



N Gauge Society

Annual General Meeting

21st July 2026

Held on Zoom® @ 1930



Attendance Record:

Directors					Members		
Role	Name		No.		Name	No.	
Chairman	Arthur Frost	AF	5508	✓	Anthony Garner	3719	X
General Secretary*	Tony Woodruff	TW	27696	✓	Matthew Richter	8032	✓
Treasurer	Ian Kendall	IK	31989	✓	Mike Bloomfield	9406	✓
Committee Members					Roland Johnson	9538	✓
Shop Manager	Andrew Welsh	AW	25213	X	Clive Lawrence	12933	X
Data Protection Advisor	Adrian Cotterill	AC	19963	✓	Ian Charles	15036	X
Product Development	Roy Seaward	RS	11059	✓	Richard Elms	15340	✓
Kit Production	David Forshaw	DF	4873	✓	Philip Griffin	18683	✓
Trade Liaison	Robin Grubba	RG	28260	✓	Dave Pallant	19152	X
Journal Editor	John Clifford	JC	27901	✓	John Wharton	22008	A
Webmaster	Andy Buxton	AB	22467	✓	David Tisdale	24142	✓
Area Groups Coordinator	Vacant				Graham Wayland	27371	✓
Membership Secretary	Vacant				James Millard	29296	X
Presidential Team					Colin Mitchell	30006	✓
President	Richard Bardsley	RB	5459	✓	Thomas Dodds	30102	✓
Vice President 1	Bob Symmons	BS	23197	✓	Mark Faulker	30362	✓
Vice President 2	Mike Le Marie	MM	1755	A	Andy Binns	30453	✓
NGS Officers					David Lynch	30711	X
Model Masters Manager	Richard Brown		25507	✓	Derek Tree	30784	X
Classifieds Manager	Richard Hance		13244	✓	Mark Galliers	31670	X
GC Chester West	Sandy Mill		28486	✓	Michael Blake	32384	✓
GC Northumberland	Jon Laws		13733	✓	Perry Ismangil	32592	✓
GC WorldWide Group	Jon Brady		14060	✓	Graeme Potter	29907	✓
GC IOW Group	Paul Bradley		21560	A	Simon Baxter	26459	✓
GC Clacton Group	Fred Gallone**		16285	✓	Total Attendance	35	
GC South Essex Group	Alistair Mair		28560	X			
GC Wessex Area Group	Adrian Scott		18086	✓	Attended		✓
GC West Sussex Area Group	Nigel Appleton		17316	✓	Apologies		A
GC East Dorset	Duncan Jones		30068	✓	Applied did not Attend		X

* - Company Secretary

** - Deputy for Group Coordinator

Total number of voting members Present 35

Special Resolution 75% Vote Threshold 33

AA Capitals/Membership Numbers in BOLD RED denotes someone speaking or asking a question

AA Capitals/Membership Numbers in BOLD BLACK denotes someone is being referenced or mentioned

NOTE ZOOM VIDEO & VOICE RECORDING PLUS AI COMPANION WILL BE USED FOR THIS MEETING

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THE GRAMMAR MAY NOT ALWAYS BE CORRECT AS I HAVE TRIED TO TRANSCRIBE THE DISCUSSIONS AS THEY WERE SPOKEN.

ZOOM AI Companion Overview of Meeting

The N Gauge Society held its Annual General Meeting virtually via Zoom, with Arthur Frost chairing the session. The meeting began with technical setup and introductions from committee members and officers, including Tony Woodruff, Ian Kendall, John Clifford, Robin Gruber, Andy Buxton, and Roy Seaward. Frost presented an overview of the Society's activities, focusing on efforts to improve cash flow, membership recruitment, product development, and the upcoming 60th anniversary event. Kendall delivered the Treasurer's report, noting a reduced deficit and increased cash reserves. The meeting included votes to approve the minutes of the 2025 AGM, re-elect officers, and pass two resolutions regarding the Articles of Association. Discussions also covered strategies to attract younger and more diverse members, with suggestions for increased social media presence and engaging with new audiences. The conversation ended with plans to continue virtual AGMs for the foreseeable future due to financial and logistical considerations.

