts are using their new-found free time to scour old photo archives and share pictures from their collections as a substitute for making new visits.

The NGRS Facebook group has seen a surge in usage recently, over the last 28 days there have been 122 new members bringing the total to 2357. In that time there have been 148 new posts, and 1774 members interacted with the group in some way. This suggests that there is a real need being felt to communicate with other enthusiasts.

Of course, many of the Facebook group members are not members of the NGRS, and the group continues to be used to inform its members of the advantages of signing up to the Society. A special offer to new members recruited via Facebook ran through the month of March. NGRS special events such as the AGM and railway visits (when these start to happen again) are also advertised. This is a useful reminder to existing NGRS members while also helping to demonstrate the benefits of joining.

The Facebook page, as opposed to the group, is updated occasionally and remains to help direct anyone searching the internet to either the Facebook group or the NGRS website. The page has 1189 followers who will receive notifications when any new item is added to the page.

Behind the scenes there has been a recent change to the Facebook admin team with one person leaving and another joining. It always helps to have more than one person with admin privileges so that there is as little delay as possible in dealing with any issues that might arise (thankfully rare) or to approve applications to join.

*Chris Roberts*

There were no questions in respect of the Facebook Administrator's Report.

## Visit's Officers Report

After a successful 2019 visits season all 2020 visits are 'on hold' until there is an improvement in the Covid-19 pandemic & 'gatherings' are again permitted.

The Cappy visit, advertised earlier in the year by Email attracted 22 Email-registered members & when the visit was advertised with the March NGN mailing two more attendees applied to join.

The March NGN also included booking forms for seven visits & despite the problems of the prohibition of 'gatherings' it was gratifying that 24 bookings were received for the eight visits advertised, in hopeful anticipation that the visits would take place.

Another nine visits have been arranged & may be announced with the May mailing & the committee will discuss in April whether these visits should be advertised, depending on the progress of the pandemic. Members may be invited to apply for these visits, on the understanding all cheques will be returned if the visits do not take place.

Cappy cheques have already been banked but refunds will be made if the visit is cancelled.

A lot of work has been done on internet booking for future visits & it is hoped to introduce the system if booking invitations are distributed with the May NGN.

There will be a further announcement on the internet booking system in the May NGN and/or at the 'virtual AGM'. Non-internet members can be reassured that visits bookings will continue to be accepted in the 'normal' manner.

This will be my last AGM as Visits Officer & I wish good luck to *Simon Guppy* & *Rod Bryant* who are taking over as Visits Officers North & South respectively & to Webmaster *Mick Morgan* who, with *Simon*, is deeply involved with the internet booking system. Thanks, are also due to former Treasurer *Phil Thompson* who initially set up the system.

*Mike Jackson*

The Membermojo system, which holds all of the Society's membership records, also includes an Online Store. We have developed – and fully tested – a process, whereby members can book and pay for visits, using the Membermojo Online Store. In the future, we will be able to advertise forthcoming visits via email, to those members for whom we hold an email address. Members will then be able to go to the Online Store, in order to book and pay for visits. This will save members having to complete paper booking forms, write cheques, and send their bookings via the post.

We plan to put the Online Booking facility live, as soon as we are able to resume visits. We know that we do not hold email addresses for all members, and therefore we will retain the existing facility of being able to book via paper booking

forms; nevertheless, we hope that members will find this new facility to be beneficial, and we are hoping that up to 85% of bookings will be made online in the future



There were no questions in respect of the Visits Officer's Report.

### **Publicity/ Exhibition Officer's Report**

Report not currently available

*Vacant Position*

There were no questions in respect of the Publicity/ Exhibition Officer's Report.

### **Area Group Secretary's Reports**

#### **Lincolnshire Area**

I am able to offer a brief report on the activities of the Lincolnshire Area Narrow Gauge Group.

We meet in Lincoln some six times a year and offer a focus point for those interested in the smaller gauges, both from Lincolnshire & further away – we have regular attendees from (for example) Nottingham, Loughborough & Doncaster.

We have a wide range of speakers - in recent time our speakers have covered such subjects as the Brickworks & Tileries of Humberside, the Crowle Peatworks railways, the Eastwell ironstone system and the history of the railways of Southampton Docks – not narrow gauge but certainly of interest.

The Group meets in the 'Golden Eagle' on Lincoln High Street – a friendly establishment, on the 2nd Wednesday of alternate months.

Unfortunately, we live in an ageing society and we have been hit by the deaths of two long-standing members in the last twelve months: Mick Drake and our de facto Chairman Dave Billmore. In addition, our longstanding 'Lady Member', Nora Hanley, has decided that, at 94, she can no longer support us. All in all, a drain of members and few new people coming along means that the future of the group is 'problematical' – we do need new members.

*Tim Hudson*

There were no questions in respect of the Lincolnshire Area Report.

#### **London & Southern Area**

Here is the report from the London and Southern Area to the Society's 2020 AGM. This will be my final AGM report as this month I am standing down from the area secretary role.

As has been the case for a number of years, the Area's activities over the last season have been focused on a series of monthly meetings held in London jointly with our friends from the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway. Our meetings season ran from October to April although the last meeting was in fact in March because of the onset of coronavirus precautions.

Attendance during the season was generally good, and we were able to cover our costs at Keen House.

Speakers during the last year have been *Adrian Garner, Alex Zivanovic, Geoff Gauntlett, David Mitchell, Donald Wilson* and *Geoff Warren*. Their presentations, slides and films were all most enjoyable, and in their different ways emphasised the enormous wealth of narrow gauge knowledge they share. We are grateful to them all for putting the time aside to come and talk to us, and for all the preparatory work such high quality shows entail.

We would also like to thank Hugh Smith for hosting our meetings at Keen House on behalf of the Model Railway Club and for all his help.

My thanks go too to *Paul* and *Mick* for advertising our meetings in NGN and on the Society website.

This has been my forty-eighth and last season as Area Secretary. My first was in 1972/73 when we used to meet at Caxton Hall, SW1. I'm grateful to all the Society members who have supported our programmes over the years; and particularly so to all the enthusiasts and photographers who have come to entertain and educate us with their presentations and slide shows about the narrow gauge. Thank you all.

No-one has come forward to take over from me, anyway as yet. A decision about the future of the London and Southern area will be published in the NGN in due course.

There were no questions in respect of the London & Southern Area Report.

### **Yorkshire Area**

Report not currently available

There were no questions in respect of the Yorkshire Area Report.

DRAFT



## **Formal business of the Narrow Gauge Railway Society as a Limited Company.**

Upon motion duly made the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2019 and the accountants' report thereon and the directors' report was accepted (the Secretary to attach a copy to the Minutes. (Appendx A))  
Votes: 65 (45 Proxy+20 Exec)

In accordance with the Articles, there was an election of Directors, each member virtually present casting a vote. The Directors standing were as follows:

Alan Burgess (Chairman & The Narrow Gauge Editor)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Steve Barber (Company Secretary)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Paul Bennett (Narrow Gauge News Editor)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Mick Morgan (Webmaster)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Chris Roberts (Facebook Administrator)

Votes: 65 (45 Proxy+20 Exec)

Jonathan James (Miniature News Editor (Narrow Gauge News))

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Robert Watson (eBay Shop Administrator)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Iain McCall (Director for the Membership)

Votes: 65 (45 Proxy+20 Exec)

Upon motion duly made the foregoing persons were elected to serve as Directors for one year or until the next members meeting

## **Other Informal Business**

Details of the Company Officer structure and contacts details are in Appendix B

## **Company Officers**

Vacancies

- Publicity / Exhibitions Officer
- Assistants to reduce the administrative workload on the Committee

None of the members came forward to fill these vacancies

## **Next Year's AGM**

Next year's AGM is planned to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and likely to be at the Statfold Barn Railway.

## **Any other Business.**

*Harry Chandler* commented: This must have entailed considerable extra work for the Society Committee and Company Directors. Thanks to all of you for this and your work throughout the previous year.

*Norman Drake* Commented: Thanks to you and all the other officers for keeping it all together in these strange times. All your hard work in organising the AGM etc all for naught and now all this.

Thank you so much for giving so much of your time, it is very much appreciated. I wish I could do more but do hope now, to be at next year's 70th Anniversary meeting, along with you all!

*Frank Stephen* Comments: Thanks to you and everyone involved for the time, energy and imagination that has gone into this unique event.

*Richard Haste* commented: Thank you to all the officers for everything they are doing for the running of the NGRS at this difficult time.

## **Virtual AGM Proceedings**



As notified on the webpages, any member who objected to these arrangements should email or write to the Secretary by 10th June 2020. No objections have been received

The Directors and Officers considered the proceedings on 22nd June and were satisfied. The Chairman declared the business of the Virtual AGM, to be dated 27th June, to be complete and the minutes thereof to be published online and presented for approval by the members at the next AGM.

