



MINUTES OF THE 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LNER COACH ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE WHITE SWAN INN, PICKERING, AT 11.00 ON AUGUST 30th, 2025

The AGM was attended by 31 members, including seven trustees, chaired by Bill Monks.

1. Welcome

Chairman Bill Monks welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Formal Business

a) Apologies for absence

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Debbie Cross, Paul Johnson, Michael Coleman, Peter Bowes, Peter Wilson, Russ Whitwam, Dave Jobling, John Hasler, John Broadley, Jim Brettell, Martin Holland, and David Myers.

b) Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh AGM held on Saturday, 7th September 2024

Following a proposal by Adrian Laming, seconded by Neil Cawthorne, the minutes were APPROVED with no amendments and no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

Bill expanded upon his report as circulated with the AGM papers. Specifically:

- thanking members for approval of minor alterations to our Charitable Objectives that broaden our scope to include provision of heritage experiences beyond the NYMR. This had been referenced in some meetings with the NYMR;
- noting intentions to expand relationships with other railways;
- recording economies made in our operating overheads, regrettably parting company with Melissa Arnold. This does place an additional burden on our Trustees however;
- NYMR contract – we continue to offer our assistance to help the NYMR navigate their current difficulties. Our contract is fair and robust;
- confirming that non-exclusive use of the Atkins shed is agreed by the NYMR, with half of the shed being available for our use. It is planned that 189 will remain in there until completed;
- requesting that members should guard against getting embroiled in potentially inflammatory social media and internet forum debates. Ultimately, what is good for the NYMR will also be good for us;

- progressing a further meeting with the NYMR for the following week to discuss additional services for which the teak set could be used; and,
- emphasising that contract work at Unit 10 will be key to our ongoing financial stability, which is particularly important as we look to take on the next five-year premises lease. We shall aim to reserve one bay for external contracts.

Bill then thanked Adrian and the examiner for their diligence and accuracy, particularly in completing and thoroughly examining the accounts in time for publication and scrutiny by members at the AGM.

He concluded by thanking all members for their ongoing support and working volunteers for their outstanding efforts in the previous year. We all look forward to seeing the results of their craftsmanship in action.

4. Secretary's report

Report tabled.

5. Reports from the Health & Safety Officer and Membership Secretary.

Reports tabled. Other points raised:

- Neil reported that A.W. Safety are scheduled to conduct another site visit to Unit 10 during September.
 - Chairman asked the meeting to NOTE that a welcome accident-free year had been achieved – Thanks to Neil and Paul.
- Membership stands at 235.
 - Chairman REMINDED the meeting that the lifeblood of our Association is its membership and asked that all existing members please try to help with recruiting as many more as possible.

6. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts for 2022

- Adrian reported that the association is now in a stronger financial position than two years ago.
- We will have to pay for the lease of Unit 10 from Mar/Apr 2026. In answer to a question from Richard Hayward, it was advised that the contract had not yet been signed.
- We have long-term aspirations for our own premises. In the meantime, Unit 10 is critical for contract work and our ongoing projects as use of the Atkins shed is restricted to maintenance of carriages on the NYMR contract.
- The lease for the paddock is also up for renewal in 2027.
- In answer to a question from John Carr, the possibility of undertaking off site contract work is an interesting option, but one that has yet to be considered by Trustees until we have a pipeline of work for our own facilities.

Following a proposal from John Carr, seconded by Mark Allatt, the accounts were APPROVED.

7. Election of Independent Examiner

Following a proposal by Chris Parr, seconded by Adrian Laming, it was AGREED to re-elect Axiom Accounting (Ian Philpott), as Independent Examiner.

8. Election of Trustees.

a) The following Trustees were due to retire by rotation. All were willing to re-stand for another 3-year term:

- Murray Brown
- Neil Cawthorne
- Bill Monks

Debbie Cross had intimated her wish to stand down at this meeting. The Trustees had not asked for any additional nominations, so the three named persons were RE-ELECTED for three-year terms. Currently there are 10 Trustees office-holders. The minimum required is 7 and the maximum is 12.

Debbie was THANKED for her contribution during her tenure as a trustee, and it was recorded that our close links with the Vintage Carriages Trust would be maintained.

***There was then a short break in proceedings. ***

9. Presentations - Strategy

a) Draft Organisation Strategy – presented by Bill Monks

Points raised:

- A work-in-progress. The document will evolve over time, and this is just the start – ongoing updates will be published, and members are invited to contribute directly in its evolution.
- Progress indicators are being developed for use on the website to give status updates to members and to assist Trustees in refining organisational plans.
- Membership numbers will also be recorded on the website.
- Small grant applications shall be sought in the short term.
- Longer-term HLF application (s) will be developed, including apprentice training and other measures to ensure skills are passed on to the next generation.
- John Carr asked about a presence at events where carriages are running and having small sales items. Gary Robinson advised that if we can get email addresses and campaign those people who spend small amounts on sales items, then that is a positive outcome. Mark Allatt agreed that

keeping small sales items in stock was a good idea. Will be picked up by the Trustees.

- In response to Richard Hayward, Bill confirmed that this replaced the previous strategy document from 2022.

The Draft Strategy document was APPROVED after a proposal by Richard Hayward, seconded by Mark Allatt.

10. Presentations – social media, IT, technology & innovation

- a) General Update on social media and Activities at Kirby Misperton – presented by Dave Cullingworth

Points raised:

- 3200 Facebook followers but only 3.8% female – we need to improve this.
- On a positive note, 29% of followers in the 18 – 34 age group range.

- b) Access-Engagement-Innovation – presented by Gary Robinson

Gary shared his ideas on how we can better engage with the public, enhance our digital identity, and harness technology to provide interested parties with regular updates and targeted campaigns. We have now acquired Mailerlite software, which enables us to create and target email campaigns.

- c) Gasolier component manufacture – presented by Bruce Robinson

A short video showing how technology was being used in the production of components for aluminium gasoliers.

11. Any Other Business

- a) Martin Barker expressed thanks to Marcus Woodcock and Mike Illingworth for their help and advice concerning the repair of teak panels and restoration techniques that will assist the Hull & Barnsley Railway Stock Fund.
- b) Rodney Towers asked about whether we were actively looking at doing talks and presentations for other non-railway organisations. Bill advised that we would be looking at this and would be discussed at the next Trustees meeting. We are also looking at sharing more information with other like-minded groups.
- c) Bill picked up on a point made from the floor that we have few female members, and that social media interaction is overwhelmingly male. Doreen Pawson advised that she had joined after visiting 189 during the 2022 Heritage Open Days on the NYMR. It was the standard of the restoration work on 189 that was so impressive. She was surprised at the low number of females in attendance at the AGM.

- d) Martin Barker and Pete Cox both noted that there was a lot of interest from females on the interiors of the carriages when their H&BR carriages were at Hull or when Coach No.40 was on display at Pickering station on a gala weekend.
- e) It was agreed that we should try and get a carriage in Pickering station/yard for the public to visit over the gala weekend. Bill to pick up at the meeting with the NYMR the following week.

The meeting closed at 13:07 for lunch.

Dave Cullingworth, Secretary.