

MINUTES OF 60TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 14th May 2011 at Neuadd Pendre, Tywyn

47 Members attended.

Welcome

The meeting began with a welcome from John Smallwood, on behalf of both the Talylyn Railway and Neuadd Pendre.

Apologies for Absence

These were received from: Paul Bennett, Michael Bentley, Eric Cope, Alan Davies, Michael Feather, Henry Gunston, Nick Kelly, Mick Morgan, Philip Pacey, Brian Shaw, Paul Towers

Minutes of 2010 AGM

These were approved.

*Proposed: Sydney Leleux
Seconded: Mike Swift*

Chairman's Report

This is a weekend of celebration of achievement. Sixty years is a long time for a society such as ours to survive and prosper, and credit is due to all those who have made it possible for us to reach this anniversary.

While enjoying this weekend, it is the job of the committee to look in to the future, and it is clear that there are problems ahead. The circumstances that existed a few years ago no longer apply, and we cannot assume that the society will continue to regenerate, with younger members taking the place of those who lose interest or pass on.

Joining societies such as ours seems to be in major decline. The availability of virtually any information required on the Internet, a lack of desire to attend meetings, and the sheer weight of alternative forms of leisure activity means we are competing in an increasingly crowded market.

While the membership survey earlier this year confirmed that members are happy with the way the society is run and performing, our age profile continues to be disturbing. I have already mentioned that the young generation seems less disposed to join organizations, but believe that there are enough people out there we can recruit – particularly those actively involved in the running of narrow gauge organizations. The committee is considering ways of targeting them.

This is written before the financial results for the year ending in April 2011 were finalized, but it seems clear that we have lost money again. The answer is obviously more members, the alternatives are to cut services – less pages and colour in NGN and TNG – or increased subscriptions. The answer is not to continue to run down our reserves: the committee has a duty to hand over a financially stable organization to those who follow.

A further challenge is the recruitment of officers willing to help the society function. We had 1400 members last year, and five of them are responsible for the majority of the work. Appeals for help at annual meetings such as this are usually met with a thrusting of hands into pockets and a total lack of response. If this continues, the society certainly will die.

I hope I do not sound too pessimistic, but the pride of achievement of our 60th anniversary must be accompanied by a realistic assessment of the future. Now, we need a publicity officer. Please don't fight amongst yourselves in putting a hand in the air to volunteer.

Alan Burgess

The Chairman's Report was approved.

*Proposed: Peter Deacon
Seconded: John Blatchford*

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Note: Copies of the Accounts were distributed at the start of the meeting to, and are attached as Appendix A at the end of the minutes.

There are some variations between individual headings in the Income and Expenditure Account, as might be expected, but for the second year running there was a significant excess of expenditure over income; £6,665 compared with £8,053 in 2009-2010. A sum of just over £2,100 had to be transferred from our "investment" account to keep us in the black.

The main difference in the Balance Sheet is a large increase in Sundry Creditors; up from £769 in 2009-2010 to £5,385. The explanation is simple, a large printing bill was received too late to be paid before the end of the accounting period.

The first of a two-stage rise in subscriptions starts in the current year. Barring some unforeseen rise in expenditure this will help to decrease the expected deficit. The second stage which takes effect in the following year should eliminate this structural deficit. My views on the necessity of income, the main component of which is subscriptions, covering expenditure remain unchanged.

Ron Allison

Bob Mason noted the discrepancy between Subscription Income and Expenditure. Following subsequent discussion, the Committee agreed to monitor the situation, noting also that the effect of the first part of the subscription increase would be visible in the 2011 accounts, and the second part of the subscription increase was due next year.

Walter Crowe asked why the accounts as presented were only Draft. The Treasurer responded that they were draft until they had been signed by two Committee Members, and it was 'custom and practice' for the signatures to be collected at the AGM. As this had been done prior to the start of the meeting, they were no longer Draft Accounts.

Norman Drake enquired about the possibility of using a mailing house to reduce costs on overseas mailings. Following discussion, it seemed that there were insufficient overseas members for this to be viable.

Walter Crowe asked about the possibility of making publications available for download, thereby reducing postage costs. This stimulated discussion covering the increased costs of servicing remaining members, and the practicalities of keeping the publications as a "benefit of membership" when they are available electronically. The Committee accepted the need for the Society to advance in line with new technology, and would continue to keep all options open to maintain services to the membership whilst retaining the viability of what is essentially a correspondence society.