### **Chairman's closing address**

Dear Members, Thank you for your support of our first Virtual AGM, the extraordinary circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in us taking this unusual course of action, and I am pleased that so many of you chose to express your appreciation of the Society through this page.

For the record we have received 46 proxy votes, 2 questions, several items of praise and thanks to the Committee. I'm pleased to say that there have been no objections to the administration and processes of this meeting, and the Committee are happy that we have conducted the business of the meeting as properly as we are able in the circumstances.

I hereby formally declare this meeting closed and I hope to be seeing you all in person next year.

*Alan Burgess*

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 15:15 on 27th June 2020

# Appendix A

## 2019 Accounts



Registered number: 09925208

### **NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd

Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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Company Information	1
Accountant's Report	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3
Balance Sheet	4
The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts:	
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	6—7



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Company Information  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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<b>Directors</b>	Mr Stephen Barber Mr Michael Morgan Mr Paul Bennett Mr James Hay Mr Jonathan James Mr Christopher Roberts Mr Alan Burgess Mr Robert Watson Mr Philip Thompson
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr Stephen Barber
<b>Company Number</b>	09925208
<b>Registered Office</b>	246 Hillbury Road Warlingham Surrey CR6 9TP
<b>Accountants</b>	Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd Chartered Accountants 42 Glebe Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Accountant's Report  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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In accordance with the engagement letter dated , and in order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have compiled the financial statements of the company from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

This report is made to the directors in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken to prepare for approval by the directors the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, to report to the directors that we have done so, and to state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's directors for our work or for this report.

You have acknowledged on the balance sheet as at year ended 31 December 2019 your duty to ensure that the company has kept proper accounting records and to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view under the Companies Act 2006. You consider that the company is exempt from the statutory requirement for an audit for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial statements. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.

-----

Date

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd  
Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Income and Expenditure Account  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>TURNOVER</b>	43,415	44,805
Other income	949	830
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(27,103)	(27,217)
Staff costs	(386)	(396)
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	(430)	(437)
Other charges	(17,697)	(14,834)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>	(1,252)	2,751
Tax	158	(158)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<u>(1,094)</u>	<u>2,593</u>



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 December 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	31,101	31,193
Current assets	111,235	112,868
Prepayments and accrued income	330	2,186
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(12,596)	(15,483)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>98,969</b>	<b>99,571</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>130,070</b>	<b>130,764</b>
Accruals and deferred income	(400)	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>129,670</b>	<b>130,764</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>129,670</b>	<b>130,764</b>

Notes

**1. Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Office and administration	10	9
	10	9

**2. General Information**

Narrow Gauge Railway Society is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 09925208. The registered office is 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP.



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet (continued)  
As at 31 December 2019**

---

For the year ending 31 December 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

On behalf of the board

-----

Date



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>TURNOVER</b>				
Sales		43,415		44,805
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Interest receivable and similar income		949		830
<b>COST OF RAW MATERIALS AND CONSUMABLES</b>				
Opening stock and work in progress	(982)		(350)	
Membership Servicing	748		1,090	
Magazine Costs	21,507		17,875	
Auction Costs	42		352	
Visit Costs	4,486		6,624	
Binders and Other Costs	(89)		644	
Closing stock and work in progress	1,391		982	
		<u>(27,103)</u>		<u>(27,217)</u>
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				
Travel expenses	386		396	
		<u>(386)</u>		<u>(396)</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION AND OTHER AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF ASSETS</b>				
Depreciation	430		437	
		<u>(430)</u>		<u>(437)</u>
<b>OTHER CHARGES</b>				
<i>Other direct costs:</i>				
Packaging costs	11,504		9,576	
<i>General administration costs:</i>				
Insurance	1,487		625	
Advertising and marketing costs	271		524	
Accountancy fees	360		-	
Professional fees	180		180	
Library Costs	2,766		2,547	
Bank charges	659		707	
AGM Expenses	470		675	
	<u>6,193</u>		<u>5,258</u>	
		<u>(17,697)</u>		<u>(14,834)</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<u>(1,252)</u>		<u>2,751</u>
				...CONTINUED



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Detailed Income and Expenditure Account (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

---

**Tax on Surplus/(Deficit)**

Corporation tax charge

(158)

158

158

(158)

**NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**

(1,094)

2,593



Registered number: 09925208

**NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd

Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet (continued)  
As at 31 December 2019**

---

For the year ending 31 December 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

On behalf of the board

-----

Date

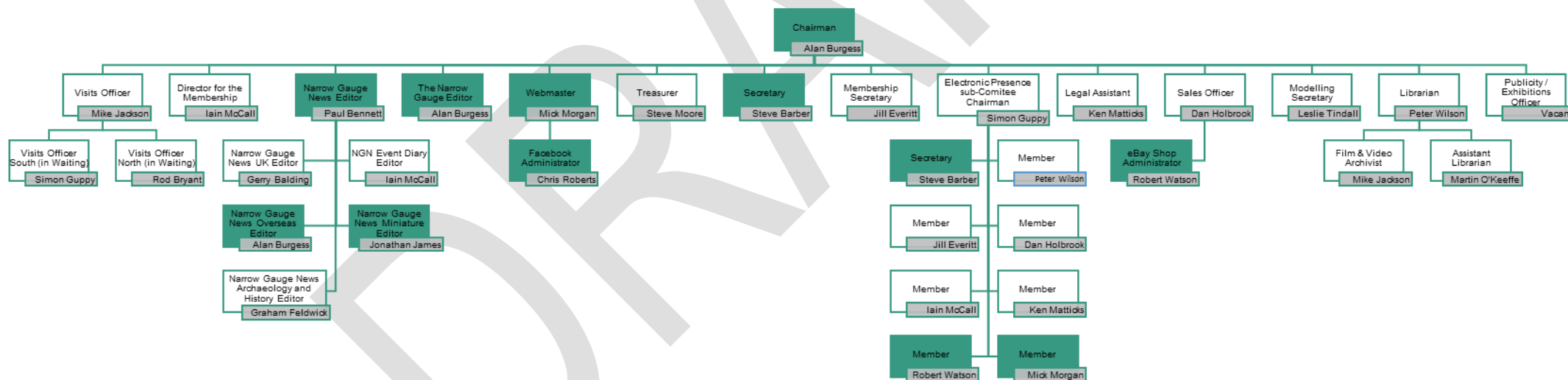
# Appendix B

## Directors, Committee Members & Vacancies 17/06/2020

(Subject to approval of the AGM)



## Narrow Gauge Railway Society Directors and Company Officers



Solid Shading indicates NGRS Company Director

# NGRS OFFICIALS CONTACT LIST – 11/04/2019



Chairman	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Barber	Director	"Hillbury Cottage", 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey. CR6 9TP	<a href="mailto:secretary@ngrs.org">secretary@ngrs.org</a>
Treasurer	Steve Moore		10 Badger Close, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9PJ	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ngrs.org">treasurer@ngrs.org</a>
Membership Secretary	Jill Everitt		4 Barnside Way, Moulton, Cheshire, CW9 8PT	<a href="mailto:membership@ngrs.org">membership@ngrs.org</a>
Librarian	Peter Wilson		Homestead, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield, Melton Constable, Norfolk, NR24 2AY	<a href="mailto:library@ngrs.org">library@ngrs.org</a>
Assistant Librarian	Martin O'Keeffe		10 Meadowcroft, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1BD	<a href="mailto:hecla777@hotmail.com">hecla777@hotmail.com</a>
Film & Video Archivist	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
TNG Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
NGN Editor	Paul Bennett	Director	90 Stortford Hall Park, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5AN	<a href="mailto:publications@ngrs.org">publications@ngrs.org</a>
NGN UK Editor	Gerry Balding		75 Vane Close, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0US	<a href="mailto:gerry.balding@btinternet.com">gerry.balding@btinternet.com</a>
NGN Miniature Editor	Jonathan James	Director	31, Beacon Road, Chatham, Kent. ME5 7BW	<a href="mailto:min.rail.editor@ngrs.org">min.rail.editor@ngrs.org</a>
NGN Archaeology and History Editor	Graham Feldwick		22A Ropers Lane, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4QT	<a href="mailto:feldwick@globalnet.co.uk">feldwick@globalnet.co.uk</a>
NGN Overseas Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
NGN Event Diary Editor	Iain McCall		3 Broadleaze, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5EY	<a href="mailto:iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk">iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk</a>
Sales Officer	Dan Holbrook		8 Woodside, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR2 7ET	<a href="mailto:sales@ngrs.org">sales@ngrs.org</a>
eBay Shop Administrator	Robert Watson	Director	24 Hillcrest Drive, Loughborough, Leicester. LE11 2GX	<a href="mailto:robertngrs@robertwatson.org">robertngrs@robertwatson.org</a>
Webmaster	Mick Morgan	Director	29 Groby Road, Ratby, Leicester. LE6 0LJ	<a href="mailto:mick@ngrs.org">mick@ngrs.org</a>
Facebook Administrator	Chris Roberts	Director	296 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster, LA1 2TU	<a href="mailto:chrisxroberts7@gmail.com">chrisxroberts7@gmail.com</a>
Visits Officer	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
Visits Officer South (in waiting)	Simon Guppy		16 Mascot Road, Windmill Hill, Bristol BS3 4PP	<a href="mailto:simon@jomat-management-services.co.uk">simon@jomat-management-services.co.uk</a>
Visits Officer North (in waiting)	Rod Bryant		The Acres, FAUGH, Cumbria CA8 9EG	<a href="mailto:rod_bryant@live.co.uk">rod_bryant@live.co.uk</a>
Legal Assistant	Ken Matticks		3413 Fountain Way, Granbury Texas USA 76049	<a href="mailto:matticks@airmail.net">matticks@airmail.net</a>
Modelling Secretary	Leslie Tindall		47 Cliff Court, Currie Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8NU	<a href="mailto:leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com">leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com</a>
Publicity / Exhibitions Officer	Vacant			
Director for the Membership	Iain McCall	Director	3 Broadleaze, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5EY	<a href="mailto:iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk">iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk</a>

