



Minutes signed following acceptance by the delegates.

by:

Date:

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

### **Meeting Venue**

The meeting was held at the Whitewebbs Museum of Transport, Whitewebbs Road, Enfield, EN2 9HW

### **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 Mayall (Boiler Registrar)

#### **Delegates from Member clubs and societies**

The following 18 Member Clubs/Societies were represented: -

Banbury & District MES, Bournemouth & District SME, Bracknell MES, Brent House Railway, Colchester SME, Harlington Loco Society, Hilton Light Railway, Mount Edgcumbe Railway & Model Society, North London SME, Phoenix Model Engineers, Reading SME, Romford MES, Romney Marsh SME, Rugby MES, Scunthorpe SME, South Cheshire MES, Southampton SME Watermead Model Boat Club

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 26

#### **Guests**

There were three guests at the meeting, Matt and Julia Atkins-Thomas of Polly Model Engineering, and Catherine Rushforth, from Catherine Rushforth & Associates

**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.

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## 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.

Martin Baker (Individual and founder member)

Blackheath MPBC, Cambrian ME, Glenrothes and District MES, Guildford MES, Mid Cornwall MEC, North Norfolk MES, Polly Owners Group, South Downs Light Railway Society, The Gauge 3 Society, Westland & Yeovil MES

No other apologies were reported by the delegates present.

### **4. Review of and matters arising from the minutes of the 2024 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

He asked if anyone attending had any questions on the minutes of the 2024 AGM.

No matters were raised.

### **5. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2024 AGM**

The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder for acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 from the delegates.

Acceptance was proposed by Harlington Loco Society and seconded by North London SME 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**

Peter Squire as Acting Treasurer reminded those present that the Federation's Treasurer, David Goyder had died at the beginning of the year.

He paid tribute to David not just our Treasurer, but also a good friend, colleague and an enthusiastic and active supporter both of the hobby and of the Federation.

David had several battles with poor health over the past couple of years and had the foresight to set up access to the bank accounts for a second signatory. When he died, the Federation was able to continue to pay bills and send invoices!

Any of you here today representing a club or society that does not have someone with access to the club bank account as well as your treasurer, I would strongly advise you to make such an arrangement.

He reported that he was also able to get access to Sage Accounting that David used to manage the finances and had done his best to populate that with income and expenditure, backed up with paper copies for each transaction of course!

The next challenge will be to submit the Corporation Tax return for 2024.

We were fortunate that the accounts for 2024 had been assembled and had been approved by the Directors a few days before David went into hospital.

Copies of the Unaudited Financial Statement were provided with the AGM documentation, showing a strong financial situation and modest growth on the previous year.

The fixed rate account where David had put £60k has matured in the past few weeks and that money with its earned interest and the bulk of the current account cash is now in an instant

access savings account with the same bank. The Directors will review the financial strategy for that money at their meeting in April.

He thanked Ian Keleher from Harlington Loco Society for his work and support as examiner of the accounts. 2024 was his third year of supporting the Federation with his skills and knowledge.

Copies of the Supplemental Financial Statement incorporating the Examiners Report were available to delegates.

He asked for any questions arising from that document please?

## **8. Independent Examiner's report on the accounts**

The Acting Treasurer referred to the report of the Independent Examiners of the Accounts for 2024 included within the Supplemental Financial Statement, asking if there were any questions on the statement submitted.

There were no matters raised.

He thanked the examiner, Ian Keleher for his work in preparing his report on the accounts.

## **9. Acceptance of Independent Examiner's report**

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

Southampton MES proposed acceptance, Bournemouth and District SME seconded the proposal was then adopted by a show of hands from the delegates.

## **10. Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2025 accounts**

Ian Keleher (Harlington Locomotive Society) confirmed his willingness to act as an Independent Examiner for the 2025 accounts..

## **11. Strategy Progress report**

Paul Naylor gave his presentation on progress made with implementing the Future Strategy for the Federation.

