



Inter City Railway Society

MINUTES OF ICRS AGM FOR THE YEAR 2025

Held on Saturday 14th March at 11.30 at Severn Valley Railway

The meeting commenced at 12.00 with introduction by Simon Mutton (President)

Members Present

Tim Ackerley, Liam Alvey, Steven Alvey, Gary Asquith, Darren Bailey, Daniel Baldwin, Oliver Baldwin, Ronald Bamford, Dave Benson, Stan Bown, Paul Brack, Peter Britcliffe, Tony Brzosko, Anthony Burnham-Bamford, Colin Cheyne, Paul Clarke, Claire Cowen, Richard Cowen, Robert Dalton, Stephen Davie, Lewis Davie, Laura Davie, Neil Dix, Martin Eden, Christine Field, Peter Flintham, Steve Fryer, Daniel Glover, Martin Hall, Roger Harris, Nicholas Hemming, Michael Hillier, James Holloway, Steve Hooley, Peter Hucker, Mike Jackson, Alan Jones, Ronnie Lees, Michael Mansfield, Andrew Martin, Stuart Moore, Colin Moyes, Gary Mutton, Simon Mutton, Gareth Oliver, Colin Parker, Gareth Patterson, Colin Pottle, Michael Robinson, Paul Robinson, Trevor Roots, Andy Scott, Danny Scott, David Scott, Aidan Turner, Peter Turner, Emma Wilkinson, Sid Wilson, Paul Young

Apologies for Absence

Ken Brown, Keith Hawken, Colin Naisbitt, Lindsay Parker, Louise Parker, Mark Richards, Harvey Turner, Anthony Whitehead

Matters Arising from the 2024 Minutes

The minutes from last year's AGM were issued prior to the meeting for all to read.
Approval of the minutes were proposed by Steve Alvey and seconded by Stuart Moore.

Treasurers Report - Peter Britcliffe: *Also see attached Accounts*

All amounts shown in this report have been rounded to the nearest £50.

In 2025 we showed a surplus of just over **£5750** which was less than the previous year.

Membership: The membership fee remained at £12. A few members are still paying the incorrect amount. Can I appeal to members who renew via PayPal to consider changing their payment to BACS so the society receives the full amount. We only receive **£11.35** from PayPal once their fee has been deducted.

Publications: Total sales fell for the fourth consecutive year but they still showed a surplus of almost **£8,300**. Trevor will say more on the actual number of each book sold.

Visits / Shows: These will always produce a deficit and this year it was approx **-£10,160**. Travel, hotel accommodation and food costs have continued to rise beyond our control. Again I make a special mention here to Andy for the time he spent arranging some new venues. This year there were more visits than ever before.

Officials / Website: These costs will again always show a deficit. This year we have bought hardware for the visit organiser, a drone and needed major repair work for Trevor's computer.

The 2024 AGM was held at Chasewater Railway and this is another area where costs always show a deficit, this year's cost was just under **-£2,000** but the venue again proved to be an excellent choice.

Finally, our bank, Lloyds, introduced bank charges from January 2025. To counteract these we have moved the bulk of our assets into a savings account so the interest earned will help us to cover the charges. The charges for this year are shown at the end of the accounts. We currently receive a 70% discount on the monthly charges but from January 2026 this disappears. They charge a fee for all cheques paid in. It would save the society money and the added admin of processing cheques if book purchases and membership renewals could be made using the BACS system.

Looking forward to 2026, the society is in a strong position financially as the list of assets show.

Discussion Points:

- Accounts were proposed by Gary Mutton and seconded by Andy Scott

Membership Report - Colin Pottle:

2025's new members were very slightly up on 2024, with 159 new in 2025 compared to 153 in 2024.

We continue to have members who don't renew on time and then re-join at a later date, once they realise that they have been deleted.

By the end of 2025 we had 1133 members, down by 77 from the previous year. This included 11 AFC's (Additional Family Child) aged between 10 - 16 years old.

People who resigned or were resigned by me because they didn't respond to requests to renew, numbered 249 of which 59 stayed for one year only. These figures are quite promising, pointing to membership numbers stabilising after **TRACKS** not being printed any more. Sadly, we also had 1 member who passed away, bringing the total who left to 250.

With the introduction of the members log in late in the year it is possible that more members will return once they realise that they can't access info on the website for free, but it is too early to say with only one month's data.

