

### **Newsletter Number 39**

#### Table of Contents in RMG Newsletter

View from the Chair .....	1
Editor's Note .....	2
Committee member. ....	2
TSSA Equality Research. ....	2
Summary of RMG Meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2022 .....	3
My Most Remarkable Train Journey. ...	3
TSSA Annual Conference and 125 anniversary.....	6
2021 Report and Accounts .....	6
RMG General Meeting 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2022..	6
Meetings in 2022 .....	7
A Brief Report on NPC Biennial Delegates Conference by Joel. ....	7
Test your knowledge on Penultimate Stations.....	8
National Pensioner Convention (NPC) News.....	9
Update on the proposed merger with IBB. ....	10
Your RMG committee 202.....	12
Appendix (i) – Agenda Details.....	13
Appendix (ii) – Using Zoom. ....	14

### **View from the Chair**

At the time of writing this, Vladimir Putin is increasing his hold on Ukraine. My thoughts go out to the people of that country. The more I read and see what those poor people are going through, the more my heart saddens, and it takes me back to my childhood as I remember the shocking stories my

late mother told me about her younger years. Events that bear so many similarities to those being experienced by those in Ukraine.

My mother was Dutch and lived as a teenager during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Although living in the major city of The Hague, food soon became very scarce and along with her father and siblings she would trek for a good twenty miles each way to trade personal possessions for tulip bulbs. Those bulbs would become the mainstay of their daily food. One day, as they were returning home, a German soldier told them to hand over the bulbs. They did so straight away, fully knowing that even a hesitation would end with them being shot. Such was the extreme of living in a Nazi occupied country. The Dutch all lived through this terror day after day.

Meanwhile, my mother's sister, my aunt, joined the Dutch Resistance to help the persecuted Jewish population escape to a neutral country. She was captured by the Nazis and was thankfully spared her life, but she was sent to a Concentration Camp and was frequently moved to other camps. This story, however, does have a happy ending. My mother had begun working as a postie in The Hague, sorting letters. One day, she came across a card from the Red Cross, addressed to her parents, telling them that her sister had been liberated and was on her way home. My mother spoke to her supervisor who allowed her to go home to her parents with the good news. My aunt lived into her 90s.

That young woman who lived through those atrocities then met a young Welsh RAF airman who was part of the liberating forces towards the end of the War. They later married and eventually I was born.

This is the first time I have committed those memories to paper and as I write this there are tears in my eyes – not only for the past but for the present.

There are so many similarities between the Ukraine invasion and occupied countries during World War 2. I can appreciate what those people are going through and my thoughts and prayers go out to them.

These events are just some of the reasons I have always been on the Left of the political spectrum and a life-long Trade Unionist. It didn't take me long to realise that the extreme right are a danger to the hardworking common person. We are one world, one global family. On my first day of working at London Transport after leaving school 54 years ago I was invited to join TSSA. From that day on I was proud to be a trade unionist and that pride has never faded.

United we stand!!

*John Rees*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Editor's Note

Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened. The Government has stopped special measures for the pandemic and the question here is, was it done so people would forget the scandal of Party Gate or because the pandemic has slowed down? Guess we will have to wait for the outcome on both fronts. Meanwhile, it is still very

important we maintain clean hands policy when out and about, so take care.

So what else is happening you ask? Well, I am currently on the local campaign trail for the councillor election in Tamworth. Our local over 50's Stroller Football Club treasurer stepped down and muggings here had to step up to the role. We did have a surplus of money which we returned in proportion to the number of games played by the members and they, in turn, donated it back to buy a defibrillator to keep lineside at each game. For those that are wondering, I have improved immensely (so the lads say) however I am still the last person being picked for the team. Fundraising for the charities and other activities are once again picking up.

Many of you I imagine are similarly getting involved with activities on your patch and as your editor, I implore you to write up a short account and submit it for our RMG newsletter.

Meanwhile Covid is still around, so stay safe, wear your masks in crowds and keep washing those hands regularly.

*Bob Bayley*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Committee member.

RMG has a vacancy on the committee which we are in need to fill. Anybody interested or need more information please contact Luke Howard RMG Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TSSA Equality Research.

