

Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting of ISRS held on 27th September 2020 from 10.30 AM to 11.40 AM IST over Google Meet.

30 Members participated through Video/Audio Conference using the Google Meet platform. List available in attached Annexure 1.

The President ISRS welcomed all the members of the Society participating in this 3rd AGM of ISRS being held 'on line' over Google Meet. This was for the first time that the AGM of the Society was being conducted on line. He explained that given the risk of the pandemic being faced world over - meetings on line have already become the new way of doing business. Therefore there was no escaping learning and getting used to this new medium. The President pointed out that the biggest advantage of this medium was that it allowed worldwide participation from the comfort of homes. He specifically welcomed Mr. Paul Whittle Vice President of the DHRS who had joined in the meeting from the UK despite the difference in the time zone.

Agenda items

1. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM held on the 22nd of September 2019 at the NRM New Delhi (which had also been placed on the ISRS website earlier) were taken as read and passed.

2. Annual Report

The President ISRS presented the Report of the Society for the year 2019-20. The body of the Report is available as a separate Annexure 2 to these minutes.

3. Audited Accounts

The audited accounts of the Society were placed before the General Body along with the Auditors Report. The President highlighted that as of 31.3.2020, the Society had Fixed Deposits of about Rs. 8.9 lakhs and Savings bank balance of Rs.4.71 lakhs.

The audited accounts of the Society were passed by the General Body.

A copy of the Audited Accounts is available at Annexure 3 to these minutes.

4. Address by Working President

Sh. Ashwani Lohani Working President addressed the meeting. He said that the Society has come a long way since inception in 1999. He recommended that Sh. Atul Singh a serving officer of Northern Railway take up the position of Working President of ISRS. Sh. Atul Singh who was participating in the meeting accepted the position. Sh. Lohani mentioned that the Society had gone through difficult times in the past as well and had come out stronger. He expressed confidence that the Society would go from strength to strength under the leadership of the new Managing Committee.

5. Election of new Managing Committee

Nominations had been invited in advance; only the following nominations were received:

- i). Sh. Rajesh Agrawal as the President ISRS vice Sh. R. S. Virdi
- ii). Sh. Vikas Singh as the Editor of ISRS vice Sh. J.L. Singh
- iii). Sh. S. M. Sharma as the Treasurer of ISRS vice. Sh. P. J. Singh
- iv). Sh. Pankaj Pandey as one of the three Members of the Managing Committee.

Based on the above, and discussions during the meeting, the General Body unanimously approved the following appointments to the Managing Committee:

Proposed and passed as Members of New Managing Committee

S. No.	Post	Incumbent
1.	President	Sh. Rajesh Agrawal
2.	Working President*	Sh. Atul Singh
3.	Vice President	Sir Mark Tully
4.	Secretary	Sh. G. Shankar
5.	Treasurer	Sh. S.M. Sharma
6.	Editor	Sh. Vikas Singh
7.	Jt. Secy. – I	Sh. Ajay Singh
8.	Jt. Secy. – II	Sh. S.K.Luthra
9.	Member	Sh. Abhimanyu Shaunik
10.	Member	Kept Vacant for present
11.	Member	Sh. Pankaj Pandey
12.	Asst. Treasurer	Sh. Ishwar Singh

New entrants in Red

*The Working President is normally a serving officer of the Indian Railways.

Existing Managing Committee (for reference)

S. No.	Post	Incumbent
1.	President	Sh. R.S.Virdi
2.	Working President	Sh. Ashwani Lohani
3.	Vice President	Sir Mark Tully
4.	Secretary	Sh. G. Shankar
5.	Treasurer	Sh. P.J.Singh
6.	Editor	Sh. J.L.Singh
7.	Jt. Secy. – I	Sh. Dileep Prakash
8.	Jt. Secy. – II*	Sh. S.K.Luthra
9.	Member	Sh. Abhimanyu Shaunik
10.	Member	Sh. Ravinder Gupta
11.	Member	Sh. Arun Mohan
12.	Asst. Treasurer*	Sh. Ishwar Singh

* New posts added last year

In addition, the following are the Patrons & special Invitees of the Society (unchanged)

Patrons:

Chief Patron : Member (Traction and Rolling Stock) Railway Board

Patron : Executive Director (Heritage) Railway Board

Patron: Director, National Rail Museum

Permanent Invitees:

Sr. DME, Shakurbasti, Northern Railway

AME, Steam Shed, Rewari

6. Term of Managing Committee

The next item on the agenda was to consider the term of the Managing Committee.

