



Model Electronic Railway Group

**The agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Model Electronic Railway Group
to be held on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at 13:30
at Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London, N1 9DA**

The venue will be open from 12:00 and light refreshments will be available.

The AGM will start at 13:30 prompt and once concluded, there will be an opportunity for questions to the Committee.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the AGM held on 11 November 2017**
- 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes**
- 4 The Chairman's Report**
- 5 The Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Accounts**
- 6 Appointment of the Examiner**
- 7 Election of Officers**
Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- 8 Election of Committee**
Eight committee members to be elected
- 9 Consideration of Motions Received**
- 10 Consideration of Reporting of Alleged Misconduct at MERG Events Policy**
- 11 Date of Next AGM**
3rd November 2019
- 12 Close of Meeting**



The DRAFT Minutes of the MERG AGM on 11-Nov-2017 at 13:30, held at Keen House London.

No	Agenda item and minutes
1	Apologies for absence Ivan Angell, Chris Brockbank, Ian Hart, Grant Lewis, Terry Metcalfe, Nigel Phillips, Bob Vetterlein, Steve Waterfield, Nigel Worwood.
2	Minutes of the AGM held on 14-Nov-2016 The minutes did not need to be read out. They were approved unanimously.
3	Actions arising from the last minutes The committee was charged with investigating an AGM outside London. Enquiries were made with Area groups and other premises which were either too small or too expensive
4	The Chairman's report Prepared by Martin Perry on behalf of Bob Vetterlein. The report was taken as read. There were no questions and it was approved unanimously
5	The Treasurers report and approval of the accounts The report did not need to be read out and was taken as read. The report and the accounts were approved unanimously.
6	Appointment of the Examiner Andrew McMillan was proposed as Examiner, approved unanimously.
7	Election of Officers The following nominations were submitted in advance of the meeting. Chairman: Martin Perry, Vice Chairman: Bob Vetterlein, Secretary: Francis Pritchard, Treasurer: Timothy Curle. All elected unanimously.
8	Election of Committee The following Committee member nominations were submitted in advance of the meeting: Ivan Angell, Roger Edwards, John Ferguson, Allan Geekie, Rodney Hills, Nigel Phillips, Judi Rastall, Martin Sebborn. All elected unanimously.
9	Considerations of any motions received RULES The draft revised rules had been published in the Journal. A member regretted that all the changes had not been listed in detail. The major changes were Proxy & Online voting. Guidelines for area groups were not changed. The rules changes were passed by a majority with 1 vote against and 3 abstaining
10	Date of next AGM Date TBA November 2017 – Final date and Venue to be decided In answer to a question regarding a future AGM venue, the Committee investigated commercial venues but could not justify hire costs for a half hour AGM. They had also looked at several Area group meeting places but generally they were too small or were difficult for national members to reach. The Committee is still addressing the proposal of holding the AGM outside London. <p style="text-align: right;">The meeting closed at 14:01</p>



Model Electronic Railway Group

Chairman's Report – June 2018

Following on from last year's 50th anniversary, a number of new initiatives have been established this year and I am watching them with interest.

The first of these is the new Online voting system being presently trialled as a 'beta' by the Committee and, by the time you read this, should be ready for general use at our AGM.

The Area Group concept continues to expand with a new arrangement for meetings in London whereby morning practical sessions are held at Keen House and continued with presentations in the afternoon. There have been 2 events so far and it seems to be meeting with appreciation. It is still early days but the outlook is good.

To support the establishment of new Area groups, the Committee now has a three man sub-group to progress a general guidelines document for establishing and running an AG. There have been many observations about the content of early drafts and some of these have highlighted situations previously unknown to the Committee such as the necessity of allowing attendance of non-members to AG meetings. At the time of writing, the draft of this document is still being finalised.

The possibility of an online Area Group has been raised and we are examining how this might come about. There has been considerable interest and discussion in the Forum.

Last year's establishment of the Launchpad Forum area continues to develop and many useful steps have been taken to help guide members to solutions for their layouts. We will continue to examine and develop this area. Area Groups are very supportive too.