Following the above discussion, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

*Proposed: Ron Redman
Seconded: Andrew Neale*

Secretary's Report

Once again, it has been a reasonably quiet year from an NGRS point of view, enlivened by three errors in communication (from me) for which I will apologise now.

The first concerns the Annual Guide, where I referred to the use of the records of "three NGRS members", and I have been asked why I did not credit these individuals by name. Put simply, one of them requested anonymity, so I decided on anonymity for all three. The two who did not request anonymity (and for the record, they did not request publicity either!) were Matt Gardener and Keith Watson, and the input of both Keith and Matt, along with the third member is duly acknowledged here – the Guide would not be what it is without them.

The second is in connection with the WHR Special on 15th May, where, in publicising it to those members who had indicated their attendance at the AGM, I implied that it was entirely a Yorkshire Area Group activity, when of course the initial concept came from Michael Bentley – a fact acknowledged by Ron Redman at the Moseley AGM a couple of years ago. Once again, a sin of omission for which members have my apologies.

Finally, a couple of members noted the absence of anywhere to write one's Name and Address on the Second Hand Book Auction form enclosed with NGN303. I am pleased to note that the vast majority of members got around this omission either by writing on the form anyway, or including a covering letter... On a more positive note, the Book Auction has raised several hundred pounds for the Society, and on that basis is something we should consider doing again in the future, if we had a regular supply of books.

If members can cope with a Secretary who miscommunicates from time to time, I am happy to stand for re-election!

Iain McCall

Membership Secretary's Report

Total Society membership at 31st March 2011 was 1,431, compared to a figure of 1,461 on the same date in 2010. The 2011 total is the lowest recorded since 1999. and confirms a small but steady decrease in the strength of the Society over the past few years.

Last June exactly 100 members were removed from the records having not renewed their subscriptions by that date. Subsequently sixteen members re-joined, one as late as January this year, leaving a net loss of 84.

Of the new members enrolled during the year, those who stated the source of their interest were recorded as follows :-

Society Web Site	30
Narrow Gauge World advt (free)	3
Former members rejoining	3
Recommended by existing members	8
Read a Society publication	1
Through leaflets – Talylyn	2
Steeple Grange	2
Hayling Island	1
WHHR	1
Swanley	1

During the year we have also welcomed our first three Associate Members.

Whilst the drop in membership hasn't been as drastic as I feared in my last report, there is still clearly a great deal to be done to maintain the strength of the Society and thereby continue the level of service which the membership has come to expect. I still occasionally receive

letters asking “Just what is the NGRS all about?” The situation is not helped by the continued lack of a Publicity Officer, who could have exploited the 60th Anniversary celebrations much more effectively.

I will be happy to continue in this position if the meeting approves.

Lawson Little

Steve Barber asked whether the Society was considering alternative payment methods. The answer was Yes, but that no decisions had yet been taken. Direct Debit was prohibitively expensive, and Standing Orders involve significant additional work for the Membership Secretary, however Credit Card and Paypal payments were under consideration.

THE NARROW GAUGE Editor’s Report

The scheduled four issues of *The Narrow Gauge* were published in the 2010-2011 membership year, including Lawson Little’s ‘special’ on the carriages and wagons of the Talylyn railway. All of them contained more than the traditional 32 pages.

The current situation is that the May issue is another ‘special’ covering the discovery by a member of a major system of industrial lines in Malaysia (at the time of writing it was not certain whether this would have been distributed before the AGM).

Beyond that, I have a healthy stock of good quality articles that should fill another two issues – although I am always grateful to receive more, particularly on the history of comparatively little known lines in the UK. History does not necessarily mean ancient: the article in TNG 213 on the Burton Green and District Light Railway is an excellent example. It covers a line which existed for a short time in the early 1960s, within the era many of us were active enthusiasts, and would have faded from the memory but for this article.

I am also always delighted to hear from ‘new’ authors – as with many aspects of the society, much of the work is done by a small group of members.

Alan Burgess

Sydney Leleux made an impassioned plea for members to engage in more research. This was supported by *Norman Drake* who noted the pleasure to be gained from participating in such activity.

