

Middleton Railway Trust

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 25th February, 1967, at 2.30 p.m. in the Holdsworth School of Applied Science, the University of Leeds.

1. Present Dr. R. F. Youell (in the Chair) and other members.
Apologies for absence were received from Lord Garnock, Mr. N. Brampton (Hon Treasurer), Mr. J. D. Carr, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Atherley.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th February, 1966, were circulated previously to all members. (in March 1966 and with the last Newsletter). Mr. Ashurst proposed, Mr. Lee seconded that the minutes be taken as read. Carried nem. con.
3. Business Arising There were no matters arising
4. Secretary's Report (Mrs. Susan Youell): According to the constitution you should receive a Secretary's and a Treasurer's report in writing before the meeting. This has not happened this year for two very good reasons in my own case. One is severe personal difficulties at home which meant that I have not been able to do this, but also contributed to by the fact that I find I have to do very many jobs in the Society which other people could do. Very many people in the Society ring up and say 'You know, I think this would be a very good idea for this to happen' and 'yes, this is a very good idea.' but it's left like that. It's left for me or someone else who has a lot to do to, in fact, do it. Now, this is my main point in the Secretary's report, which will be very brief this year. It's that although the Society does go on from strength to strength we have a lot of very good members who are very loyal and do help us. Nevertheless, we are being severely hampered on the operating side and in the administrative and Publicity side by members who are willing to work and are willing to take on responsibility. This particularly applies to people in the age range 20 to 30 which we could use a lot more of, both on the railway and administratively. It's rather sad that once again we're beginning to make our way financially but our main trouble is lack of manpower. If just some people could give a few hours more every week, we would go on much better than we are doing now. The rest of the activities of the Society are covered, I think, quite properly by the rest of the reports. I would like, if possible, more help, as this has been my only worry this year.

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5. Treasurer's Report (Mrs. Youell on behalf of Mr. Brampton)

The treasurer, also, has had very severe personal difficulties this year, not of the same nature, but he is very keen to carry on as Treasurer of the Society. He says he feels he has let you down by not having a signed, audited statement for you this afternoon. He will get this done very soon and we shall send it out in the Newsletter. He would like the help of somebody in the Wakefield area, if possible, to help out with some of the paper work. This does not mean the actual accounting or putting money in or taking money out but there are lots and lots of ancillary things which transpire where people write etc. If there is anybody who is in easy travelling distance of Wakefield, perhaps they could contact the Secretary later.

The financial situation at the moment is this. During last year, £500 was paid into a deposit account which is now earning interest in the eventuality of further major repairs to the diesel. This is not to be touched except for something major. In the bank on January 1st, apart from that £500, we had £250 and since then a further £250, approximately, has been paid in. There are a few outstanding bills at the moment, but these are only for a small amount of money and there are membership fees coming in. As you see, the financial state is much better than we have ever had it before. But this doesn't mean, Mr. Brampton says, that we can go on a spending spree, as Mr. Fearnley has quite rightly pointed out. If anything major goes wrong with the diesel again it may be £1,000 or even more, not just £500.

6. Proposed change in the Constitution The proposed change concerns Article 3 of the Constitution. The retiring Committee recommends that the wording be amended as follows:-

Replace: "Ordinary membership shall beat the discretion of the Committee" with "Ordinary, Old Age Pensioner, Junior (open to students over 16 and others at the discretion of the Committee) and Life Membership will be available at the current subscription rates in force at the time of the application, such rates to be agreed upon at a General Meeting"

Dr Youell pointed out that the reason for this was partly to bring our membership subscriptions roughly in line with other societies and partly because the present subscription does not cover administrative expenses, in the case of Junior membership. It would not mean altering the constitution every time we want to change the subscription. Proposed by Mrs. Youell, Seconded by G. Lee, the change was accepted nem. con.