- Maintained new logo and marketing materials
- Continuous development of the website with commercial support and maintenance
- Maintained accounting and payment systems separate from the website
- Maintained standardised email system, with mailshot facilities
- Maintained improved exhibition material and brochures, and continued our policy: *'meet and greet'*, with presence at selected ME and some other wider events
- Developed a strong team of able volunteers to support us

- Developing some other services of value to the hobby
  - Suppliers listing on website
  - Technical library now holding 225 entries
- Developed a Facebook page and policy for its use

He went on to remind the meeting of the FMES team members and their roles and to ask or further help as there are still roles both that will need to be filled in the future and to enhance what we do now.

## **12. Safety Officer's report**

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

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**

David Mayall commented that he joined SFMES committee in 2006, and then in 2010 became the boiler registrar.

During his time as registrar the Boiler Test Code and certificates have evolved through 4 versions to the 2018 version we use today.

2025 had been a quiet year, usual levels of WSoE dealt with, and some requests for information on boilers with lost certificates

He reminded the meeting that Federation does not hold copies of any certification, so information on a boiler is only traceable back to the club if the WSoE has been sent to the registrar.

He asked that the clubs gave the new registrar, Colin Walton, the same level of support as he had received over the years.

## **14. Membership Secretary's report**

The Membership Secretary, Peter Squire, gave a brief summary of the changes in membership during 2024.

He reported that membership currently stood at 231 clubs and societies, a small increase on the figure at this time last year. In the last year, 2 clubs have closed, one has renamed, and 8 clubs have been welcomed as new affiliates to the Federation.

This is a much more stable situation than the post COVID period when 19 clubs wound up over 2 years.

He commented that as we progress through the affiliation renewals and subscription payments this year, a small number of clubs will have closed due to declining membership or being unable to find committee members.

Of 2025 membership renewals, about 65% of the 231 have already paid their subscription

## **15. Appointment of Officers for 2025-26**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that David Mayall had announced his intention to step down from the role of Boiler Registrar and a Director of the company at the 2025 AGM.

He thanked him for his many years of work as boiler registrar and made a presentation of a suitably engraved glass tankard to David as a memento.

He introduced Colin Walton who had offered to take over the role a Boiler Registrar

The Chairman asked that the delegates adopt the resolution that excepting David Goyder, the individuals whose names given in Section 3 of the Report of Officers dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 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.

David Goyder had sadly died shortly after the document had been published.

Proposed by Reading SME and Seconded by Scunthorpe 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)

Bob Walker (Safety Officer)

## **16. 2024 Rallies, Exhibitions & Events**

During 2024, we attended two exhibitions in October: Midland Model Engineering Show in October, and the Lowestoft Model and Model Engineering Show (LOWMEX).

These are different types of show in that the MMEE is for Model Engineers primarily and our presence is mainly to highlight who we are to clubs and their members, and provide a place to 'meet and greet'.

The LOWMEX show has a broader attendance (for example, including model railways, boats and others) and whilst we attend to meet local clubs and members, we are also representing the hobby to a wider audience, some of whom may not have realised about the hobby, so we have an opportunity to spread the interest.

In 2025, we are intending at least to cover these two shows again and are always interested in any other such opportunities if they will meet our 'meet and greet' and 'spread the message' aims. For example, we attended the last Harrogate show which covered both of these aims well.

We were very pleased to have our Rally for 2024 hosted for us by Nottingham SME in late August who provided an excellent day for all who attended.

The rally for 2025 has just been announced as you may have seen on the slide earlier: it is at Rugby MES on Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, and our grateful thanks to our hosts for the day. We look forward to seeing you at as many such events as you can get to. They are all advertised on our Facebook page, the website, the newsletter and often by mailshots, let alone in some cases on wider media such as the press and other promotions.

There were no questions raised by the delegates.

Peter Squire  
Secretary, FMES

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

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