AGM 2026 – Minutes of Meeting

The meeting started with the General Secretary reminding all those present of the onscreen naming policy so that people can be identified when speaking during the meeting.

Agenda

- **Opening & Welcome:** Call to order by the Chair, apologies for absence, and confirmation of a quorum.
- **Introductions:**
 - Directors
 - Committee
 - Presidential Team
- **Minutes of Previous AGM:** Review and approval of the previous year's minutes, including any matters arising.

Proposer: JC

Secunder: RG

- **Chairperson's Report:** Summary of the organisation's activities, key achievements, and challenges.

The chairman focused on the year 2025 and plans for 2026

- Regular monthly committee meetings held on Zoom
- No plan to conduct face-to-face committee meetings to cut down on expenditure
- More frequent meetings with the sub-groups targeting
 - Sales & Marketing
 - Product Development
 - Membership
- Action Plan
 - Five Main Objectives:
 - Improve cash in hand situation
 - Improve and increase membership
 - Continued improvement of the website
 - Continue to introduce new products (funds dependant)
 - Improve services to members
- N Gauge Society Limited
 - Company Limited by Guarantee
 - Done primarily to reduce the liability of the Member should the society fold with debts.
 - Downside of this are the legal and financial obligations placed on the society
 - Your directors take on this day-to-day responsibility. Not easy for a bunch of volunteers.
 - The measures might seem a little dictatorial, but they are a legal requirement that has to be obeyed.
 - As the Articles of Association have not kept pace with the changes there will be two Resolutions tabled later to address this situation.
- Membership
 - Currently we have been without a Mem-Sec since Jun 25. The role is covered by the Chairman primarily with the Gen-Sec dispatching all postal requirements.
 - Currently there is a slow decline in the membership which has been evident for the last 5 years.
 - To rectify this, we have:

- We have changed our advertising campaign and now advertise in the 3 major Model Railway magazines 4 times in each with a targeted advert for membership. This has in fact reduced our advertising costs and shown benefits in gaining new members.
- Improved the renewal/reminder process in forming all lapsed and pending members of their membership situation to encourage renewals.
- A direct debit system has been put in place to help with the renewal process removing the requirement for members to remember to renew and providing them with a £1 discount on their subscription for using the system. Although the take up for this is slow at present.
- Increased focus on recruiting especially via the stands which now receive great committee support at event where possible. There will be a very concerted effort in this area at TINGS this year.
- Membership Statistics: Membership as stated is declining slowly from 4335 in Jun 2025 to 4135 in Jun 2026. In order for the society to run at its current levels of expenditure. The society needs between 4100 and 4300 fully paid-up members to be registered. Renewals are very variable and there is generally a surge after each journal is published. **TW** added that the reason for the low number of renewals in Jun 2025 and incidentally before that date is because the Renewals and Reminders process was not instigated until Jul 2025 which resulted in a significant increase in members renewing from that point forward.
- The Journal
 - This very much thanks to John Clifford the editor for his continued efforts in producing our journal which is our 'flagship' benefit which we are very proud of.
 - It compares very favourably with the major magazines and is entirely focused on 'N' Gauge.
 - However, the downside is the cost of producing and distributing the printing journal for which costs are constantly increasing. The current membership fees only just cover the cost of producing the journal and this with the cost of overseas postage it becomes even worse still when we have to deal with Journal which are lost in the post and have to be replaced which is becoming more prevalent in certain areas of the world.
 - The E-Journal which is not everyone's first choice does have some advantages where you are able to print it at home or indeed specific pages as required.
 - One refinement made during the year was to incorporate the 'Newsletter' into the journal which seems to have been successful.
 - As a reminder members are asked to submit articles for the journal no matter what your skill level is as there is always something to be learnt.
- The Handbook
 - Is available in Hard Copy or Electronic formats.
 - A lot of new members especially like it as it gives a good ground to the basic of railway modelling.
 - All future revisions to the Handbook will be done on a loose-leaf page for page replacement style of amendment. As the likelihood of a full reprint being done in the future is extremely remote.
 - Anyone who has suggestions for improvements to the handbook should either email the Chairman or the Handbook Coordinator.
 - Additional copies of the handbook are available from the membership secretary at the cost of £2 plus Postage & Packing.
- New Products
 - C&S Crane:
 - The big question right now is when is the crane arriving? The answer is that the team responsible are pushing extremely hard to get this product delivered.
 - Latest info is that the factory is making further modifications to the chassis which we did not ask for.
 - However, we do not have a firm date from our intermediary on this project. But be assured we are pushing them hard for delivery this year.
 - The moment we get a clear update that information will be circulated to our members.
 - So far, we have had just over 900 contributions to the development of the crane.
 - Kits 75 & 76 the VCA & VDA Vans:
 - Since their launch in February this year they have been extremely popular selling out within a few weeks. In fact, the stand at Doncaster sold its entire allocation in one day.
 - The chassis from this kit which was acquired from Bernard Taylor has allowed us to also plan to release other models in due course.
 - Product Survey:
 - Roy Seaward our new Product Development Manager is conducting a survey of the members to gauge what is good and what is bad and what the members this we might consider producing. As ever, there are no promises on your requests, but they do help to steer the product team.