During the last year or so MERG's publicity has been significantly developed. We now have a presence on the Facebook and Twitter online platforms and a follow-up CBUS magazine article for the Railway Modeller is being worked on. We have commenced advertising in the MR press and many publications have noticed this, resulting in approaches from them.

The Journal production continues to evolve. We now have a new Journal Editor and a team of proofreaders to enable us to fine tune presentation. As ever we are always looking for material and this has to come from the membership. So if you have a story to tell then please put pen to paper and let us know about it. You will have noticed another initiative in that we are looking for a Contents/News Editor volunteer who would be prepared to trawl the MERG community and MR press for interesting news snippets and presenting them to the membership as news items. At the time of writing we are still discussing the process and platform by which this will be managed.

Following on from our rather unfortunate experience with our IT systems service provider at the end of last year which resulted in significant interruptions to Paypal and Kit Locker functions, we were forced to make a sudden and urgent transfer to an alternate provider. This meant that those of you who had been delaying transfer of your personal computer applications and Operating Systems to updated versions suddenly found themselves unable to access the MERG online system. We apologise for this and now publish a minimum systems requirement in the Journal and on the flyer so that members are under no doubt about what they need to do.

No one could have missed the establishment of new Regulations for General Data Protection that came into force in May of this year. MERG has recognised this and you should now see a Privacy Notice online. MERG as an organisation does not generally hold much data about members other than general location and contact details but the entire process was managed by our very capable IT Manager Martin Sebborn to whom we owe a big thanks.

Kit Sales continue to expand so that we have been forced to consider a number of changes to reduce the workload on our Kit Sales Manager, Judi Rastall. One of these has been to withdraw general components from the Kit Locker which take up a disproportionate amount of time in preparing orders for mailing. Online facilities from our suppliers and other platforms like eBay now make purchase of general components much more readily accessible. We will also commence the process of splitting away orders of 3D kits and Pocket Money Projects to assistant sales volunteers and we are developing the IT systems to enable this to happen. Another change will see a separate Kit Locker item for post and packaging appear online and this has enabled a more general reduction in pricing to take place.

Things seem to be moving quite fast these days and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our Committee members and Area Group Leaders for their efforts during the past year.

Martin Perry
June 2018-06-17



Model Electronic Railway Group

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to submit the accounts for approval for the year to 31 March 2018.

There was continued strong performance from Membership Subscriptions and Kit Sales in the year. These combine to leave MERG with a healthy asset base from which to move forward with confidence.

Subscription attributable receipts for the year rose to £43,003 from £38,191 last year. Advance Subscriptions have risen to £46,608 from £39,777 with most members responding promptly to the MOM's automated system. As Membership levels increase so too does the overall cost of producing the Journal now at £33,778 (including the bumper anniversary edition) from £26,589 last year. Control continues to be tight over expenditure with Ordinary Activities reporting a deficit of £2,874 compared to a surplus of £4,279 last year, though a budgeted deficit of £4,290 had been allowed for. MERG is attending more shows than before and directly supporting the growth of Area Groups, new and existing.

Net Kit Sales rose significantly once more and totalled £79,345 from £72,174 the previous year. Kit Stocks rose to £36,281 from £32,656 mainly due to improvements in reporting. The team has been enlarged to include an Inventory Manager. Sales pricing, stock ordering and stock levels are tightly monitored and controlled throughout the year. Kit Sales returned a surplus of £7,714 against £581 last year.

Collectively a surplus of £4,840 is reported from £4,860 last year. MERG continues to outperform against budget. Bank Balances are £64,058 compared to £64,212 last year. Increases to Subs in Advance are offset by a reduction to Creditors. The Balance Sheet continues to be in a really strong position with Reserves of £51,640.

Andrew McMillan has examined the accounts and no issues were raised.

