

MIDDLETON RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Cockburn High School, Leeds on Saturday 2nd March 1974 commencing at 2.30p.m.

Present: Mr. T.W.J. Apperley (in the Chair) and 29 other members.

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Mrs. M.E. Apperley and family, Dr. A.L. Barnett, Mr. J.D. Carr, Rev. J.A. Heap, the Hebden family, and Messrs. P. Jones and J.K. Lee.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th March 1973: it was proposed and carried nem. con. that the minutes be approved.
3. Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 17th November 1973: it was proposed and carried that the minutes be approved.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: there were none.
5. Receipt and Approval of Officers' Reports:

TREASURER: Mr. R.G. Edwards had attached his written report to the audited accounts. He explained that the 'Eastern Account' held money which had been given for the preservation of Great Eastern Railway relics and which had accumulated within the funds of the M.R.T. Dr. Youell was still refusing to take over the money. The £46 of interest which had accumulated on this money should not be regarded as M.R.T. funds.

After Mr. Apperley had expressed the Trust's thanks to the auditors, it was proposed and carried that the accounts and Treasurer's report be approved.

SECRETARY: Mr. J.D. Edwards qualified his written report in respect of incorporation - the Trust had now been advised that to continue to seek, as part of the process of incorporation, a dispensation to drop the word 'Limited' from the company's title might well delay registration of the company for several months, and would probably not be fruitful. It was proposed and carried that the application for the dispensation should be dropped, and that revised Memorandum and Articles be signed at the end of the Meeting and submitted for registration.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mr. Ashurst had prepared a written report, and emphasised his

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mr. Ashurst had prepared a written report, and emphasised his appeal to members to recruit further members. Mr. Bushell expressed his concern at the net loss of 56 members over the last 5 years, and at the reported non-receipt of membership renewal notices by some members.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Mr. Hirst had submitted a written report. Mr. Apperley, from the Chair, thanked Mr. Hirst for the excellent work of the publicity team over the last year.

EDITOR: Mr. Leah thanked contributors and asked for more. As usual, three Old Runs had been produced during the year. A new Stockbook was at the printers and would be available shortly. The price of paper had risen steeply recently and the next few issues of Old Run would be smaller to contain costs. The use of recycled paper could be considered but it generally gave poor reproduction of photographs. He sought help in attracting extra revenue from advertisements.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER: Mr. Lodge's reports had appeared in the Old Run.

CIVIL ENGINEER: Mr. Cowling reported that the only new work during the year, as distinct from maintenance, had been the level crossing for the rebuilt Beza Road. The M.R.A. had helped greatly, but some jobs were too big for junior members and an M.R.T. gang was needed.

TRAFFIC MANAGER: The position was vacant. Tonnage figures for the year were not available, but it was reported that traffic was moving daily, and that help was required to handle it. Lack of central control was causing problems.

SALES MANAGER: Mr. Apperley had submitted a written report. He added that "Mr. Brandling's Railway" was now with the printers; Peckett badges were being produced by Gomm's for M.R.T. and two other societies; and that while Mr. J.D. Carr's suggestion that more sales would result from more stocks was valid, there were physical limitations and security problems.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lee had submitted a written report.

It was proposed and carried that all the officers' reports be accepted.

6. M.R.A. Activities: Mr. Smith summarised the report shortly to appear in the Old Run. Two trips had been run in the year, and more were planned for this year. Lecture meetings had been held. A separate newsletted had been started due to

difficulties with Old Run deadlines. Mr. Apperley thanked the M.R.A. for the social activities which they had organised, and Mr. Smith requested more support from the M.R.T. for these activities.

7. Election of Officers

President and Vice-Presidents: there was no provision for these officers in the Company, and it was agreed that, in order to retain their valuable association with the Railway, the M.R.A. would adopt them. Mr. Ashurst had already obtained the agreement of the President and Vice-Presidents to this move.

In the absence of competitive nominations, the following were declared elected as officers and committee members of the Trust:

Chairman : J.K. Lee
Deputy Chairman : T.W.J. Apperley
Secretary : J.D. Edwards
Treasurer : R.G. Edwards
Committee Secretary : Miss S. Young
Membership Secretary : B.W. Ashurst
Publicity Officer : C. Hirst
Traffic Manager : C. Rogers
Mechanical Engineer : J.A. Lodge
Civil Engineer : A.J. Cowling
Committee Members : Mrs. M. Apperley
D.J. Hebden
J. Henderson
P. Nettleton

It was proposed and carried that all those so elected were authorised to sign the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

8. Membership of the Council of the Company: it was proposed and carried that the first members of the Council of the Company (i.e. the signatories of the Memorandum and Articles of Association) be directed to co-opt to membership of the Council, at its first meeting, the remaining members of the Committee of the Trust elected under the last item of business above.

It was proposed and carried that Messrs. Vollans Leach

9. Appointment of Auditors: it was proposed and carried that Messrs. Vollans Leach and Schofield be re-appointed auditors to the Trust.

It was agreed to reverse the order of taking the two remaining items of business on the Agenda.

11. Other Business

- (a) Mr. Bushell had been building up an archival collection of photographs and historical documents of the Railway. He requested further contributions, and would publicise the request in the Old Run.
- (b) Mr. I.B. Smith suggested that better materials should be used for construction than had been used, for example, in the flooring of wagons.
- (c) Mr. K. Cockerell reported on behalf of the Steam Power Trust that progress on the Y7 had been slow, but it was hoped to steam the engine by the end of summer. He expressed his usual thanks for help given by the M.R.T.
- (d) Mr. S. Roberts suggested that M.R.T. should solicit trade union members to give to the M.R.T. as a charity, in lieu of union subscriptions, as provided ~~by~~ for by Section 24 of the Industrial Relations Act. Other members foresaw only a short life for the Act.
- (e) As representative of the committee organising the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, Mr. A. Bowman reported that there would be a major exhibition, financed by local authorities, at Shildon in the last week of August 1975. There would also be a locomotive cavalcade. The organisers were interested in including the Sentinel 54, 'John Alcock', the Y7 and Danish 385, and negotiations were in progress with the M.R.T. Committee which had agreed in principle and subject to certain conditions.
- (f) Mr. I.B. Smith welcomed all to take part in the M.R.A. 'Clean-up' around Tunstall Road to be held on March 23/24.

10. Raising of Funds for the Proposed Depot:

The meeting was advised that the plans were now for a stock shed only, rather than a running shed, and that there was potential room for up to 12 locomotives on the site west of the line by Tunstall Road. On the basis of say £70 per locomotive for track to stand on, and say £300 per turnout, Mr. Cowling estimated total track costs in the region of £2,000 to £3,000. Mr. Lodge reported that the cost for an