# Society Officer Vacancies

The NGRS has a number of vacancies for people willing to help with the running and development of the Society. The duties are not greatly time-consuming and enthusiasm is more important than experience – help will always be available as you get to grips with the detail. Attending two committee meetings a year, one on the day of the AGM in May and the other in October is expected.

If you can help, we would be delighted – please get in touch with the Secretary, Steve Barber (246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP) or send an email to: [secretary@ngrs.org](mailto:secretary@ngrs.org). If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Secretary

## Publicity / Exhibitions Officer

We would like to recruit a Publicity Officer to progress the Society's image and presence. Ideally you would be involved in running and manning our stand at the Statfold open days, and this might be extended to other appropriate venues. Beyond that, we have no fixed ideas as to how the task might be approached, although the use of social media and PR would be beneficial. Some liaison with the general railway press will also be required, as will an ability to write persuasively.

The Society would be happy to have many members acting as Publicity Assistants, undertaking this role on a local level or with an individual Railway

## General

The Directors are always pleased to be offered assistance with administering the Society. It should be noted that several of the Directors and Society Officers are fulfilling more than one role and it would be prudent to reduce their commitments.

Assistance in organising visits and AGMs etc. is also gratefully accepted and is usually required on a geographic basis.

If you believe you are able to help in any of the forgoing areas or you are prepared to give general assistance including assisting in cataloguing our library (books, images, moving images/ other) please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary or other Director or Society Officer for further information.



# **Appendix C**

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

### **(Draft) MINUTES OF 3rd AGM OF THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY**

#### **as a Company Limited by Guarantee**

#### **and the**

#### **68th AGM of the Society since its formation**

**Held on 11th May 2019 at 15:00 at Ruswarp Village Hall, 11 High Street,  
Ruswarp, Whitby, YO21 1NH**

20 Members were present: *Irvine Cresswell, John B Holmes, Stewart Liles, Sydney Leleux, Mike Swift, Ian Varty, Peter Nutbrown, David F Jones, John Davison, George Cash, Iain Logie, Malcolm Hindes, Andy Morgan, Shirley Bowler, Alan Bowler, Brian Palmer, Linda Palmer, Andrew Neale, Fred Pugh, Graham Fairhurst.*

23 Members Votes by Proxy: *Alan Burgess* (Chairman)

5 Directors were present: *Steve Barber* (Company Secretary), *Alan Burgess* (Chairman/ The Narrow Gauge Editor/ Narrow Gauge News Overseas Editor), *Mick Morgan* (Webmaster), *Chris Roberts* (Facebook Administrator), *Phil Thompson* (Treasurer/ Sales Officer/ Publications Officer).

1 Officer was present: *Johnathon James* (NGN Miniature Editor).

The Meeting was chaired by *Alan Burgess*.

It was determined that a quorum (5 Directors and 25 full Members (in attendance or by proxy)) was present and the meeting could conduct business.

The Secretary determined that notice of the meeting had been properly given in accordance with the Articles.

A copy of the Minutes of the previous AGM was presented to the meeting, together with the Accounts, Officers' Reports and Appendices, which had been made available on the Society's website for several weeks and by request from the Secretary; these were also available throughout the day and distributed to each member at the meeting.

The Meeting was called to order at 15:05

## **Informal business and reports from Directors, Officers and other groups**

### **Apologies for absence**

*Charles J Bicheno, David Billmore, John Lawes, Peter Lepino, Robert Griffiths, P M.Dickerson, Robert Watson* (eBay Shop Administrator) , *Harry Chandler, Andrew Roberts, John Browning, Norman Drake, Paul Webb, Chris Page, Alistair Parsons, Peter Deacon, Ray Stanton, David Sharp, John Berry, Lionel Kay, John Lawes, John Huxley, Lionel Kay, Bob Mason, Peter Lemmey, Mark Prescott, Mike Jackson* (Visits Officer/ Video Archivist), *Gerry Balding* (NGN UK Editor), *Graham Feldwick* (NGN History and Archeology Editor), *Leslie Tindall* (Modelling Secretary), *Lawson Little* (Membership Secretary), *Keith Gunner, Peter Kinnear, Malcolm Midgley, David Torrance. Rodney L. Thorne, Paul Bennett* (NGN Editor), *Iain McCall, Jim Hay* (Librarian), *Tim Hudson.*

### **Minutes of 2018 AGM**

See Appendix C.

These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting

John Davison pointed out that his name had been incorrectly spelt, The Secretary undertook to amend the Minutes.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Chairman's Report**



The past year has been a rather quiet one for the Society, but one in which we have continued to strengthen the healthy position I reported a year ago.

The financial position is sound, as the treasurer's report explains. We have a healthy bank balance that has enabled us to maintain subscription levels for the coming year with no necessity for an increase, and also allowed us to invest in improved services for members.

Membership has been strong with the total excluding associate, visit and complimentary memberships, hovering around 1400. Belonging to Societies such as ours is not cool with the younger generation, and I believe it is the quality of our journals that contributes to this healthy position. They are the principal source of contact with members, and the basis for joining and remaining with us.

We do, however, need to find innovative ways of attracting newcomers.

The page count of Narrow Gauge News has continued to grow, and there has also been expansion in the number and size of issues of The Narrow Gauge – which has also seen a change in format to A4, largely to give better exposure to photographs.

It is vital members continue sending reports to Narrow Gauge News and articles to The Narrow Gauge. Narrow Gauge News has competition and we have to maintain a solid level of news reporting – including, hopefully from lesser known locations not reported elsewhere.

There has been a decrease in the number of articles submitted for The Narrow Gauge, and while there is still a reasonable stock in hand, contributions would be welcomed. The quality and strength of our journals is only as good as members' contributions.

The library continues to expand, but digitization is holding down space requirements. We are happy with our current location at Apedale, but aware of long-term implications if that site does not progress as planned.

Members' visits continue to be highly successful and since they were revived relatively recently have become an important part of our programme, often taking members to locations that would otherwise remain closed. I hope this is an activity that might be expanded in the future, but more help is needed, particularly in the north of the country. Which brings me to the point that, as I think we are all aware, running the Society successfully requires a great deal of time and effort and the burden falls on a very few people. As ever we would like more volunteers – particularly at the moment in the area of publicity. If you think you can help, please volunteer – we can find something for you to do. I started off by saying that this has been a quiet year. But stability needs hard work, and I am glad of the opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the committee and the company board. Without them there would no longer be a society to enjoy.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Chairman's Report.

### **Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)**

For the 2018 calendar year, the Society's accounts show a profit before taxation of £2,751. This follows a somewhat embarrassing profit of £12,000 in 2017, when a number of costs fell below expectations and some areas of income were better than expected.

The results in 2018 were better than the budget for the year. On the back of the large profit in 2017, together with the budget, we reduced our 2018/19 subscription rates for most members by £2. This has given rise to a reduction of almost £2,200 in subscriptions collected.

As shown in the detailed profit and loss account, compared with 2017 a larger proportion of the 2018/19 subscriptions has been carried forward to cover costs in the final quarter of the membership year. This reflects the increased costs of printing The Narrow Gauge in A4 format from January 2019, coupled with an above-inflation increase in the price of Royal Mail's Publishing Mail service (used for around 90% of our mailings) from 1 January 2019.

Overhead costs increased in 2018 by some £650 compared with 2017, mainly due to increased expenditure on publicity and promotion and an increase in the costs of running the 2018 AGM, compared with the previous year.

