

INTER CITY RAILWAY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE INTER CITY RAILWAY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR YEAR 2010 HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 16TH 2011 AT THE KIDDERMINSTER RAILWAY MUSEUM, SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY COMMENCING 11.00

Present: Carl Watson, Simon Mutton, Trevor Roots, Mark Richards, Martin Hall, James Holloway, Michael Hillier, Mike Cheskin, Brian Derricote, Kevin Bates, Ken Pitt, Ron A. Bamford

1) WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from: Gary Mutton, Peter Britcliffe, Pete Mayer, Mike Rumens, B. Carveth, P. Foster

2) CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS - Carl Watson

It's been my pleasure to lead the Society through a very busy but ultimately successful year.

Personally it has been a very difficult year with redundancy in July 2010 and, having failed to find a suitable job, turning to Self Employment in IT Consultancy and Website Design. Other family issues have meant the time available to devote to the Society has been less than I would have hoped.

As a Society, we've managed to maintain our Membership despite a tough economic climate which will have affected the majority of our Members.

Our Website continues to develop and maintain a vital link to a large proportion of our Membership as well as a 'shop window' to the outside world. The loss of the company running Fotopic has presented us with a challenge for the next year and Mark is looking at alternatives to ensure we can continue to showcase Members' photographs for all to see.

This has been our first full year of doing Publications solely in house and, again, has been very successful. The profits made have exceeded expectations and allowed us to improve our Magazine 'Tracks' by firstly increasing the number of pages from 28 to 32 and from January 2011 it's now in full colour.

Shortly we will hear detailed reports from the respective Officials on all of the areas I have just referred to but, today, we also have the opportunity to agree a revised Constitution which better reflects the current status and ideals of the Society. I urge all to accept this in the best interests of the Society.

Looking forward to 2011/12, we expect to produce more Publications and hopefully increase our Membership. I'm sure there will be new challenges but we'll rise to the occasion, as we have in the past.

That said, we could really do with some new blood on the Management Committee so if you're interested in helping us meet those challenges then please get in touch. But please remember it's not something that suits just anyone, its hard work at times and the only reward is satisfaction of a job well done, and you will need a proven track record in the disciplines of a modern business.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those on the Management Committee for their hard work during the year and also all of those who support the team by doing their own bit towards the smooth running of the Society.

Thank You.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM 17/04/2010 NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

The minutes were adopted by the meeting.

4) ELECTION OF OFFICIALS FOR YEAR 2009

There were no new nominations and it was proposed that all current Officials (as shown in the latest edition of Tracks) be elected en bloc. Proposed by Ron Bamford and seconded by Michael Hillier and approved by the meeting.

5) PRESENTATION OF OFFICIALS REPORTS

a) Financial & Subscription rates for 2011

In the absence of the Treasurer Simon presented the accounts (attached) The Society had a very successful year and is showing a healthy surplus. The layout of the accounts to reflect the change in the Societys accounting year was explained, as was the accounting methodology which requires pre-paid subscriptions to be shown as a liability within the accounts. It was recommended the current subscription level remains unchanged for 2011 year (for the third year in a row).It was also recommended that, due to changes to the GB Bus Group magazine which have increased its size (which in turn has negated the savings from joint postage which funded the joint membership discount), that the joint ICRS/GBBG membership discount be ended with effect from the end of June 2011.

Mike Cheskin proposed adoption of the accounts seconded by Martin Hall and approved by the meeting.

b) Magazine Editorial

Trevor presented the Magazine report:

As hinted last year we made cost savings in the printing of Tracks by switching to new printers Henry Ling in Dorchester. However the nominal saving allowed the society to fund an increase in the number of pages. Therefore from the June 2010 issue, the first printed by Henry Ling, the number of pages in Tracks was increased to 32 from 28. Not content with this we proposed to bring colour back into the magazine. Following the success of our books, the society has had more funds available we were able to move to a full colour printed version from the January 2011 issue. This was so that all members could benefit from the colour photos and not just those with computer access. This is however only for 12 months and is dependent on the funding continuing. A favourable review at the end of each year will see the colour continue for the next 12 months.

Thanks must go to Peter Britcliffe for his continuing efforts in distributing Tracks and similarly to Eddie Roberts, a GBBG member for role in distributing Tracks with Trident for Joint members. However distribution has been a problem around Christmas and the New Year with initially postal delays and severe weather and then some confusion over the extra time needed to print a full colour magazine and co-ordinating with GBBG over joint distribution. Hopefully the latter has now been tackled by bringing forward the date Tracks is sent to the printers. The former will always be a problem variable, but the revised printing schedule should allow Tracks to be brought out ahead of the Christmas rush.

