

Minutes of Committee Meeting - G Scale Society Kent

Held on Thursday 28 April 2022 – Notcutts, Maidstone

Participants: Roger Allen (RA), JOHN Dean (JD), Wayne Evans-Addy (WE), Jeff Fray (JF), David Groves (DG), Martin Piper (MP),

Apologies John Morgan (JM)

RA welcomed JD, WE and DG to their first committee meeting

1 Minutes of Last Meetings

The last meetings were the committee on 8 January 2022 and the Group AGM on 30 January 2022. Minutes had been circulated and there were no items that would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Treasurers Report

JF reported that the current account balance stands at £3068 and the savings account at £1386.

RA reported that he had been in touch again with both Pratts Bottom Village Hall (PBVH) and ODMRS over the uncleared cheque for PB Hall Hire. The hire amount is first billed to ODMRS. ODMRS pay and then bill our Group. ODMRS Treasurer has confirmed that there are no amounts outstanding. We can thus write-down the uncleared cheque.

3 Matrix of committee members duties and responsibilities

RA had circulated a draft to each committee member prior to the meeting. No specific comments were raised but there was a general discussion on how the new members might best use their talents. The feeling was first to get their feet under the table and then revisit this subject later in the year

4 GER

It was agreed that we would look for a suitable hall to erect the layout and carry out refurbishment and modifications to the layout. JF will enquire and look for two consecutive days. .

RA will contact PBVH to see if there is any possibility to erect GER at the hall immediately prior to our booking on Sunday 9 October

5 Website

MP will update the website information in respect of the change of committee and Newsletters. He will also add the AGM 2022 minutes. The introductory text is in need of revision. WE suggested that the size of GER be added, as this was useful for any exhibition organisers.

6 Newsletter

Timing of the next edition was discussed and agreed that this should be around 14 May in order to advise, and seek help from, members for our participation at The Pratts Bottom Model Rail Show on 21 & 22 May.

JF reported that he had 2 ½ articles so far including a guide to the Group Facebook page from WE. To these will be added one from DG on his Pullman car. RA said that Brian Rosen had

been in touch and there was the possibility of something from him updating work on his garden layout.

7 Facebook

WE was thanked for establishing a Facebook page for our Group. To the question as to why the page had been established as private rather public, it was explained that at this stage it is intended as members (G Scale) only. To date we have nine people who have joined.

8 Forthcoming Events

a) Indoor

- Arrangements for our participation in the Pratts Bottom Model Rail Show on 21 & 22 May were discussed. We will have a loose lay track on tables and JM will kindly loan the track. All committee members except JM should be able to attend at some point over the weekend. Set-up will be possible on late Friday afternoon. In the absence of an up to date National leaflet, DG will supply a .pdf that he has created.
- The date for our own Pratts Bottom indoor meet was confirmed as Sunday 9 October. Chris Worby will be invited as will Chalk Garden. After confirmations remaining space will be reviewed to see if we can also have a “pop-up” layout

b) Garden meets

JF will hold a meet on 17 July while MP intends to hold a diesel day, date to be fixed. News of these plus a call to other members will be made in the next Newsletter.

RA mentioned that our US member Mick Spilsbury had intended to make a visit to the UK and if this goes ahead, it would be good to time a meet to coincide with his visit. RA to make further enquiries.

9 Membership

RA reported that Andrew Lloyd had provided an update on Kent membership. This currently stands as 50 plus 9 honorary. This includes 5 new members so far in 2022 and makes up for the losses last year. WE asked if a list or map could be provided showing where Kent members are based. This will enable the planning of possible local get togethers. RA to arrange.

RA was not able to participate in the annual group leaders meeting, which this year was held on 2 April by Zoom. DG was thanked for taking RA’s place. DG reported that groups were reminded of the need to have a sign in sheet for all events, including garden meets, held under the G Scale Society banner. For members attending, their membership number is sufficient but for non-members a contact telephone number is also required. In the case of a vulnerable adult, the name of the accompanying adult should be provided. Agreed that we will provide a Kent member list to garden meet organisers.

DG explained that there had been some discussion about modular layout at the AGL meeting but as before there are two different approaches. One envisages fixed baseboards built to pre-determined standards so as to enable inter-connection. The other and this is favoured by DG is the “pop-up” concept, where individuals each provide track which can then be set-out on tables and linked to provide various configurations. One advantage is that less space is required to transport. At Teynham there was an enthusiastic response for this latter approach and we wish to trial it at some point this year.

10 Wider promotion of the Group, the Society and our activities

We discussed how the Society might be promoted further at a Kent level. Participation in the wider model railway exhibition field was felt to be a good possibility. RA had formulated a list of Kent model rail clubs showing which held exhibitions and this would be reviewed with the idea of making some approaches for 2023.

It was suggested that beyond the model railway world we should also approach garden centres to set-up a display. It was noted this had happened at Coolings Nurseries several years back.

11 AOB

RA reported that in March he, Chris Lucy, Richard Barton and Andrew Lloyd visited Mavis Sinfield's garden at her request to take up the track. A considerable amount had been bought there and then with proceeds to Mrs Sinfield. The balance is held by RA and Mrs Sinfield has kindly offered that any subsequent sales be to the benefit of the Group as a thank you for our help in dealing with Jims trains and track.

RA reported that had visited Martin and Elizabeth Cook. Their track had suffered somewhat due to the February storm and lack of maintenance during covid. Martin would be appreciative if a working party could help put the track back in action. RA will mention in the Newsletter.

WE proposed that we have a range of standard signing for Kent group events and showed samples. These were approved and WE asked to arrange production.

WE suggested that we acquire a card-reader and facility to allow for card payments at our events. After discussion WE was asked to make a proposal having particular regard to costs and security.

12 Next Meeting

Date to be agreed over the 21/22 May weekend.