

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of

GCR ROLLING STOCK TRUST

**Held at NSMEE, Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre,
Nottingham on Sunday 23 March 2014**

Those present:

Mike Firth, Andrew Horrocks-Taylor, Richard Potter, John Quick, Clyde Pennington, Mike Hartley, Richard Tilden Smith, Pat Sumner, Doug Atkins, Bob Hanson, Tony Keeble, Roger Penson, Wilf Ankers, Melvyn Rowthorne

Chairman opened the Meeting at 12.00 hours and welcomed all and thanked them for attending.

Chairman then paid tribute to Treasurer Gerald Thorpe who had died just weeks ago. He had been most helpful Member behind the scenes, a good supporter of the Trust and of course of the B1 Locomotive Trust and his first love the B1 locomotive itself. His wisdom will be much missed.

1. Apologies for Absence

These were received from: Arthur Barber, Diana Barker-Benfield, Gillian Bullock, Barry Horsley, Carl Lardner, Dave Ablitt, Francis Bailey.

2. Approve Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2013 AGM having been circulated, it was proposed to approve them as a true record of that Meeting

Proposed:	M Rowthorne
Seconded:	P Sumner
In favour:	All

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

Chairman reported that no formal questions had been raised.

4. Chairman's Annual Statement – 2012/13

Chairman presented his annual statement (**See attached**) and invited questions.

Question raised: Doug Atkins: As GCRN had employed Wendy Anderson from Embsay to help restore a Mark 1 and who having viewed the work on the 6-wheeler suggested that the Trust should be seeking Heritage Lottery funding.

Chairman indicated that, until now, there had been insufficient evidence of the quality of work for HLF to consider an application for public funds – but this situation had changed and the National Railway Museum (NRM) interest was now considerable especially with the location of the proposed NRM Leicester Railway Museum. Plan was to arrange a visit of NRM on an appropriate Wednesday work-day to advise.

5. Presentation of Annual Statement and Accounts

This was usually presented by the Treasurer. However in the circumstances, and as he had been providing accounting services, Mike Firth agreed to introduce the 2012/13 Report and Accounts.

It was reported that despite an increase in cash received, it was going out almost immediately. Insurance and governance costs were the biggest expenditures. GCRN had been approached to cover Public Liability issues but had so far declined to include this in the overall GCRN cover. The Trust had no option but to obtain its own cover for Trustee and Public Liability.

Chairman advised that there was a discrepancy in the value of assets as a Dust extractor had been included erroneously and that the panels of track had been donated to GCRN for Building no 4. This was to be shown in the 2013/14 year accounts.

Chairman described the negotiation with GCRN to transfer from RST the project managing, funding and construction of Building no 4. The aim was then to devote the current available funds of £35,000 to carriage restoration. However the urgent need was to find new impetus with of fund raising and, through discussions with GCRN, remind all just how much effort and value RST continued to put into the Centre.

It was proposed that the Report and Annual Statements for the year to 31 July 2013 be approved:

Proposed:	D Atkins
Seconded:	M Rowthorne
In favour:	All

It was proposed that Harrison Beale & Owen be re-appointed as the Trust's accountant, until a new auditor had been selected, subject to further review.

Proposed:	A Horrocks-Taylor
Seconded:	R Potter
In favour:	All

7. Election of Trustees

Chairman offered the present Trustees - these being Arthur Barber, Mike Firth (Company Secretary), Mike Hartley, Andrew Horrocks-Taylor, John Quick, Richard Potter, Richard Tilden Smith (Chairman) - who being willing and eligible, for re-election. It was proposed that they be elected en bloc.

Proposed:	P Sumner
Seconded:	C Pennington

In favour: All

Chairman advised of the Proposal of the Board to nominate Tony Keeble and Pat Sumner as Trustees.

Proposed: R Tilden Smith

Seconded: R Hanson

In favour: All

Nominations were invited from the floor for further volunteers for the Board. No other nominations were received.

8. Any Other Business

Trust Action Group

Report from Clyde Pennington – Team Co-ordinator – covered the essential milestones of the Year (**See attached**).