One pleasant problem is that with an increasing amount of material and the requests to show photos in a larger format, the present 32 pages are again not enough. It is hard to find room to put in regular features with topical ones always coming forward each month. Maybe with continued member support and growth in book sales we can not only secure permanent colour but fund a further increase in pages.

Those present were happy with the introduction of colour to the magazine

c) Publication Sales/Production:

Carl presented the publications report:

Our first proper year of running our own Publications from start to finish and a very, very successful year it has been too.

From a cautious start and learning many lessons as we went, we released the books only when we could afford to do so.

We expanded to two editions of the Combine due to selling out of the first one.

Below is a table of all sales for the 2010 range and it should be pointed out that some of these books remain our current versions and so are still selling, albeit in small numbers. For example, since the 2010/11 year ended the Name Directory has sold several further copies and is also now in profit.

Title	UKR S01 Pocket Book 2010	UKRS 02A Combine Winter 2010	UKRS 02B Combine Summer 2010	UKR S03 Wagons 2010	UKR S04 Name Directory 2010	UKR S05 Locos 2010	UKR S06 DMU s 2010	UKR S07 EMU s 2010	UKR S19 Irish 2010
Member Sales	124	161	52	158	15	8	5	7	23
Non-Memb er Sales	103	115	37	129	4	7	5	4	14
Trade Sales	384	40	130	55	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Sales (Open Days etc)	36	0	40	8	3	8	1	1	7
Total Sales	647	316	259	350	22	23	11	12	44
Estim ated Profit	£2378	£1458	£1341	£1645	-£7	£5	-£65	-£86	£101

Total Estimated Profit £6770

2011 Range

A brief word about the 2011 range. We plan to release three versions of the Combine and are already on our second. We have a reformatted and updated USF in preparation which may just make it out before the end of 2011. The smaller books will be released again but unless sales improve significantly to make them worthwhile we may drop the worst of them in the future.

We need to settle into a regular schedule so people know when to expect our books. The 2nd edition of the 2011 Combined Volume (CV) is out and selling well, with the third edition due out in July. The first edition of the 2012 CV and Wagons Books is due for release just before Christmas.

The smaller books were issued late last year. They are due for release in late May.

It was pointed out that wagon information, particularly updates on RIV's, is becoming more difficult to obtain.

Mike Cheskin commented that the success of the publications is down to the format.

Income from publications now helps to subsidise improvements to other parts of the Society (e.g. website, colour in the magazine) and the ability to hold subscription rates.

d) Membership:

Mark presented the Membership report

I am pleased to report to the AGM that the membership of ICRS remains in a steady state with 634 members as at 28 February 2011, of which 146 were joint members with GB Bus Group.

ICRS Membership 2010-2011

	2010	2011
Total	646	634
<i>Joint Members (included in total)</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>146</i>
<i>Joint Members (as % of total)</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>23%</i>

Due to his changed personal circumstances and heavy workload, Trevor Roots stood down as Membership Secretary at the end of 2010 and I took on the role with effect from 1 January 2011. I am grateful to Trevor for his hard work, diligence and commitment as Membership Secretary and for being on hand to offer support and guidance as I got to grips with the responsibilities and duties that this role involves.

The role of the Membership Secretary is more than just processing renewals and applications -which is a considerable task in itself - and other duties include dealing with members' enquiries, acknowledging payments, preparing the mailing labels for the distribution of Tracks each month and welcoming new members to ICRS. It is an interesting and varied role and one that demands a lot of time and in respect of the latter I am grateful for the patience and support of my fellow officials.

During the year Trevor managed to put all joint members with differing renewal dates onto the same renewal date for both ICRS and GB Bus Group, so they can take full advantage of the discounted joint fee.

Our PayPal facility available via the main ICRS website allows both new members to apply and existing members to renew membership quickly and easily. There is a small cost to the Society for processing payments via this means and it has proven

a valuable asset in attracting new members as well as retaining existing members who enjoy the convenience of renewing their subscription in a couple of clicks.

I have, as part of my more detailed analysis, allotted every member an area in the UK (the code is shown on the membership database). The majority of our membership is based in England, with substantial numbers based around London, the South East and Anglia as well as the Midlands. We currently have 3 international members.

England

SE	(London, South East & East Anglia)	194
SW	(Southwest)	57
Mid	(Midlands)	158
NW	(Northwest)	102
NE	(Northeast)	82

Wales

W	(incl English / Welsh borders)	23
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Scotland

ScoN	(North & Islands)	2
ScoS	(Central Belt & Borders)	13

International

IRE	(Republic of Ireland)	1
EUR	(Europe, excluding Republic of Ireland)	2
RoW	(Rest of the World)	0

Membership latest figure is now 640. Whilst Joint members (with GBBG) account for approximately 20% of the total, it was not felt that the cessation of the discounted joint membership would adversely affect ICRS membership numbers.