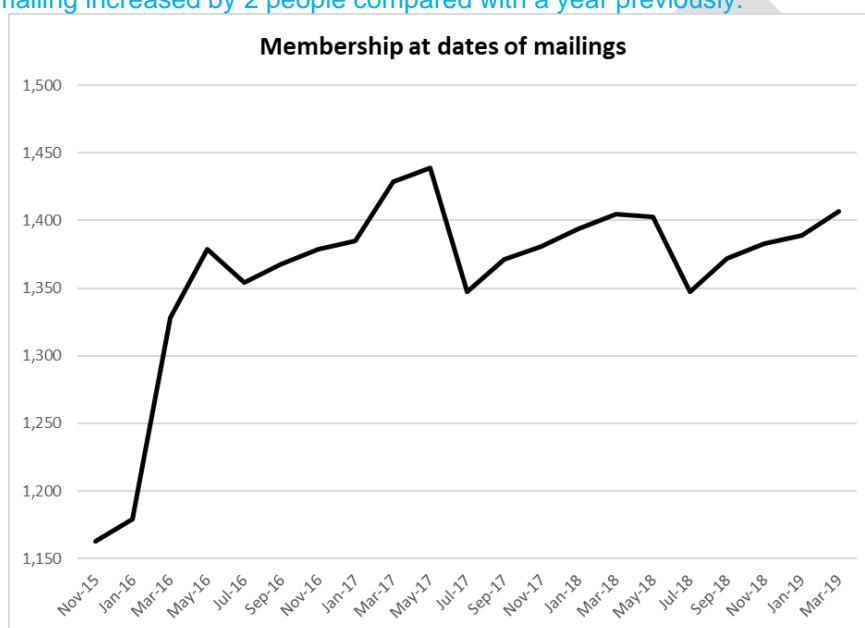
Despite the known increases in printing TNG and in the costs of using Publishing Mail, we decided to hold the subscription rates for 2019/20 at the same, lower, levels introduced last year. The budget for 2019 indicates a small loss as a result of the expected cost increases, but this is of little consequence given the profits in recent years and the extent of the Society's funds.



In addition to “looking after the books”, I also manage the membership database, which uses a platform developed by Membermojo. This provides a number of benefits to the Society – it is accessible by all committee members; it is automatically updated when you renew online; it allows email communication with members; and data can be downloaded to prepare mailing address lists and other statistical information.

The majority of members find renewing through Membermojo to be straightforward. We try to find fixes and work-arounds for the occasional instance where members have found difficulties. I appreciate that some members do not like having to go through the PayPal system to complete their payment. I understand that Membermojo hopes to further develop during 2019, including the introduction of an alternative to PayPal. Fingers crossed this will be available for the 2020 renewals.

The graph below shows our total membership numbers (excluding Associates) at each of the last 21 mailing dates, as downloaded from Membermojo. Overall, our membership increased by 244 people between early November 2015 and early March 2019. There is also a consistent pattern to membership numbers during the course of a year. Membership at the March 2019 mailing increased by 2 people compared with a year previously.



*Phil Thompson*

There were no questions in respect of the Treasurer's Report.

### Secretary's Report

This has been the third year for the Society as a Company Limited by Guarantee, but I hope that you (our shareholders) have found this completely transparent, the governance and administrative changes are now complete (though legislation changes all the time) and the Company is running smoothly I hope that our members have not noticed any change.

I have organised the usual AGM and Committee meetings and prepared the agendas and minutes. In addition to my usual duties I undertook the initial administration of the wonderful trip to United Plantations in Malaysia and a short notice (free) visit to Ruislip Lido which fell outside the magazine publishing window.

Today's AGM was organised at relatively short notice due to two previous locations falling through, I hope that you will enjoy yourselves as much as I hope to. In connection with which I must also thank all our hosts during this weekend for their enthusiastic response when asked if they would accommodate our visit and for the support they have provided in accommodating our requests.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors and Company Officers whose tireless enthusiasm, input and support ensures the largely smooth operating of the Company. The Directors and Officers are continuing to examine ways to modernise the Society and provide the best value for money to the membership.

Following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations we have published our privacy policy which is available on the Website ([www.ngrs.org](http://www.ngrs.org)). I have received no queries in connection with this, so I can only assume that you are all happy with it. If you are asked to indicate your consent, we are not being difficult but complying with the law.



The Company is registered under the Society under the Data Protection Act.

I regret to report that a new lease for the Library facilities at Apedale remains outstanding, and we are currently proceeding under a rollover lease with the agreement of the Moseley Railway Trust. I hope that this will be formalised soon, however I said this last year as well.

I have again received/ replied to in excess of 1,000 emails this year, the majority being associated with Committee business, I now receive very few communications by post. If you are planning to email me please do use a subject line with more than just "NGRS" (e.g. NGRS Policy and the like) I receive many hundreds with this title and it makes filing and finding the relevant one very difficult.

May I also extend a warm welcome to all our new members, I hope that you are enjoying our publications and events. May I also include in that welcome several new Committee members whose input helps us to keep the Society relevant and vibrant.

As in previous years there continues to be Committee vacancies and I would encourage you all to consider if you are able to fill one of these roles or offer support in a smaller way, a number of Committee members are already undertaking more than one role and this limits how effectively the Directors/ Committee can operate. If you volunteer we are happy to provide assistance, guidance and encouragement. I assure you that it is both rewarding and fun, most of us don't bite (unless we're hungry), and I have made many friends I would not otherwise have encountered.

In summary another successful year, with a stable and secure Society; a trend I hope will continue for many years.

*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Secretary's Report.

## **Membership Report**

As shown by the graph in the Treasurer's report, membership of the Society follows a consistent pattern during the year and was marginally higher at March 2019 than at March 2018.

The work of membership secretary is now shared between three members of the committee:

- Phil Thompson looks after the "Membermojo" membership database. This is used to record name and address details, to record membership status, to generate mailing lists when distributing our magazines and to send out emails to members. Phil also deals with banking the membership cheques.
- Lawson Little sends out copies of magazines and other information to new members. He also receives and records the cheques received for membership renewals. He compiles details of address changes to send to Phil periodically.
- Robert Watson looks after direct debit renewals, maintaining our records and working with SmartDebit, our agent for direct debit collections.

Just a few years ago, virtually all renewals were dealt with by cheque, whilst pretty much all new members joined the society by completing a paper form and sending it, together with a cheque, to the membership secretary.

This has changed radically in the last five years. Up to 1 May 2019, for example, the renewal statistics were:

- 29% of renewing members did so using a cheque sent in the mail.
- 71% of renewing members used an online method – either paying through the membership database using a debit or credit card (35%), or by direct debit (25%) or by bank transfer (11%).

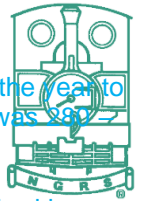
There are a number of benefits from offering different ways for you to renew – we can spread the work between more people; the work can be done at different times; some methods require less admin on our part (e.g. payment through the database and by direct debit) and some methods are cheaper (e.g. bank transfer costs us nothing, whilst direct debits are relatively expensive).

Excluding those people who join the Society at the Statfold Barn enthusiast events, around 80% of new members join online. A significant source of new members remains Narrow Gauge World, which kindly gives us a "plug" in its pages, regularly.

*Phil Thompson*

There were no questions in respect of the Membership Report.

## **THE NARROW GAUGE Editor's Report**



I said a year ago that we would like to increase the number of issues of The Narrow Gauge distributed during the year to six. Eventually, we achieved seven, from 248 to 254, which I believe is a record. The total number of pages was 287. Bear in mind that until recently four issues of 32 pages each was the regular annual offering.

The reason that we managed to produce so much information was partly the major backlog of material which had been accumulating, and partly because of the availability of three special issues – on the Strand miniature railway, Roanoke locomotives, and the extraordinary beasts depicted in 'Railways for Recreation'.

The situation at the moment is that I have just one special issue on file, and relatively few articles for 'standard' issues. Of course that can change quickly and I am aware of a number of projects currently being researched.

We are also aware that some members are critical of the high percentage of miniature and overseas railway content in The Narrow Gauge, particularly special issues. The answer is in your own hands: we can only print what is submitted. If anyone remembers this report from previous years, they will guess that I am now starting my annual appeal for more articles on current and historical UK subjects. There must be members with memories of industrial lines and the early days of preservation: please consider writing a piece for us.

Of course, we also changed the size of The Narrow Gauge from our traditional odd size of 240 x 175mm to the international standard A4. The prime reason was to allow more space for larger pictures. So far there has been no criticism, and the only comments have been favourable.

We are always willing to consider ideas for future articles and for special issues of TNG. Finally, my thanks to everyone who has provided articles for The Narrow Gauge. Their number is still few, but without them the magazine could not continue.

*Alan Burgess*

Brian Palmer asked how he should submit an article for The Narrow Gauge. The Narrow Gauge Editor responded that articles should be submitted to him at the contact address published in Narrow Gauge News. The Editor suggested that he be contacted first if there was any uncertainty.

Stewart Liles asked what word count was required for a TNG article. The Editor replied that this was a matter of balancing the photo and text content and therefore there was no predetermined word count.

The Secretary pointed out that anyone considering submitting an article or report should familiarise themselves with the Conditions of Publication which is available on the Society website.