- In producing any new product there needs to be significant scrutiny of the costs and product processes to ensure it is something that the society can afford and that it is something that the members will want.
- Kit Production:
 - Constantly looking for the solutions
 - Utilising 3D printing more
 - Reviewing batch production by injection moulding.
 - Any new project or products will be carefully reviewed via the Product Development and Sales and Marketing Teams to assess viability.
- Product Development
 - As previously mentioned, Roy Seaward has taken on the mantle of Product Development Officer and notional lead of the Product Team. Which has been formed to look at the future production of Products and Kits
 - In respect of the crane the last samples were received in February 2026 and were received well by the team and so much so that one of the samples was stolen from the stand at the Exeter Show in early July.
 - We are constantly chasing the suppliers to bring this project to fruition.
 - To save on costs the number of crane variants has been reduced from 10 to 6 and the total number to be ordered has been reduced to 2000 items which will be in pro-rata quantities based on the contribution orders.
- Shop Headlines:
 - There were a variety of sales over the year. However the sale of the Discontinued RtR Stock in Feb 26 saw an unprecedented level of demand which kept the shop manager extremely busy.
 - Retired a number of Kits from the catalogue including Kit 30, 32, 52, 53 and 54a. This was mainly due to availability and cost of parts for these kits.
 - Sadly, spares for the Hunslet are still limited to cosmetic parts only.
 - We have also seen a sale targeted at selling the Hunslets which are non-runners and can be used for spares or other purposes and this has also gone very well.
 - The kit supply teams that support the shop and stands are constantly working to ensure that members have the kits available to buy and they deserve a deep gratitude of thanks for what the team provide.
 - Digital Stocks of electronic media is currently being revised and from 1 Jan 27 the “compendium” of journals will now have all the journals from 1968 to December of the preceding year.
 - Working is progressing well to improve the shop platform and shopping experience in the near future.
- Shop Stats period Jun 25 to May 26
 - Orders from the shop remain constant at an average of 90 per month
 - Shop monthly income averages around £4900 per month
 - The exception was Feb 26 with the discontinued sale
 - The majority of sales in 2025 was kits as would be expected along with decals as a lot of kits do not include decals.
- Stand a Year of Change
 - Resignation of Tim Hitch in late Dec 25.
 - 16 years plus service on the Stands and committee
 - 8 years as a director
 - Awarded Honorary Life Membership for Service
 - Tim will be missed which has been evident based on the questions of where is Tim?
 - The stands achieved a total of 26 events in 2025
 - 14 Main Stand
 - 12 Mini Stand
 - These numbers were down on previously totals in 23 and 24.
 - Moving forward for 2026
 - The stands have been renamed as follows:
 - Main Display Stand is now the Exhibition Stand
 - This stand will now attend the major events of the year: Doncaster, Glasgow, Ali Pally, Bristol, TINGs, NEC and now Manchester.
 - This stand is run by 2 people on average with extra support from committee members when available.
 - Mini Stand & Members Shop is now the Show Stand
 - This will attend the more regional and club-based events throughout the year.
 - This stand is a one-man band but any help from Area Groups or Members is welcome especially during set-up and breakdown.