Renewals: I have been working on the best way to inform members that their renewal is due. Members will get an email informing them that their renewal is due in the coming month, followed by one towards the end of that month and yet another toward the end of the following month. This still gives everyone a month's grace but only works if you keep your details up to date. Email addresses seem to be changed on a regular basis so please, please let us know your new ones!

Discussion Points:

- No comments or queries raised.

Editors Report - Paul Brack:

I have now been in the role of Editor of **TRACKS** for just over a year. 10 issues were released in 2025, with two double issues (May/June and November/December). Total page counts for the magazines were as follows:

Jan	54	Apr	90	Aug	83	Nov / Dec	118
Feb	53	May / Jun	24	Sep	110		
Mar	73	Jul	120	Oct	122		

This gives a grand total of 947 pages for the year, with an average of approx 95 pages an issue, which is I believe the second highest in the history of the magazine after 2023. One of the advantages of the pdf is that we can leave more photos larger as we do not have any page number constraints. We initially thought the length of the magazine would drop significantly under a new Editor, but thus far that has not been the case.

This is, of course, only possible thanks to the contributions of members, so a huge thanks to all who have contributed articles, photos or sightings in 2025. Of course, I also want to recognise Trevor's continuing contribution as Photo Editor and for continuing to supply many articles for the magazine. Without these the magazine length would undoubtedly have shrunk significantly.

I think the changes made to put visits and stock changes online are working and thus would propose to continue in the same vein.

I am always looking for new content for the magazine, so whether you've been on days out, attended preservation galas, or have a particular interest you'd like to share, or if you have any other feedback, please get in touch with me at editor@intercityrailwaysociety.org

Discussion Points:

- The May/June page count for Tracks should in fact be 124 pages and not 24 as listed above – typing error.

Publications Report - Trevor Roots:

Book Printing / Distribution: The same eight books as per 2024 were produced with the content of the loco book adjusted to remove the industrials as agreed at the 2024 AGM.

The quality of the Micropress (MP) wire bound books was good though a box of Combine Vol.1s had to be re-printed as they were severely damaged in transit.

Due to a change in compensation rates only orders under £20 were posted out as Second Class with all others sent as Tracked 48 which was approx a 50:50 split in the orders. The distribution again was undertaken via a Post Office Drop & Go account which relies on a willing post office in Keith, and the sole lady who runs it within a Spar shop. It also relies on the good fortune that myself & Chris have a large enough house to accommodate the boxes of books, padded envelopes and packing material and the room to process them. The moving and carrying of heavy loads though is getting more onerous as we age !! Though the 2026 distribution will be the same it is time that an alternative arrangement needs to be discussed for the future.

Book Sales: As can be seen from the figures below, in total we ordered a few more books than in 2024 but sold less. The four main titles sold reasonably well with the wire bound Combine Vol.1 our best seller though 40% down on 2022 whilst Vol.2 is nearly 60% down. The spine books have sold at a similar level to previous years. The wire bound Pocket Book Vol.2 has continued to sell badly with the worst sales of any book.

		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Book Ref / Title		Order	Sold	Order	Sold	Order	Sold	Order	Sold
01S Pocket Book		250	180	200	192	250	250	300	231
01 Pocket Book		525	454	500	429				
01-V1 Pocket Book Vol.1						300	256	300	241
01-V2 Pocket Book Vol.2						150	93	150	78
02S Combine						300	210	275	204
02-V1 Combine Vol.1		775	676	700	668	400	407	450	423
03 Combine Vol.2		550	533	550	489				
02-V2 Combine Vol.2						250	255	300	237
03 Wagons & OTP						200	112	150	93
05 Locos		125	89	100	100	100	78	100	93
Totals		2225	1932	2050	1878	1950	1661	2025	1600
Individual Orders #		1159		1023		950		835	
Total Net Profit (approx) #		£12,920		£12,990		£9,800		£8,900	

spine books

includes other books

As can also be seen from the table above the number of individual orders has continued to decline but to a lesser extent. As stated previously this could be due a reduction in enthusiasts buying spotting books and relying more on digital recording, a general malaise with spotting, our books aren't bought each year or the content isn't what some buyers want. Probably all apply. The reduction in membership still does not seem to be a factor as ex-members continue to purchase books. The relative cheaper cost of our books compared to other 'competitors' is unlikely to be an issue either. Having ordered books from the printers hoping sales would be higher, as you can see this wasn't the case, we had to write off over 400 books, 20% of the total. Ordering less of each title however would have put the unit costs up so the actual profit would have been approx the same. The previous two years should help in more accurately ordering books for 2026, however with titles changing this will still be a guess.

