

**RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LIMITED**  
*Unapproved Minutes of*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held at the County Hall, Preston, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**Present** : 44 members were recorded as in attendance.

**PART 1 Morning Session.**

**1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The National Chairman, Mike Crowhurst, welcomed members and guests to Preston.

**2 WELCOME BY THE MAYOR OF PRESTON**

The Worshipful, The Mayor of Preston, Councillor William F. Tyson welcomed delegates to Preston, and then gave a short speech.

**3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

40 members sent their apologies. See appendix A.

**4 PRESENTATION**

Owing to last minute family business, Richard Watts was unable to make his presentation. Vice-Chair, Jerry Alderson substituted and made a presentation on "Passenger Benefits from New Technology."

He started with a "side view" that electric trains were the future, but not electrification. He thought that in 20 years, there would be less overhead or third rail, but power would be got from "bursts" taken at stations, where trains would then run for up to 100 miles till the next burst.

**Oyster card and its rollout.**

This had been done a stage at a time and had, he thought, been incredibly successful (10 million cards in circulation). He thought that the final stage, auto top-up, had proved to be the facility that made many more people take it up.

**Security**

Delivery of the card is accompanied by nominating an "activation" station where the card will be activated for first use, so if the card is intercepted in the post, the thief would have to use it at the nominated station first (presently 1 in 286).

**Rollout across the UK.**

Oyster not an open system (one consortium owns the software rights), so won't be the standard used. ITSO (integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation) is the standard adopted. Oyster readers will accept ITSO, but not vice versa.

**Tickets on Mobiles**

Future technological developments could allow users to "waft" their mobiles at a ticket machine and, because (from your mobile identity), it knew the last few journeys, it could offer you them from a list rather than going through long lists of possible stations.

**Ticket-less Car Parking.**

Ringo & FGW started service, now 30% using it.

There followed a question and answer session where Jerry Alderson and David Sidebottom from Passenger Focus answered questions and responded to points raised.

## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

### **1 WELCOME**

### **2 MINUTES OF THE 2006 AGM. These were approved.**

**3 MATTERS ARISING FROM 2006 MINUTES.** A question was raised that motion 8.4 on pensioners fares, didn't seem to have made much progress and enquiry as to where it was. Chair thought many details were still under discussion, but agreed to check progress.

A question was asked as to the progress of 8.5 on route protection and where we were with the list of lines. It was thought that this list was now agreed, it just needed a link to be put on the website

### **4 PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Peter Lawrence said many points he was speaking on had already been touched on by speakers this morning, and went on to introduce his theme of "Is the railway any better" and he felt it was. He referred back to the Prescott 10yr plan, with no dates but lots of ideas. The Railtrack period brought along a (temporary) worsening, but he felt that since Network Rail, there had been a genuine change in approach.

He thought road-charging would happen, and he felt that now was the time to push forward the rail case, and with the progress being made on re-openings in Scotland and Wales, we ought to be able to make the case.

He highlighted the fact that the Liberal Democrats had shown in their Newsletter the variation in fares across Europe, the examples quoted were how far you get for £10 In Slovakia 660 miles, 200 miles in Italy but only 39 miles in UK. He felt Railfuture should press for lower fares.

He said there was increasing concern about engineering possessions and extension of closure time from the old traditional "Saturday night/Sunday morning" to whole weekends. We should campaign more on this issue, both at the local and national level.

Andrew MacFarlane stated that with the level of subsidy now received, the old BR could have delivered so much more.

### **5 CHAIR'S ADDRESS**

The chair opened his address by saying that in his third year in the role of chair (and in Railfuture nearly 30 years!) he wanted to encourage some thought to the future. He did not wish to discourage blue skies thinking and thought that Vice-Chair, Jerry Alderson had shown the way in some important respects, with David Harby bringing a similar business perspective.

