



SRC BOARD BRIEFING

January 2017

At Board Meetings on Saturdays 10th December 2016 & 7th January 2017 the following items were discussed and action decided upon. The SRC Board considers that information on these items should be shared with Shareholders, Volunteers, Employees and SRA Members.

2016 SRC AGM

The 2016 SRC AGM was held and will be reported in the minutes issued in due course. As Audited Accounts were not available, the formal business outstanding will be concluded, along with any other outstanding business, at a future General Meeting anticipated in February. An explanation of the Financial position was given by Finance Director, Bob Anderson, guided by advice of a Chartered Accountant. The routine business of appointing/confirming Directors was carried out as per the set Agenda.

Board Meetings

The December Board Meeting was a brief affair as it followed on after the AGM so it seemed appropriate to await the delivery of the Festive Services and the formulation of the 2017 Catering proposal before communicating to the community. Douglas Norris was confirmed as SRC Chairman at this meeting however and the schedule for Board Meetings 2017 agreed as being the first Saturday of each Calendar month.

The following items were discussed at the January Board Meeting.

Catering

Ken Donaldson presented Gill Kelly's folio document on the feasibility and estimated preliminary costings associated in running an in-house Catering Department. Last year's arrangement had worked up to a point however it was felt that, having consulted another preserved railway, the in-house route could be a viable option. Consequently, the Board agreed to rise to this challenge. Lengthy discussions ensued on related matters both operational and infrastructure culminating in a conversation with a potential Chef/Catering Manager.

Festive Services

The Board acknowledged the work of all people who had contributed to the delivery of the Festive Services, which had been well received. We had been lucky though as the weather had been kind.

Finances

The independent CA engaged to assist in the process of assisting EY to complete the 2015 Audit had made progress. The disentanglement of some of the factors contributing to confusion arising from the 2014 accounts set out in order that adjustment between years could be clearly reported which at the same time enabled the true financial position to be reported to Shareholders and Members. That said there was still pressure on costs and further savings were being sought.

STRATHSPEY RAILWAY COMPANY BOARD BRIEFING

Locomotives & Shed

The Board acknowledged the efforts of the Aviemore Engine Shed team in getting 46512 into maintenance so quickly after the last operational date, having its wheels dropped in preparation for transportation and re-profiling off site. The Board were advised that there were plans afoot to consider a Diesel Maintenance Shed and this would be discussed in coming months as options and costs were considered. The subject of clearing up the area to the east of the Shed was identified as a must do in the Spring of 2017. There had been complaints from the passers-by last year and it was felt that a concerted effort to improve this area was important.

Timetable 2017

Billy Picken, with input from others, had prepared a period themed timetable which was in the final stages of completion. Graham Sutherland was invited to present the content and rationale behind its creation and the plans going forward to approve the timetable and set the theme for other printed materials. The offering was well received by the Board. Colin Stirling Chaired a technical ICT Meeting next day with Graham Sutherland and Andy Mackinnon to set out new possibilities for the on-line presence into 2017 with a view for engagement later in the week where Marketing would be the focus with Graham and Billy holding further sessions to plan strategy and implementation. The Board recognise the importance of this work.

Health & Safety

The Board were advised that a member of staff had been unfortunate to get a rusty piece of flaking metal in his eye requiring a visit to the Medical Centre. This was of concern to all as one only gets one pair of eyes. The message is to use Safety Glasses even for the simplest of tasks, where loose flaking material or lubrication fluids enter the eye and to ensure Eye Wash Kits are current and readily available at worksites. Safety Glasses are also useful accessories when gardening.

Property & Infrastructure

Mike Tough reported that a Wayleave related to an electricity grid connection for a Wind Farm was being finalised. He further advised that our Volunteer Robert Walters, whom many know through his station duties at Boat of Garten Station, had taken up a lease at Boat of Garten Station House. Both these projects would be beneficial to the Company's finances.

Directors Changes

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Ian Stanworth who for reasons of ongoing demands from his employment, when he was much away from home and as Chair of the SRA, was stretched somewhat thinly. Ian will continue to support various projects as time allows. To ensure continuity in Marketing, Graham Sutherland was appointed Marketing Team Leader reporting to the Board through Bob Anderson whilst supporting Billy & Maureen in the Office on that front. Colin Stirling was approached and asked to hold the position of Vice Chairman and accepted he could for the time being.

*By order of the Board
Strathspey Railway Company
11th January 2017*