## **NARROW GAUGE NEWS Editors' Reports**

### **(a) Editor's Report**

Since the last AGM, six issues of Narrow Gauge News have been produced; once again I cannot thank too much my colleagues who edit sections of the publication; they are invaluable. The personnel concerned have changed a little over the year, however; Alan Burgess continues to edit the overseas section and Gerry Balding the British narrow gauge, but David Nicholson has retired from editorship of the miniature section. I am very pleased to report, however, that Jonathan James has taken this over; his contribution promises to be immense. Graham Feldwick took the History and Archaeology section under his wing last year and the results have been outstanding. After an offer from Les Tindall I decided to reintroduce a modelling section and Les is to be congratulated on that. Lawson Little and Gerry Balding have undertaken the burden of proof reading and succeed in finding my worst blunders.

There have been issues of 44, 52, 52, 64(!), 48 and 40 pages, quite an increase on the previous year. As I said last time, however, I cannot help feeling that many members still visit railways without sending in a report; we often rely on websites and press releases to keep us informed when a member's comment would be very welcome. The web edition has been produced for each issue, too. Thanks again to Mick Morgan for his careful presentation of the web edition.

The final editing of NGN still takes me about a week of work. The section editors do a great deal too. I am willing to continue for a while if the membership so wish.

*Paul Bennett*

There were no questions in respect of the Narrow Gauge News Editor's Report.

### **(b) UK and Ireland News Editor's Report**

To start, I would like to say that I'm really enjoying the role!



I would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful over the past year and to all those who have submitted reports and photos. Could I please ask all members that when visiting railways or special events to take the time to send me a brief report and photos for inclusion in the next Narrow Gauge News. It is these reports which are the lifeblood of the magazine.

We are well served by news and reports from English and Welsh heritage railways (although there are a few notable exceptions), and a welcoming feature over the past few months has been an increase of news reports from Ireland.

However, there are still relatively few reports received about industrial narrow gauge railways. I suspect this is mainly due to the very limited use of narrow gauge railways in industry these days, but it is something I would like to improve on and would especially welcome any reports on this area.

A number of railways have been very helpful in supplying reports and photos on request. This has proved fairly successful as they recognise the value of the publicity their reports and photos in Narrow Gauge News can provide. However the number of requests I have made to other railways for news and information which have not been responded to, let alone even not been acknowledged, is both disappointing and frustrating.

More reports these days are coming via Facebook and other social media. There currently seems to be a trend for reporting news on social media rather than by press releases or via websites. The news pages of some railways' websites are woefully out of date, sometimes even by years!

A pleasing feature of the past year is to see some new projects starting to get off the ground; I wish them every success for the future and look forward to reporting their progress.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

*Gerry Balding*

There were no questions in respect of the UK and Ireland News Editor's Report.

### **(c) Miniature News Editor's Report**

Report not currently available

*Jonathan James*

### **(d) Overseas Editor's Report**

While the number of reports has continued at about the same level, one trend that is clearly discernible is the improvement in quality of pictures submitted. Having a choice of good pictures allows Paul to produce one or two-page features on a particular country – including some rarely covered such as Eritrea and Canada. I am sure these features focus attention better than inclusion of a report within the overall overseas news.

We do attempt to include at least some information from every report received, although there is inevitably a tendency to receive frequent updates from the popular lines in Germany and those near the Channel in France. It is important to prevent repetition, and contributors are encouraged to check back on recent news from a line and look for a different angle or something new.

I am very grateful to the members who do take a considerable amount of trouble to contribute reports and pictures – it does take a great deal of time, but it is fully appreciated. A relatively small number of people keep the overseas section going, and of course we do not have the benefit of press releases or house magazines as is the case in the UK. Thanks go again to Paul Bennett for making an excellent job of editing NGN, which continues to develop into what I would unhesitatingly recommend as the best read on the market in its own niche territory.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Overseas Editor's Report.

### **(e) Archaeology & History Editor's Report**

With a very long-standing interest in narrow gauge, and in particular early railways, industrial railways, handworked lines and preservation, I felt that it was time that I contributed something back to the NGRS, and agreed to take on the role of Archaeology & History (A & H is more manageable) Editor just over a year ago. Definitely a good move! Being part of the NGRS Team is most enjoyable, and it's very good to work with Paul and Gerry in the production of NGN. My thanks to all who have contacted me to introduce themselves and send me reports – we are most fortunate to belong to such a friendly and enthusiastic organisation, which produces excellent publications. If you are thinking of getting more involved I can definitely recommend it.

Like the rest of NGN, the A & H part is very reliant on the reports received, and please keep sending them in! There is a rich legacy of former narrow gauge and miniature railways out there, and there are many remains and reminders still to

be found. Your observations, and photographs, are always welcomed, and I can always add a little more history if that is required for NGN. Please ask me too if you have come across something narrow gauge that you need information on, and I'll do my best to help.



There were no questions in respect of the Archaeology & History Editor's Report.

## Sales Officer's Report

The Society sells its special issue copies of TNG to booksellers (for onward sale) and also makes direct retail sales of these special issues to both members and non-members, mainly through the website. We also have a number of items available for sale to members, including garments, binders and the auctions of second hand books.

The income and related costs of our various sales efforts can be further analysed:

	Year to 31 December 2018			Year to 31 December 2017		
	Income	Costs	Surplus	Income	Costs	Surplus
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Books sold to booksellers	2,020	(253)	1,767	3,663	(1,287)	2,376
Retail book sales	434	(67)	367	985	(197)	788
Cost of books sold	-	(503)	(503)	-	(953)	(953)
Binders, garments etc.	843	(724)	119	229	(271)	(42)
Book & slide auctions	1,364	(352)	1,012	1,349	(354)	995
Advertising & inserts	247	-	247	70	-	70
Packing materials	-	(48)	(48)	-	(60)	(60)
	<u>4,908</u>	<u>(1,947)</u>	<u>2,961</u>	<u>6,296</u>	<u>(3,122)</u>	<u>3,174</u>

Despite total sales being markedly lower in 2018 than in 2017, the net surplus fell by just £200.

During 2018, there were good sales of the special issue on the Bure Valley Railway and reasonable sales of the specials focusing on the Strand Miniature Railway and Roanoke Locomotives (all published in the year). The reprint of the special on the RHDR locomotives and rolling stock, published in 2017, also continued to be popular, as was the special on the Class A locomotives of the Barsi Light Railway. There was, however, a marked reduction in the general level of demand for our publications, continuing the trends of recent years.

There was continued demand for garments, together with small sales of NGRS badges. Book auctions were again very successful in 2018. However, most of the surplus books from member donations have now been sold and future sales are likely to be lower.

*Phil Thompson*

There were no questions in respect of the Sales Officer's Report.

## EBay Shop Administrator Report

Not a lot to report from me...

My apologies for not being at the AGM but a family commitment has had to take precedence.

No eBay sales have taken place during the last year.

I have continued to undertake the admin. associated with Direct Debit payment of subscriptions. As well as the processing at renewal time, I have during the year looked at whether we could save on the service charges made by changing provider. Unfortunately, this is not currently possible without asking all our members paying by this method to complete new mandates.

*Robert Watson*

There were no questions in respect of the EBay Shop Administrator's Report.

## Postal Auction Officers Report

Report not currently available

*Ian Ashby*

Sydney Leleux asked if it was possible to get feedback when you have made a losing bid as this would enable him to make a more realistic bid should the item become available again.



The Committee undertook to consider what could be done to assist losing bidders in this respect.

## Commercial Officer's Report

See Publicity Officer's Report

*Vacant Position*

## Publications Officer's Report

I manage the commercial relationship between the Society and our printers and mailing house, WPG Limited. This includes placing orders, monitoring costs and trying to keep our editors happy with the service they receive.

Periodically, we receive approaches from other printers keen to take on our business. Generally, they do not appreciate the importance to us of a quality – and price-competitive – fulfilment (i.e. mailing) service. In the past, such approaches have therefore not progressed far.

Earlier in 2019 we did, however, receive an approach from a provider which appeared able to match both the printing and the mailing services we have enjoyed from WPG. Some cost saving might have been achieved but we concluded that the savings would not have been enough when compared with the potential disruption to the work of our volunteer editors. The comparison of two providers was, however, useful in providing comfort on the level of printing and fulfilment costs we incur.

*Phil Thompson*

Andrew Neale endorsed the final paragraph of the Publication Officer's report and that the difficult balance between price and quality had been well managed to provide a product that was suitable for archiving.

## Legal Assistant's Report

Report not currently available

*Ken Matticks*

## Librarian's Report

Report not currently available

*Jim Hay*

## Film & Video Archivist's Report

Almost total lack of interest from the membership with only one loan during the last 12 months & no recent donations to the library or footage offered for transfer.

No progress with the proposals of transferring the existing collection, currently held on on DVD, to external hard drives or to make the collection available for downloads rather than DVD loans.

A public NGRS Youtube channel is not thought to be practical due copyright issues.

With the current lack of interest in viewing the library a private Youtube channel or other methods of internet distribution rather than loan of DVDs have not been investigated.

