



Minutes signed following acceptance by the delegates.

by: *Bob Polley*

Date: *2nd March 2024*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th March 2023

Meeting Venue

The meeting was held in the conference suite of the National Coal Mining Museum, Caphouse Colliery, Overton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Attendance.

Officers of Federation of Model Engineering Societies

Brent Hudson (President), Ivan Hurst (Vice President), Mike Chrisp (Vice President), Bob Polley (Chairman), Peter Squire (Secretary), Bob Walker (Safety Officer), David Mayall, (Boiler Registrar), Paul Naylor (Vice Chairman, Membership), David Goyder (Treasurer and Newsletter Editor)

Delegates from Member societies

The following Clubs/Societies were represented: -

Banbury MES, Brighouse and Halifax ME, Gauge 3 Society, Colchester SM&EE, North London SME, Phoenix MES, Portsmouth MES, Romney Marsh SME, Reading SME, Wortley Top Forge, York SME

10 member organisations were represented either in the hall or online.

There were also 8 Members (individual and founder) of the Company present and the Chairman held proxy votes for 3 members, Coventry MES, Hull and District SMEE, Ryedale SME

Total number of voting delegates was 21

Guests

There were three guests at the meeting, Martin Levers from Walker Midgley Insurance Brokers, and Matt and Julia Atkins-Thomas of Polly Model Engineering.

Note on Attendance Data: - Attendance information has been taken from the registration signing-in sheet at the hall and is therefore considered to be accurate.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

1. Introductions and meeting management

The Chairman, Bob Polley, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates and thanking them for their attendance.

He reminded delegates that the Articles of the Southern Federation (Incorporated 2014) required that no business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present and that a quorum is ten members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting, or one quarter of the total number of Affiliated Organisations at the time, whichever is the smaller. The authorised representative of a member organisation shall be counted in the quorum.

Articles require that General meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been appointed to chair meetings of the Officers, Bob Polley would be Chairman for the proceedings.

2. Confirmation that a quorum is present.

The Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present as required by the Articles.

3. To receive and record apologies for absence

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the following members. Cambrian Model Engineers, City of Oxford SME, Coventry MES, Crawley Model Engineers, Docklands and East London Model Engineering Society, Fareham and District Society of Model Engineers, Guildford Model Engineering Society, Gravesend Model Marine and Engineering Society, Harlington Loco Society, Pimlico Light Railway, Polegate and District MES, Polly Owners Group, Rugby MES, Ryedale SME, South Downs Light Railway Society Ltd, Westland and Yeovil Model Engineering Society, Yeovil Model Engineering Society.

No other apologies were reported by the delegates present.

4. Review of and matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM

The chairman, Bob Polley, reported that there had been no matters raised or clarifications sought by Members on the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th March 2022.

He asked if anyone attending had any questions on the minutes.

No matters were raised.

5. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2022 AGM

The Chairman proposed acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 12th March 2022 and asked for a seconder from the delegates.

His proposal was seconded by Reading society of Model Engineers and adopted by the majority of delegates.

6. Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his report which is recorded in full in Annex A.

Bob Polley thanked his committee colleagues for their work over the past 12 months, a period that had seen the re-emergence of the hobby from the restrictions of Covid.

Changes in the committee would occur as both vice-presidents and the newsletter editor would be stepping down from the committee following this AGM.

He made particular mention of support for the young engineer's trophy from Andy and Jayne Clarke, wishing them long and happy retirements, and introducing Matt and Julia Atkins-Thomas, the new owners of Polly Model Engineering, who were continuing the support for the awards.

He announced good news in the form of volunteers who had joined the team to pick up the roles of young engineer coordinator, website information officer, exhibition and rally organisers and newsletter editor.

There were no immediate questions arising from his report.

7. Acceptance of Chairman's report

The Chairman proposed acceptance of his report by the delegates.

The proposal was seconded by Romney Marsh SME and adopted by a show of hands in support.

8. Treasurer's report

In his presentation of the Financial Statement, David Goyder, supported by slides of the Balance Sheet and Profit and loss account highlighted areas of changes of expenditure when compared to the previous year. These were generally Corporation Tax and legal fees.

Some typographical errors were spotted in the 2021 values.

There were no matters arising or clarification sought by the delegates on the figures for 2022.

9. Independent Examiner's report on the accounts

The Treasurer read out the report of the Independent Examiner on the Accounts for 2022 asking if there were any questions or clarifications sought.