7. Operating Report (Mr. Fearnley) This report is attached as a separate sheet.
8. Permanent Way Report (Dr. R. C. Lawrence) This full report was circulated at the meeting. Dr. Youell pointed out that Dr. Lawrence mentioned in his report maintenance in hand and needing to be done. Attention was also drawn to the fact that we have had no P.W. Engineer since Mr. Lodge resigned from that some months ago.
9. Membership Report and
11. Publicity Report (Mr. J. Bushell). Gentlemen, 1966 was not a particularly encouraging year from the point of view of membership. The membership, in fact, remained static at 152 members, including 4 Corporate, 9 Life Members. This is not to say that your Committee has been inactive in its efforts to introduce new members to the Society. The sort of things we have been doing are these. A paid advertisement in a Railway Journal brought no response in new members and only three enquiries - and cost us 16/8d! It seems to me that this is possibly not the best way in which to spend our money. However, the notes that have appeared in the news columns of various papers have brought us a much larger response. Advertisements on British Railways Stations at Leeds City, York and Bradford Exchange brought in many enquiries concerning the Steam Gala, the Aire-Esk Enterprise and the Railway generally. We have received some new members from this. We had exhibitions at Wakefield, two at Harrogate, Leeds and so on. Several exhibitions were attended by our stand and we are most grateful to the Wakefield Model Railway Society who have provided us with a layout for these occasions. Numerous conducted tours over the Railway have taken place, mainly school parties and railway society parties including those from Farnborough, Hull, Bingley, Tadcaster, Apperley Bridge and so on. Distribution of prospectuses and the posters has continued and a new poster has been designed, showing Salamanca on a train and the Y7. Colour slides have been loaned to Societies who were willing to provide a lecturer, and indeed some societies have had lectures concerning the Railway. However, all these activities have resulted in only 23 new members in the year, of whom six joined on Steam Gala Day. This only made good the wastage of exactly 23 members in the year. May I say here that this was a smaller than usual wastage in 1966. Usually we have a smaller percentage renewing, in fact. Yet this is no reflection upon the loyalty of our present members. I am amazed by this Society! Over half the Society

for example renewed their 1967 membership before any renewal request was made. I purposely delayed the requests for renewals in order to await the publication of Old Run, so long awaited. Many members unable to visit the line send donations to assist us in our work yet there IS a great need for a larger membership, bringing with it a larger labour force. One further point - we must also, as individuals, be sure that when we criticise the Middleton Railway Trust, we are criticising the policies rather than personalities. I say this because I feel that sometimes bitterness is caused and people will leave the membership with ill feelings about the Trust and about its members and I think that this is a bad thing. Surely we can criticise policies rather than personalities. The membership as it stands at the moment is 6 Life Members, 3 Corporate Members, 50 annual full members, 37 annual junior members and 9 Honorary members, making a total of 105. Middleton must present an attractive Public Image if we are to attract new members. Arrangements are being made for a series of Open Days between April and September on the first Saturday in each month at 2.30 p.m. Please note that the Railway Magazine recorded that these were taking place on Sundays - they are not in fact - they will be on Saturdays. It is hoped that steam locomotives will be in use on those particular days. The visitors will be conducted round the rolling stock and historic sites in small groups and though it is hoped to minimise the disruption of work, members can greatly help us by answering questions. I do think that it is important that we should make the site as attractive as possible and we can all cooperate in this. First of all, I would suggest that tidiness is important; if things are strewn all about, people get a very bad impression.

Secondly, I would ask for your cooperation - I recently introduced a party to the line. They had paid for the use of a brake van over the line and, on the brake van, there were more, in fact, than the statutory twelve people. It was suggested to me by one of the members of the Society who was working on the line and was no doubt extremely tired that some of these visitors should alight from the brake van in order to reduce the numbers. We must try to show our visitors that members do, in fact, care; they are, in fact interested and willing to welcome new workers to the line and, indeed, visitors. This is most important. Thirdly, there is the position regarding covered accomodation. During the year I spoke to the firm of Atcost which produces agricultural buildings - the sort of barn affair that has been in use at Crich as tramway sheds for quite a long while and we discussed the possibility of erecting one of these buildings on our site. However, a very small building, accomodating two locomotives would cost us in the region of £700 to £800 and this does not include the preparation of the site and this estimate was, in fact, made some twelve months ago. So you can see, the provision of covered accomodation is extremely expensive; and yet I think it is something which is important to us. I would suggest the new museum is of importance. We have a wooden building erected, which is to be separated by a partition and we are hoping that about half of it may be devoted to the showing of historical relics and the telling of the story of our line. We can do with plenty of help in this way. I would suggest that we need some new relics; we need them quickly because our old relics will soon become scrap iron. We think at the moment of the changes that are taking place in Leeds, the closing of Leeds Central station and the new signal box which will replace so many in the area and I would suggest that any members who have got plenty of money who would like to buy us a set of signals and various other smaller items like this would be most welcome to loan them to us at exhibitions. Furthermore, I do feel that it would be a good idea if we could obtain from some quarters a coal wagon of the wooden frame type that is so rapidly disappearing. There again, if we have anybody who has plenty of money they might be able to help us in this way.

