

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
G Scale Society Kent
Sunday 26 January 2025 at 2.05pm
at Teynham Village Hall



Present: Roger Allen, Richard Barton, John Dean, Alex Evans-Addy, Wayne Evans, Jeff Fray, David Groves, Stuart Guy, Alan Jones, Roy Lloyd, Philip Maskell, John Morgan, Bernard Taylor

Apologies: Dave Mills, Ben Maskell, Jude Maskell, Andrew Parkins, Pat Parkins

Jeff Fray welcomed all to the meeting

Minutes of the last AGM: These were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by: John Morgan

Seconded by Roger Allen.

Motion: Carried

Annual Report: Jeff Fray presented the report which was previously circulated and thanked those who had brought their displays and layouts to the event and to Sam Fray, Sue Fray and Gill Allen organising the catering for the Winter Indoor Meet on Sunday 26 January 2025.

Proposed by: Richard Barton

Seconded by: Alex Evans-Addy

Motion: Carried

Treasurers Report: Alan Jones presented the report which had previously been circulated but was in unaudited form. Alan explained since his taking over from Jeff Fray and due to difficulties with bank processes still did not have access to carry out transactions as was still not a signatory. He went on to say from February 2025 that the Bank was to introduce monthly fees against the group along with costs for certain transactions so would be looking at alternatives. Questions were asked from the floor regarding financing options for when the Garden of England Railway (GER) is replaced. There was also a discussion regarding looking at the interest rates when looking for alternative bank account(s). It was also suggested contacting other model railway clubs to see whom they bank with and if they are facing the same charges.

Proposed by: Richard Barton

Seconded by: Bernard Taylor

Abstentions: 1

Motion: Carried

Election of Officers and Committee Chairman – John Morgan declared he was standing down and would not stand for re-election. All other committee members Jeff Fray, Alan Jones, Richard Barton, John Dean, Wayne Evans-Addy, Jude Maskell

and Phil Maskell were willing to stand for re-election. A ballot en-bloc for re-election was made.

Proposed by: Alex Evans-Addy

Seconded by: David Groves

Abstentions: Nil

Motion: Carried

Wayne Evans-Addy had recently been standing in as interim Secretary and a new Secretary was required. Alex Evans-Addy stated he was willing to stand and become Secretary of the group.

Proposed by: Richard Barton

Seconded by: John Morgan

Abstentions: Nil

Motion Carried

Advertising, Promotion, Membership, Website & Social Media: Wayne Evans-Addy spoke about the event leaflets that had been donated to the group in an attempt to publicise the group utilising QR Codes as well as text taking people to the website where further information can be gained. Attending events last year which had been more than in previous years had got people to join the society not necessarily to the Kent Group. The pop-up banners which were also donated help to show of members gardens and also show the large society logo and have received positive feedback. Next year (2026) marks the Kent Groups 30th Anniversary so are planning on marking the occasion starting at the Winter Indoor Meet at Teynham on Sunday 25 January 2026. Further details will appear in the Newsletter asking for ideas etc on how we can mark this milestone. Society Members who have selected Kent to be their first or second group choice totalled Seventy-Three (73) as at 2PM on 22 January 2025. The only social media presence has been the private group Facebook page where members can chat and post photos of their garden railways without the wider population seeing stock or being able to locate the property location. Within the past year an additional Facebook page was created which is viewable to the general public and is used for advertising events. It was suggested trying to communicate to the younger generations by using the social media platform Tik-Tok, this is to be looked into and trialled/evaluated.

Meets/Garden Running Days: Jeff Fray spoke how since Covid the amount of people willing to host a garden running day has not returned to how it had been prior to Covid. It was commented that some may be deterred as think it has to be a grand fully catered event with cream tea, which is not the case. These events can just be as simple as running of the trains, the choice is down to the host. It was mentioned that not everyone can drive and although can use public transport to get to the town near where the event is taking place, getting to the venue can be hard or impossible using public transport. It was suggested using the private Facebook page and asking if there is anyone to be attending and/or able to pick up/drop off.

Any Other Business: Jeff Fray thanked John Morgan for his work and support whilst he had been on the committee and went on to speak how Andrew Lloyd, Roger Allen and John Morgan had each given many years of service not only on the committee of the Kent Group but also supporting it in their activities and proposed that these three individuals be granted honorary member status of the Kent group.

Proposed by: Jeff Fray

Seconded by: Alex Evans-Addy

Abstentions: Two (2)

Motion: Carried

It was asked about rumours of the need to replace the GER layout. It was pointed out that the group has had it twenty two (22) years and was a few years old when the group purchased it. It is showing its age and we need to start to think and look at a replacement and look at funding options as well as what is wanted & required. Transportability also needs to be considered within the planning.

It was asked if it was worth members available to give advice or to be mentors on how to get started and develop with garden layouts which it was suggested that they need to ask as there are members who would be willing to give advice and suggestions.

Meeting Closed: 2:55PM