- It is hoped that the stands will average about 18 events per year throughout the country.
 - The POC for both stands is Tony Woodruff via the mini-Stand@ngaugesociety.com email address.
- **TW** added that following Tim's departure we are using 2026 and 2027 to re-evaluate the stands to improve what they do and the service that they supply to the membership.
- Area Groups
 - The role of Area Groups Coordinator (AGC) is currently vacant.
 - The General-Secretary is covering the basic requirements of the role only
 - Currently there are the following register groups:
 - 36 in-person meeting groups in the UK
 - 4 Overseas Groups
 - 1 new group in 2025 in the Cambridge area
 - 2 Online / Newsletter Groups
 - 1 group lost in 2025 which was the Nn3 Group
 - Always looking for new groups
 - Currently about 10% of the membership are active in Area Groups
 - To be totally clear about area groups. They are completely independent of the society and not controlled by the society. The society provides advice to the Group Coordinator, and the society provides each group with an annual grant based on the number of current members in the group.
- N Gauge Society Diamond Jubilee 2027 **Presented by Tony Woodruff**
 - The Society turns 60 next year on 26th October
 - The diamond jubilee event is planned for 30th & 31st October 2027 at the Derby Conference Centre
 - The location was selected because of its railway heritage and for being central in the UK for attendance.
 - Planning is well underway for the event
 - Event being run by Tony Woodruff and Mike Le Marie
 - Questions should be directed to events@ngaugesociety.com
 - Outline of Event:
 - Focus is on Members and Area Group Layouts
 - Main Sponsor is Peco with secondary sponsors of Bachmann/Graham Farish and Kato UK.
 - Major Manufacturers will be in attendance
 - Focus on N Gauge Specific traders and Cottage Industries
 - Demonstrations
 - Special Commission Wagon
 - Special Commission Lapel Badge is planned
 - Lectures and Presentations
 - Members Prize Draw
 - Journal 5/27 will be dedicated to the event and act as the programme.
 - All the lessons learnt from the 2023 event at the NRM have been considered with this event.
- Trade Liaison
 - Current world situation is having a significant effect on prices
 - Keen to engage with and work with N Gauge specific Cottage Industries.
 - New production techniques are also having an impact on how the industry approaches the hobby
 - The society is in constant contact with the major manufactures and continuing to progress a closer liaison
- Website **Presented by Andy Buxton Webmaster**
 - Trying to bring both websites together as one entity
 - Reducing the manual processes to improve the site
 - Trying to give it a feel like Amazon (which is setting the bar high)
 - Deliver a better user experience
 - Making purchases easier with integrated postage and packaging included
 - New webstore will substantially reduce operating costs
 - There is still a lot of complex work to complete
 - It is hoped to deliver this in late 2026
- Chairmans Closing Remarks
 - Thank you to all the members for their support
 - Thank you to the Committee members for their hard work
 - Thank you to all the unsung hero's that support the committee functions and the society in general.
- Questions of the Chairman
 - There were no questions posed

- Questions asked in the Zoom Chat facility have been answered there. The chat in the Zoom Video is not available on the video.
- **Financial Report/Accounts:** Presentation of the annual financial statements (balance sheet, income statement).