Dr. Youell expressed his appreciation for such a detailed and stimulating report.

10. Old Run Report (Mr. B. Ashurst) No doubt you will all have been as pleased as I was a few weeks ago to receive a copy of 'Old Run'. This was the first of a batch of four, so you should be receiving three more within the space of a few more weeks and I am working on another one. Apart from that, there's very little to report. I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped in producing the Old Run, starting from the contributors of whom there are quite a number; I have been very pleased with the good quality of the articles we have had in - I've had no reluctance in accepting anything that I have been given. Now that the Old Run is 'rolling' once again, will you please set aside a few hours each day (!) to write something for the 'Old Run'. I would also like to thank Shiela Young for the bulk of the typing and our Chairman for - only he knows how much work he has done on it. It has been suggested that we should have some photographs printed from blocks on art paper - this is a good idea but it would be too costly to do it every month. If anyone has good photographs of the line perhaps you could let me have them and they can be returned afterwards.

Mr. Wade reported that at the moment he was working on a method whereby half-tone reproductions might be included in the Journal at no extra cost.

12. Discussion on reports Secretary's Report. Proposed Mr. Crew, Seconded Mr. Wade that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously. Treasurer's Report. In reply to a question from Mr. Ashurst about the possibility of transferring some more money into the deposit account, Mrs. Youell replied that she thought this was, in fact, Mr. Brampton's intention. Dr. Lawrence proposed Mr. Wade seconded that the Report be accepted; carried unanimously. Operating Report. Mrs. Youell stressed the fact that unless more people were prepared to come to help run the railway the people who run it at present are not going to be able to continue. If anyone can be trained, or knows of someone who could be trained, they should let us know. It might mean working a train only once a fortnight. Mr. Lodge proposed, Dr. Youell seconded that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously. Permanent Way Report Dr. Lawrence suggested the importance of appointing a Maintenance Officer who could be responsible for the day-to-day routine maintenance of the line; this was essential. Mr. Dean proposed, Mr. Pusztaszeri seconded that the report be accepted. The report was carried with one abstention. Membership Report Mr. Lee proposed, Mr. Porter seconded that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Publicity Report Mrs. Youell asked that if anyone was particularly interested in the Museum project they would be very welcome - people with an artistic ability in particular to assist in laying out the exhibits. In reply to a question from Mr. Ashurst, Mrs Youell stated that future exhibitions included one at Harrogate at Easter (help on stand again very welcome) - presumably there would be the usual one at Harrogate in the summer too; further details would appear in the Newsletter. Mrs. Youell proposed, Mr. Ashurst seconded that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously. Old Pun Report Mr. Lee proposed, Mr. Lodge seconded that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

13. Rates of subscription 1. The retiring Committee proposed that: The rate for Junior membership be increased to 10/- with effect from 1st January 1968. 2. The retiring Committee proposed that: The rate for Life Membership be reduced forthwith to £15. 3. The retiring Committee proposed that: Mr. W.B.Stocks (Huddersfield) & Mr. H.L.Gearing be elected Honorary Members for the year 1967. Mrs. Youell that the suggested increase in Junior Membership was not just to bring it into line with other Societies but because we were probably running at a loss at the present rate. Mr. Bushell further pointed out that, in fact, the increased rate would apply from about 1st October, since new members joining after that date would automatically have their subscription extended to the end of 1968. The first item was proposed by Mrs. Youell, seconded by Mr. Fearnley and carried with four abstentions. An addendum proposed by Dr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Hunter that special consideration be given to any person in financial difficulty in respect of this subscription if application is made to a member of the Committee in confidence, was carried with three abstentions. Item 2 was proposed by Mrs. Youell, seconded by Mr. Lee and carried with 1 vote against and one abstention. Mr. Bushell outlined the reasons for proposition number 3. Item 3 was proposed Mr. Bushell, seconded Mr. Crew and carried with 5 votes against and one abstention.