We sold out of USFs Vol.1 with only a few Vol.2s still in stock.

The Name Directory as proposed was released as an A4 pdf and sold a modest 36 copies making £190, though with no effective production costs this was all profit.

The Shunter Hunter Class 08 book is close to finally breaking even which should be achieved with a few more sales in the New Year.

Tornado Books & Hobbies in Birmingham continue to be our only retail sales with a total of 85 books ordered.

As stated above the 2026 book titles have changed due to more data being added coupled with poor sales of some titles, entailing a rethink on the book layouts. There are still 8 books in total consisting of our 4 popular main titles shown above, two spine and the two COMBINE Vols, plus the NEW 4 wire bound POCKET DATAFILES. The original release of the wire bound POCKET DATAFILE in 2018 was very popular when it was a single book and no doubt due to its cheap price compared with other offerings. But once further data was added it meant it had to be split and sales have gradually fallen. In fact, the worst selling book in 2024 was Vol.2 with only 76 sold which took most of the year to break even. This is not viable on cost and my effort. Also having slimmed down the LOCOMOTIVE book for annual spotting enthusiasts, again sales of only 93 do not justify the extra work that entails. The re-release of the A5 WAGON & OTP book has also proved not to be a big seller with only 93 sold. So, taking all this into account and recognising that we have a unique selling point in offering A6 wirebound books we are going to release individual books in this format covering basically one type of stock. This is similar to Platform 5, though those are based on data in their COMBINE whereas ours are the data sets from the POCKET DATAFILE which will now be offered as follows:

POCKET DATAFILE Vol.1 2026 Locos
POCKET DATAFILE Vol.2 2026 Units, Trams, Light Rail & Underground
POCKET DATAFILE Vol.3 2026 Carriages
POCKET DATAFILE Vol.4 2026 Wagons & OTP

The existing Vol.1 & 2 is split up into the new Vol.1 to 3 with clearly Vol.1 replacing the existing LOCO book and Vol.4 replacing the existing A5 WAGONS & OTP but in an A6 format not available elsewhere. This gives a uniformity to our range and offers some different options which only time will tell if they prove popular.

The other big advantage of the above change is that each book will be cheaper than the existing two Vols with two of the new four very cheap to members. As for the four main books, there will be no price increase for members though there will be a slight increase for non-members so encouragement to join especially as there is now a bigger discount for members.

As for the extra data, Preserved Trams have been added along with Irish Railways stock from the existing 2021 released book as this was way out of date and it made more sense to combine with our existing books. In fact Northern Irish stock should really have been included before as part of UK. The Irish info has gone into a separate section in the spine books and therefore I have also moved the few items of Channel Isles and Isle of Man stock to similar separate sections. Makes more sense as all are offshore locations. The various types of stock is shown in the various other books. The remaining narrow gauge locos are also to be added but as at the end of the year this was still in flux. As proposed in the 2024 AGM Minutes to accommodate the additions and even up book page sizes in the wire bound Combines, Trams, Light Rail & Underground was moved from Vol.1 to Vol.2

Sundries: We have almost sold out of the yellow pens and we only have a handful of the red 50 leave (100 page) notebooks left. Further stocks of 75 leave (150 page) blue notebooks will be ordered with the new 2026 books.

We added Beanie Hats to our range in Black and Dark (French) Navy

Advertising: Full page adverts were taken out in Railways Illustrated (RI) for the Mar and Apr issues and Railway Express (REx) for the Feb and Mar issues. We also continue to get our books advertised on WNXX, which can be seen when you scroll to the bottom of the Latest News page under Members Marketing. In addition, Gareth continues to push us on social media.

Sales Stand: This was taken to five events in 2025, Midland Railway Butterly (MRB) in July, The Greatest Gathering, Alstom Derby Litchurch Lane in Aug, Great Central Rly in Sep, Eastleigh Works visit in Sep and Alstom Glasgow Polmadie Depot in Oct. Of these the biggest was The Greatest Gathering celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Rail Travel and the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway. It was held over three days from the 1st - 3rd Aug. We set up on the Thu so had a chance to witness the movement of stock prior to the event. Because of its size and relative lack of time for those visiting on only one day, many did not visit the shed we were in, so sales were quite poor considering an attendance of nearly 40,000.

2026 should see us at the DRS Open Day if it is held and we may attend the MRB event again in Jul though the dates may clash.