IK started his report by introducing himself as the new society treasurer taking over the roll from Bob Symmons in May 25 and that this was his first opportunity to present the societies accounts. **IK** reported that overall, we have improved the deficit by about £5000 which was at £22000 in 2024 and have now brought that down to £17000 in 2025 and the projection for 2026 is that we should be reducing that figure down even further and ideally we would like to be in a position where the society is returned to surplus. However, we have identified a number of constraints already in terms of member numbers in slow decline and increasing costs across the board proving to be a challenge. On a more positive note we did focus on restoring our cash balances in 2025 because at the beginning of the year the 2024 accounts were showing a cash balance of £7000, which is not really an effective amount of cash for a society of our size and the commitments that we have and we have brought that cash balance up to nearly £50000 by Dec 2025 which has continued to increase, which gives us additional flexibility helping to improve the societies services. There was also a considerable amount of stock review carried out over the year which a stock re-evaluation around the ModelMasters Stock and where stock levels were being held and if they were in the right place. Looking at the Income & Expenditure Account, you can see that the income between 2024 and 2025 has dropped by £17000 and the expenditure has dropped significantly as well. Looking at the Shop and the Stands during the year the stands continue to run as a deficit, and the shop reported a deficit for the first time in a number of years which is primarily due to the stock revaluations. The Mini Stand (now Show Stand) deficit reduced in 2025, but this was due to a smaller programme of events. You can also see in the expenditure that there were no meeting costs in 2025, and this is because the committee did not conduct any face-to-face meetings. Kit production cost also reduced as the focus for 2025 was maintaining stock levels. We are still showing a £17000 deficit, but this is down from the £22000 as previously stated. Looking at the three main trading accounts. Hunslett tooling costs disappear in 2026 due to the writing down of the costs which we have been doing over five years since the Hunslett was introduced and this will contribute to the shops positive position in 2026. Looking across the two stands the most significant element is the Main Stand (now Exhibition Stand), is the travel and subsistence which was previously show in the general society expenses and because the majority of that element was attributable to the Main Stand it is now reflected against that stand. The Mini Stand is showing a small deficit in year due to attending fewer shows in 2025. What we have to remember here is that the principal purpose of the stands is to publicise the existence of the society and to demonstrate what the society can offer for the N Gauge Modeller therefore we have got to accept that there might be a cost involved in that and in 2026 we are working hard to reduce those deficits and that the information that we have to date is that that is being achieved. So, whilst we would like to be able to break even on both stands running a minimal deficit is not of a great concern. But minimising the deficit or returning the society to surplus is an aim. Looking at the balance sheet there are some big changes. You will see the increase of £1000 in Tangible Assets which is due to modernising the display stand with a circular display tower and a new logoed desk for the EPOS System because the previous cabinets had become no longer fit for purpose. Stock has been reduced and debtors and Prepayments is primarily made up with the pre-payments of the C&S Crane project which will be written down once we receive the models. You can see that the cash in bank situation has improved and as an organisation we should carry at least three months of operating costs in cash to cover our main liabilities. Looking at the next section, our main liability is the subscription in advance that we have so we have to account for those prepayments. So, we build our cash reserves to cover those liabilities in order to cover development of new items and kit production. C&S Crane prepayments also continues to grow slowly. So overall we report a deficit in 2025 you can see that our reserves have gone down from £218000 to £201000 which is in line with the £17000 deficit and our intention is to ensure that we reduce the deficit and try to move back into a surplus position. The supplement supporting the AGM has a more detailed review of the accounts which were submitted to company's house. The supplement also contains more commentary which backs up the numbers that you have seen. So, in summary we are going in the right direction in terms of managing our deficit down, we are also going in the right direction in terms of having cash available to do things with and I think we are going in the right direction in terms of managing the assets that we have and what we can do with the stands and shop. This is also nothing that I have done by work that the committee and officers are doing and what actually needs to be done to help me and the society bring its accounts and its balance sheet and certainly income and expenditure into balance in a year-on-year basis.

Questions of the Treasurer:

BS thanks **IK** for his report and stated/asked: We are actually at 907 contributions for the C&S Crane which is a significant number. If I could correct one of your comments from earlier when you talk about the stands and

showing there travelling costs in respect of the Main Stand, is always one that has cost us more than we have made money.

There were no further questions or comments

The Chairman stated that in accordance with the current Articles of Association for the N Gauge Society that:

- All new directors and committee appointees during the year be approved at the subsequent AGM
 - That all directors and committee members resign from their current roles and stand for re-election
 - Any member of the society who wishes to stand for a role within the society should make their intention clear prior to the AGM and be proposed and seconded by two members of the society.
- **Election of Board/Committee:** Nomination and election of new officers or board members. Introduction and confirmation of new board/committee members since the 2025 AGM.
 - Tony Woodruff – Appointed to the roles of General Secretary and Director **Vote Reqd**
 - Roy Seaward – Appointed to the role of Product Development Manager **Vote Reqd****Vote Result For – 25 Against – 0 Abstained – 10**

