**Institute of Road Transport Engineers**

**North Eastern Centre**

**Minutes of the North Eastern Centre Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 conducted via Zoom video conference.**

**Present.** C. Prince. Centre Chairman.

G. Archer. Honorary Treasurer.

M. Hall. Vice Chairman.

J. Thirling.

T. Stone.

P. Barker.

D. Berry.

A. Scorer.

D. Atkinson

D. Cairns.

J. Eastman.

D. Moir.

J. Greaves. Non-member acting as minute secretary.

**Apologies.** S. Tunstall.

P. Reed.

1. **Opening introduction and apologies.**

The North Eastern Centre Chairman Chris Prince declared the 2022 Annual General Meeting open and offered a warm welcome to all those who were in attendance. The Chairman referred to the AGM once again being held via video conference facilities. The Chairman continued by offering a warm welcome to Head Office representatives John Eastman and Daniel Moir.

The Chairman then asked the acting minute secretary to confirm those who had offered their apologies for this AGM which are detailed in the section above.

The acting minute secretary also reported that Mark Carlin and Stephen Pickering had indicated through the SOE Website that they did intend to join the meeting but so far, they had not joined the link. It was noted that Mr Barker dropped out of the link possible due to technical difficulties part way through the meeting.

The chairman indicated he had offered an invitation to the Chair of the Teesside Centre to join the AGM but unfortunately this had not been possible.

1. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting 2nd March 2021.**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 2nd March 2021 had been previously been circulated to those in attendance and also those who were attending this AGM.

The 2021 minutes were subsequently noted as being a true record.

Proposed by D. Atkinson.

Seconded by R. Jones.

There were no matters arising from the 2021 North Eastern Centre Annual General Meeting minutes.

1. **Chairmans Report to the Centre.**

The Chairman commenced his report by once again offering a warm welcome to all those attending via the conference call facility and expressed his hope that this situation would steadily improve over the coming months to allow more face to face contact.

There had been more than enough “zoom time” for everyone, Mr Prince felt he was compelled to drag once again the 'Enemy at the Door' (COVID-19) into his report.

This has been my final extended 3rd year in the Chairman's position which was agreed with the Vice Chair and committee given the restrictions brought about through COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictive Centre activities programme.

This year had seen both the technical and social calendar of the Centre severely limited. However in October 2021 the Centre did maintain its contact with its key business partners with a lunch at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham to ensure the Centre maintained contact with those local and national businesses who do actively support the IRTE both in its technical and social activities. Mr Prince commented that at this AGM he would be handing over the Chairmans roll to an experienced and knowledgeable successor, Martin Hall who had acted as the Centre Chairman in previous years.

The lull in activities had not prevented planning for the return to a more normal calendar of events and it was hoped that dates could shortly be finalised for a return to our lecture programme and the Centre successful social calendar.

The Centre committee had secured the services of Dave Berry who had joined during the year and it was anticipated further interest to join the committee would be stimulated at this AGM. Unfortunately several committee member had also resigned this year and the outgoing Chairman placed his appreciation on record for their valued contribution.

There was some frustration at the support provided by the SOE which had contributed towards the change in personal and the Chairman had recently written to the SOE President and SOE officials to express his views, the title of the correspondence  “Institutional  Unprofessionalism” indicated clearly the Chairman and other members concern at the manner this professional body was being managed currently.

It was hoped that with several prominent and well respected members of the SOE and IRTE being in attendance some of the concerns could be alleviated. Concern was also expressed that this apparent failure of the SOE and IRTE to be effectively managed had created a void that was being filled by well-meaning but unhelpful parties within the SOE/IRTE. This was an own goal as far as the majority of the North Eastern Centre Committee were concerned.

With the decline in Centres the NEC were actively attempting to support other less fortunate neighbouring Centres.

On concluding his 2022 final report as Chairman Chris Prince did wish to extend his thanks and sincere appreciation to his fellow officers and members of the NEC Committee. Conversely Mr Prince expressed his appreciation to the NEC members and also guests who for many years had actively supported the IRTE North Eastern Centre.