NARROW GAUGE NEWS Editors’ Reports

(a) Editor’s Report

Since the last AGM, six issues of *Narrow gauge News* have been produced on time; I am indebted to my colleagues on the editing team for their prompt submissions. Without their help the whole task would fail. Thank you, Philip, Alan and David.

Of these six issues, three have been of 32 pages, one of 40 and two of 48; members may be aware that a page complement which is a multiple of eight gives us eight pages of colour, whereas the multiples of four which are in between these give only four. This means that there is pressure either to expand or reduce the content on almost every occasion. Sometimes this results in some distortion of the issue (as for example in 303 where Overseas News got two pages of colour). It also means that there needs to be cross-referencing to colour pictures from the text. No longer is a good photo always alongside the report which refers to it.

Nevertheless, the colour pages seem to be popular and, given that we cannot afford full colour issues, the compromises which we are forced to adopt appear to work quite well. The quality of many of the photographs we are sent is excellent, and it is a matter of regret that they cannot all be included. However, a small number of contributors accounts for a large

number of pictures and it would be wonderful if more members felt able to submit photos. I am sure, also, that members complete many more railway visits than are reported in our pages – a brief report would make *NGN* even more interesting. We try to ensure that reports and photos from members whose names have not appeared before are given priority. If you submit something and it does not appear, do send an email, as mistakes can be made.

A personal interest of mine is reflected in the growth of the *Archaeology and History* section; long may it continue. I feel that we are contributing here to the recording of obscure but interesting facts and enabling members to pool knowledge that would otherwise be lost.

As a former English teacher, it is important to me that we avoid those mistakes of spelling, grammar, punctuation and layout that so bedevil the magazines of so many other societies. I try to avoid errors and Philip Pacey's proof-reading irons out many of my own mistakes (many thanks to him), but I am aware that the occasional howler gets through. Sorry.

I estimate that the final editing of *NGN* takes me about a week of work (five eight-hour days); it is more rather than less. The section editors certainly do a good deal more. I am willing to continue for a while if the membership so wish.

Paul Bennett

(b) UK News Editor's Report

While *NGN* is published 6 times a year it cannot compete with the monthly railway magazines to be first with the news. But it can attempt to provide comprehensive coverage, and it is my aim to provide *NGN* readers with the most extensive round up of British and Irish narrow gauge news, drawing on a variety of sources including other magazines, press releases, railways' own bulletins, web sites and blogs. However, the news items which continue to give *NGN* its special character continue to be first hand reports and photos received from members – reports of your visits, and reports from railways which you are actively involved with. The number of reports from members seems to me to be decreasing; some railways go unreported for too long, while major events have taken place for which no report has been received although NGRS members must have been present. A great strength of the NGRS has always been the sharing of information. Please keep this tradition alive by acting as the eyes and ears of the Society and letting us know about what you see and hear on the narrow gauge scene.

Philip Pacey

(c) Overseas Editor's Report

As in previous years I am very grateful to all the members who have sent in reports from their overseas travels, and those overseas based members who continue to keep us up to date on local happenings. The number of reports seems to be increasing slightly - a very positive trend. It is also good to report that reports continue to appear from countries that we have rarely, if ever, covered before.

We try and use all the information sent, but some lines receive a high number of visits, and occasionally it is necessary to omit or shorten them to avoid repetition. Lines in France near the Channel Tunnel and in Germany come to mind.

I would also like to thank Paul Bennett for his continuing good work on *NGN*, and making it very easy for me to handle the printing and distribution.

Alan Burgess

Sales Officer's Report

I am very pleased to report that following the low point of 2009, sales have rebounded by over 53% to a total of £6,472, broken down as follows :

Magazines £5,871

Binders	£78
Caps	£47
Shirts	£117
Mugs	£26
Photocopying	£3
Tumblers	£330

Unfortunately we have had to withdraw shirts from sale due to a continuing general lack of interest. It is also curious that sales of binders continue to diminish – totals for the past four years were 2007 £295, 2008 £245, 2009 £177 and 2010 £78. Clearly most members are not interested in keeping their magazines neat and tidy any more!

Magazine sales have continued to be buoyant, helped by the appearance of another 'special', this time on the rolling-stock of this weekend's host railway. I hope that someone will come forward to produce a special for the current year, as this not only helps our finances but also significantly raises the profile of the Society .

