

Minutes

1) Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first RMG meeting of 2022. 24 were in attendance.

The Secretary has received a number of apologies for absence today.

2) Remembrance of deceased colleagues

A minute's silence was held to mark the passing of colleagues.

3) Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 18th November 2021, were agreed as a true and correct record, save that the list of those in attendance was not complete. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on this agenda. Those sections of the November Minutes that are AGM specific, will be formally agreed at this year's AGM, due to be held towards the end of this year.

4) Officers' and Delegates' reports

4a) Secretary

Luke Howard

Luke has been busy working on meetings and checking on membership. It was noted that no staff have been working in Walkden House for some time and one implication of that is that newly retired members may not have been suitably processed. Luke will suggest that branch officers are encouraged to forward lists of retiring members to the relevant retired branch when they become aware of planned retirements.

4c) Treasurer

Dave Porter

Dave reported figures as outlined below.

TSSA RMG 2021			
Income		Expenditure	
Balance at 1 January	168.32	NPC Affiliation	15.00
Head Office Grant	400.00	Zoom Licence	287.76
Head Office Grant	<u>1140.00</u>	Travel Expenses	27.70
			<u>1377.86</u>
Total	<u>1708.32</u>		<u>1708.32</u>

2022

Two delegates + one SOC member to NPC Biennial Delegate Conference

3 x 176.00 = £528.00

Balance at 3 February 1377.86 – 528.00 = £849.86

4d) Pensions

Neil Baker *et alia*

Neil Baker was not present, and no report was submitted. Tim Young advised that all issues of 'Pension News Update' from March 2021 to date are now accessible on MyTSSA.

Joel Kosminsky felt that Brendan Barber's proposals for TfL Pensions were concerning.

4e) National Pensioner's Convention **Joel Kosminsky & Steve Whitehead**
Steve reported he had recently watched an NPC Webinar on YouTube.

He also reported that the Transport Working Group will be meeting next week. Four places on its Standing Orders Committee are automatically elected. However, there are two other places and nominations are being sought for them.

Joel reported that the Consultation on Great British Railways closes tomorrow (Friday 4th February 2022). It is looking in particular at Accessibility, Affordability of Fares, Co-ordination between various modes of transport, and Smart-Ticketing. This last factor is concerning as many folk do not have bank accounts or mobile devices.

Joel also raised the issue of E-scooters again, and the dangers they often pose, being largely silent and often ridden without due care and attention.

4f) Pre-retirement Seminars **John Rees, Cheryl O'Brien**

It is hoped to resume holding these seminars again soon, albeit, exclusively on Zoom for the foreseeable future. John Rees informed the meeting that sadly, no couple has, as yet, come forward to be interviewed as to how they have handled retirement and all the ancillary factors involved.

4g) Group outings

Whilst there was nothing to report, Malcolm Wallace suggested we should be exploring the possibility of resuming outings this year, and suggested we look at open air venues. The possibility of holding social events on Zoom was also mentioned, and Tim Young recounted how at the start of Lockdown 1 in March 2020, his Church had very successfully run a series of weekly quizzes on Zoom, with a different participant each week acting as Quizmaster. This idea was considered worth exploring.

5) Election Of Two Committee Members

The Chair explained that there are currently two vacancies on the Committee and invited nominations. None were forthcoming. He then invited all those present who were not already on the Committee or debarred from it under rule due to having served on it recently, to self-nominate. Dinesh Bhardwa was the only member present to do so, and was unanimously elected to the Committee unopposed, and with immediate effect.

8) Questions On The 2020 Report & Accounts

It was noted that the 2020 Report, like the 2019 one, had been solely of a financial nature, when in previous years they also provided more general information like membership details.

The Special Meeting (20 January) had authorised the Committee to decide on questions to submit, and the questions were provided in the Notes of that meeting.

It was noted that a creditor is being followed up.

It was further noted that auditor costs were significantly up. The auditors recently met with the EC, not the Audit Committee as in previous years, Malcolm Wallace was not invited to that meeting as a Trustee of the TSSA.