As per Clause 16(vi) of the Memorandum of Association of the Society the term of the Managing Committee is for one year.

It has been proposed that the term be extended to three years.

The General Body unanimously accepted that the term of the Managing Committee of ISRS be extended from the present ONE year to THREE years.

It was therefore passed that the term of the Managing Committee would be three years henceforth, starting with the Committee elected now.

7. Any other items with approval of the Chair

i) Mr. R. K. Jain expressed concern about the condition of some of the assets on the DHR. He mentioned that DHRS had also been raising concern about the matter.

This was noted, with assurance to convey the concern to the concerned authorities.

ii) Sh. S. K. Suri suggested that ISRS should hold their monthly meetings at different venues all over India and even abroad - after the pandemic has passed. He suggested that ISRS only make arrangements for the members and those who attend would pay their own passage and boarding. Till the pandemic passes remote meetings on line can continue.

This was noted for implementation as feasible from time to time.

8. Address by the Chief Patron

The Chief Patron of the Society and Member(TRS) Railway Board Sh. P. C. Sharma had very kindly consented to participate in the AGM and address the Society. The body of his address is as follows:

*"Sh. Lohani Founder Member and Working President of the Society
All existing and new members of the Managing Committee*

And Members of the Society participating in this AGM..

1. The Indian Steam Railway Society has completed 20 years since its registration in Dec 1999.

2. The Society aims to provide a platform for Steam Locomotive enthusiasts - Railway men and non Railway men alike. The Society aims to raise awareness of this unique historical industrial heritage - steam locomotives - in public at large.

3. The Society has been conducting one major event each year called the "National Steam Congress." Over the last 20 years the Society has conducted 17 National Congresses.

To disseminate knowledge about steam loco revival in other countries ISRS invited Speakers from UK and US to talk about the revival of steam in their respective countries in the Steam Congresses in the past. Many serving and retired officers from IR have also showcased the work done on IR for the revival and restoration of steam on IR at these events.

4. At one point of time Indian Railways (IR) had over 10,000 steam locomotives. Today there are barely 25 or so working steam locos in India - all gauges combined.

5. It was in the early 1990s that almost all steam locomotives on IR were condemned cut up and sold. Except for a few NG locos on the DHR and a few MG locos on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) no working steam locomotives were left on BG on IR after 1995.

6. The first steam locomotive to be revived and restored to service was the 1855 built Fairy Queen. This was in 1996-97 - under the direction of Sh. Lohani who was then Director National Rail Museum. This loco was recognised as the oldest working steam locomotive in the world. It still is today. This event raised awareness about the heritage value of steam on IR.

7. Since then several steam locomotives which escaped being cut and sold - and were lying on pedestals - have been taken off pedestals and restored to service. These locomotives are homed at the Rewari steam Centre.

8. Steam Enthusiasts can look forward to a revival of steam tourism with locos like "Fairy Queen" on Northern and its twin the "Express" on Southern Railways - running short distance services.

Maybe we can look forward to participation of the private sector in maintaining steam locomotives and promoting steam tourism.

9. IR continues to operate regular Steam services on the NG sections of the DHR and the MG sections of NMR.

He wished the new Managing Committee success in their endeavour taking the Society ahead in the years to come."

9. Vote of thanks

The vote of thanks was presented by Sh. Ajay Singh the new Jt. Secretary and organiser of this on line AGM of ISRS.

He once again thanked the members for participating in the meeting and also the members of the outgoing Committee for their work done in their term, especially the President and Working President for their valuable contribution to the cause of ISRS. He hoped that all outgoing Committee members would continue to support and participate in the activities of the Society.

He also thanked the Chief Patron for having taken the time to participate in the AGM and address the meeting.

Secretary
ISRS