- **Board of Directors Appointments**

- Chairman Arthur Frost Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
Vote Result For – 25 Against – 0 Abstained – 10

Arthur Frost is thereby duly re-elected as the Chairman of the N Gauge Society

- General Secretary Tony Woodruff Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
Vote Result For – 26 Against – 0 Abstained – 9

Tony Woodruff is thereby duly re-elected as the General-Secretary of the N Gauge Society

- Treasurer Ian Kendall Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
Vote Result For – 26 Against – 0 Abstained – 9

Ian Kendall is thereby duly re-elected as the Treasurer of the N Gauge Society

- **Committee Appointments**

- Despatch Manager Andrew Welsh Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Journal Editor John Clifford Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Kit Administration Manager David Forshaw Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Product Development Manager Roy Seaward Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Stands Manager Post Currently being Redefined ✂
- Data Protection Advisor Adrian Cotterill Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Trade Liaison Manager Robin Grubba Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Webmaster Andy Buxton Standing for Re-Election **Vote Reqd**
- Membership Secretary Post Vacant Since Jun 25 – No Volunteers 🚫
- Area Groups Coordinator Post Vacant Since Jun 25 – No Volunteers 🚫

This Vote for committee members will be done as one vote for all members standing for re-election

Vote Result For – 29 Against – 0 Abstained – 6

All Committee Members listed above are thereby duly re-elected to their roles on the committee of the N Gauge Society

✂ - This post is currently covered by the General Secretary and is being redefined.

🚫 - This post is currently covered by the Chairman & General Secretary

🚫 - This post is currently covered by the General Secretary

- **Situations Vacant Appeal**

- Membership Secretary (**Vacant**)
- Area Groups Coordinator (**Vacant**)

NOTE: Any volunteers for these roles should make formal application to the General Secretary after this meeting.

AF stated: We are in need of both a Membership Secretary and an Area Groups Coordinator. But the most important role there is that of Membership Secretary. Frankly if we cannot find volunteers for this role, maintaining a full and proper membership service to our members will not be easy and it is currently a lot of

work for the few committee members we have right now. Therefore, if you can help out in either of these roles please email via the General Secretary to express your interest and we can then pursue the matter from there. We are a small team and the more people we have filling the roles the easier it is.

- **President & Vice Presidents - Election/Re-election of:**

- President – Due in 2028
- Vice President 1 – Due in 2026 Bob Symmons Standing for Re-Election Vote Reqd
Vote Result For – 30 Against – 0 Abstained – 5

Robert Symmons is thereby duly re-elected as Vice President of the N Gauge Society

- Vice President 2 – Due in 2026 Mike Le Marie Standing for Re-Election Vote Reqd
Vote Result For – 30 Against – 0 Abstained – 5

Mike Le Marie is thereby duly re-elected as Vice President of the N Gauge Society

- **Motions/Resolutions:** Voting on specific items or proposed changes to the constitution.

AF handed this over to **TW** who stated that last year we had one motion to debate. This year no motions have been forwarded for debate.

- **Motions**

- There were no motions tabled for discussion by the membership at this meeting

In respect of Directors Resolutions **TW** stated:

- **Resolutions**

- There are two resolutions being tabled by the Directors for approval.
- These Resolution fall under the category of '**Special Resolutions**' and require a **minimum of 75%** of the vote to be carried forward:

- **Resolution One (Special Resolution)** – [See Attached Resolution Sheet](#) – To reduce the quorum number of Director from four to three.

- **Vote Required**

- Result of Vote

- **For 30 Against 0 Abstained 5**

- **Resolution Two (Special Resolution)** – [See Attached Resolution Sheet](#) – To review and rewrite the current Articles of Association before the 2027 AGM. This review will require a subsequent Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the proposed changes.

