

# RAILFUTURE WESSEX BRANCH (RFW)

AGM 26 MARCH 2011

Meeting held in The Abbey Hall, (United Reform Church) Romsey

**1 PRESENT** : Officers: John Friedberger, (Chair), John Holland (Treasurer), Charles Burns (Sec)  
Committee: David Brace, Brian Cook, Mike Southgate, Tony Smale, Derek English  
Members: Jean Davidson, Edwin Potter, Paul Godfrey, Norman Cox, Mervyn Lloyd,  
Alan Clainvie, Keith Green, John Gillard, Piers Sherwood

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1410hrs and welcomed Guest speakers from First Great Western (FGW), John Barker (Performance Manager-Central) and Dave Martin (Station Manager, Westbury group of stations).

## **2 PRESENTATIONS:**

John Barker gave an interesting and informative briefing on the Portsmouth-Cardiff main line, including plans to improve reliability through some small but necessary timetable changes and additional rolling stock to guarantee that all trains will have 3 coaches. The importance of this 'inter-city' route is recognised by FGW and it is acknowledged that ideally it requires 5 coach trains with more comfortable seating and space for luggage and bicycles.

Dave Martin explained how FGW is tackling problems associated with revenue collection on the line and he outlined plans for some improvements to information screens at stations in the Romsey area, although noting that FGW no longer stops at Dean or Dunbridge.

Other subjects raised during discussion included signage between the two Dorchester stations and plans for loco-hauled trains to serve the Olympic sailing at Weymouth in 2012.

In thanking the speakers the Chairman referred to a RPC report 'The Mainline They Shouldn't Ignore' (2004) and hoped that one day the Portsmouth-Cardiff line would live up to its full potential.

After a short break the AGM resumed.....

**3 Apologies:** Josephine Martin, Anna Potts, Anthony O'Brien, James Mitchell

**4 MINUTES** of the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 AGM.

Apologies of Edwin & Anna Potts should have been recorded.

APPROVED – Nem com

**5 MATTERS ARISING** - subsumed into

## **6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

John Friedberger referred to the written Annual Report for 2010 and highlighted various activities, including the visits to the SWT/Siemens Traincare Facility at Northam and the meetings, conferences and consultations in which the branch has been involved. We continue to campaign for items listed in 'Developments to Rail Services' paper and have recently contributed to the London and South East Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) which has a chapter on 'Solent and South Hampshire'. He then referred to forthcoming events: Joint Meeting with Severnside branch at Yeovil on Sat 28 May; visits to SWT Driver Training Simulator at Basingstoke; and Railfuture AGM in Brighton on 7 May.

**7 ACCOUNTS:** John Holland presented the year's accounts.

APPROVED nem com

**8. COMMITTEE & ELECTION**

The Chairman expressed regret at the death of Alan Shotter, a past branch chairman. and thanks for the work on the committee of Jo Martin (membership secretary) and Mike Perkins (secretary) both of whom have retired. All other members of the committee and office holders offer themselves for re-election with Brian Cook offering to take over as Membership Secretary

Proposed: Norman Cox      Seconded: Keith Green

APPROVED nem com

**9. PLANS FOR 2011.**

Station Surveys. Tony Smale and John Holland reported on a pilot scheme to survey selected stations in our area. Depending on the response from SWT further stations will be surveyed during the year and members will be asked if they wish to take part.

**10. OPEN FORUM**

Among subjects raised:

- Connecting the Swanage Railway to the main line at Wareham linked to the re-signalling programmed for 2013 and possibly using the Dorset CC owned DMUs.
- Concerns/request that members not on email shouldn't be neglected.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion – Venue for 2012 AGM – Salisbury

**12 CLOSING REMARKS**

In closing the meeting just after 1600hrs the Chairman regretted that the AGM had coincided with the weekend closure of the Romsey to Salisbury line but was grateful to those who made the effort to attend for the informative presentations by FGW and a useful meeting. John hoped the coming year would be productive and advised that it must be his last as Chairman.

.....