He welcomed Lloyd Butler and Bob Imrie "into the breach" as Admin Officer and Treasurer respectively. He quoted John Pitcher's "resignation" address in which he had said "he'd like to spend more time with his life." He mused on the sheer necessary volume of day to day Railfuture business at all levels, which took up people's time, and there was some distraction with some members having a personal agenda.

Meetings with ministers and opposition had varying success and he noted particularly that there seemed to be a "strand of thinking" at the DfT that seemed to throw away the idea of walk-up railway and introduce an airline style all-pre-booked one, which he thought we should be alert to the DfT trying to bring in. He outlined where we had good contacts with industry partners and finished by paying tribute to those local chairman who with Peter Lawrence at national level, had fielded media calls regularly and helped maintain our profile.

A Q & A session followed.

## **6 ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

The report and accounts were not yet available, Treasurer Bob Imrie was not able to attend this meeting; the accounts will be submitted to an EGM to be held adjacent to Glasgow conference. It was agreed that it should be mandated to Glasgow conference to receive the accounts when ready and the Reporting officer would report to that EGM.

**7 REPORTING ACCOUNTANT.** There being no other nominations, Tony Seward was re-appointed.

**8 BALLOT.** Returning Officer Chris Precey reported that there were insufficient nominations for a ballot to be held. All nominees were therefore elected - see Appendix B.

**9 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.** President Peter Lawrence was re-elected as President, a list of the Vice-Presidents approved is attached as appendix C.

## **10 SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Some detail was given as to the effect of each, this was followed by a debate, and motions were then put to the vote.

Special Resolution 1. This is a correcting motion, as there were some drafting errors on the previous changes to the articles of association

Special Resolution 2. This is a change to enable the "3 year-rotation" of the board with consequential changes.

Amendment to Special Resolution 2 This would allow co-opted members to vote.

Special Resolution 3. This deals with the change of registered address to that nominated by the board.

Richard Pout raised a question regarding the procedure being adopted as to whether this should be the way special resolutions should be dealt with. He said it should be a poll of all members, not a ballot of members at the AGM. Another member drew attention to article 58 which it was thought, gave the AGM powers to consider these special resolutions.

After a little more debate, the chair called for a vote on the issue, there was a large majority in favour (2 abstentions, 2 against) of these special resolutions being debated and voted upon at this meeting.

The meeting then moved on to discuss each special resolution in turn.

Special Resolution 1: Carried overwhelmingly, 3 abstentions, 0 against.

Special Resolution 2. There was a discussion on the amendment to special resolution 2, as to the voting rights of co-opted Directors. In proposing the amendment, Ian McDonald suggested that this was circumventing the wishes of members.

Rowland Pittard suggested that by voting the board into position, members gave them the responsibility to manage the affairs of Railfuture, and co-opting where necessary was a good way to do that and it will be necessary for them to vote.

The chair then called for a vote which was counted. Those for the amendment to Special Resolution 2, 30, against 14, 0 abstentions, then the vote for the Special Resolution itself was taken.

Special Resolution 2, as amended, carried overwhelmingly, 4 abstentions, 0 against.

Special Resolution 3, carried overwhelmingly, 2 abstentions, 1 against

## **11 MOTIONS.**

### **1. Online petition to 10 Downing St on Electrification**

This AGM urges Railfuture members to sign the online petition to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to implement a national electrification strategy. It further urges members to ask their relatives and friends to sign the petition.

The petition is at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Electrify>

Proposed: Brian Grey (NW branch chairman)

Seconded: Chris Dale (chairman, East Cheshire lines RUG)

A very briefly outline was given by the Proposer and it was unanimously carried.

Action: All members by 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

## **2. Train stops at short platforms**

This AGM urges train operators to implement and extend the facility for selective door opening, so that there is nothing to prevent trains stopping at stations when the platform is shorter than the train. At such stations passengers wishing to alight should simply be told to move to those coaches that are adjacent to the platform.