- **Vote Required**

- Result of Vote

- **For 32 Against 0 Abstained 3**

Future AGM's

- **AF** stated that we will continue to hold our AGM's virtually for the foreseeable future which enables us to reach out to our overseas members if the need arises, it also reduces the societies operating costs which is currently an important consideration. We will of course endeavour to re-institute in-person AGMs in the future but right now we are unable to give a date for this. **TW** added: As **AF** has said we are not stopping the in-person AGMs. But right now, it is a very difficult thing to get right because if we hold it in the south all the northern members are unhappy because of the distance to travel, if we hold it in the north all the southerners have the same comment about travel but it is easier for those in the midlands. It is also difficult to get the right Carda of people to attend the AGM. Also you would have seen from the treasurer's report holding an in-person AGM comes with a cost upwards of £5000 and we currently do not have the funds to support that and once we get to a positive cash flow situation we might be able to start looking at returning to the old style AGM.

- **Date of Meeting:** The 2027 AGM will fall between the 20th June – 31st July 2027. It is currently proposed that this meeting will be online using the Zoom® facility.

- **Any Other Business (AOB):** Discussion of issues not formally listed on the agenda.

Matthew Ritcher (8032) stated that there are cheaper options to holding online meetings other than Zoom®, I do quite a few with the groups I am involved with. **AF** thanked Matthew for his comments and said we are

always looking for alternative options and if any members have suggestions for anything we are doing please drop us an email and we will be more than happy to discuss it.

Sandy Mill (28486) stated about AGMs and asked if it would be possible to have a Hi-Brid meeting both online and in-person. **AF** responded that it was something that we tried in 2024 at the Gateshead AGM which seemed to work but takes a significant amount of organisation and something we will consider in the future, but again the costs are the one thing that we must consider. **TW** added if we did do an in-person AGM in the future it would more than likely be done as a Hi-Brid to ensure we get those extra attendees that cannot travel. It worked when we did it at Gateshead and the reason we have elected to do online is as we have said is primarily driven by cost and the actually lack of attendance. We only had 34 members in total both online and in-person at the 2024 AGM.

Duncan Jones (30068) Said in respect of membership decline, that the East Dorset Group had seen a significant increase of new members coming through, and those members are of the younger generation and the big feedback we get is that they come to the club because we have a very good mix of members and also the social media side of things has played a significant role for the group through Instagram, Facebook and our website. I don't know whether or not the society can target a younger membership by increasing social media presence with videos, pictures etc and I appreciate the society is run by members, but it is something that we have seen help us significantly. I was approached two years ago by the Exeter Area Group to help them to try and get new members as they were also struggling. I did offer to help but unfortunately it did not materialise. We are starting to see new younger people coming to the hobby and at the Exeter Show this year a 14-year-old lad won best in show with his layout. The society has too somehow engage with them to get them onboard but also get them into groups. **AF** said he was totally in agreement with that, and it was something I was trying to do in the MRC where I was previously a chairman. Recruiting the younger generation for many people seems to be problematic and any suggestions from anybody and in particular the more forward-thinking people or indeed any help they can give us on that would be greatly appreciated. Might I suggest a small article in the journal as to how we can target the younger generation that then area groups would then read and then act upon be a good starting point. **Duncan** responded that he was more than happy to submit an article with what he has done to help his group. But I also think it's important to get more ladies and girls into the hobby with our group having a good intake. **JC** added on the point about putting something in the journal is that it may stimulate other members to make their suggestions as well and I would be more than happy to receive an article for the journal. **Jon Laws (13733)** From the point of attracting new members we exhibit at our local open gardens weekend so we get a completely different crowd of people and have picked up a number of new members there with people who are new to N Gauge modelling where we also get a number of women who are more interested in the modelling than the trains. The other thing is that we have now started attending the Stuttgart Inganet Model Railway event which is absolutely massive where the Thursday and the Friday is aimed as school children who are really interested and fascinated in what we are doing and I think that the opportunity to explore outside the usual model railway environment is one that should be explored. **TW** made the following comment aimed at the Group Coordinators present as we have said in the past your members do not have to be society members to be a part of the group, but if they are not members we would encourage the groups to get them to join which would benefit both the group and the society and especially if you have youngsters there please encourage them to join with the support of their parents. So, in many respects the Area Groups can also be a big part of the society's recruitment campaign. Groups only need to ask, and we can supply all the paperwork needed to take to shows. And if you need support, you only have to ask.

There being no further questions **AF** thanked all those present for attending and said it would be good to see you all at TINGS in September.

The meeting officially closed at 2107.