Discussion Points:

- The Post & Go system we use at the local Post Office works well but if for any reason there is a problem with this we will have to reassess how we send out books, it may be a case of getting the printers to send them out direct but this can cause issues.

- Name Directory – members were asked if they like this as a PDF, only one member spoke up to say they preferred a book.
- Shunter Hunter – this has finally broken even.
- Thank you was given for all the hard work done on the books.

Website Report - Trevor Roots:

As previously suggested, we successfully moved the website onto another server in November hosted by Adrian Thurley (TrainSpotting App). We had been with the original server hosted by Carl Watson since inception of the website. This move came with a SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) certificate which verifies a websites identity, something we were unable to previously do. There are still instances where the site is shown insecure but this is due to the browser being used. The Society domain name is now registered to me. Thanks go to Carl and Adrian for the work involved in making the changeover. I was also able to take the opportunity at the time and since to revise and add pages and do some housekeeping on the site. We also now have acknowledgment pages for purchases of membership, books and sundries.

Following the move we were able to implement the long discussed members log in to restrict access to certain pages to members only. This was primarily for **TRACKS** but includes other info (see below). Adrian manages the database connected to the log in pages with Colin providing him with new members as they join and on a monthly basis those that do not renew by the end of each month. The log in details are your Surname and Membership Number which apart from a few confused members operated smoothly from day one.

As reported last year, the website is now the main reference point for up to date Stock Changes / Nameplate photos with Liveries now added. All these pages are now password protected.

The 2026 books were advertised on Boxing Day.

Gareth Patterson is doing an excellent job with Social Media, see his report below with the four advertising platforms continuing to generate new members and book sales.

Due to other work taking precedence, the **TRACKS** photo database and Signal Box list have still yet to be put on the website. Due to the increased size of **TRACKS** and consequently the increased number of photos, the photo database is now out of date with the last few years not being added. We are open to offers for someone to take over maintaining the database, which firstly needs completing then doing monthly updates.

As mentioned in other reports please use the website as your first point of reference for up to date info before emailing any officials.

Discussion Points:

- As mentioned the server is now hosted by Adrian Thurley and is running very well and also provides the SSL Certificate we have been lacking.
- Members login is working well and Adrian and Colin keep this updated between them.
- Request for a volunteer/s to bring the Tracks photo database up-to-date. After the meeting Gary Mutten and Stuart Moore came forward to take this on. Trevor will be in contact with them in the next few months regarding this.

Social Media Report - Gareth Patterson:

Another decent year for the social media pages with them all still rising with our main one of course being the public domain Facebook pages which is slowly reaching ten thousand followers, so fantastic.

As always with this page we have continued to promote the society's books, also pushing the Membership and we post a daily photograph from one of our members every morning at 08.30 which has proved very popular

We have also had a 100% reply rate from Facebook which was nice to receive.

During the year Facebook dropped the likes and concentrated more on the followers section, just one of the many tweaks they do which is out of our control sadly.

On a negative side we hoped to do a live stream on Facebook from The Greatest Gathering at Derby, but sadly this didn't take place and it wasn't for the want of trying. The reason being that I couldn't get a Wi-Fi connection at all and even switching to my phone network I couldn't even open up the Facebook app. However, a behind the scenes video was recorded on my camera and is 57 minutes long and is available to view on my YouTube channel **@Berwickspotter**

The Facebook Members Only Group was 348 members strong as at the end of the year. This number fluctuates throughout the year as members join / leave. It's a shame this page still has not reached 400 as we currently have over 1100 members and I would have thought that many more would have been on social media though I appreciate a lot of the older generation don't use it. Remember if you use social media then this is the main page for you to be on as a member, as it keeps you up to date on events, **TRACKS** and general society matters. So if you know a member who isn't on, give them a nudge and remind them about it.

No reports on Twitter / X numbers still rising.

Instagram no reports numbers still rising.

Flickr had a issue in November as we couldn't share any content. Thankfully after speaking to their help team the problem was resolved within two weeks.

	end of Dec 2023 (approx)	end of Dec 2024	end of Dec 2025	Gain 2024-25
Facebook	5644	6409	9865	3156
Twitter / X	2452	2596	2771	175
Instagram	3446	3479	3496	17
Train Siding	1063	1519	n/a	n/a
Flickr	n/a	18	27	9

Discussion Points:

- Facebook is doing well with nearly 10,000 followers and has not dropped in numbers since commencement.
- Events – Filmed and posted on Andy Scott's own site.
- The Society has purchased a Dron and Gareth is the legal operator but he has not had a lot of practice due to the poor weather but hopefully he will soon be able to get out and about.

