

TRAMCAR CONSERVATION COMMITTEE No 64, Saturday 7th February 2015 in the Project Office, Crich

PRESENT: R.A.Sykes (Chairman), D.J. Redmond (Secretary), D.J. Heeley, D.J.H.Senior, L. Waters.

Apologies: Nil. **Not in attendance:** D.Beardsell (corresponding Member).

Introduction.

Two documents were circulated, one which was an updated version of the TCC Work Programme from 2014 to 2018 from Mr. Sykes and the other was the latest Workshop Programme from 2015 to 2019 from Mr. Heeley. These formed the basis of later discussions.

In view of the reduced number of members of the TCC, there was discussion concerning the need for possible increase in Committee membership. Possible formation of a Sub Committee to deal with specific tasks was suggested. Also two names were mentioned, one with a background of tramcar research which might suit either the TCC or the Collections Management Committee and the other from the experienced volunteer workforce in the Crich Workshop. It was agreed that separate approaches to these people would be made. It was noted that assistance to Miss Waters was needed to enable work on Attitude Statements to be expedited.

Minute 64/1: Previous Minutes: The Minutes of Meeting No. 63 were approved and adopted with the one correction to Minute 63/3 that the Attitude Statement for Halle 902 did not go to the TMS Board but was referred back for further information.

Minute 64/2: Matters arising from the Minutes:

(i) Minute 62/3 and 63/2. The Road Transport History publication copy has not yet reached the Library. Mr Senior offered his review copy for the Crich Library and Miss Waters would contact the TMS Journal Editor to see if he has received a review copy and has not yet passed it on.
Action: Miss Waters

Minute 64/3: Attitude Statements for Tramcars:

There was much discussion on the proposed Work Programme for 2014 to 2018 circulated by Mr. Sykes (updated programme copy attached to these Minutes). Comments in brief for each car discussed were:- 46 and 74 should be advanced in the programme. There was a possibility of future funding for 46 and an Attitude Statement (AS) was required to determine the precise form of any restoration. No AS was required for 869 as the present refurbishment involved no changes. 35's AS is done and approved. Balcony 40 needs a repaint and an AS is needed to determine the livery. Mr Sykes said that the profile of 298 should be increased to enable future funding to be encouraged. A priority for an AS is 59 which is currently the subject of considerable interest and a funding application is in mind. An AS is required for 102 as TMS and possible TSO funds have been earmarked for the repairs to this car. These and other changes are reflected in the attached revised Work Programme.

There was discussion about the suitability of the nomenclature "Attitude Statement" and it was thought that an alternative such as "Statement of Historical Interest" might suit. Miss Waters would consider this.
Action Miss Waters

Minute 64/4: Condition Surveys:

Condition Surveys for 59 and Balcony 40 were not signed off yet. 59's has been passed to Miss Waters. These and others will be seen by the TCC later. B&F 2's is in preparation and will be circulated. 1622's and 869's will follow later. 674's will follow its proposed repaint in 2016. Box 40's survey will be done in 2016. Again, these and other proposals involving

several other tramcars are reflected in the attached updated version of the TCC work programme.

Minute 64/5: Workshop Programme:

Mr Heeley advised the TCC of the current Workshop activity involving 869 and 106 and LCC 1 and other cars. Some cosmetic work on 59 is proposed to enable it to be put on display to aid its funding possibilities.

Concerning future funding, Mr Sykes proposed to approach the TMS Board to ascertain their view about restoration projects involving 46 and 298.

Action Mr Sykes

Minute 64/6: Tramcar Storage:

An initial meeting had taken place with representatives of the Development Committee and Jim Soper had produced some drawings of possible schemes to house tramcars at Crich. A copy of the Minutes will be sent to Mr Senior who was the only current TCC member not present at that meeting. The proposals are on a big scale and will involve much development work and liaison. It is important that the proposals work in concert with the improvements sought in the existing Depots and also the overall vision of the role of the Museum in the future. It was suggested that a special Sub Committee be formed to address this task and Mr Sykes would ask the Board for their guidance on how to proceed.

Action Mr Sykes

Temperature and humidity measurements have been taken in the Exhibition Hall and Clay Cross Conservation Store. Miss Waters presented details. The position is serious and requires action to reduce damage to tramcars. Miss Waters advocates sharing this information more widely with the TMS membership.

Action Miss Waters

Minute 64/7: Trams Report:

Mr Sykes is still working on the Timeline. An update for September 2015 is in mind i.e. an update of the 2008 version with supplements followed by a full review in 2018. Miss Waters is considering a full revision of the Trams Report but needs time to work up her proposals.

Action: Miss Waters

Minute 64/8: Any Other Business

- (i) Mr Heeley asked about Leeds 107. It was stated that Mr Claydon awaited a Solicitor's response. Ownership was still with the Leeds Transport Historical Society.
- (ii) Mention was made of an initiative to repatriate Leeds Feltham 526 from Seashore and comments were made about the existence of a better condition example in the Acton store which might be the subject of a future loan. The TCC had been asked by Mr Ross to comment and the response was to be in that light.
- (iii) Mention was made of a fund being set up to acquire a "Welsh horse car".
- (iv) Mr Sykes referred to the Museum's power supply and is asking whether it is capable of handling the power requirements of second generation cars.
- (v) Mr Sykes is asking whether there is a need to secure a portable emergency power supply device in the event of theft of overhead line equipment. He intends to approach the TMS Board on this topic.
- (vi) Mr Heeley asked about the attitude towards Oporto Coal Car C65 in the light of the expressed interest in the car from Beamish. This item may be raised at the TMS AGM in July.
- (vii) When discussing second generation tramcars, Mr Redmond asked which car would be preferred for the Crich collection. Reference was made to the entry in the Trams Report which pointed to British-built Nottingham car 201. However, Mr Redmond said that we had ignored the first second-generation light rail cars in the UK which were the first batches of Docklands cars, some of which were built in the UK and all of which now operate as "streetcars" in Germany. Should not consideration be given to one of those cars?

Minute 64/9: Dates of Next Meetings:

Saturday 11th April 2015, 1000 at Crich (venue to be determined)

Saturday 11th July 2015, 1000 at Crich (venue to be determined)

Circulation: TCC members, Hon.Sec TMS.