Proposed: Trevor Bishop      Seconded: Ronald Schwarz, Supported by NW branch

After another brief outline by the proposer with a short example, points were made about the wording and the ability of TOCs to do what is asked, and that for instance, the new Beaulieu station in Scotland which has a short platform, has been enabled for use with longer trains. The motion was unanimously carried

Action: Passenger committee, branches and user groups (with local examples)

## **3. Walk-on fares and pre-booking**

This AGM reaffirms its commitment to the walk-on railway, and to affordable middle priced Saver/Cheap Day Return fares valid on any train by any reasonable route outside recognised peak periods without the need to book ahead. Any moves to require pre-booking on any part of the network, or to price-off "Saver" business, will be strenuously resisted.

Proposed: Mike Crowhurst      Seconded: Howard Thomas.

Chair Mike Crowhurst, as proposer, deferred to Jerry Alderson to be chair for this item, It was proposed and accepted by the Proposer that "or CDR" be inserted after Saver in the last line and after brief points were made, it was unanimously carried.

Action: Passenger and Policy committees, any officers when meeting DfT/ATOC/Passenger Focus

## **4. Olympics**

This AGM recognises the importance of the 2012 Olympiad and its likely economic, social and environmental impact and legacy for the entire UK, not just Greater London.

This AGM urges that maximum use is made of the railways to transport spectators from all parts of the UK to the various events, not only in London but in all UK regions. We therefore call upon the Government and the Olympic Delivery Authority to consult community organisations and work with rail businesses, to ensure that rail services are properly promoted, that through fares are available at reasonable prices, and special direct services are provided wherever merited and practical.

This AGM also calls upon the Government, regional and local authorities to provide adequate funding for necessary rail projects, which will secure an effective legacy of new infrastructure to

the long-term benefit of local communities, especially around the Stratford Olympic zone and in the Lea Valley, north and east London and East Anglia.

Proposed: Richard Pout      Seconded: Peter Cousins

Points were made about spend on new Olympics related infrastructure at the regional level, not being spent outside the relevant region. The motion was then voted upon it was carried over overwhelmingly with 3 against and 3 abstentions.

Action: Passenger and Network Development committees, London & SE branch

## **5. Eurostar services**

This AGM welcomes the shorter journey times between London, Paris and Brussels that will be gained from the opening of High Speed 1, and calls on the appropriate national and local government agencies to deliver improved rail access and direct through services from major traffic centres south of the Thames to Ebbsfleet, and to provide incentives to Eurostar to deliver a timetable with stops at Ashford that sensibly meets the needs and aspirations of local people.

Proposed: Graham Nalty      Seconded: Dave Shaw

Short proposal outlined the motion, which was to ensure more services to connect with the Eurostar. Also it was noted that presently, when services are disrupted, use of Ashford as a terminating station seemed to be avoided by Eurostar, could Ebbsfleet be any better. It was suggested it could be made to work with just better planning, i.e. de-train 1 or a few carriages at a time

The motion was carried overwhelmingly with 1 abstention, and 0 against.

Action: International and Network Development committees, Kent Division of London & SE branch

## **6. Thameslink**

This AGM notes with concern continuing Government reluctance to arrange funding for the Thameslink project, particularly in view of competing demands on funding from other projects in London and the SE including those relating to the Olympics. We therefore call upon the Government to commit funding to the Thameslink project.

This AGM considers that the track and station layouts, notably at Blackfriars, should make optimum provision for new capacity, and therefore urges that the plans must embody the ability to undertake further enhancements when needed in the future.

Proposed: Richard Pout      Seconded: Ian McDonald

Several points made in proposing it, one that (carriage) enhancements could already be in place, it just needed the will. A point was made that the motion was somewhat contrary in that it first seeks to get the funding progressed, and then seeks to amend a consented scheme. It was proposed that the second paragraph be deleted, several speakers supported that amendment. When voted on, 25 were in favour of the amendment, 8 against, 6 abstentions.

