



THE LONDON BUS PRESERVATION TRUST LIMITED

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 9th March 2024 commencing at 11:00 hours in the Vickers Suite, Brooklands Museum, Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and remarked that it was good to see such a large turnout for the event. He informed members that the increased attendance was most probably due to the Members' Day following this afternoon when hot cross buns would be available in the workshop and rides on three of our heritage buses will take place from 2:00 onwards.

1. Apologies for absence: 62 apologies had been received and over 100 members were present which meant that the meeting was totally quorate.
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

It is always sad to have to report on the loss of a member and especially when we lose a member like Tony Lewis who has been an active member both at Redhill Road and here at Brooklands. We were able to take a bus to his house recently to meet up with him and a bus will be taking members to the funeral and Tony's coffin will be carried on 738J.

We have had a fantastic year with three running days and three events. We have three ongoing restorations and a record number of members. This is excellent and a reason to be proud. We are probably the largest transport museum open 363 days a year and staffed only by volunteers. Grateful thanks to all volunteers who give their free time repeatedly. A round of applause to all volunteers.

Welcome to Aaliah Haq as a new trustee. She brings wide experience of IT having worked with TFL and at the London Transport Museum.

For over a year now we have had a separate Board of Trustees and the Council of Management. The Trustees oversee the direction of museum and bring a range of knowledge and expertise, all of which is valuable to the museum, while the Council of Management takes responsibility for its day-to-day operation.

What we have achieved over the year has been fantastic and is the result of the magnificent efforts of our volunteers and members. Whilst this has been a corporate effort, there are a few people who deserve a special mention:

Ian Reddick is our Facilities Manager and is readily available to assist in any way.

Alan Gaskell is in the process of restoring a horse bus and has been responsible for all the magnificent structures on the mezzanine floor and the cabinets on the museum floor.

The Charity Commission has strict rules about the length of time that Trustees can serve and we follow those rules to the limit. The current limit is 6 years which can be extended to nine

years for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Because of these rules, Roger Stagg, our Vice Chairman and head of rolling stock and Peter Osborn our Treasurer must step down. We would like to recognise the amazing contribution that Roger and Peter had given over an extended period. Both Roger and Peter have agreed to continue to contribute to the museum. Peter has agreed to undertake the leadership of our governance review group that will ensure that the museum complies fully with governance requirements. Guy Marriott is standing down after many years of important contribution to the museum but he will maintain contact with us as well as Owen Wright, who reaches the end of his sixth year as a Trustee.

From a combination of donations and reserves we have reached about 10% of the funding that we need for the restoration of T357 and we are about to approach the Heritage Lotteries Fund to seek additional funding. The bus has been in this country for about 20 years having been repatriated from France and we are keen to progress with the restoration.

We are making good progress with T448. The engine is now back in and we are working on the electrics and the painting. The cost of this restoration has been met by a contribution from a member who wanted to make the contribution before his death and hopefully we will see the completed vehicle before too long.

Good progress is also being made on NS174.

We have been pressing ahead with all these restorations because the skills required to undertake them are gradually ebbing away and if we do not focus on the restorations now, we may not be able to do them in the future. We also need to bear in mind that in 2029 we will be celebrating 200 years of buses in London and it would be magnificent to have as many vehicles across those years as possible.

Brooklands Museum has a new chief executive, Alex Patterson, and we are working closely together for the benefit of both museums. An example is that previous Brooklands publicity posters did not feature a bus but the new one does.

It is very likely that one of the bus manufacturing companies will take the opportunity to launch their new vehicle at our museum and that will bring us much publicity with chief executives of many companies visiting the museum for the launch.

We have three running days planned this year and we look forward to them being very successful. We must be cognisant that we are allowed by TfL to run these services in areas where ULEZ would restrict such vehicles. Our events are regarded positively by TfL and we should appreciate their support. We must make sure that everything we and our friends do at these events is positive, so, for example, we must ensure that the vehicles are not emitting clouds of smoke.

