



Minutes signed following acceptance by the delegates.

by: *Bob Polley*

Date: *1st March 2025*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2nd March 2024

Meeting Venue

The meeting was held in the conference suite of the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection, Old Sarum Airfield, Salisbury.

Attendance.

Officers of Federation of Model Engineering Societies

Bob Polley (Chairman), Peter Squire (Secretary), Bob Walker (Safety Officer), David Mayall, (Boiler Registrar), Paul Naylor (Vice Chairman), David Goyder (Treasurer)

Delegates from Member clubs and societies

The following Member Clubs/Societies were represented: -

Banbury & District MES, Bournemouth & District SME, Bristol SMEE, City of Oxford SME, Colchester SMEE, Coventry MES, Eastleigh and District Model Boat Club, Fareham & District SME, Guildford MES, Harlington LS, Hereford SME, North London SME, Nottingham SMEE, Phoenix ME's, Reading SME, Royston and District MES, South Downs LRS, Southampton SME, Stroud SME, The Gauge 3 Society, West Huntspill MES, West Wilts SME, 22 member organisations were represented either at the meeting.

There were also 6 Members (individual and founder) of the Company present and the Chairman held proxy votes for 2 members Spenborough M&EE, and Mid Cornwall MEC

Total number of voting delegates was therefore 30

Guests

There were two guests at the meeting, 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 Secretary, Peter Squire, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates and thanking them for their attendance.

He reminded the delegates that the Articles of Association require that General Meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been appointed to chair meetings of the Officers and Bob Polley would therefore 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 of Association.

3. To receive and record apologies for absence

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the following members.

Brent Hudson (President), Ivan Hurst (Vice President), Mike Chrisp (Vice President), Martin Baker (Individual and founder member)

Burnley & Pendle MES, Cambrian Model Engineers, Ipswich MES, Mid Cornwall Model Engineering Club, Newton Abbot MES, North Norfolk, Romford MEC, Romney Marsh MES Spenborough MEE, Sutton Coldfield MES, Westland & Yeovil Club, Wortley Top Forge,

No other apologies were reported by the delegates present.

4. Review of and matters arising from the minutes of the 2023 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 25th March 2023.

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

No matters were raised.

5. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2023 AGM

The Chairman proposed acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 25th March 2023 and asked for a seconder from the delegates.

His proposal was seconded by the Hereford Society of Model Engineers and adopted by a show of hands of delegates.

6. Chairman's report

Bob Polley reflected on what the past year had meant for the Federation, with development and expansion of the website, attendance at Harrogate, Lowestoft and Warwick exhibitions and the rally at Frimley.

Committee meetings had continued in the format adopted during Covid, being on-line, saving time and expense for everyone involved.

The call for volunteers to assist with running the Federation had been responded to, with the newsletter editor, technical documentation editor, young engineer's awards and event organising all now in the safe hands of a new team.

Promoting the Federation and model engineering through the FMES Trophy and Polly Model Engineering prize would continue and he encouraged clubs to seriously consider entering their young members into future competition. He thanked Matt and Julia Atkins-Thomas of Polly Model Engineering for their support to the award.

He confirmed that the Federation remained in a strong financial position, hence the annual affiliation fee remained unchanged.

In closing, he thanked his committee colleagues for their work over the past 12 months.

There were no immediate questions arising from his report.

7. Treasurer's report

To support the Treasurer David Goyder's report, copies of the 'Supplemental Financial Statement for year ending 31st December 2023' were made available to the delegates.

The Treasurer summarised the contents of the financial statement and asked if there were any questions or clarifications sought.

Clarification was asked for on the increase in Corporation Tax paid in 2023 compared to that paid in 2022.

The Treasurer explained the agreement he had with HMRC on the split of income subject to corporation tax and income agreed by HMRC as mutual trading on which no tax was levied. The increase in corporation tax paid was a result of a reduction in the expenditure accepted by HMRC as mutual trading during 2023.

8. Independent Examiner's report on the accounts

The Treasurer, David Goyder, referred to the report of the Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2023 included within the Supplemental Financial Statement, asking if there were any questions on the statement submitted.

There were no matters raised.

He thanked the examiners, Ian Keleher and Robert Kirchner for their work in preparing the report on the accounts.