6) Luke Chester, TSSA Organiser

Luke delivered an interesting presentation, in particular, demonstrating '**Going Beyond**', the online training facility for TSSA members on the new TSSA website. One course that will be available soon is 'Preparing For Retirement'. A number of courses are already available, intended primarily for active members.

In taking questions afterwards, Luke Howard suggested Branch Officer training be added. Luke Chester responded saying that Reps training was being uploaded first, and Branch Officer training will soon follow.

Joel Kosminsky commented that we need to understand the relevance of this new facility to retired members, e.g., how do we get involved in this and what of those with no computer? Luke Chester responded that those without a computer cannot use this facility and there is little likelihood of in person training in the foreseeable future.

Malcom Wallace recommended 'Going Beyond'. Not many members go on it. Luke Chester responded saying that a lot of work has been involved, setting everything up. He is hoping to have all RMG related items on the new server by March, and that 'Going Beyond' will also be put on, but sometime later.

Dave Bolton asked if courses on the TSSA website would lead to accredited units for City & Guilds purposes. Luke Chester responded saying that the website maps out a clear path for reps. Courses are not yet accredited but are measured against accreditation standards

Luke Howard said it would be good to have a direct link off the Home Page to access the online training facility. On the 'Going Beyond' area, there should be a clear and direct link back to the main website's Home Page. He added that the RMG Committee will look at what training we would like for our members. Luke Chester said he would look into this.

Luke Howard asked that when TSSA members retire, that they should be made aware by Walkden House of the existence of RMG and in a number of Divisional Council areas, of the existence of local Retired Branches. Luke Chester said he would check on this. Those TSSA members who are either shown as 'Left' or 'Withdrawn' are not sent information about RMG and Retired Branches. Those shown as 'Retiring' should receive the information Luke Howard was requesting. Steve Whitehead added that he looks at all leavers within his Divisional Council area, and contacts them all, usually by phone. Many haven't heard of RMG, Retired Branches, etc., and have not received the appropriate membership form. Steve suggested members should be contacted by Walkden House in the run up to their retirement. Luke Chester replied that this should not be difficult and could possibly be combined with the annual diary mailout. He thought the circular giving those details could be well worded and designed.

Peter Vincent asked if when the new website is fully rolled out and operational, will it be kept up to date. Luke Chester replied that it was not in his area of responsibility. He added that details are on the website for the Special Delegate Conference, Annual Conference and TSSA125

Joel Kosminsky reminded Luke (C) that retired members are worth money to TSSA, as they pay a sub but don't cost TSSA very much. He also offered Luke (C) assistance from the TUC which was gratefully accepted. Luke Howard reminded everyone that that was why we need more members on the Committee.

Luke Chester concluded, saying that he was due to have a Zoom soon with our Chair and Cheryl O'Brien about the pre-retirement training.

He also advised that on Saturday 19th March there is to be a UN sponsored 'Day Against Racism', with main marches and protests taking place in London, Glasgow and Cardiff.

Following Luke Chester's Presentation, and the presentation which followed, the meeting was adjourned for 40 Minutes, for a lunch break.

Officers' and Delegates' reports

4b) Newsletter Editor

Bob Bayley

Bob indicated that the deadline for submitting items for publication in the next RMG newsletter will be a few days before the next Committee Meeting, scheduled for 24th March, and hopefully the newsletter can be published to all members before the end of March. Bob also added that he had received no responses, favourable or otherwise, to recent articles published in the Newsletter and written by Joel Kosminsky.

7) Proposed Merger & Special Conference

It was noted that the Special Delegate Conference has been deferred until Saturday 19th March. This is largely due to GMB concerns about our staff having to work in the confined space of ITF House, while Covid infection rates remain high. The Conference will still be hybrid.

Peter Vincent noted that the change of date will cause some branches and delegates problems.