14. Chairman's Report Dr. Youell thanked the retiring committee for their efforts during the past year. He continued by saying that the Society is still pressing ahead for recognition as a non-profit making charitable organisation and that it might be necessary to include the word 'Charity' in our title when the registration takes place. Dr. Youell briefly outlined the situation that this recognition would put us in. He continued to outline Motorway developments that have been taking place, pointing out that any re-alignment of the Railway necessary because of the new motorway would have to be authorised by an Act of Parliament. There was a possibility that the line might eventually have to be bought by the Society - at the moment, however, this was not an immediate crisis. The negotiations are long-winded and cumbersome and so a more detailed report is not possible at the moment. Concerning traffic, Dr. Youell mentioned that traffic into Clayton's was almost at a standstill because of a difficult problem concerning the time of detention of railway wagons. It appeared that the only people to suffer in the protracted discussions between Clayton's and B.R. were the operators of the line. The matter was being followed up. It is, nevertheless, hoped to start internal traffic between Dartmouth and Moor End Works (on the new line constructed in 1963) and the Committee is looking very carefully and intensively into methods of running a daily works-to-works service which would run to about 7,500 tons of steel a year. It had been suggested by Dr. Lawrence that a more detailed record be kept of our daily train movements and that the Rules and Disciplinary Sub-Committee be maintained to oversee the efficient running of the line. The Society suffers from a lack of senior or supervisory people - Dr. Youell continued by appealing for more senior people who could direct operations and run traffic. The problems which hover over the Society would be much smaller if we could obtain more senior persons which would help enormously to spread the load. It was regrettable that at the time we just did not have the time nor the manpower to organise some Matthew Murray bicentenary exhibition; it was hoped that we would be able to take advantage of such opportunities in the future. Mr. Lee proposed, Mr. Wade seconded a vote of thanks to Dr.

15. Election of Officers Youell for his efforts during the year
The report and vote of thanks were carried
nem.con.
Continued on next sheet.

Post	Nominated	Proposer	Seconder
President	Lord Garnock	S.M.Youell	R.F.Youell
Vice-Presidents	Professor Tuplin	S.M.Youell	R.F.Youell
	Bishop of Pontefract	S.M.Youell	R.F.Youell
	Dr. R. C. Lawrence	S.M.Youell	R.F.Youell
	Mr.J.F.Alcock	S.M.Youell	R.F.Youell
Chairman	Dr.R.F.Youell	D.Agus	S.Roberts
Vice-Chairman	Mr.S.Wolstenholme	P.Nettleton	J.Lodge
Secretary	Mrs. Susan Youell	J.Carr	R.F.Youell
Treasurer	Mr N.Brampton	J.Bushell	B.Ashurst
Committee Secretary	Mr.M.D.Crew	S.M.Youell	D.Agus
Publicity Officer	Mr.J.Carr	M.D.Crew	J.Lodge
Membership Secretary	Mr.J.Bushell	S.Roberts	P.Nettleton
Civil Engineer	Dr.R.F.Youell	J.Lodge	J.Carr
Operating Superintendent			
	Mr.J.Lodge	J.Bushell	B.Ashurst
Four other members	Mr. Foster	I.Walton	S.Roberts
	Mr. Ashurst	S.M.Youell	J.Bushell
	Mr. D. Agus	M.D.Crew	S.M.Youell
	Mr.G.Lee	M.D.Crew	S.M.Youell

There being no other nominations, all the above were elected for the year 1967.

Election of Hon. Auditors. Mr. Cox and Mr. Wolstenholme signified their willingness to continue acting as Honorary Auditors. Proposed S.M.Youell, Seconded Dr. Youell and carried unanimously.

Dr. Youell pointed out that the election of officers to non-committee posts was not necessary at the A.G.M. and that it would be better dealt with at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

There having been no other businesses submitted under "Any Other business", the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

M.D.Crew
Committee Secretary.