1. **Centre Accounts and Auditors report.**

The Honorary Treasure reported on the North Eastern Centres last audited accounts for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 which had now been independently audited.  The Honorary Treasure continued by stating that copies of the accounts had previously been circulated and further copies were available on request.

Similar to the 2021 position in terms of the Centres financial standing the Centre accounts reflected a significant reduction in all forms of activity both from a point of view of income and also expenditure due to the Covid-19 situation.

The Independent Examiners had met to both receive and sign the accounts referred to.

The Chairman noted the work undertaken on behalf of the Centre and asked that these accounts be adopted:-

Proposed by D. Berry.

Seconded by M. Hall.

The outgoing Chairman thanked the Honorary Treasure for this report and the work in ensuring during the last 12 months the North Eastern Centre accounts were well managed and healthy and further thanked the Independent Examiners for their time and contribution.

1. **Election of Centre Committee 2022-2023.**

The Chairman Chris Prince now covered the election of committee members and asked if there were any resignations or interest from members for the North Eastern Centre to join the Committee.

The acting minute secretary advised the attendees through the Chair that he had received in total of four resignations from former Committees Members and there had been one new elected member, during the course of recent weeks and confirmed therefore since the last AGM the following activity; -

I. Cochrane resigned immediately prior to the 2022.AGM

T. Stone resigned in April 2021.

D Cairns resigned in January 2022.

J. Greaves resigned in December 2021

D. Berry was elected to the NEC in September 2021

It was further reported that despite not being able to attend the AGM both S. Tunstall and P. Reed had indicated they were able to continue as Committee Members.

Alan Scorer responded to the question by the Chairman and indicated he was prepared to stand for election in 2022.

The acting minute secretary therefore confirmed the committee members for the next twelve months were the following 10 named individuals:-

P. Reed C. Prince

R. Jones M. Hall

J. Thirling D. Atkinson

S. Tunstall D Barry

G. Archer A. Scorer

A proposal was made that the Centre Committee be therefore elected as detailed above.

Proposed by M. Hall.

Seconded by D. Atkinson.

The Chairman asked the acting minute secretary to notify the SOE of the 2022 to 2023 current NEC Committee position. The Chairman offered his thanks to those who were prepared to contribute going forward but did note with some disappointment, the declining numbers of active committee members.

1. **Election of Centre Officers 2022-2023**

The following Centre Committee members were confirmed as being available to continue and take up the following designated appointments as the Centre elected officers in the North Eastern Centre for the next twelve month period.

It was proposed that these appointments would therefore be: -

6.1. Centre Charman. 2022 to 2023.

Martin Hall.

6.2. Honorary Secretary.

Vacant, with no proposals or nominations.

6.3. Honorary Treasurer.

Gary Archer.

6.4. Vice Chairman 2022 to 2023.

Derek Atkinson.

It was confirmed that the Centre Officers had therefore been duly elected to continue as a group as a bloc.

Proposed by R. Jones.

Seconded by D. Atkinson.

At this point the Chairmanship moved to Martin Hall as the incoming Chair,

Martin Hall supported by all those in attendance paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman Chris Prince. The Chair also thanked the Committee members who had stood down either prior to this AGM or actually at the meeting.

1. **Appointment of Independent Examiners 2022-2023.**

The existing Independent Examiner Ray Jones had indicated to the Chairman that they were prepared to continue to work with the Honorary Treasure and were proposed to continue in this position. Additionally Martin Hall had resigned from the post to allow him to take the position of Chairman. It had been proposed that Chris Prince would now take on the second post as an Independent Examiner.

Proposed by D. Atkinson.

Seconded by D. Barry.

The North Eastern Centre Chairman Martin Hall on behalf of the whole committee offered his thanks to the Independent Examiners for their efforts and continued support.

1. **Head Office Update.**

The Society Of Operations Engineers head office report was delivered by Daniel Moir who offered both his and John Eastman’s sincerely thanks to the North Eastern Centre for extending the invitation to join the 2022 AGM. It was mentioned that whilst this was via conference call rather than in a face to face context it would be anticipated and hoped that the content of the report would be both interesting and meaningful.