I have brought along a quantity of sales items for purchase today by anyone who wishes to save the usual postage charges. I would particularly recommend the engraved 60th Anniversary tumbler – even if you don't like whisky, it is equally suitable for other drinks and as a strictly limited edition can only appreciate in value.

Again I will be happy to continue in this position if so agreed.

Lawson Little

Librarian's Report

The best phrase to describe the operation of the library over the last year is that it has continued to 'tick over' largely because of the limitations that I have mentioned in previous reports. I get one or two requests for books or files each month and I try to get them out as quickly as possible although, on occasions, there are inevitably some delays.

There have been a small number of donations to the library but the most significant is the collection of the late Robin Butterell whose collection was passed on to the Society by the 7 1/4" Society which has no facility to keep it. Thanks must be given to Bob Gray, their Chairman who thought of us as a suitable recipient. Iain McCall recently delivered the books to Apedale where it remains to be sorted and added to the new library list.

One of the biggest problems of our library is that it depends on the postal service is becoming increasingly costly. Many of the files in the collection are very bulky and postage in both directions can approach the £20 mark. This means that a member must be fairly certain that a file contains specific information he is looking for before he will request it. This cost makes borrowing for a 'browse' almost prohibitive.

Consideration to digitising material was given before the move to Apedale and a small number of files were scanned by a company that subsequently went out of business. An alternative was not readily available. Some drawings and other material was scanned last year but it proved to be expensive and not entirely successful.

However, in the last couple of months I have found a company based only a few hundred yards from Apedale which has offered to take on this work and they currently have one file as a trial. The cost quoted seems reasonable and if the results are satisfactory this may be a solution to the problem. CDs of the material are comparatively cheap to post and there would be no problem in getting them duplicated so that members can keep their own copies.

Books, however, are a more difficult problem. Postage is often out of proportion to the cost of buying a book and, in most cases, copying is not possible for copyright reasons.

As always I am the first to admit that the library could be develop by someone with more time to do so. However, in the absence of any other offer I am prepared to continue as librarian for another year if that is the members' wish.

Chris Walker

Steve Barber enquired about the possibility of downloading material from the Internet, rather than mailing out CDs. This would be considered as part of the wider consideration of the Society's use of digital media.

Tim Hudson asked the Committee to consider the potential availability of grant aid for digitisation. This suggestion was noted for further action at Committee Meeting.

Walter Crowe requested confirmation that the backup CDs are being held securely and separately. This confirmation was provided.

Norman Drake asked if the Society kept a record of the purpose of loans from the Library, to which the answer was "No".

Film & Video Librarian's Report

The library has had a quiet year without any major problems.

Members are invited to make more use of the library, we have some very interesting programmes, including many not available to the general public.

Whilst collating the recent questionnaire it has become apparent that many members were unaware that the video library is now available on DVD & that all VHS tapes have been withdrawn.

The latest library list is on the Society's website & the list can always be obtained from the Film & Video Librarian either by Email or by conventional post. A library list is issued from time to time with the NGN.

Members are also reminded that the Society is always happy to accept donations of film or video material - a DVD copy of any material submitted can be supplied to the donor.

If re-elected I am happy to continue in the post.

Mike Jackson

Webmaster's Report

In the past year very few website contributions have been received from our members. Most have been for the notification and promotion of up and coming Branch events and of events which may be of interest to other members. These have been placed on the front page of the site as headline announcements for quick visibility, as witnessed by the Report to this AGM.

All correspondence to the Webmaster are noted and acted upon, so please don't be shy to make suggestions and express your wishes for your website and it's coverage.

For information, the website continues to be provided at a low cost to the Society by using others free web-space. It's not intended to be a permanent arrangement so it may change during the year. However, the web address will always remain <http://ngrs.org> (for those who do not know).

There has been no member feedback of the success or otherwise of providing links to other peoples pictures, rather than seeing pictures from our own website, but it has been a sad loss that Fotopic closed down earlier this year. Not only have we lost many hundreds of links to pictures of NG engines and settings, but where no back-ups were made, many people have permanently lost all their own pictures, comments and descriptions. A company called Smugmug now seems to be used as an alternative as well as the familiar Flickr.

Again this year, no Flickr videos have been added as I have not been advised of the web address of any suitable ones for us to share.