No matters were raised.

10. Acceptance of Independent Examiner's report

The Treasurer proposed acceptance of the Independent Examiners report.

The proposal was seconded by York SME and adopted by a show of hands in support.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2023 accounts

The treasurer reported that Robert Kirchner (Docklands and East London) and Ian Keleher (Harlington Locomotive Society) had offered their services as Independent Examiners for 2023.

His proposed that they be appointed was seconded by Reading SME and adopted by a show of hands in support.

12. Strategy Progress report

Paul Naylor gave his presentation on the Future Strategy for FMES, and the progress made so far, noting that the attracting of 4 volunteers to support the work of the committee was a major achievement.

He introduced Jim Hollom, who would be developing information on the website, Tony Lee, who has offered to take on the Newsletter, Peter Harrison as events Manager and Peter Kenington co-ordinating Young Engineer activities.

He also reported that the new FMES website, launched just over a year ago, was operating well and being populated with information. He confirmed that FMES ambition is to provide much more information on a number of subjects, whether standards (that we would develop jointly with other representative bodies, as before), guidelines or technical advice and support.

The membership database was in good order, with 98% of emails getting to the intended recipient. Maintaining this level will require active participation from members in updating their contact information, particularly their Primary Contact whenever changes occurs.

13. Safety Officer's report

The Safety Officer, Bob Walker, gave his report supported by PowerPoint Slides.

He referred to 2 serious incidents on raised tracks, following which because of injuries sustained, the HSE have issued an "Advice Note".

He mentioned the retirement of MELG Chairman Tony Wood through ill health and the appointment of Martin Evans as the new chairman for the group, and that he felt that gas firing and welded copper boilers were 2 items likely to require some deliberation by MELG.

On conclusion of his report, he asked if there were any questions or matters arising.

A question on timescales for cladding removal on steel boilers was raised.

Bob Walker explained that the requirement to remove cladding for inspection was a new requirement in the 2018 Boiler Test Code, as test code requirements are not retrospective, it would be 2025, (i.e. 2018 + 7) before boiler inspectors would be required by the code to either instruct owners to remove the cladding or justify an extension of up to a further 3 before removal.

14. Boiler Registrar's report

The Boiler Registrar, David Mayall gave his report, pointing out that basic errors and omissions persist in the completion of WSoE's. He reminded the meeting that the WSoE is a legal document and accuracy is therefore important.

He noted a trend towards ready-to-run models and more commercially made boilers on the paperwork received, with close to 6,000 records now held by the Federation.

15. Membership Secretary's report

The Membership Secretary, Paul Naylor, presented his report on membership, starting with the news that there were currently 216 members, a modest increase of 3 on the previous year.

He confirmed that the annual membership fee was unchanged from 2022 at £10.

On the subject of communication, he emphasised that email and the website would be the way forward, and reminded members to keep their contact details up to date on the website

There were no matters arising or questions on his reports.

16. Appointment of Officers for 2022-23

The Chairman asked that the delegates adopt the resolution that the individuals whose names are given in Section 4 of the Report of Officers dated 22nd January 2023, be appointed as a Director of the Company from this date until the next Annual General Meeting unless previously disqualified or removed from office under Article 38.

He then asked for a proposer and seconder.

Proposed by Brighouse and Halifax SME and Seconded by Romney Marsh ME

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to adopt the resolution.

All agreed the appointments as follows

Bob Polley (Chairman)

Paul Naylor (Vice Chairman, Membership)

Peter Squire (Secretary)

David Goyder (Treasurer)

Bob Walker (Safety Officer)

David Mayall, (Boiler Registrar)

17. 2023 Rallies, Exhibitions & Events

Ivan Hurst reported that the Federation Rally would be held at Frimley & Ascot Locomotive Club on Saturday 16th September.

The rally will include the award of the Australian Association of Live Steamers Shield.

He confirmed that he had recently received confirmation from Meridienne that the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition (MMEE) will take place from Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th October 2023 at the Warwickshire Event Centre. We have been invited to have a Stand there.

There were no questions raised by the delegates.

On conclusion of the formal business of the AGM, Reading SME proposed a vote of thanks to the Federation Officers for the work done over the past year.

This was supported by the delegates present, and gratefully received by the Chairman who thanked the delegates for their participation and closed the meeting.

Peter Squire
FMES Hon Secretary

Note: Copies of the reports are available in the Appendices to these minutes