



**Annual General Meeting – Thursday, 07 November 2024
Committee Room, The Olney Centre, High Street, Olney, MK46 4EF**

Present: Peter Revitt, Malcolm Haynes, Chris Toyer, David Croft,
Alan Sheldon, John Hancon, David Cottrell, Peter Marler,
Philip Lawton, Keith Evans, Nick Young, David Morris,
Les Poulter, Mark Wilson, Simon Marshall, Barrie Trinder

Meeting Opened: 7.30pm

Meeting Closed: 9.45pm

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

David formally opened the Meeting by welcoming all present and stating that he was pleased to see so many members had turned up after what had been a very challenging year.

Not only have we lost both Ken Knowles and Alan Beresford, we have also lost the long-term tenancy of our Clubroom at the Carlton House Club due to the building being put up for sale for development purposes.

On a more positive note, David confirmed that we are in a strong financial position and looking forward to a positive future which will see the Club develop and prosper. We have also held a modelling competition, held a couple of quizzes and enjoyed demonstrations and presentations.

David also expressed his gratitude to those members who had worked tirelessly to ensure that our departure from the Carlton House Club was achieved in a planned and efficient manner.

2. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Keith Lee, Brian Jenkins, Darren Parker and Dennis Bradley.

3. Election of Management Committee Members for 2024/25

The following members were proposed and elected to serve,

Minute Note

on the Club Management Committee for 2024/2025:

Chairman – David Morris
Secretary – Malcolm Haynes
Treasurer – Chris Toyer

Proposed by David Croft, seconded by Mark Wilson. **Agreed**

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4. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday, 03 August 2023, were agreed without amendment.

Proposed by Chris Toyer, seconded by David Cottrell. **Agreed**

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5. Minutes of the 2024 EGM

The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting, held on Thursday, 25 July 2024, were agreed without amendment.

Proposed by Alan Sheldon, seconded by David Croft. **Agreed**

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6. Action Points and Matters Arising

There were no outstanding Action Points to be reviewed.

Matters Arising from the 2023 AGM and 2024 EGM were reviewed as follows:

All references to the Clubroom and the Carlton House Club are now irrelevant as our long-term tenancy ended on 31 October 2024.

Our Olney layout appeared in the September 2023 edition of the British Railway Modelling magazine and we received a payment of £200 from Warners Publications Ltd.

The Olney layout has been dismantled and donated to Rail World at Peterborough. We will be receiving £350.00 for the transfer of the associated NCE DCC control system.

Bucklebury Lane is currently being stored by John.

The boards for the as yet unnamed O and N gauge layouts are currently being stored by David M.

Keith E is currently storing the dismantled Test Track, together with a large number of Club assets.

Our grateful thanks are recorded for these members who are storing Club assets at home on our behalf,

We need to continue to improve internal communications and ensure that our website is revamped and updated. It is agreed that the website should be used to explain what the Club is about and Facebook is used to provide regular updates on our day-to-day activities.

6. Secretary's Report

Our long-term tenancy of the stable block at the Carlton House Club ended on 31 October and all keys were returned on 01 November.

The Clubroom insurance policy has been cancelled and a refund of £46.78 has been received from Magnet Insurance Services Ltd.

We are continuing with our search for a permanent home and have already pursued options at both Emberton Park and Lavendon Narrow Gauge Railway. We are now beginning to look at church halls/village halls in the surrounding villages.

There is still the possibility of a room at the Advantage Africa Charity suite of rooms on the High Street, but at the present time the landlord has said no to our presence. This option is ongoing but should be viewed as a long shot.

We are currently renting a room at the Olney Centre on a regular weekly basis at a cost of £30.60 per evening. We have also secured a locker for our use, together with some space for the storage of any boards under construction. We are currently booked until the end of December.

The 2023 Exhibition turned out to be another successful event. Visitor numbers totalled 120. Income was £1138.50 and Expenditure was £595.41, leaving a profit of £543.09 for the Club funds.

Members have also purchased supplies of polo and sweat shirts in the new, agreed colours of light/dark grey with yellow motifs.

There were no questions for the Secretary. Report agreed as presented.

Proposed by Peter Marler, seconded by Simon Marshall. **Agreed**

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7. Treasurer's Report

Chris presented the Statement of Account for the period 31 July 2023 to 07 November 2024, reporting that has been an operating surplus of £2,039.35 during the accounting period.

Income totalled £5,314.81 with Expenditure totalling £3,275.46.

Annual/Weekly Subscriptions (£3,282.00), Miscellaneous Sales (£399.96) and Exhibition Profit (£543.09) provided the bulk of the Income with Rental, Clubroom Insurance and NCE Power Cab equipment accounting for £1,145.50 of the Expenditure total.

The red-line balance figure of £2,000 remains unchanged.

Following a suggestion from Philip it was agreed that, whilst we remain without a permanent home, we will not pay an Annual Subscription Fee, but will increase the Weekly Subscription Fee from £3.00 to £4.00.

Chris will continue to collect weekly cash payments but, it is suggested that members may like to consider paying either monthly or annually in advance. This will not only aid Club funds but will also enable membership records to be monitored to ensure that the 50% criteria for achieving annual full membership is met for each individual.

There were no questions of significance for the Treasurer and the Statement of Account was therefore agreed as presented.

Proposed by David Croft, seconded by Mark Wilson. **Agreed**

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9. Objectives for 2024/2025

The following key objectives were agreed:

- Continue the search for a new, permanent home.
- Design and construct a suitable test track system for use in the Olney Centre.
- Investigate the possibility of holding a 2025 Exhibition at the Olney Centre, Carlton House Club or other suitable venue.
- Progress the existing OO and N gauge layouts.

- Hold occasional quizzes, demonstrations, group modelling evenings and talks.
- Upgrade the website and improve both internal and external communications.

10. Club Constitution

In view of foregoing, the Club Constitution now requires significant review. Malcolm will review and update the document and forward it to David M and Chris for approval.

One approved, each member will receive an individual copy and a copy will be placed on the Club website.

11. Any Other Business

The large quantity of items bequeathed to the Club by Alan Beresford are currently being held by Malcolm. These will need to be checked and catalogued and then offered to the members for purchase. Any items remaining unsold will then be offered for donation/sale externally.

Peter M and Barrie expressed their thanks to the Management Committee for all their hard work during what had proved to be a very challenging year..

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting was formally brought to a close at 9.45pm.

Malcolm Haynes
Secretary – Olney Model Railway Club
13 November 2024