The Video Librarian again offers to resign & hand over the video library to anyone who wishes to take on the job & the internet project which is quite beyond the current Librarian's meagre computer skills.

In the meantime the Librarian is prepared to continue his duties for another year.

*Mike Jackson*

There were no questions in respect of the Film & Video Archivist Publications Officer's Report.

## Webmaster's Report

No different from other years, this year has been routine so with adding, amending and deleting website pages, changing and adding documents, links and sundry pictures interrupted by servicing Committee Member's and their PCs.

Membermojo has automated the issue of email notices to members and a further email will be sent out soon to advise members how to access Membermojo (MM) to check their addresses. This is because the original information we



collected when MM started may be flawed as some email addresses have changed over the years Email accuracy is vital now that ALL members are emailed once every two months, not just e-Members, so it is vital that the addresses are correct.

I have received fewer contributions from Branches advising and promoting their meetings and other events of interest this year, which is probably due to longer term planning on their part. Thanks go to those who send them in as it does show the outside world, as well as ourselves, that the NGRS is alive and active in local areas, both for it's members and potential members with similar interests.

There have been very few (no) member contributions of pictures, videos or articles for the website this year. They may be being made directly to magazine editors instead, or perhaps viewing and therefore contribution has moved from website to social media. Do consider sending in notes and/or pictures as both members and prospective members do find them interesting and useful. For information, the website address remains <http://ngrs.org> or <http://www.ngrs.org>

Regarding the Yahoo Group "NGRailwaySociety", our membership has risen from 243 to 315 members over the year, but despite that, there have been no postings over the last 3 months. This is an un-moderated open site, not limited to NGRS members and anyone can have an input. The site does provide a flow of news, views and questions to a wide audience at home and abroad and advance announcements can be useful via this medium. However, it is clear that Yahoo Group audiences are very different to Facebook page audiences, which attract a younger, more vibrant group of people. A move to a different medium, such as Groups.io, is not currently seen as a useful exercise at this time. Do promote the group among your friends because the NGRS membership is a vast knowledge pool which should be shared with people of similar interests.

Looking forward, we have the first 100 TNG's and 100 NGN's online in an NGRS-Library cloud and once the access to them has been improved for visitors, I am sure members will be notified.

*Mick Morgan*

There were no questions in respect of the Webmaster's Report.

### **Facebook Administrator's Report**

The NGRS Facebook group continues to grow in popularity with very little input required from the admins. The NGRS Facebook page is only occasionally updated but remains there to be found by anyone doing an internet search and gives enough information to allow searchers to find out about the NGRS and how to join.

The group is where most of the interaction occurs, with almost 1900 members (as at 15th April 2019). In the last 28 days there have been 33 new members, 116 posts and 1389 members have been active within the period. Active means they have viewed, posted, commented or reacted to group content.

Since inception of the Facebook group, shortly after the 2015 AGM, group members have posted around 2600 photos and over 400 videos. 600 links have been added, to such things as on-line photo collections, railway websites and events etc. There have also been 1200 shares of posts. This is a useful way that people bring NGRS content to the attention of others who might not have seen it and helps fulfil the intended purpose of bringing the Society to a wider audience.

*Chris Roberts*

There were no questions in respect of the Facebook Administrator's Report.

### **Visit's Officers Report**

13 visits were organised during 2018 & a profit was made on all visits.

Innovations during 2018 were charters on the RHDR & the SKLR which went well although the RHDR visit was a little restricted as it had to be operated within the normal timetable & the requested equipment, the BUG & the p/way train, were unavailable.

The SKLR CHARTER went very well with two locos steamed but sadly mostly in monsoon conditions. It is hoped to repeat this charter later in 2019.

The Society will not be offering to make bookings for Statfold Barn in 2019 as online or postal bookings are now available & entries without pre-booking can be made 'on the day' at a small premium.

Similarly Southfield House, at Louth is offering a number of Open Days at no charge but asks that visitors let them know in advance that they are coming as this helps with the catering arrangements.

Details for both locations have been publicised.



Nine visits are currently planned for 2019, five are already booking or have taken place & it is hoped to announce further visits in the May & July NGNs.

It is regretted that no visits have yet been fixed north of the Midlands.

Inevitably visits to genuine 'industrials' in the UK are now almost impossible due to the very low numbers of lines in use.

The Visits officer wishes to step down at the end of the 2020 'season' & expressions of interest for a replacement will be welcomed.

*Mike Jackson*

There were no questions in respect of the Visits Officer's Report.

### **Publicity Officers Report**

Report not currently available

*Vacant Position*

## **Area Group Secretary's Reports**

### **Lincolnshire Area**

Report not currently available

*Tim Hudson*

### **London & Southern Area**

Here is the report from the London and Southern Area to the Society's 2019 AGM.

As has been the case for a number of years, the Area's activities have been focused on a series of monthly meetings held in London jointly with our friends from the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway. Our meetings season runs from October to April.

Attendance during the season so far has been generally encouraging, and we have been able to cover our costs at Keen House.

Speakers during the last year have included Edward Barnes, Adrian Garner, Julian Birley, Julie Eaglen, Jeff Harvey, Mike Jackson, David Mitchell, Richard Moules, Steve Sedgwick, James Waite and Donald Wilson. Their presentations, slides and films were all enjoyable, and in their different ways emphasised the enormous wealth of narrow gauge knowledge they share. We are grateful to all of them for putting the time aside to come and talk to us, and for all the preparatory work such high quality shows entail.

We would also like to thank Hugh Smith for hosting our meetings at Keen House on behalf of the Model Railway Club and for all his help.

Our thanks go too to Paul and Mick for advertising our meetings in NGN and on the Society website.

During the coming year we will be looking for a new area secretary as I shall be stepping down after the 2019-2020 season.

*Peter Lemmey*

### **Yorkshire Area**

Report not currently available

*Rod Tickner*



## **Formal business of the Narrow Gauge Railway Society as a Limited Company.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2018 and the accountants report thereon and the directors' report was accepted (the Secretary to attach a copy to the Minutes.)

Proposed: *Sydney Leleux*

Seconded: *Andrew Neale*

Votes: 49 (20+23 Proxy+6 Exec)

In accordance with the Articles, there was an election of Directors, each member present casting a vote. Following the unanimous agreement of the members present, the Directors were elected *en-block*. The Directors standing were as follows:

Alan Burgess (Chairman & The Narrow Gauge Editor)

Steve Barber (Company Secretary)

Paul Bennett (Narrow Gauge News Editor)

Jim Hay (Librarian)

Mick Morgan (Webmaster)

Chris Roberts (Facebook Administrator)

Phil Thompson (Treasurer, Sales Officer & Publications Officer)

Robert Watson (eBay Shop Administrator)

No member had come forward as a Director to represent the interests of the Membership

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried the foregoing persons were elected to serve as Directors for one year or until the next members meeting

Proposed: *David Jones*

Seconded: *Iain Logie*

Votes: 49 (20+23 Proxy+6 Exec)

## **Other Informal Business**

Details of the Company Officer structure and contacts details are in Appendix B

## **Company Officers**

### **Vacancies**

- Publicity / Exhibitions Officer
- Visits Officer North
- Visits Officer South
- Assistants to reduce the administrative workload on the Committee

None of the assembled members came forward to fill these vacancies

## **Next Year's AGM**

Next year's AGM is planned to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and likely to be at the Statfold Barn Railway.

## **Any other Business.**

The Secretary Asked *Sydney Leleux* if he was happy with the changes made to the Minutes to assist in differentiating between the latest and last year's minutes, last year's Minutes now being in a blue font with the pages numbered with letters. *Sydney* replied in the affirmative.

*Andy Morgan* requested that Membership Cards be issued to Associates



*David James* asked about the status of the database records bequeathed to the Society by *David Holroyd*, the Secretary responded that *David Holroyd* had kept these records as an individual, not on behalf of the Society. The Society is bound by the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations and it is considered that as the records contain personal information about the owners of locomotives they could not be made available without the consent of the owners, however, specific requests (to the Librarian) may be considered, but any information provided would not include specific private locations or the name of the owner. (e.g. similar to: located in Yorkshire).

It was understood that others have proposed setting up a similar database in the public domain, The Secretary responded that the decision in respect of the *David Holroyd* records was to protect the Society's interests. Any other person setting up such a database needs to give consideration to GDPR. Engineering data would not be personal, however the Society would always err to the side of caution when providing any information.

It was pointed out that there is a similar database in respect of traction engines. The Directors responded that information about road vehicles was held by DVLC and therefore the data is likely to already be readily available.

Thanks were offered to the Secretary for organising the events for the weekend, the Secretary responded that he had received considerable help from *Mike Swift* and *Bob Schofield*.

*Mike Swift* thanked the Directors and Officers for their hard work throughout the year and asked the members present to show their appreciation to the in a round of applause.