9. Acceptance of Independent Examiner's report

The Treasurer asked for a proposer and seconder for acceptance of the report from the Independent Examiners.

The Gauge 3 Society proposed acceptance, Guildford MES seconded the proposal which was then adopted by a show of hands from the delegates.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2024 accounts

The Treasurer reported that Robert Kirchner had informed him that due to family commitments he would not be available as an examiner for the 2024 accounts.

Ian Keleher (Harlington Locomotive Society) confirmed his willingness to act as an Independent Examiner for the 2024 accounts..

11. Strategy Progress report

Paul Naylor gave his presentation on progress made with implementing the future strategy for the Federation.

- Changed our name to FMES, with new logo etc.
- Implemented a more intuitive and expandable website with commercial support and maintenance
- Simplified accounts, data base and subs payments
- Moved to standardised email system, with mailshot facilities
- Implemented improved exhibition material and brochures and defined our policy: *'meet and greet'*, with presence at selected ME events, including some with other hobby presence (eg Model Railways).
- Attracted new volunteers to support us
- Started to identify more added value services that we could provide

He introduced the new team members and their roles, and made a plea for more people to join the team to assist with Engineering Technology and Health & Safety matters.

12. Safety Officer's report

The Safety Officer, Bob Walker, gave his report supported by PowerPoint Slides, outlining the responsibilities of the role.

He summarised the past years activity of MELG as essentially zero, mostly as a result of the maturity of the Boiler Test Code (BTC). He highlighted that there were still some lack of clarity and contradictions that have been addressed by the sets of FAQs and that he felt that it was time to address these matter properly in the form of a revised issue of the BTC.

He highlighted two substantial matters that he felt MELG would need to look into, being copper welded boilers where clarification was required and the safety implications of the potential move from coal to gas firing by some operators.

He concluded that over the past year, no incidents of special note had occurred, and hoped that this was a sign of improving safety awareness by all involved.

13. Boiler Registrar's report

The Boiler Registrar, David Mayall reported that nearly 6400 WSoE's were now recorded, a big increase from last year which was the result of some inspectors handing over large numbers of the documents that had been forgotten about.

He reminded delegates that his contact details were unchanged, and orders could be placed either directly with him or via the shop feature of the website.

He confirmed that the introduction of new certificate books containing 25 copies and a five-digit reference number, had not made the older pads with 50 certificates and a six-digit number invalid, and they could still be used. The information contained on the two types of pads were the same although the layout had been updated to a more logical layout.

He confirmed that gas tank certificates were available from the website under the pressure vessels and testing tab.

There were no matters arising or questions on his reports.

In closing, he announced that having been the boiler registrar since 2010 that he had decided to stand down from the role at the next AGM. He invited anyone interested in taking on the role to talk to him about what was involved.

14. Membership Secretary's report

The Membership Secretary, Peter Squire, gave a brief summary of the changes in membership during 2023.

A few clubs had ceased to exist either through decline in the number of active members or loss of their meeting room or grounds.

New members have been registered, where it is clear to see a move toward operating a passenger carrying railway as the focus of the organisation.

Currently there were 216 affiliated clubs and societies registered in the membership database.

15. Appointment of Officers for 2024-25

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 10th January 2024, 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 Bristol SMEE and Seconded by Reading SME

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)
Peter Squire (Secretary and Membership Secretary)
David Goyder (Treasurer)
Bob Walker (Safety Officer)
David Mayall, (Boiler Registrar)

16. 2023 Rallies, Exhibitions & Events

Paul Naylor reflected on the Autumn Rally at the Frimley and Ascot clubs track as a good day for those who attended, but a disappointing turnout given the extensive publicity and avoiding a clash with another event, that did not justify the efforts made by the hosts club to accommodate visitors.

He confirmed that the 2024 Autumn Rally would be hosted by Nottingham SMEE on 31st August 2024. The event would include the award of the AALS Shield and the new FMES Autumn Competition.

Without a good level of attendance at the 2024 rally, the value of the effort involved is not justified and the Federation will be facing a decision on whether to continue with such events in future years.

The exhibition diary for 2024 is very thin with just the Midlands Exhibition at Warwick so the Federation will be looking to attend smaller local events such as Lowmex as a means of promoting the hobby to a wider audience.

There were no questions raised by the delegates.

On conclusion of the formal business of the AGM, Fareham 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
Secretary, FMES

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