



SRC BOARD BRIEFING

November 2017

At a Board Meeting on Saturday 18th November 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.

Board & Secretariat

Duncan Gilmour gave an overview on his initial work as Company Secretary which included bringing CH records up to date and the early progress with assuming the role as Company Secretary for the recently formed Charitable Status Strathspey Heritage Railway Company. Into 2018, Duncan would be preparing a report on how the Organisation, as a whole, could move forward to take advantage of this vehicle and secure the assets for the longer term. There were various stakeholders to be consulted along the way and this would be the subject of several discussions and agreements sought (though hopefully more straightforward than Brexit.)

Finance & Related Matters

Bob Anderson gave a synopsis of where we were with the Management Accounts using the Quick Books "cloud" environment. Progress was not as hoped for and it remained for a review of how we dealt with this in the future and what changes were required to be introduced. It was felt that we required people with different skills, attitudes and an innovative approach was required to move forward as planned. There were no technological blockers. That nut had been cracked.

Discussion on Budgets for 2018 were deferred until the January Meeting as not all departments had submitted their requests and it was felt that a more accurate assessment of year end performance could be made after the delivery of the Festive Services.

Health & Safety

Health and Safety matters were discussed with reference to a paper circulated by Doug Scott. Fire Safety and improvements to proposed additional emergency escape modifications to the Roy Hamilton Carriage Storage Shed were discussed in light of the change of use that had crept in since the original requirements for the building had been specified. The Board were committed to implementing what was required to permit a direct means of escape from the kitchen car within a stabled rake of coaches.

Catering

The Catering operation was discussed at length in depth with suggestions and proposals for the operation in 2018, which included a change to the evening Diner and Afternoon Tea offerings. Whilst the matter was considered further at Board level and with the people delivering the service, it was agreed to discuss in further detail at the January Board, once the pressures of delivering the Festive Services were past.

Improvements to the day train RU (Restaurant) were discussed and some further dialogue would be necessary to approach the project in a phased manner. The optimism in achieving the plan as tabled by March was regarded as overly ambitious and not the best time to be incurring heavy expense, particularly in light of the need to re-tube 46512.

STRATHSPEY RAILWAY COMPANY BOARD BRIEFING

ICT

The Board approved spend to have Spey Lodge connected via "fibre to the cabinet" broadband which would pave the way for improvements to building management and tele-video conferencing facilities planned using Skype for Business, for example. The existing IT IP infrastructure would be extended to all Aviemore buildings as a part of the related work supporting computer use as well as fire and security improvements roll-out.

Spey Lodge Users Group (SLUGs) would assist in the running costs of the service which would also see Spey Lodge Users potentially benefiting from a new subscription based "Wireless for All" service. Due to bandwidth and other limitations such as network topography, this up until now had not been feasible.

Festive Services 2017

Resourcing people to cover the service remains a challenge and the Board are aware of the burden on the operational and station staff. Assistance is being sought from volunteers. It was noted that the Steam Heating boiler in the Class 27 diesel was not as yet serviceable removing this option for (pre) heating the train; at least for the time being.

External Matters

The subject of the new Aviemore Hospital and its location were discussed and what it may mean for the Railway as a neighbour. It was regarded as helpful in combatting trespass over SR property. Further details on the project were awaited.

Infrastructure (S&T)

Various plans were discussed for DMU covered storage and an operational running shed buildings at Boat of Garten and Aviemore respectively. The SRA were committed to funding the basic shed at Boat of Garten and the Board were agreeable on the basis that it was for storage and not maintenance; literally as "Project Undercover" proposed to the Board.

Doug Scott asked if the Strathspey Railway Trust (not the Strathspey Railway Charitable Trust) might support the running steam shed at Aviemore. Colin Stirling agreed to advise the Trustees to expect an approach although he could not comment at this time other than to say that it was a reasonable project for the Trust to consider.

Mike Tough reported good progress with the completion of outstanding electrical infrastructure and remedial plumbing work at Boat of Garten, the subject of concern for some time. The Board acknowledged the efforts of Bill McCarthy, Ray Courtney and Mssrs Orr (Electrical Contractors) for pushing ahead to complete the electrical work and Jim Clark for stripping out frost susceptible and redundant pipework in the station buildings loft.

SRCT

Though the Company Secretaries of both SR and SRCT had exchanged pleasantries at the SRA AGM, the repeated inaccurate statements contained within the 2016 SRCT Chairman's Statement currently in circulation were of concern to the Board. It was suggested that the SRC propose a Chair to replace the outgoing Chairman when opportune.

*By order of the Board
Strathspey Railway Company
22nd November 2017*