The following thanks were received in correspondence prior to the meeting:

Therefore please thank on my behalf all the office bearers for their diligent work over the Year. It is very much appreciated.

And of course my thanks to you, for all that your position entails.

*Norman Drake*

I am unable to attend but wish to express my thanks to you and the Committee for all your hard work on our behalf.

*David Torrance*

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned circa 15:40

# Appendix A

## 2018 Accounts

### Narrow Gauge Railway Society

Company number: 9925208

### Report of the Directors and unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018

#### Officers and Professional Advisers

Directors	Alan Burgess – chairman Steve Barber Paul Bennett Jim Hay Mick Morgan Chris Roberts Phil Thompson Robert Watson
Company secretary	Steve Barber
Registered office	246 Hillbury Road Warlingham Surrey CR6 9TP
Accountants	Carter Smith Limited 12/14 Church Street Ecclesfield Sheffield S35 9WE

## **Narrow Gauge Railway Society**

### **Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 December 2018**

The Directors have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited Financial Statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2018.

#### **Principal activities**

The company's main object is to maintain interest in and record details of all forms of narrow gauge rail transport and to bring together people interested in narrow gauge rail transport. To fulfil this object, the company publishes two magazines (*The Narrow Gauge* and *Narrow Gauge News*); it also maintains a library of magazines, books, films, photographs, drawings and other artefacts and promotes visits to locations of interest relating to narrow gauge rail transport.

#### **Membership and subscriptions**

At 31 December 2018, the company had 1,449 (2017: 1,451) members, comprising full members, e-members, associate members and visits-only members. Following the large surplus earned in the year ended 31 December 2017, membership subscriptions were reduced for the subscription year starting 1 April 2018 and more issues of the company's magazines have been published in 2018 than in 2017. This has resulted in a modest surplus for the current year. Despite some cost increases expected in 2019, the directors have decided to maintain the same level of subscriptions for the subscription year starting 1 April 2019.

#### **Directors**

The following people have served as directors during the period:

Alan Burgess – chairman	Mick Morgan
Steve Barber	Chris Roberts
Paul Bennett	Phil Thompson
Jim Hay	Robert Watson

At the third annual general meeting of the company on 11 May 2019, all directors will retire in accordance with Article 20 of the company's constitution. All the current directors offer themselves for re-election.

#### **Small company exemption**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

#### **Directors' responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Company law requires the directors to prepare Financial Statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements.
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

**By Order of the Board**  
**Steve Barber, Company secretary**

246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9TP  
24 February 2019

## Narrow Gauge Railway Society

### Profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 £	2017 £
Turnover	1	44,805	52,969
Cost of sales		(39,339)	(38,794)
Gross surplus		5,466	14,175
Administrative expenses		(3,545)	(2,898)
Profit on ordinary activities before interest		1,921	11,277
Bank interest received		830	724
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	2	2,751	12,001
Taxation payable	3	(158)	(139)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	9	<u>2,593</u>	<u>11,862</u>
Surplus for the financial year		<u>2,593</u>	<u>11,862</u>

## Narrow Gauge Railway Society

### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2018

	Note	31 December 2018 £	31 December 2017 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	4		
Intangible assets		250	250
Tangible assets		886	894
Investment in Society library		30,056	29,838
		<u>31,192</u>	<u>30,982</u>
<b>LONG TERM LOANS RECEIVABLE</b>			
Moseley Railway Trust	5	2,949	4,151
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Current portion of loans receivable	5	1,202	1,202
Stocks	6	982	1,137
Debtors and prepayments	7	2,353	2,161
Cash at bank and in hand		107,568	102,067
		<u>112,105</u>	<u>106,567</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors, accruals & subscriptions in advance	8	(15,482)	(13,529)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		96,623	93,038
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>130,764</u>	<u>128,171</u>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	9	<u>130,764</u>	<u>128,171</u>

For the period in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No notice has been deposited under Section 476 of the Act in relation to the accounts for the period.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial period and of its surplus or deficit for each financial period in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The accounts were approved by the directors on 24 February 2019.

P A Thompson  
Director

# **Narrow Gauge Railway Society**

## **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018**

### **1. Accounting policies**

#### *Accounting convention*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

#### *Turnover*

Turnover includes subscription income, sales of magazines and other items and income from visits to narrow gauge railways organised by the company. The subscription year normally runs for a 12-month period from 1 April to 31 March and subscriptions are treated as income in the accounting period in which the member receives the related membership benefits.

#### *Intangible fixed assets*

The costs relating to registering the Society logo have been capitalised. If the directors considered the value of this asset had reduced, it would be written down in the year the diminution arose.

#### *Tangible fixed assets*

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over four years, being the expected minimum term of the lease. Other tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated remaining useful lives, typically three or four years.

#### *Investment in library assets*

The costs of acquiring items in the library collection are capitalised, but not amortised. The library collection is valued periodically and any diminution in value is written off if the loss of value is expected to be permanent.

#### *Stocks*

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for any obsolete and slow moving items.

### **2. Profit on ordinary activities before taxation**

The profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging directors' emoluments of £nil.

### **3. Taxation**

There is a corporation tax charge of £158 (2017: £139), calculated at a rate of 19% (2017: 19.25%) on bank interest received of £830 (2017: £724).

#### 4. Tangible fixed assets

	Intangible asset Trademark £	Tangible fixed assets			Investment Library £
		Leasehold improvements £	Equipment £	Total fixed assets £	
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 January 2018	250	617	918	1,535	29,838
Additions	-	-	429	429	218
At 31 December 2018	250	617	1,347	1,964	30,056
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2018	-	(270)	(371)	(641)	-
Charge for the year	-	(154)	(283)	(437)	-
At 31 December 2018	-	(424)	(654)	(1,078)	-
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2018	250	193	693	886	30,056
At 31 December 2017	250	347	547	894	29,838

#### 5. Loans to Moseley Railway Trust

The Society library occupies part of a building at the Apedale site of the Moseley Railway Trust, under a 10-year lease originally signed in September 2007, and also has use of an adjacent storage container. These premises have been occupied since October 2010 (the building) and September 2013 (the container). As part of the lease arrangements, the predecessor unincorporated society advanced two loans to the Moseley Railway Trust. The first loan (for the use of the building) amounted to £10,000 and the second (for use of the container) amounted to £2,982. These loans were treated as being repaid each year, when the annual rents fell due.

The Moseley Railway Trust has agreed both to novate both leases over to the company and to confirm certain matters which, in both parties' opinion, were not properly addressed in the original documentation; in addition, the periods of the leases may also be extended. The revised lease and loan agreements have not yet been signed, but the company continues to occupy the Apedale premises under informal arrangements.

Movements on the loans have been as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Loans outstanding at 1 January 2017	5,353	6,556
Rents for the period	(1,202)	(1,203)
Loans outstanding at 31 December 2018	4,151	5,353
Estimated repayment due within 12 months	1,202	1,202
Estimated repayment due in more than 12 months	2,949	4,151
	4,151	5,353

The loans to Moseley Railway Trust do not carry interest and are unsecured. Under the original loan agreements, Moseley Railway Trust undertook to repay any outstanding balance on the loans either in cash, or by an agreed payment in kind, if it were to close the Apedale site before either loan was fully repaid.

#### 6. Stocks

	2018 £	2017 £
Magazines for resale	411	407
Binders, tumblers, caps and packing materials	571	730
	982	1,137

**7. Debtors and prepayments**

	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade debtors	211	198
Prepayments	2,142	1,963
	<u>2,353</u>	<u>2,161</u>

**8. Creditors, accruals & subscriptions in advance**

	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade creditors	(429)	(711)
Accruals	(390)	(328)
Corporation tax payable	(158)	(139)
Subscriptions received in advance	(14,505)	(12,351)
	<u>(15,482)</u>	<u>(13,529)</u>

**9. General fund**

The Narrow Gauge Railway Society is a company without share capital that is limited by guarantee. Movements on the general fund in the period were as follows:

	2018	2017
	£	£
Balance at the start of the year	128,171	116,309
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation for the year	2,593	11,862
Balance at the end of the year	<u>130,764</u>	<u>128,171</u>

**10. Financial commitments**

The unincorporated society committed to make a payment of £10,000, as an outright gift to Moseley Railway Trust, upon completion of the proposed museum building at its Apedale site and provided the building includes accommodation for the Society library. Following incorporation of the Society, the company intends to honour this commitment. However, building work has not yet progressed beyond the foundation level and so the timing of this payment is uncertain.

**12. Controlling interest**

The company is controlled by its members.

