

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Friday 24th October 2025 at 7 pm

1.0 Present:

R D Thomas (Chairman) A T McGeechan (Vice-chairman) S Byatt (Treasurer)
H C Brewer (Secretary) P Hancock M Morgan

1.1 Apologies for absence:

P J Hart and J Dakin

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 12th September 2025 committee were accepted without change and were signed by the Chairman and Secretary as a true record.

3.0 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the above minutes other than the actions reviewed below. All other actions have either been completed or form part of the agenda of this meeting.

Actions 4.1.1, 4.3.6, 7.3 and 9.4 from the minutes of 12th September were reviewed and were accepted as completed. These are therefore removed from the minutes.

4.0 General

4.1 Correspondence

There had been no postal correspondence. Email correspondence had also been dealt with by committee circulation prior to the meeting and included on the agenda as appropriate.

4.2 Membership Applications / Approvals

4.2.1 Simon Tudor

Simon has been in contact and has withdrawn his application.

4.2.2 Jack Colby

Have not had any response despite 3 attempts, if not responded within a week the application will be withdrawn.

4.2.3 Edward Cole

Junior membership has now been issued.

4.2.4 Derby Family

Full membership for Kathryn, associate for Jason and junior for Logan now issued.

4.2.5 David Bambrook

Full membership issued.

4.2.6 Matt Creak

Has been offered a 3 month trial – but no response as yet (ends December).

Action: Secretary (all of the above as required)

4.3 Items for Discussion

4.3.1 Jobs List

The items on this were reviewed in priority order and updated with prices and progress as appropriate. Some items were deemed more a 'a nice to have' than essential and opportunity was taken to remove these along with any items now completed. A new team 'G' was added (Chairman) to cover those aspects of the HLF that will be dealt with

by him. List will be reviewed at each meeting and team leaders were asked to help keep this up-to-date.

Action: Chairman (to co-ordinate)

4.3.2 Lapel Badges

The secretary reported that all but 21 badges had been collected and paid for. Two have been reserved for a country member leaving 19 for sale. This will be re-advertised to members to see if we can sell more.

Action: Secretary

4.3.3 Additional Loco Storage

A quotation for a 40ft. High Cube container had been obtained circa £2,350 (excluding vat). In addition, rail and a 3 way point would be required to give three road carriage storage for 12 vehicles. This would give considerably more room in CS2 for locomotive storage and maintenance in the short term. This is to go ahead providing funds are found outside of our existing loans commitment.

Action: Chairman

4.3.4 EGM – Proposal for site development

The chairman presented the slide deck that has been prepared for the EGM to those members of committee who were not aware. The slides covered Background, Inspiration, Scope, Outline Plan and Proposed Elevations, Aims and Usage and Project partners. These were accepted by the meeting and will be presented on 2nd November.

Action: Chairman

4.3.5 Terrorism

The safety officer had looked into this and agreed that we need an evacuation plan. He is to produce a risk assessment covering the top issues of building fire, car fire, major injury/death of a person and terrorism during a public event. All except terrorism are fairly straightforward but dispersal of people to a safe place is not easy when there is no one safe place! A draft plan is scheduled for the next committee meeting.

Action: Safety Officer

4.3.6 Defibrillator

Sue Morgan has been looking into this for us and her report was presented to the meeting. This covered the need for a defibrillator and the statistics surrounding cardiac arrest. She had been in contact with OurJay Foundation who supply these but they have to be publicly available. This means it would have to be on the front gate which would be a disadvantage for us, however they do supply the unit and cover maintenance costs. Purchasing our own unit from SJA or BHF would be in the region of £1,800 with an ongoing cost of circa £100 / year maintenance. The committee need to consider this further.

Action: Committee members – next meeting

Alongside a defibrillator people need to be trained in CPR as both work together. Sue is able to provide training for this and bring the necessary equipment. She suggests that this could be offered to members attending the EGM? She is also willing to provide training on any Sunday that people are willing to participate.