In the course of the discussion, it was reported that the EC had (on the afternoon of the RMG meeting) issued a new Circular with significantly new legal advice and other information about the SDC date, the poll of reps' and a proposed poll of members. (The EC is referring to these as 'ballots' although they have no legal standing and exclude significant numbers of members)

It was reported that the reps poll had returned an overwhelming majority in favour of a merger with IBB. A further survey will be sent to all TSSA members in the next few days. The result of that poll will be announced on 2nd March.

Luke Howard suggested that the new legal advice meant that there should be a revised EC Report, with scope for existing amendments to be revised or further amendments to be added, and Cheryl O'Brien confirmed that she would ask this question through SOC. [Cheryl and Frank Ward subsequently conformed to the Committee that the EC do not intend to issue a fresh Report and there would be no opportunity for fresh amendments].

It was noted that should the IBB merger go ahead, TSSA would retain its name and its operational independence.

Malcolm Wallace confirmed that all questions and answers thereto, that have already been submitted, are viewable on the new website. Luke pointed out that this information is very difficult to use.

Joel asked if we could write to the General Secretary asking that when ballots are sent to all members, they also receive a brief but fair case for the merger and a brief but fair case against the merger. Peter Vincent responded that TSSA should have enough experienced staff to write suitable briefs both for and against.

There was a good debate about various aspects of the Circular and its impact.

Dave Chalkley asked if we can publish an additional newsletter to include both the case for the merger and the case against. The Committee will consider this.

Luke Howard concluded the debate by saying that we will write to ask for a balanced poll, and to express our view that there should be an updated EC Report with fresh opportunity for amendments.

9) TSSA Annual Conference, Sheffield, 7th-10th May 2022

The Preliminary Agenda was published today (slightly earlier than the due date of 7 February). Luke had emailed the Comms team and SOC urging them to publish it on the website urgently.

Members are invited to make any suggestions for amendments to the retired@tssa.org.uk address by 3 March, in time for the Committee to consider (whether at a special Committee meeting on 3 March or in correspondence). Malcolm Wallace suggested an amendment which he would email. Luke pointed out that the EC motion only proposes to consider one Report and Accounts, and it was agreed that we would consider an amendment urging the review (and discussion) of all the Reports and Accounts that have not been presented to Conference in recent years.

The Committee was also empowered to decide on the RMG voting, with the RMG nominations as a starting point.

The suggestion was made that RMG have pin badges made to go on a stall which will need manning for certain times outside of the main conference sessions.

It was agreed to have a working group to look at how we organise things for the 125th celebrations: Malcolm Wallace, Joel Kosminsky, John Rees, Bob Bayley, Tim Young and Luke Howard volunteered for this. Dave Porter offered to take some turns staffing the stall at Sheffield.

10) Motions From Members/Any Other Business

Joel reported that the TUC have produced a 'Better Buses' Activist's Pack.

Joel also reported that stamps currently in circulation will only be valid to pay postage until 31st January 2023.

Joel also reported that in 2025 all conventional phone lines will cease to operate. The implication of this to particularly note is that in a power cut, phone lines are currently powered by BT direct, and phones will thus still operate. After 2025 most mobile phones will have at best, a short period of time when they will be usable before needing to be recharged, which can only occur after mains power is restored. This could leave many folk uncontactable, and unable to contact others and other agencies, which in turn could significantly compromise their safety.

11) Future meetings

Next Committee Meeting 24 March, 14:00

Special Committee Meeting (For Conference Amendments etc) 3 March 14:00

Next General Meeting 28 April, 11:00

Other meetings for 2022 22 September, 17 November (AGM)

Apologies for absence:

Roger Luffman
Tim Vaughan
Sandra Vaughan
Ken Rothery
Les Simpson
John Edwards
Bert Slater

Attendees

John Rees (Chair)
Luke Howard (Secretary)
Tim Young (Notes)

Luke Chester (TSSA)

Cheryl O'Brien
Dave Porter
Bob Bayley

18 others

(Apologies: due to a technical problem, the full list of attendees is not available)