Regarding the Yahoo Group "NGRailwaySociety", we now have 186 members (168 last year, 138 the year before), an increase of 18 over the year, and it provides a steady flow of news and views to a wide audience at home and abroad. I hope we will all promote this a little more and get more NGRS members active in the Group because our membership is able to provide much more knowledgeable replies to questions raised.

Finally, watch this space, the results of the recent survey mean that some changes are inevitable.

Mick Morgan

Tim Hudson publicised the existence of the Lincolnshire Area's Facebook page, and encouraged other Groups as well as the Society as a whole to consider creating similar.

Area Group Secretary's Reports

Hereford & Worcester Area

Thirty three years on the group continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis on Friday evenings at the United Reformed Church Hall in Malvern, with Morris Portsmouth and I running the meetings on our long established but informal basis. Attendance this year has been generally at the 20 - 25 member/guest level with a small donation on the night covering the cost of the hall, refreshments and any speaker expenses.

Our regular meetings this year started on the 11th June with Malcolm Ranieri paying us a return visit to show us more of his excellent large format slides of railways around the world. The August meeting was the usual members-own evening – with regular members sorting out their finest digital images and colour slides to show – encouragingly, a bit of a rush job this year to get through everything in the time available.

The October meeting was led by Edward Dorricott with a selection of slides which took us on a grand railtour of the N Wales coast with narrow gauge diversions inland. Michael Clemens came to see us again for the December meeting – nowadays he arrives with the whole of his father's and his own collection of cine films on the hard drive of a computer – allowing us to even choose some of our favourites to see on the night.

Morris himself led the February meeting with a slide and digital selection from his recent trip "Down Under" including Hong Kong trams as well as Australian trains and trams. Bob Shaddick finished our year off with the April meeting delivering a talk entitled "Narrow Gauge Notebook" – fine slides (large format converted to digital) and a vast selection of some of the lesser known railways of the UK and Europe. The following day we made our regular group outing to the delightful, but private, 7¼" gauge Kyre Valley Railway.

So there goes another area group narrow gauge railway society year. All is almost in place for the next one. Our June meeting is entitled "Rails in the Rockies and Trains in the Plains" – sounds good.

Bill Burton

Lincolnshire Area

The Lincolnshire Area of the NGRS has had a satisfactory year – support has remained constant but like so many groups we could always use more members.

Our speakers over the last year have covered such diverse subjects as David Mitchell, speaking on 'Steam on Central & East Africa', Larry Bridges on 'Running the Cambrian', Fred Pugh on the '2'0" gauge in the British Isles' and Stuart Ravell on the 'Kirby Green Miniature

Railway'. The December 'Members night' again proved successful. In February of this year the Secretary was allowed to run riot with a presentation on his travels in Peru & Bolivia in 1988, padded out with thought provoking material on the 'graveyard' at Uyuni in Bolivia and the 'highest railway in the world' at Tacora in Chile (featured in TNG 204).

Future events include a 'Nostalgia Night' in April 2011, 'Fifty Years a Tallyllyn Volunteer' in June, 'Leeds locomotives around the world' in August and 'Colorado – Railroad Heaven' in October.

The Group remains 'strong' - we have good 'new' faces and some younger members, (male & female) which can only be good. Members remain active in the fields of preservation, model engineering, etc., as well as (reasonably) original research. As well as maintaining a webpage we are also running a 'Group' on 'Facebook' – 'Lincs Area Narrow Gauge Railway Society'.

I would like to thank my Group Chairman, Malcolm White, for his support during the year, and to all the other members who make my job so delightful.

Tim Hudson

London & Southern Area

As has been the case for a number of years, the Area's activities have been focused on a series of monthly meetings held in London jointly with our friends from the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway.

Our meetings season runs from October to April and, to judge from numbers attending, seems to remain popular. Speakers during the last year have included Kim Winter, Hugh Smith, Nick Lera, Alan Wilmott, Steve Davies and Nick Tindall: all their presentations were excellent and on some evenings it was 'standing room only'. We are grateful to all of them for putting the time aside to come and talk to us, and also for all the preparatory work such high quality shows must entail. And we would like to thank Hugh Smith not only for his talk in November but also for hosting our meetings at Keen House on behalf of the Model Railway Club.

At our meetings this year we paused to remember two enthusiasts for long associated with the London and Southern area of the Society but no longer with us: Keith (WJK) Davies, a stalwart of the London area in its formative years who died in December; and Bob Vice who ran the book stall at our meetings (an attraction in itself) and who died later in the same month.