Timothy Curle
Treasurer
19 June 2018



Year Ending

31 March 2018

Actual 2016/17	Income & Expenditure	Actual 2017/18	Budget 2017/18
	Income		
38,191	Subscriptions	43,003	42,950
3,300	Joining Fees	3,010	2,500
72,174	Kit Sales	79,345	71,000
358	Other Income	429	360
<u>114,023</u>	Income	<u>125,787</u>	<u>116,810</u>
	Expenditure		
26,589	Journal	33,778	29,500
2,639	Membership	2,026	2,750
71,593	Kits	71,631	71,000
3,625	Exhibitions	5,882	5,000
2,350	Committee	3,794	3,350
2,367	Other Costs	3,837	9,500
<u>109,163</u>	Expenditure	<u>120,947</u>	<u>121,100</u>
<u>4,860</u>	Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>4,840</u>	<u>-4,290</u>

Actual 2016/17	Balance Sheet	Actual 2017/18	Budget 2017/18
	Assets		
64,212	Cash and Bank Accounts	64,058	51,200
32,656	Stock	36,281	20,000
464	Debtors	1,768	2,000
<u>97,332</u>		<u>102,107</u>	<u>73,200</u>
	Liabilities		
39,777	Subs in Advance	46,608	33,628
10,756	Creditors	3,859	1,500
<u>50,533</u>		<u>50,467</u>	<u>35,128</u>
	Reserves		
41,940	Opening Reserves B/fwd	46,800	42,362
4,860	Surplus/(Deficit)	4,840	-4,290
46,800	Closing Reserves C/Fwd	51,640	38,072
<u>97,332</u>		<u>102,107</u>	<u>73,200</u>

I have examined the Income and expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet and can confirm they are in accordance with records submitted to me.

Andrew Neil McMillan

16/6/18

Dated 16th June 2018



Model Electronic Railway Group

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Model Electronic Railway Group
will take place
at 1.30 pm on Saturday, November 3rd 2018
at Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1
9DA

**The following nominations have been received for
Committee positions at the 2018 AGM**

Officers:

Chairman: Martin Perry, Vice Chair: Judi Rastall
Treasurer: Timothy Curle, Secretary: Francis Pritchard

Committee members:

Roger Edwards, John Ferguson, Allan Geekie, Rodney Hills, Ian MacDonald, Martin Sebborn, Fraser Smith, Bob Vetterlein

Ian MacDonald, who will be MERG's Exhibition Manager, has provided the following summary:

"I have worked in the Entertainment industry for 25 years as a Production Manager and Automation Engineer on diverse projects all over the world including The Royal Shakespeare Company, Olympic Games Ceremonies and the Millennium Dome. I currently run the Electrical and Lighting Department for the largest prop and furniture hire company in Europe which is based in Wetherby, Yorkshire".



Model Electronic Railway Group

AGM 2018

Motions Received

Motion 1

Change to rule 12, "Amendments to the Rules"

This rule currently reads:

"The Rules may be amended at a General Meeting by Resolution passed by a majority of members voting, provided the Notice calling the General Meeting includes the proposed amendment."

I propose that we should add the following wording as an additional paragraph:

"Where more than one rule is to be amended or added, each rule that is amended or added must be the subject of a separate motion and each rule shall be voted on separately."

Proposed by Pete Brownlow.

Motion 2

Change to rule 10, Area Groups

The existing wording is as follows:

"All Area Groups must follow any guidelines that may be issued by the Managing Committee.

Membership of an Area Group is restricted to members of the Model Electronic Railway Group. Non MERG guests may attend a limited number of meetings at the discretion of the Area Group Leader.

No Area Group shall enter into any agreement, or contract, either expressed or implied on behalf of the Group. Reasonable expenses in a single financial year may be claimed, supported by receipts and a signed statement, up to a maximum level set by the Managing Committee."

I propose that we should change the first two paragraphs to read as follows (the third paragraph is unchanged):

"The Managing Committee may issue guidelines to area groups. These are guidelines, but are mandatory where they reflect other MERG rules or legislation.

Membership of an Area Group is restricted to members of the Model Electronic Railway Group. Non MERG guests may attend meetings at the discretion of the Area Group Leader."

Proposed by Pete Brownlow

Motion 3

Change to membership age limit.

I propose changing the membership age limit so that item 3 of the charter should read:

"Membership of the Group shall be open to all those, 16 years of age and above, interested in electronic applications to railway modelling."

Proposed by Pete Brownlow