Visits Report - Andy Scott:

So last year with assistance from Trevor and Chris we had a total of 25 visits which beat the total from 2024. These were as follows Battlefield Rly (1), FL Crewe Basford Hall (4), Chasewater Rly (1), East Lancs Rly (3), Ecclesbourne Valley Rly (1), Eastleigh (1), Hope Cement Works (2), Heritage Shunter Trust (1), FL Leeds Midland Road (3), Laira GWR (1), Middleton Rly (1), Peak Rail (1), Scunthorpe Steelworks (2), Telford Steam Rly (1) and Wishaw (2). The 2025 AGM was held during The Chasewater Visit. A big thanks must go to Chris for looking after the bookings for all 25 visits

Of the above, Battlefield Railway, Ecclesbourne Valley, Leeds Midland Rd, Middleton Railway, and Telford Steam Rly were new locations plus the big one for 2025 being GWR Laira Depot. All had great attendances and feedback.

Unfortunately, we have lost a couple of good locations with Hope Cement Works no longer holding visits due to new systems at Hope and Andrew Briddon also not inclined to host another visit. There is still no possibility of visiting West Coast Rlys at Carnforth but we keep asking

As always you can find all visit information on the website which will be regularly updated so when we know you will know. **PLEASE** don't pester myself or Chris on why we can't visit this or that location. If we can't go there is a good reason, even if you see reports of a visit from other groups.

2026 is looking to be another great year for the Society and I am looking forward to another fulfilling year as your Visit Co-ordinator.

Discussion Points:

- 15 confirmed visits with potentially 24 for the year.
- Isle of Wight a big tour and a new evening tour at Nene Valley Railway
- Quiz run with Dan & Oliver Baldwin winning a Beanie hat and mug and coaster.
- We may have a stand at a few locations – DRS Open Day, Midland Railway Butterly, Northampton & Lamport Anniversary, Severn Valley Railway Diesel Gala

Election of Officials

Existing Officials agreed to continue with Emma Wilkinson (Sales Assistant) added.
Proposed by Stuart Moore and Seconded by Gary Mutton

Any Other Business

Nothing raised.

Presidents Closing Statement - Simon Mutton

Life is short. In the grand scheme of things this oft quoted saying must be true. Our planet has been here for millions of years – our universe billions. On our headstones will be the etching of when we were born and the date when we died. eg 1960 – 2050.

What I want you to consider today are not those two dates. It is the 'dash' in between. Think about that little 'dash'. That's our life. That represents the short time we have, here, to make a difference, or not. And making a difference means so many different things to so many people. But for you, the volunteer, for that is what you the officials are, what you do during that dash is most significant. But how do we give back time? As a volunteer you give time.

Time. The most precious resource in our lives. Think about the 'dash'. How many hours are in there? It's not billions. It's not infinite. Money can be printed. Time cannot. Once you give an hour of your time it is gone. That hour you just gave volunteering will never be replicated. Your time volunteering must be valued but we can never put a value on that time. How can you value something that is priceless?

Look at these books. More information than ever this year and fully updated.

Think about the hours and hours of time they took to collate, update, format, proof read, amend, print, then to receive, collate and dispatch orders.

Think about the magazine - to collate, format and edit - and to do that every month.

Think about membership administration – to well over 1,000 members.

Think about the organisation of trips - the time taken in identifying, organising, liaising with the locations involved, administering bookings.

Think about administration - Secretarial, Website, Finance, Social Media – all ongoing activities which require a bit of that valuable 'dash'

As volunteers you, the ICRS officials, bring much to our Society. Your skills, knowledge, experience, friendship, vision, leadership and inspiration. That you bring but time you give. In our time poor world you give the gift of your time. You choose to donate what is arguably the most precious commodity we have. We may count the time you give in numbers. We may attempt to count your time in cash value. Though such methods have their reasons we will all be poorer if we don't realize that the freely given gift of your time so that we the membership can indulge and enjoy our hobby as much as we do is simply and utterly the most amazing thing.

So today, we once again need to take a little time out to thank you for the amazing time that you give. To thank you for giving up that bit of your 'dash' for our benefit. For making that difference to how we enjoy our interest and hobby in railways. Thank you.

Meeting finished: 12.30