The vote on the amended motion was carried overwhelmingly with 4 abstentions, 0 against,

Action: Passenger and Network Development committees, London & SE and E Anglia Branches

## **7. High Speed in Britain**

This AGM welcomes the completion of High Speed 1 from the Channel Tunnel to St Pancras, and congratulates London & Continental Railways on this achievement. We urge the UK Government to make early plans for a "High Speed 2" line from London to the West Midlands as the next step in the development of a UK high speed rail network that will deliver economic

benefits to the West Midlands and the North West so that the skills and experience gained in building High Speed 1 will not be lost by disbanding the technical teams involved.

Proposed: Graham Nalty      Seconded: Dave Shaw

The proposer put forward the notion that we should make use of the ability of the teams working on HS1 to move on to HS2 etc. Points were made that specifying an initial route might limit our ability to promote the general case. It was proposed that the motion be amended to delete all three references to "West", this was agreed by the Proposer. The motion was overwhelmingly carries with 1 abstention and 0 against.

Action: International & Network Development committees, Kent Division of London & SE branch

### **8. Rail User Group directory**

This AGM notes with concern that Passenger Focus no longer maintains a publicly available list of rail user group contacts, and urges that appropriate external funding be sought to enable Railfuture to provide and maintain details of these organisations on its own website and eventually to publish this directory again in printed form.

Proposed: Peter Cousins      Seconded: Richard Pout,      Supported by Passenger committee.

The proposer explained that the contact list needed to be re-established after Passenger Focus had removed the contacts from their website. The motion was carried unanimously.

Action: Passenger committee, User Group Liaison officer, Chairman

Announcements. The Chair pointed out bookings were still open for the conference in Glasgow and that £50 had been raised through sales today.

The meeting closed at 1645.

## **Appendix A**

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

Katy Andrews, David Bailey, Eric Barbery, David Charles Bigg, Philip Noel K Bisatt, Lloyd Butler, Simon Courtney, R. Ian Cree, John Albert Drake, Robert W Dunn, Betty Ethel Easter, E J Eele, Trevor John Garrod, Geoffrey J Heathcock, Dennis Homer, Ray King, Bob, Jane & David Imrie, R Ellis, James-Robertson, John Graham Jones, Paul Richard Keepin, John O Lewis, Colin Lingard, Patricia Mary Lloyd, Josephine Martin, Ernest E Nice, Michael Oakley, Geoffrey W Penn, Christopher J Polkinghorne, Wendy & Denis Pye, David Redgewell, Douglas G Reynolds, William John Reynolds, M.F. Smyly, Robert John Stripe, R.D. Thatcher, Francis Howard Thomas, Vivian Thomas, Stephen Frank Wilkinson, James Vernon Yearsley

## **Appendix B**

Report of the Returning Officer for the 2007 Elections for RDS LTD.

"President  
Chairman  
Assembled company

I have to report that here were insufficient nominations to require an election for the Officers of RDS Ltd.

There was one nomination for each of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and 9 nominations for 10 Board Directors; The one for Membership Secretary was subsequently withdrawn; there was no nomination for Sales Officer.

As a result the following are elected un-opposed.  
Chairman                      Michael Gerald Crowhurst

Vice Chairman	Jerry Alderson
Treasurer	Bob Imrie
Directors	Philip Bisatt
	Trevor John Garrod
	H. Trevor Jones
	Ray King
	Ian F.S.McDonald
	Andrew MacFarlane
	Rowland Leslie Pittard
	David Redgewell
	Clara Zilahi"

Chris Precey  
Returning Officer

## **Appendix C**

List of Vice-Presidents approved by the AGM

Lew Adams, Jim Beale OBE, Prof. David Begg\*, Lord Berkeley OBE MICE, David Bertram, George Boyle, Dr Michael Caton, Rhodri Clarke, Ron Cotton, Ann Cryer MP, Dr Winifred Ewing, Stanley Hall, Chris Irwin\*, Peter Rayner, OBE, Brian Simpson, Lord (Peter) Snape, Tony Speller, Wendy Toms, Paul Tyler, Steve Wilkinson, MInstTA.  
(\*New appointment)

END OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF RDS AGM 2007