Deryck Fill manages our three events and this year our Summer Festival will have Windrush as its theme.

We are conscious that many of our members are not able to be regular visitors to the museum and so we do our best to ensure that the members are kept involved through the magazine, e-news and the independently-produced Classic London buses newsletter. Richard Hastings has been working on restoring our Facebook page which was taken down as it was believed to be bogus. There are other Facebook pages featuring the Museum but they are unofficial.

An issue that we need to be fully aware of is the risk of fire, particular since the recent incident suffered by the Friends of King Alfred organisation where a unique Leyland Olympic was lost. We must be aware of the risk, not simply at the museum but also at our outstations, where we

store vehicles. The ability to fit firefighting equipment is very limited and so we are doing our best to ensure that alarm systems are effective. We need to protect our priceless collection.

The National Association of Road Transport Museums is currently cataloguing all preserved vehicles and will rate them. This will mean that if we apply for funding to work on the vehicle it will be easier to make the application by quoting the rating that has been given.

There may well be too many preserved vehicles in this country and as time passes there will not be the money, the skills or the storage facilities for them all. So, the work that NARTM is undertaking is vital to support our work in ensuring that the most significant London buses are preserved and our resources are best focused.

As a museum we are doing very well but we only have just enough volunteers to keep operating. The reason that we are doing so well is that none of us is paid for the contribution that we make. We need to be very alert to the possibility that, without sufficient volunteer labour we might find ourselves having to pay staff to keep the museum operating and opening as it currently does. We will seek to avoid this for as long as possible, since the evidence shows that museums that have a combination of paid staff and volunteers do find themselves experiencing difficulties between the two groups. We are going to continue to be commercially minded, to raise funds, build reserves, increasing membership and seeking sponsorship. Please give thought to any funds that you may be considering giving to the museum and consider donating them now rather than waiting until you are not able to make such donations. Please talk to us now if you are considering a donation but please bear in mind that donating items to us with onerous conditions about their display may not be possible.

The membership has made this museum what it is and we are all grateful for the support and encouragement that makes this museum the outstanding place that it is.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th March 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from Item 3

There were no matters arising.

5. To confirm the unopposed election of Trustee Directors:

- a. Mark Yexley, Paul Sainthouse, Richard Telling

The Trustees were re-elected.

- b. Aaliah Haq

The election was approved

- c. John Duff

John explained that he has been a member for ten years, holds a part share in a preserved RF, and has worked in finance for some 30 years much of this at executive level.

The election was approved.

6. Secretary's Report

7. Treasurer's Report, including

- a. To appoint Auditors for 2024

8. Curatorial Report
9. Education Report
10. Rolling Stock Report
11. Facilities Report
12. Operations Report
13. Report by Managing Director of London Bus Museum Ltd
14. HR Report
15. Marketing Report
16. Membership
17. Information technology
18. Bus Operations Report
19. Health & Safety Report
20. Fundraising Report

The reports were received

21. To consider matters/questions from members

Member 1283 offered congratulations on the progress of the museum and appreciated the great volunteer ethos. During meetings online during COVID, pictures of the STD in Serbia were shown. Is there any progress on the possible repatriation?

Leon Daniels: it is planned to reintroduce the online meetings. We are still in touch with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office who are still in touch with the owners but this is currently a watching brief.

Member 931: what is the situation with Brooklands. If Brooklands should go under what happens to us?

Leon Daniels: we are tenants with more than 100 years left to run on our tenancy. Brooklands had a difficult time through COVID and are still below their target visitor numbers. There is, however, currently no threat of closure but the Trustees have considered the risk as they do for all risks associated with the Trust.

Unknown member: there is a gap between the generations regarding the skills required in the museum. Are we considering passing on such skills.

Roger Stagg: The practical skills that the older generation learned at school are no longer taught. Some younger people have visited during school holidays but have shown little interest. The middle-aged group are still at work and are not attracted. We have had several people join us in the last six months and they are developing basic mechanical skills. We hope to retain them. Those who have stayed are well versed and highly skilled.