Vote of Thanks

RTS proposed a vote of thanks to all those involved with the progress of the 6-wheeler, through the able supervision, drive and work of Pat Sumner and Tony Keeble, Bob Hanson and Doug Atkins, Roger Penson and Clyde Pennington with other key assistants, and especially with Peter Wilson, his extensive practical advice and preparation of moulded and cut timber being an essential part of the project.

It was proposed to close the Annual General Meeting of Members at 13.15 hours.

Proposed: M Hartley

Seconded: C Pennington

In favour: All

Chairman's Statement

GCR Rolling Stock Trust - Year ended 31 July 2013

First and foremost I welcome you to this Annual General Meeting. Without you we would have no Project. On your behalf, a great thank you to NSMEE for enabling us to meet here.

Before the formal AGM Business, I would like to pay tribute to our late Treasurer, Gerald Thorpe, who died but a few weeks ago. He provided enthusiasm and sound advice to the Trust from the very start, despite difficult health problems which interfered with his later years. He had provided support to key fund raising with HLF bidding for the restoration work of which the Thomson B1 Trust, and the B1 itself, was his first and biggest love. He will be much missed in the restoration world.

Turning then to the Business this afternoon, I am pleased to be presenting this year's statement and Report for the year 2012/2013 - and to look forward with you as to the future of this project and the Ruddington-based operation.

This last year has been an unspectacular year when the Trust's activities have been narrowed to the steady advance with work on the oldest carriage in the collection, and attempts to restart the Restoration building. With 9 potential vehicles to restore we still have the challenge of seeking their protection once the highly valuable skills have been applied and each completed.

While the work of the Trust continued in two principal streams, a fundamental reassessment of strategy of the Trust concluded that, with the national recession still impacting on the level of funds raised, concentration of effort with available resources was to be implemented.

A greater sense of purpose has been achieved by devolving management responsibility to the Ruddington volunteer team, co-ordinated by Clyde Pennington in collaboration with Trustee Andrew Horrocks-Taylor. The Trust's team continues to be directly affected by the activity and enthusiasm of the Centre and its volunteers, and the need for dedicated facilities. This is a major issue which we will consider separately as it affects us all.

Because of the lack of progress in the construction of the intended Restoration and Storage Building no 4, which had been the subject of engineering assessment and estimating by a chosen steelwork contractor, The Board has pressed the Heritage Centre landlord, East Midland Railway Trust and GCRN, to take back the responsibility for the build. This has planning and practical implications – as well as impacting on the Trust's ability to satisfy and win more skilled members.

The second stream I have already referred to has been the restoration of four key vehicles - the 1888 MSL No 946 6-wheeler making active advances, the 1903 Clerestory no 1663, and two of the 1910-built Barnum carriages. However in collaboration with National Railway Museum, the Barnum which has been on 10-year

lease from NRM is now included in a major £10 million HLF bid for a new Leicester Railway Museum project in collaboration with The City and Great Central Railway plc. (In a massively tight competition for funds, the award was made to Nottingham Castle and a new bid is invited for 2015). Our hope is that a strong relationship will grow with the NRM.

By focusing the available effort and funding the Trust has helped the considerable progress of 6-wheeler no 946, under the talented auspices of Pat Sumner and Tony Keeble. The structure complete, the detailed carpentry work of the recovery and refitting of 10 doors in various states of dilapidation has been painstakingly progressed by Doug Atkins - and congratulations – now done. This long term project has now reached the preparation, fitting out and painting of the compartment interiors to allow for re-upholstery of seats and backrests, led by guru Roger Penson.

The Trust pays particular tribute to the work of its members at Ruddington and thanks especially those who have and continue to donate towards the restoration goals of the Trust, without whom the stock would be under severe threat. Thanks go to Mike Firth, for the meticulous work of maintaining the Trust's accounts, electronically recorded - and helping the overall project to advance – and to Clyde Pennington who has collated a substantial archive relating to RST activities.

By concentration of its funds on the rolling stock, the Trust is increasingly confident that the level of fund raising will be improved and we hope we will be able to tap into new income sources and join in the advance of the Greater Great Central Railway – especially with our connection back to the GCR heritage. We have a massive job to do and we need as many friends as possible to help us.

We thank our hosts – East Midlands Railway Trust - at the Heritage Centre and our friends at NSMEE for the use of this excellent Club Room. And we now expect to see more tangible progress in 2014.