Peter Lemmey

Stoke-on-Trent Area

We have held our regular monthly meetings at our venue: The Conservative Club, in Newcastle – under - Lyme, from September through to May, as usual, with a varied and mixed programme, as well as unusual mix of topics and subjects: that were all well received by members present.

Our meetings remain viable by holding joint meetings, as we have done for many years, with the local North Staffordshire Group of the Festiniog Railway Society. This enables us pay for speakers who travel some distance to come and entertain us, fuel costs have risen greatly during this year. The recent operational status of the Apedale Valley Railway - of the Moseley Railway Trust - has enabled more members to be involved locally with the railway, and we hope in turn to attract more NGRS members through this local attraction in the coming years.

We will once more be undertaking evening visits to a few local lines, during our summer recess.

Then our indoor meeting programme will commence again on the first Thursday of the month, 1st September 2011 – but do check confirmed date nearer the day in NGRS News - since

that week is a Bank holiday week and many people may be taking a final break before Christmas, running through thereafter each month until May 2012.

We hope to see as many members and friends as possible attending our meetings, since the venue is able to accommodate greater numbers than former venues.

Michael Bentley

Yorkshire Area

Yet again it is a privilege to be able to present another report on the year's activities in 'the broad acres'. Our monthly meetings were another varied selection only marred by having to lose a show last December due to heavy snow and ice. We have only cancelled 3 shows out of 400 I have arranged, and 2 of these came during last year.

We did however enjoy : Recollections of the 1960s, Behind the Scenes on the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway, Steam in Serbia & Bosnia, The Sierra Leone Government Railway & Its New Railway Museum, Bristol built Locomotives for Home & Overseas, and we ended this programme with Sugar Steam in Java and the last part of 50 Years of Railway Rambles. We closed last year with our usual evening of slides and videos from members' collections, along with a buffet.

On 26th September Monsoon Tours headed east for a Miniature Railway Extravaganza to Scarborough North Bay and on via the Humber Bridge to the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, and we even found time to visit the excellent exhibition 'Rails to the Sands' – a dampish tour but a very full day out.

We have just been involved with the 18th Annual Narrow Gauge North Exhibition and helped to raise £4,500 for Wheatfields Hospice.

Sadly I must record the death of Peter Crossley, a member and local supporter for many years, and also the passing of Chris Walker, a member from Bristol who came annually to Leeds to enthral us with his presentations of Third World Railways.

As I write this we are possibly planning a 60th Anniversary visit to the Welshpool & Llanfair in September. So it's been an interesting 12 months but with the winter effects of this global warming it can give rise to problems with speakers from well out of town, and I must thank all the speakers who came to entertain us, in some cases over long distances.

As ever, my grateful thanks to Peter Martin for looking after the Area Funds, to Nigel & Anne Ponsford for room arrangements, coffee and the Christmas Buffet, and to Mike Swift for his assistance with the day visit.

Lastly a special thank you to Peter Kirkby for his planning of Narrow Gauge North, and to all the local members who came along to help over the 2½ days. Your assistance was much appreciated.

Ron Redman

Election of Officers

The Committee was re-elected unanimously.

*Proposed: Mike Swift
Seconded: John Blatchford*

Alan Burgess advised the Meeting that a volunteer for the long vacant post of Publicity Officer had come forwards immediately prior to the Meeting. This would be discussed by the Committee post AGM, with the intention of co-opting him at the Autumn Committee Meeting.

Future AGMs

Iain McCall advised the Meeting that the Society was well advanced in discussions with the South Tynedale Railway to host the 2012 AGM. He also had two invitations from railways local to him in Hampshire, which he intended to pursue further for 2013, particularly as there have been four lines opened since the last AGM in that county.

Norman Drake enquired about the timing of future AGMs, as the second Saturday in May would always clash with the Lynton & Barnstaple AGM. *Iain* stated that it was his intention to keep the AGM date as the second Saturday in May, as to move it out of the way of one clash would inevitable lead to clashes with other events. Consistency of date at least enabled members to plan and prioritise accordingly.

Any Other Business

Alan Burgess discussed the questionnaire that had recently been sent out to Members. The results were currently being perused by the Committee, and would form the main item of discussion at the September Committee Meeting. In the meantime, the Committee noted the extremely high response rate, and thanked members accordingly.

