



SRC BOARD BRIEFING

August 2017

At a Board Meeting on Saturday 26th August 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.

2017 SRC AGM

The 2017 SRC AGM will be held on the 14th of October 2017 in the Function Suite of the Cairngorm Hotel at 12.00hrs. Thereafter a Volunteers/Supporters day to follow. Further details to be released in time.

As a point of information, the SRA AGM will be held on the 4th November 2017, also in the Cairngorm Hotel (time and details to be announced by the SRA).

Finance & Related Matters

The Financial position was reported as better than expected with the 2016 Accounts available for Directors' consideration and approval. The Board recorded acknowledgement to Bob Anderson and Chris Beaton for their joint efforts to prepare these in good time. With the 2016 Accounts available, the 2017 AGM date was agreed. One point of note on the financial front being that the 3 year bank loan arranged to cover the purchase of the Catering Set had been concluded and the short term loan from the SRA made in or around May, had been repaid in full. It was agreed that the Sandy Moir legacy should be re-instated during 2018.

Staff Matters

The Board discussed the staffing situation at Aviemore station. Steve Robinson had contributed to help however this alone would not be enough at peak times.

Recognising the staff shortage and also the need to have coverage for the Christmas Season, Vanessa Evans, who had joined the Office/Catering Staff on a seasonal basis, was to be offered a full time position for 12 months of the year. Over the next few weeks she would be pulling together material prepared by Gill and would deliver the HACCP course to all Catering Staff as this was a requirement to continue operation of the Catering Operation. Various Staff issues had delayed this important activity.

With David Richards intimating his intention to step down, the Board recognised that we required to identify an individual who could take on a book-keeping, finance and general office admin role.

Catering

With the end of the heavy season coming to the end, this would allow a sanguine assessment of how Catering had contributed to the business and what improvements to the service offering were required. This review would be managed through Ken and would cover food offerings, table presentation, staffing and related matters. Bob Anderson would be included from a financial perspective.

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Marketing

Graham Sutherland and Doug Scott have agreed to form a Special Events Group to manage up and coming events. Doug, now joins Graham and Mike Insch as a Social Media administrator, thereby strengthening the team, principally managing Facebook, but also other channels and the MailChimp facility, which is not currently utilised as much as it could be.

Festive Services 2017

A decision was taken to offer tickets to Association Members ahead of formal launch to the public later in September in due course. The tickets would not be issued as a phased release but all made available from the chosen date. The Special Events Group would agree the timing of both the social media campaign, website intimation update and ticket release.

External Matters

There has been little tangible progress with the 4G Mobile phone mast negotiations, principally due to expectations of the other parties, lack of incorporation of our input into the plans and agreement to meet reasonable costs covering activities including hosting visits. Mike Tough, Colin Stirling and Andrew Fairley would continue dialogue and report to the Board as things developed.

Infrastructure

Mike Tough outlined plans to install a borehole to provide water for Boat of Garten, thereby saving water charges. There were no guarantees as to the success of the project, however a water divining survey had indicated there was water below ground although could not determine whether it was a water pocket or a truly replenishable supply. The project is still under consideration.

SRCT AGM

The Board agreed and documented its voting choices in respect to both the SRCT 2015 and the 2016 AGM which were to be held later in the afternoon in Nethy Bridge Village Hall (26th August at 13.30 and 13.45 respectively). Douglas Norris would represent SRC, hereinafter referred to as "The Member" and as per the SRCT M&A.

For reasons still to be clarified as fitting, at both the SRCT 2015 and the 2016 AGM, the "Member", represented by Douglas Norris (SRC Chair), was not permitted to vote, ask questions relating to finance or participate in either meeting. When the SRCT Chair and Secretary were asked to consider the M&A as it stood, reference was made to an unsigned, uncorroborated Memorandum of Understanding, which although in theory could be incorporated in the future was not ruling at this time.

Nevertheless, towards the end of the 2016 AGM, after sustained challenges by everyone in the room (notably by Mssrs Donaldson, Dunlop, Norris, Scott and Stanworth), with repeated reference to the applicable section of the current Memorandum and Articles, the proposed candidates were invited to give a short resume of the skills they had to bring to the table. Eventually, the SRCT Board agreed that Mssrs Basil Dunlop, Andrew McCracken, Ian Stanworth and John Yule, the four candidates proposed by and voted for by the Member, be appointment to the SRCT Board.

*By order of the Board
Strathspey Railway Company
8th September 2017*