

NTA (1963) LIMITED

Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the NTA held at Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London, NI on Wednesday, 24 September 2014.

Present: Directors: A Bruce, E Humphreys (Treasurer), D Pearson (TM Distribution), M Russell (Chairman), D Lawrence (Membership Officer).
Officers and Members: R Box, A Braddock, J Parkin, N Parkin, P Haseldine, P Sutherland, H Liebner.

The meeting was opened at 16.07 hrs by M Russell in the chair.

1. Apologies for Absence: A Dinkenor, M Barratt, C Isgar, J Ward, P Johnson, D Taylor.

2. Minutes of the 44th AGM: These were accepted without amendment. Proposed by A Braddock, seconded R Box.

3. Matters Arising. None

4. Reports of Director for the year ending 30th September 2013. This report was posted on the website earlier this year. Two Scrutineers of proxy votes were appointed: P Haseldine and R Box. The Directors' report was accepted nem con by those attending and there were no proxy votes against.

5. Reports of the Officers for the year ending 30th September 2013.

Trolleybus Magazine. C Isgar (Editor) provided a written report on Trolleybus Magazine. In response to increased postal charges printing paper was changed to a lighter weight and better quality and the number of pages maintained at 28 plus covers for issues 306-311 all produced in full colour. He expressed particular thanks to P Haseldine, A Murray and R Smith for their assistance and to D Pearson for TM distribution. He also thanked contributors to the magazine. Articles and photographs are always welcomed.

P Haseldine reported on foreign news gathering for TM and thanked all who helped provide news, particularly S Morgan of the USA.

The November/December 2013 issue (312) was published with an extra eight pages to celebrate the NTA's 50th anniversary. It is hoped to increase the number of pages to 32 plus covers from January 2015.

It was confirmed that R Symons was still willing to arrange for TM binding and will advertise this in TM. P Sutherland said that he had obtained a quote for printing and binding early TMs (Issues 1-39) for £70 per copy. They could also be offered as unbound copies and on disc.

London Meetings. J Parkin reported on London meetings. There had been another successful year with costs more than met by donations. The Chairman expressed thanks to J Parkin for taking on the role of organiser and for keeping up the quality of meeting topics.

12 meetings were held in 2012/13 for which meeting room charges were £459. Topics in 2012/13 included the story of the restoration of Rotherham 73 by T Stubbs, TBs in N China and Mongolia by M Russell and London TB closure anniversary presentation by J Clarke.

Membership: D Lawrence reported that membership totals were:

September 2013...492 = 301 UK + 96 Continental Europe + 95 Rest of World

September 2014...494 = 301 UK + 101 Continental Europe + 92 Rest of World

The slight increase in membership was noted at a time when other organisations in the field were losing UK members and foreign postal charges were increasing. This was felt to be the result of increased advertising and sales effort together with the increased quality of TM.

Trolleybooks and NTA website.

A Bruce reported that no new Trolleybooks publications were released during 2013.

The following books are in preparation.....

Belfast. Is the next to be published and is nearly ready for typesetting

World Trolleybus Encyclopaedia should follow the Belfast book.

Walsall. Has made little recent progress but is well advanced.

Czech Trams and TBs - A joint venture with LRTA - is progressing.

The TB Miniatures book has covered its costs but it has proved difficult to sell expensive books.

The website has been used for advertising NTA Sales items with some success.

Sales: a full report from the Sales Officer, P Johnson was read out by E Humphreys. Members were reminded that revenue was raised from the sale of TM back numbers (94 sold in 2012/13), the sale of new books which increased, including St Helens TBs (Middleton), London's Last Trams (Gordon) and LT Tramways, a Black and White Album (Capital) and second-hand books. Second-hand books and back issues of Trolleybus Magazine are always required. Sales stands were taken to collectors' fairs at Chiswick, to the LOTS event and to Carlton Colville for the NTA 50th anniversary event. Revenue from all sources including postal sales from advertising and the internet realised £2,814 (net) during 2012/13.

The meeting expressed its thanks P Johnson for his energetic and successful efforts.

Vehicles. The post of Vehicles Officer is vacant so a report was not given. The following summary is included for information.

Bournemouth 202. Remains at East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville under a loan agreement.

Belfast 168. No work undertaken.