Leon Daniels: We are unable to offer full time supervision for work experience and training and the likelihood is that commercial companies will attract those with skills. In addition, vehicles are becoming increasingly sophisticated and the skills required are more demanding.

John Rawlins 272: the Heritage Skills Academy on the Brooklands site offers opportunities to young people. Is there a possibility of our museum working in tandem with them?

Roger Stagg: The Academy is a commercial operation. It is based in Milton Keynes and the staff are not volunteers. They have been working on panel beating skills which has been supportive to us and there are some skills that we can offer to them. They have also assisted with issues that are beyond us. However, it could become an expensive relationship. We cannot offer the sort of apprenticeship that they are able to.

Mia Hastings: on a positive note, we have recently had 5 new young volunteers and there could well be more around who would be interested in participating.

Leon Daniels: We have been doing better in recent times and we need to continue to focus on the recruitment.

Member 1331: we understand that the fund raising T357 has reached £32,000. Is Gift Aid being claimed and how long will it be before we can move to the next step?

Peter Osborn: Gift Aid has not yet been claimed but will be. We have agreed to make some reserves available which are dependent on raising external funds. The possibility is another £30,000 to be available.

Simon Douglas Lane: we are seeking £90,000 before we contact the Heritage Lotteries Fund but by doing that, we must prove that we are working with a range of people. We are already working well with younger volunteers and those on the spectrum. We are looking to major fund raising at Spring Gathering and there is the possibility of starting work with the current funding.

Andrew Emerson 1332: the Bromley Bus Preservation Group consists of members who are somewhat younger than our members. How are we developing the relationship?

Leon Daniels: we have a good working relationship with them and we meet them regularly. They are currently looking after SP1 and T23 on our behalf as they have skills that we do not possess.

Peter Brown: the group does not have a constitution but they are friends working together. They are most willing to work with us and helping in ways such as getting parts for our vehicles.

Stuart Hicks 1468: with the rules for Trustees, if a trustee stands down are they able to be reappointed after a period?

Peter Osborn: A period of three years must pass before a person can present themselves for reappointment.

Gill Watt: many of our visitors are under five and are very keen on buses. This is not fully appreciated and we need to understand the importance of encouraging even the youngest.

Leon Daniels: we certainly must recognise the potential impact on the long term future of the museum by encouraging the youngsters to participate. The sound of happy children enjoying their visit is most encouraging.

22. Subscriptions 2024-25

Leon Daniels: The cost of posting the magazine four times a year is considerable. Would a digital version be of interest? We will always need some printed copies. How many people would insist on a printed copy?

25% of the members present voted to keep a printed copy.

It was explained that our agreement with Brooklands Museum includes maintaining membership fees at broadly similar levels. For that reason, a digital subscription at a lower cost is not possible. However digital subscribers would be helping the museum by allowing to save printing and postage costs.

A majority of members by show of hands confirmed they might choose the digital subscription on this basis.

The meeting was reminded that one of the four printed magazines each year includes the physical membership card which would still need to be posted.

Alan Gaskell 2106: Why cannot volunteers collect their copy of the magazine from the museum when they visit?

David Harman: This is an idea that is under consideration.

Peter Osborn: members are consulted before price increases. The membership rates are lower than Brooklands and we give a direct debit reduction. Prices have risen so we need to keep up. The new rates have been circulated and are proposed to take effect from the 1st of April.

Accepted by clear majority

23. Date and place of the 2025 AGM

The proposal is Saturday 8th March at 11:00 am and an attempt will be made to book a room with greater capacity.

24. Close of meeting

The President, Lord Peter Hendy made brief concluding comments. Firstly, he thanked everyone for attending. Secondly, he thanked Trustees, CoM, volunteers and those who organised the day. Thirdly, he offered congratulations to Leon for an excellent chairmanship driving the museum forward. We should give a round of applause.