Ron Redman publicised the following day's special on the rebuilt WHR from Porthmadog to Rhyd Ddu behind LYD. *Iain McCall* apologised for the absence of publicity in the recent NGN when there should have been. *Ron* also advised the meeting of plans for a special on the Welshpool & Llanfair on Friday September 2nd, to utilise all three Pickering carriages. This would be £25 (including coach travel) for the Yorkshire Area Group, and £10 (excluding coach travel) for all other NGRS members.

Iain McCall thanked the meeting for the support to the recent second hand book auction, which would be likely to raise in the region of £700-£800.

Iain McCall thanked all those involved at the Talylyn Railway for their support in giving us such a special weekend. Particular thanks were given to: Martin Fuller, Dave Scotson, John Smallwood, Chris White and Roger Whitehouse, as well as all the traincrews and other staff and volunteers involved in the organisation, preparation and operation of the special trains, which had been much enjoyed by all those who went on them.

John Blatchford thanked the Committee for their work during the year.

Meeting Closed at 1645, and was followed by a most enjoyable recital on the Wurlitzer organ, played by Jon Mann from the TRPS.

APPENDIX A – COPIES OF ACCOUNTS

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

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**David Pattinson, Chartered Accountants,
233, London Road, Balderton, Newark, Nottinghamshire.
AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

I have audited the accounts on pages 2 to 5 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 4.

Respective responsibilities of committee and auditor

The society's committee is responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on my audit, on those accounts and to report my opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the committee in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the society's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

Opinion

In my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the society's affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of its surplus of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

David Pattinson
233, London Road,
Balderton,
Newark,
Nottinghamshire.

Chartered Accountant

17 May 2011

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

	Note	2011		2010	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Subscriptions received		25,729		26,360	
Magazines		6,331		4,196	
Binders, shirts, caps		591		487	
Donations		307		309	
Trip		75	33,033	-	31,352
		-----		-----	
EXPENSES					
Publications		30,647		32,849	
Rent		763		750	
Light and heat		339		463	
Cost of AGM		802		370	
Committee post and administration		4,213		1,902	
Internet subscription		-		200	
Insurance		871		1,107	
Exhibitions and publicity		-		-	
Bank charges		12		-	
Audit fee		240		235	
Repairs and renewals		20		466	
Travel and accommodation		403		409	
Depreciation	4	1,300		1,300	
Sundry expenses		130	39,740	110	40,161
		-----	-----	-----	-----
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			(6,707)		(8,809)
Interest received		42		50	
Corporation tax	3	-	42	(706)	756
		-----	-----	-----	-----
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)			(6,665)		(8,053)
		-----	-----	-----	-----

The notes on pages 4 to 5 form part of these accounts

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

NOTES

31 MARCH 2011

1. CONSTITUTION

The Narrow Gauge Railway Society is an unincorporated association set up to promote and maintain interest in all forms of narrow gauge rail transport.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basic of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

b) Subscriptions and donations

Subscriptions are treated as income in the year to which they relate; donations are accounted for as received.

c) Expenses

Expenditure is accounted for as incurred.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the 10 year term of the lease; other fixed assets are depreciated in equal annual instalments over their expected useful life of five years.

3. TAXATION

	2	
	0	
	1	
	1	
	2010	
	£	
Corporation Tax/(reversed) on interest received	-	£ (706)
Interest on overpayment	-	-
	-----	-----
	-	(706)
	-----	-----

Although the society is theoretically liable to Corporation Tax on interest received, HMRC has decided not to collect it, so the tax liabilities provided in previous years have been reversed.

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

NOTES

31 MARCH 2011

4. FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Tangible Assets</u>		<u>Investment</u>	
	<u>Leashold</u>		<u>Library</u>	
	<u>Improvements</u>	<u>Equipment</u>		
	<u>Total</u>			
	£	£	£	£
<u>Cost</u>				
1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011	1,459	5,769	27,351	34,579
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Depreciation</u>				
1 April 2010	368	3,069	-	3,437
Charged	146	1,154	-	1,300
	-----	-----	-----	-----
31 March 2011	514	4,223	-	4,737
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Net book value</u>				
31 March 2011	945	1,546	27,351	29,842
	-----	-----	-----	-----
31 March 2010	1,091	2,700	27,351	31,142
	-----	-----	-----	-----