5.0 Treasurers Report

5.1 Report on income and expenditure from 1st January to 30th September 2025

Income	£51,345.59	
Expenditure		£34,286.24

Liquid Assets 30th September 2025:

Current Account	£3,084.81	
Deposit Account	£30,315.00	(£9,526 set aside for new loco frame, £9,483 set aside for 5" steaming bay)
Petty Cash	£1,174.57	(Floats + Petty Cash)
Total	£34,574.38	(from £34,104.12 in August)

Recent Income includes:

Standing Orders	£90.00
Steam fund	£34.43
Subs	£54.00
Parties	£200.00
Public running	£158.44
Refreshments	£569.35
Pin badges	£125.00
Key Deposit	£5.00
Interest on savings	£94.46
MK insurance payment	£280.57
Fed Rally	£540.00

Recent Expenditure includes:

Electricity EDF	£221.12
Rugby Lions	£50.00
Raised track signals	£115.63
Raised track traverser concrete	£516.41
Ground track	£9.00
Wood for gates	£46.75
CS2 roof	£53.81
Wood for shuttering	£156.96
Propane	£55.00
Cricc	£18.00
Carriages	£111.95
Scott and Shay	£3.60
Anthracite	£40.80
Mugs for Fed	£294.96

Criccieth Castle running total £6,337.42

Total spend on new building £68,745.51

John Groom legacy /
Steam fund remaining £203.76

The treasurer talked through the various items of income and expenditure, pointing out that the public running income was low due to the claim from 'Trybooking' (circa. £2k) not being received until October. Refreshments were up on the previous month and overall a profit of £2,300+ to date is recorded. On expenditure the first lay of concrete for the raised track new

steaming bays topped the list and then the mugs purchased for the Federation Rally (but this was offset by the £540 donation). The £10k contingency fund is now restored.

5.2 *Loan repayments*

The 2025 loan repayments have now been completed and will show in the October accounts.

Action: Treasurer

5.3 *Purchase of Red carriages*

The purchase terms have been agreed with the owner at £500 per quarter and the carriages will therefore be owned by the society in October 2027. The first payment has been made and a standing order set up for future payments.

Action: Treasurer

6.0 Buildings and Grounds

6.1 *Water Leak*

This is still being managed by turning off the offending limb. This will need replacing and it was suggested that one of the teams not involved in the track re-laying over winter might take this up as a project. The team leader is to be consulted.

Action: Chairman

6.2 *Green Maintenance*

The mowing and strimming is still being managed but a full report is expected at the next meeting.

Action: Phil Hart

6.3 *Drainage into cutting (Winter)*

The vice-chairman reported that a hole will need to be dug on the roadway alongside the cutting to expose the pipe and repair it. This therefore will need to be a winter job when the road is not in use. This is to be added to the jobs list.

Action: Vice-chairman

6.4 *Car Park Field lease*

We still have no resolution of this from the RBC and it has been transferred to another committee member who is following this up with the council.

Action: Phil Hart

7.0 Elevated Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

7.1 *Signals*

The work on these continues to progress. All signal heads are now complete and fitted; some are working but the full system test is subject to all the bonding jumper leads being fitted.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

7.2 *New Carriage Stock*

This work is progressing with painting of the first new carriage being underway. It is expected that this plus a reworked prototype will be ready for use next season.

Action: Phil Hancock / George Cannon

8.0 Ground Level Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

8.1 *Club Loco update*

8.1.1 Garratt

This has now been winterised and will not be available until next season. Oil firing of this is currently being investigated. The dropped fusible plug also needs replacing.

8.1.2 Shay

A lot of work on this is scheduled for over winter and it is currently out of service with a long list of jobs to do. It is expected back in service next season.

8.1.3 Scot

Work on the superheaters and cylinder lubrication is progressing.

8.1.4 Dr John

The saddle tank for this is now complete and ready for painting. Work to complete the loco over winter is in hand so it is ready for next season.

8.1.5 Criccieth Castle

It is thought that this loco is now back together and will run in its present finish next season. Driver training on this loco is to be arranged.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering**8.2** *Turntable*

It was reported that the boards on the table are now fixed and job complete.