Mr Moir continued by stating, as he had on previous occasions that, the North Eastern Centre was held in high regard by the SOE and the Greencoat Place staff and were known for their professional management of the Centre. The NE Centre was known to be successful with both its technical and the social activities, all fully meeting the aims of the SOE and the IRTE.

At this point Daniel Moir turned to the recent changes in both board and sector managing structures which were designed together to align the values and the deliverability of the benefits of membership. There were also benefits to freeing up PS Chairs with the formation of the steering groups. Daniel referred to a structure he produced and displayed for those in attendance to view and referred to the detail contained in recent publications.

This demonstrated the post of CEO being declared redundant, resulting in Bruce McGill leaving the business, and the change in emphasis on a leadership team headed up by the SOE President. Daniel Moir confirmed at his point following a question from John Greaves  the main architect of these changes was the current President. Daniel continued by stating the CEO areas of responsibility had now been absorbed by the Chief Operating Officer and the Trustee Board.

Daniel then raised the impact of these changes and the consequential effect on Centres and Regions, indicating in the process a formation of a number of “Flag Ship’ Regions and Centres which were to be formed. Mr Moir continued by confirming that the North Eastern Centre would become one of these “Flag Ship” Centres, again to mark and recognise the professional standing of the North Eastern Centre.

These changes would impact on the Head Office Team with some strategic changes and the need to adhere to these changes in particular the need for HR to have an overwatch of the situation.

Reference was made in some detail by John Eastman of the function and responsibilities of the Trustee and Steering Groups with more effective and regular meetings taking place to actively bring about change.

At this point Chris Prince asked how the Trustee Board would cope with both the strategic level and obvious getting more involved on a day to day basis with the practicalities of the organisation. In response it was the SOE representatives view that a more functional structure would clear the lines of communication and response times. Dennis Cairns commented on the concerns that the elimination of the post of CEO and the introduction of the Present being involved in non-strategic activities would create blurred lines of both communication and responsibility and reduce the level of independence of the Trustee Board.

The SOE representatives stated that it was anticipated that the changes would have the direct opposite impact to this. The general debate at this time did indicate from the attendees that there was great deal suspicion and anxiety that these changes would be controversial and that the proposed changes to be the subject of a vote at the EGM did lack substance as the “Rules” that would govern the detail had not been published or explained.

The Hon Treasure Gary Archer did raise the issue of the restructuring of the Centre bank account from HSBC UK to Global which he was currently dealing with, Daniel Moir explained this would allow various improvements in the management of both the central funds and local funds and aid the introduction of the long awaited debit card for Centres.

Daniel Moir concluded his report by indicating there had been a need for change within the SOE and its various PSC, it was hoped this would be embraced by the Regions and Centres to allow for the organisation to move forward.

The Centre Chairman expressed the attendees appreciation for John Eastman and Daniel Moir giving up their time to attend the 2022 AGM.

**9. Any other Business.**

The Centre Chairman raised the issues of the fact that the NEC were now canvassing for the position of Honorary Secretary and encouraged members to consider this vacancy and in due course advise him if there was any interested parties.

Dennis Cairns raised the issue of the EGM which was to be held on the 31st May and asked for clarification if this would also include the SOE AGM. It was mentioned by the SOE representative that the EGM and AGM would be held separately. The EGM would cover specific items concerning the restructuring of the Society.

John Eastman once again reiterated the high regard the SOE and IRTE PSC had for the business-like manner the North Eastern Centre had conducted itself over successive years.

**10. Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next Annual General Meeting will take place on the Tuesday 7th March 2023. The venue and method the meeting would be conducted through, would be confirmed in due course.

The Chairman Martin Hall expressed his appreciation for this evening’s contribution and thanked all those who had attended particularly both John Eastman and Daniel Moir for giving up their time to join the 2021 North Eastern Centre AGM.

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the North Eastern Centre was formally closed at this point.