Trevor pointed out that we gain around 100 new members each year. Mark said that main reasons given by those not renewing were age and affordability- dissatisfaction with the Society was not a reason.

It was confirmed that Direct Debits could be done through PayPal. There would be an additional cost involved- PayPal costs ICRS two and a half percent on each transaction but payments are actioned immediately.

e) Website: www.icrs.org.uk

Mark presented the website report:

1st November 2009 to 28 February 2011

I am pleased to report to the AGM that the ICRS website continues to be successful and popular with both members and non-members alike. In this report, I would like to share with you some of the key statistics and measures of the website as well as what I believe have been the main achievements in the period under review.

ICRS Fotopic

The Fotopic gallery which was launched in July 2008 had until recently continued to be popular with both members and non-members and was receiving an increased number of photo submissions. Unfortunately the entire Fotopic site (not just ICRS) went off line in early March which has meant that none of our galleries are viewable online. At the time of writing this report, I am investigating alternative means of hosting the Photo Galleries

ICRS Website

Website traffic - unique visits by month:

Month	Unique Visits
<i>November 2009</i>	<i>10052</i>
<i>December 2009</i>	<i>10965</i>
<i>January 2010</i>	<i>11601</i>
<i>February 2010</i>	<i>9030</i>
<i>March 2010</i>	<i>10972</i>
<i>April 2010</i>	<i>9619</i>
<i>May 2010</i>	<i>10918</i>
<i>June 2010</i>	<i>9886</i>
<i>July 2010</i>	<i>10059</i>
<i>August 2010</i>	<i>9730</i>
<i>September 2010</i>	<i>8459</i>
<i>October 2010</i>	<i>8689</i>
<i>November 2010</i>	<i>9442</i>
<i>December 2010</i>	<i>8926</i>
<i>January 2011</i>	<i>11092</i>
<i>February 2011</i>	<i>9585</i>

Note: A visitor is counted only when bringing up more than one page and taking no longer than 30 minutes between individual pages.

Overall the trend in visitor numbers is flat although there was a notable drop in numbers during the latter part of 2010 but this has now been recovered to a more steady level.

Analysis of all visits to the website show that 70% are from direct requests either by entering the domain in the browser or via favourites, 19% from referrals on other websites and 11% are referrals from search engines such as Google.

Most Requested Pages from November 2009 to February 2011

*Homepage/Index page
European News
Publications
Rolling Stock*

In total, there were 267,786 successful page views during the period under review.

One of the key changes in the period under review has been the greater emphasis on publications since these have been produced in-house under the ICRS name from November 2009. The website is a valuable means of advertising our books and along with the easy means of ordering via PayPal has made it a popular venue for sales. The structure of the publications pages has been changed to make it clearer and easier to find the latest books with the previous publication titles now shown grouped on separate pages.

The homepage has also been altered to give more prominence to new publications as they are released and also to keep it topical with featured photos and news appearing here.

It is generally the aim to update the site on at least a weekly basis although more contributions from members, whether it is sightings, news, location reports or photos would be much appreciated.

In addition to the main website and Fotopic site we also have a Yahoo Group, which has a small but active membership. Steve Revill does an excellent job keeping this in order and taking on most of the moderating. I am grateful to Steve for his continued assistance and support in this.

Finally, I would like to remind the membership that the website is there for your benefit and I welcome feedback, positive or negative as well as your contributions and suggestions on how to improve the website.

6) ICRS REVISED CONSTITUTION

The revised Constitution was presented to the AGM. After page by page consideration, and following proposal by Ron Bamford, seconded by Martin Hall, the revised Constitution was agreed and accepted.

It was pointed out that there were in fact no major changes to the constitution but it has been simplified and made easier to understand. It was agreed to notify members through a notice in Tracks, and provide a

copy on the website. It is also the intention to have copies produced to be sent out to all new members when they join and to existing members.

7) AOB & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Carl said that Gary Mutten had signalled his intention to step down from the joint duties of Secretary and Treasurer with effect from next years AGM, in order to give time for replacement Officials to be put in place. Carl therefore asked those present to consider taking on either of these roles.

In addition it was agreed that there was a role within the society for someone to arrange tours for ICRS and again, if anyone was interested to contact the Chairman or Secretary.

A vote of thanks was proposed from the floor to all the Officials for the work done on behalf of the Society

8) CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 1.10pm