8.3 *Signal Switch out*

Some work in the station has taken place to 'bridge' around track where cinders are rotting the centre wire. The switch will then be fitted when resources allow.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill**8.4** *Storage Policy*

A second draft of this had been circulated to committee and this was discussed by the meeting. The only further change is to locos on long term storage to include 'owner nominated' drivers rather than just a competent driver. The nominated driver(s) will also need to be listed on the storage application form. This is to be updated and circulated to committee for acceptance.

Action: Secretary**8.5** *Carriage Maintenance & Repair*

Work is continuing to swap out bogies as these are re-furbished by engineering. This arrangement is working well with three team members currently involved.

Action: Vice-chairman**9.0 Events****9.1** *2026 Events calendar*

The draft circulated to committee was discussed and agreed. The only change will be to drop the open weekend event in May as the Sweet Pea rally will replace this. We will also add in the scheduled committee dates once agreed. Calendar to be updated, then it is ready for general circulation.

Action: Secretary**9.2** *Additional revenue earning events*

As Phil Hart was not in attendance this item is carried over to the next meeting.

Action: Phil Hart**9.3** *Marketing suggestions for 2026*

As Father's Day is included on our events calendar for next year it was suggested that we offer a free wristband to fathers who come with their families. This is to be considered.

The presentation that had been sent to us by Ben & Dawn Culling had been looked at by the committee who were generally impressed with what had been suggested.

Our marketing / publicity have three main outlets:

- Website
- TryBooking
- Social Media

It was felt by the meeting that the above really need co-ordinating to get the desired results. However, as we have no marketing experts on the committee, some of the suggestions need

further discussion. The meeting felt it would be advantageous for Ben & Dawn to get involved and to that end an invite for them to attend the next meeting will be sent.

Action: Secretary

10.0 Safety

10.1 Safety Concerns

One new safety concern had been received by the secretary since the last meeting.

04/2025 – Mowing during public events.

This had been raised by the organiser of the 21st September public running as the mower had allegedly crossed the tracks when trains were running. It was agreed by the meeting that in future all mowing must cease by 11.30 and equipment returned to the shed. Also that crossing by the garden shed to the gate by the ballast pile with the ride on mower should stop. Use the white gate crossing by the clubhouse or by the field gates. The committee's response was added to the sheet and will be returned to the safety officer.

Action: Secretary / Safety Officer

Two other Safety Concerns were reviewed:

01/2025 – Side store rails

The construction of a crossing board to reduced rail trip hazard has already been implemented but the question of a safety fence was discussed. It was agreed that a fence should be constructed off the concrete to prevent a fall from height hazard.

Action: Mike Morgan

03/2025 – Guards on Coal Crusher

The coal crusher has been disabled until such time as it can be mounted on its own plate, then guards will be fitted. It has been added to the jobs list as item 23 and can therefore be closed.

Action: Safety Officer

10.2 Speedos on all guards carriages

Speedos have been fitted on all other 300 series guards' carriages. The 100 series has only one guards' carriage fitted with a speedo. Solutions are to be looked at by the carriage maintenance team supported by engineering.

Action: Vice-chairman

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 2026 Committee meeting dates

The proposed meeting dates had been circulated to committee and were agreed as follows: 23rd January, 6th March, 24th April, 5th June, 24th July, 11th September, 23rd October and 11th December. These will be added to the calendar for transparency.

Action: Secretary

11.2 Newsletter

The secretary wishes to step down as editor of the newsletter to reduce his workload. It would also benefit from a new person and perspective after 8 years. The secretary is looking for a member to take this over from January 2026 to do the editing/collating and to pass the newsletter to him for distribution. Prospective candidates are to be approached.

Action: Chairman / committee members

11.3 Review of Subscriptions (2027 onward) and Ticket Prices

It was suggested that these were reviewed at the next meeting – add to agenda.

Action: Secretary

11.4 Date of next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Friday 12th December at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at: **22.05**

12.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Approved as a true record:

Date: _____

Date: _____

R D Thomas – Chairman

H C Brewer – Secretary