Hastings 45. Remained in secure storage at Raunds, Northamptonshire. No work undertaken.

Huddersfield 541. Remains at Sandtoft under a rent agreement. The NTA receives a small fee when it is operated at Sandtoft. It was towed to EATM for the NTA 50th event, September 2013.

Wolverhampton 654. Stored under cover at Roade, Northants. B Maguire is interested in restoring this vehicle and plans are being made to move the vehicle for this purpose.

Vehicle spares continued to be stored at Bracknell but spares stored at Winnersh were moved to Ellough in September 2013 and are in secure storage for £55/month.

6. Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2013

E Humphreys gave the financial report. The accounts 2012/13 had been filed at Companies House and the Charity Commission and posted on the NTA website. The bank balances at the date of the meeting totalled approximately £52,000. The Treasurer drew attention to the main changes in income: donations had returned to more usual levels; sales revenue had been boosted by a payment of £2,000 from Trolleybooks; subscription income was lower due to timing of payments. The main changes in expenditure from the previous year were: an increase in spares storage costs, cost of towing Huddersfield 541 to and from EATM, trolleybus restoration costs were down because of lack of skilled labour.

Following a detailed investigation, the uncertainties over investment in Trolleybooks had been resolved. The problems had arisen partly because the NTA had not recorded all payments clearly and an audit trail was hard to follow. The amount invested at the start of 2012/13 was £7,500, not £8,000 as previously stated. Therefore an adjustment of £500 had been

made. During 2012/13 Trolleybooks paid £2,000, leaving £5,500 invested. At the IE's suggestion this was now treated as a restricted fund in the accounts.

During Gift Aid claim preparation in 2014 an error was discovered in the 2012/13 accounts. The value for GA claims under "Voluntary Income" is overstated at £6,331 whereas it should be £1,583. The Treasurer apologised for this error which would be corrected in the 2013/14 accounts' comparative figures with an appropriate note. The scale of the error is small in comparison with NTA reserves so it is deemed "not material" and the Board accepts the proposed course of action.

Subject to the correction to Gift Aid Claims, acceptance of the accounts was proposed by R Box, seconded by A Braddock and carried unanimously. There were no proxy votes against.

7. Subscription Rates

In accordance with the AGM agenda the following **Ordinary Resolution** was moved.

"That with effect from 1 November 2014, the annual subscription rates for members shall be £24.50 for those resident within the United Kingdom, £30 for those resident within Europe (as defined by the area encompassed within the European postal rate tariff) and £35 for those resident in the rest of the world."

The chairman explained that the subscription rate had not changed for three years. However, overseas postage rates had risen considerably and there was a need to cover TM postage costs. At the same time the Board wished to improve value for money and recommended that the pages in TM be increased by 4 to exploit the 100 gram postal limit. This could be implemented from next January.

The resolution was proposed by A. Braddock and seconded P Haseldine and all present voted in favour. The scrutineers declared that 21 proxy votes were cast in favour with 3 having no intention stated. Therefore, the resolution was carried.

8. Election of Directors

E Humphreys was due to retire by rotation. His re-appointment was proposed by J Parkin and seconded by P Sutherland with all those attending and 21 proxy votes in favour. Therefore, he was reappointed.

9. Election of D M Lawrence as Director

D Lawrence, who had been co-opted to the Board was up for election. His election was proposed by A Braddock and seconded by P Haseldine with all those attending voting in favour, 20 proxy votes in favour and 1 against. Therefore, he was appointed.

10. Election of Independent Examiner. It was reported that A Dinkenor was willing to continue as Independent Examiner of the accounts. His reappointment was proposed by R Box and seconded J Parkin. He was reappointed unanimously including 21 proxy votes and thanked for his services.

11. Any Other Business

Date and Place of next AGM. Provisional date for the next AGM is Wednesday 15 July 2015 at Keen House, to be confirmed.

The 50th anniversary of the NTA in November 2013 was celebrated on the weekend of 14 and 15 September 2013 at the East Anglia Transport Museum with 202 and 541, the two NTA restored vehicles, running together for the first time. This involved towing 541 from Sandtoft and back. See Directors' Report and Accounts.

The chairman apologised to those attending that this AGM could not be held on the same day as an NTA London meeting due to difficulties in reserving rooms at Keen House.

The meeting closed at 1745 hours.