**Accountants' report to the directors on the unaudited accounts  
for the year ended 31 December 2018**

As stated on page 4 you are responsible for the preparation of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 set out on pages 3 to 7 and you consider that the company is exempt from audit. In accordance with your instructions we have examined the format of these unaudited accounts and confirm that they have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Carter Smith Limited  
12/14 Church Street  
Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S35 9WE

24 February 2019

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Detailed profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 2018**

	Year ended 31 December 2018			Year ended 31 December 2017		
	Income	Related costs	Net	Income	Related costs	Net
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>MEMBERS' BENEFITS &amp; SALES</b>						
Annual membership subscriptions, less related costs	34,329	(1,090)	33,239	36,508	(1,462)	35,046
Add: subscriptions for the quarter to 31 March 2018	12,299	-	12,299	17,494	-	17,494
Less: subscriptions for the quarter to 31 March 2019	(14,481)	-	(14,481)	(12,299)	-	(12,299)
Income from magazine, book, clothing & other sales	4,908	(1,947)	2,961	6,296	(3,122)	3,174
Donations received	1,004	-	1,004	1,520	-	1,520
Visits to narrow gauge railways	6,746	(6,624)	122	3,450	(3,063)	387
Printing magazines and other items	-	(17,556)	(17,556)	-	(18,662)	(18,662)
Mailing charges	-	(9,575)	(9,575)	-	(9,655)	(9,655)
Costs of library	-	(2,547)	(2,547)	-	(2,830)	(2,830)
	<u>44,805</u>	<u>(39,339)</u>	5,466	<u>52,969</u>	<u>(38,794)</u>	14,175
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>						
Officers' travel and other expenses		(397)			(406)	
AGM expenses		(675)			(416)	
Insurance		(625)			(598)	
Publicity & promotion expenses		(524)			(199)	
Direct debit & PayPal charges		(707)			(722)	
Accountancy and audit fees		(180)			(180)	
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		(437)			(377)	
			(3,545)			(2,898)
			1,921			11,277
Bank interest received			830			724
<b>PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</b>			<u>2,751</u>			<u>12,001</u>

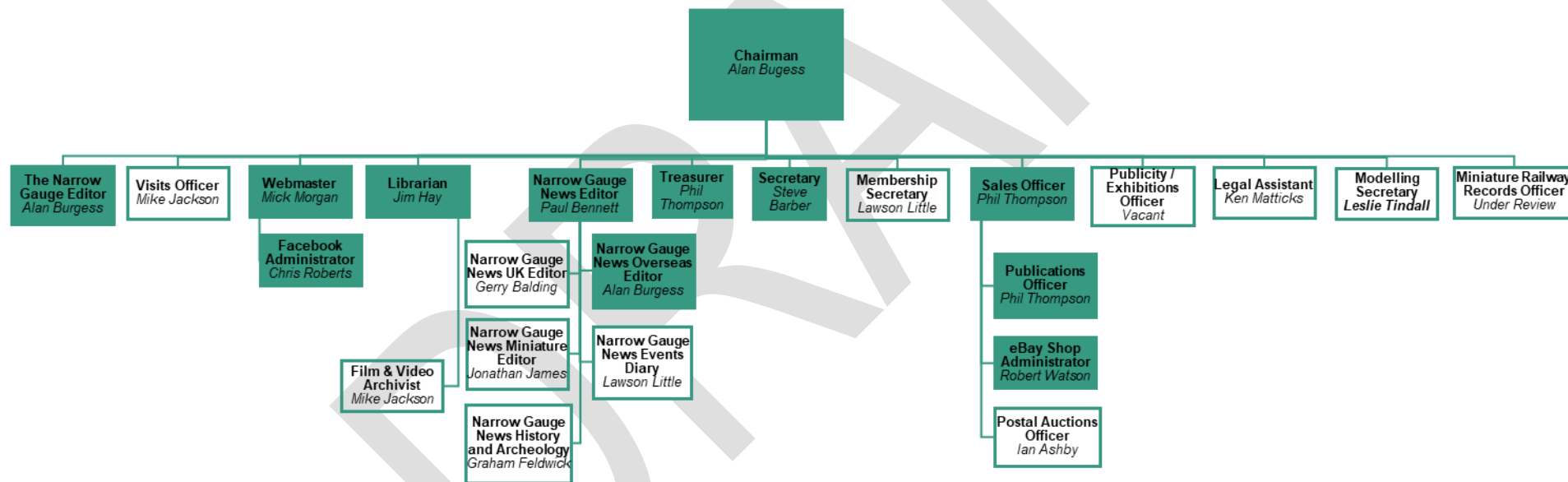
This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Appendix B

### Directors, Committee Members & Vacancies 2019 (Subject to approval of the membership)



## Narrow Gauge Railway Society Directors and Company Officers



Solid Shading indicates NGRS Company Director

# NGRS OFFICIALS CONTACT LIST – 11/04/2019



Chairman	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Barber	Director	"Hillbury Cottage", 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey. CR6 9TP	<a href="mailto:secretary@ngrs.org">secretary@ngrs.org</a>
Treasurer	Phil Thompson	Director	115a Church Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield. S35 9WF	<a href="mailto:phil.a.thompson@aim.com">phil.a.thompson@aim.com</a>
Membership Secretary	Lawson Little		1 Archer's Drive, Old Bilsthorpe, Newark, Notts. NG22 8SD	<a href="mailto:littlelail@talktalk.net">littlelail@talktalk.net</a>
Librarian	Jim Hay	Director	16 Forestry Cottages, Eredine, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1BS	<a href="mailto:howard9841931@hotmail.co.uk">howard9841931@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Film & Video Archivist	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
TNG Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
NGN Editor	Paul Bennett	Director	90 Stortford Hall Park, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5AN	<a href="mailto:pj.bennett@ntlworld.com">pj.bennett@ntlworld.com</a>
NGN UK Editor	Gerry Balding		75 Vane Close, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0US	<a href="mailto:gerry.balding@tiscali.co.uk">gerry.balding@tiscali.co.uk</a>
NGN Miniature Editor	Jonathan James		31, Beacon Road, Chatham, Kent. ME5 7BW	<a href="mailto:jonathan.james@hotmail.co.uk">jonathan.james@hotmail.co.uk</a>
NGN History and Archeology Editor	Graham Feldwick		22A Ropers Lane, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4QT	<a href="mailto:feldwick@globalnet.co.uk">feldwick@globalnet.co.uk</a>
NGN Event Diary Editor	Lawson Little		1 Archer's Drive, Old Bilsthorpe, Newark, Notts. NG22 8SD	<a href="mailto:littlelail@talktalk.net">littlelail@talktalk.net</a>
NGN Overseas Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
Sales Officer	Phil Thompson	Director	115a Church Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield. S35 9WF	<a href="mailto:phil.a.thompson@aim.com">phil.a.thompson@aim.com</a>
eBay Shop Administrator	Robert Watson	Director	24 Hillcrest Drive, Loughborough, Leicester. LE11 2GX	<a href="mailto:robertngrs@robertwatson.org">robertngrs@robertwatson.org</a>
Publications Officer	Phil Thompson	Director	115a Church Street, Ecclesfield, Sheffield. S35 9WF	<a href="mailto:phil.a.thompson@aim.com">phil.a.thompson@aim.com</a>
Postal Auctions Officer	Ian Ashby		Valley Nurseries, Pershore Road, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 2PX	N/A
Webmaster	Mick Morgan	Director	29 Groby Road, Ratby, Leicester. LE6 0LJ	<a href="mailto:mick.d.morgan@btinternet.com">mick.d.morgan@btinternet.com</a>
Facebook Administrator	Chris Roberts	Director	296 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster, LA1 2TU	<a href="mailto:chrisroberts7@gmail.com">chrisroberts7@gmail.com</a>
Visits Officer	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
Legal Assistant	Ken Matticks		1428 West Pine Avenue, MIDLAND, TX 79705 USA	<a href="mailto:kmatticks@lcalawfirm.com">kmatticks@lcalawfirm.com</a>
Modelling Secretary	Leslie Tindall		47 Cliff Court, Currie Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8NU	<a href="mailto:leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com">leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com</a>
Publicity / Exhibitions Officer	Vacant			

# Society Officer Vacancies

## Publicity / Exhibitions Officers

The Publicity Officer attends Various Railways with the Society Stand and organises publicity to raise the profile of the Society and encourage new members. The Society would be happy to have many members undertaking this role on a local level

## Visits Officers

The current successful programme of Visits to sites of Narrow Gauge Interest has been instigated and managed by the Visits Officer. The Current Visits Officer wishes to stand down from the end of 2020 and a replacement is sought. Ideally, we would like two Officers, one to cover the North and one to cover the South. It is felt that this approach would both make the workload lighter and help through relatively local contact with railway owners. It would also be ideal if there was along overlap for the transition to the replacement Officer. Good administrative and communication skills would be beneficial

## General

The Directors are always pleased to be offered assistance with administering the Society. It should be noted that several of the Directors and Society Officers are fulfilling more than one role and it would be prudent to reduce their commitments.

Assistance in organising visits and AGMs etc. is also gratefully accepted and is usually required on a geographic basis.

If you believe you are able to help in any of the forgoing areas or you are prepared to give general assistance including assisting in cataloguing our library (books, images, moving images/ other) please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary or other Director or Society Officer for further information.