TSSA are funding research to look at some equalities issues raised by groups

within the union. The research will be carried out by Professor Hazel Conley and Dr Stefano Gasparri from the Faculty of Business & Law at University of West of England, Bristol. They would like to interview (for about an hour) people from a number of roles in the union, including one from each SOG: we will seek a volunteer at the April meeting or you can contact Luke Howard, the RMG Secretary, if you would like to volunteer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Keep in touch with TSSA and its activities by subscribing via the TSSA website ([www.tssa.org.uk](http://www.tssa.org.uk)) to the RMG My TSSA pages to see a wider range of information. In addition, if you contact Head Office you can arrange to receive TSSA News on the Go via email. However, if you do not have email access then there is very limited information from Head Office that you will be sent.

If you receive your RMG newsletter via post, we will continue to send it. So please make sure we have an up-to-date postal address.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Summary of RMG Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2022**

Another Zoom meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February with 24 in attendance.

The relevant committee officers gave a summary for their report. Further details can be found in the minutes on MyTSSA website.

Dinesh Bhardwa was elected onto the committee leaving one vacancy available.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **My Most Remarkable Train Journey.**

I'm assuming that the majority of RMG members, though clearly not all, used to work for BR and have therefore enjoyed using their 'Travel Facilities' for many years, travelling either free or at 'priv' rate, across our rail network. It is also the wish of the RMG Committee that RMG members should feel free to contribute items for consideration for publication in our newsletter. I am therefore challenging you to read the rest of this article and then to submit the story of your most remarkable train journey.

Before I tell you my story, I have had two other train journeys that came close to being my most remarkable. On one occasion I went to watch my football team play an away fixture in Portsmouth and left the stadium at gone 5pm on a Saturday evening, yet at 9.45pm that same evening I was walking up Platform 3 at Preston, having just got off a train from London, a remarkably quick run from the South Coast. Also, when I was on the EC, I represented TSSA at an International Rail Safety Conference in Tokyo and had one free day at the end of the week, before flying home. Being a 'professional anorak', I wasn't going to travel that far and not have a ride on a Shinkansen (Japanese Bullet Train) and travelled roughly 200 miles north of Tokyo on one to a city called Sendai which is close to the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station that was badly damaged in an earthquake a few years ago, as was Sendai. After spending a few hours on Sendai station trainspotting, I returned to Tokyo and on to Blighty the following day.

So, what could beat that ?? I left school over fifty years ago, and whilst I've renewed contact with a number of school friends through Facebook and

Linkedin, I have only kept in touch throughout that half-century with one friend from schooldays. When Tom left school, unlike most of his contemporaries, who went to college or uni he went straight out to work, and not long after doing so, met a young lady, fell in love and they married quite young. They were happy together and had a baby daughter until Tom's work took him temporarily to Norfolk, where he worked during the week and went home to his wife and daughter at the weekend.

Then he met another young lady in Norfolk, and they began an affair, which his wife ultimately discovered, which ended their marriage, and he went to live in Norfolk with his new partner. This would have been in the mid to late 1980s.

One day I was at home when the phone rang. It was Tom, who told me that his divorce had come through and that he and his new partner were going to get married. He was ringing to see if Mary, our daughters, and I would go through for the wedding. They were going to tie the knot on a Saturday about two weeks before Christmas. Our girls were young at the time and didn't really know him, and for all of us to go to Norfolk would have meant at least one if not two nights in a hotel, so it was agreed that I would go to Norfolk alone, after work on Friday, stay overnight at Tom's place, and return home to Lancashire on Saturday evening.

Tom and his partner were living in Thetford, and I duly travelled south after work on Friday, without any problem. On Saturday morning, Tom drove me to a village a few miles outside Thetford, where the local Registry Office was, and where the ceremony was to take place. On the

way, I asked if another of our mutual friends was coming, and Tom said that he wasn't as he couldn't afford to so close to Christmas. 'So are you not having a Best Man then?' I asked, 'Oh' replied Tom, 'didn't I say? I was rather hoping you'd be my Best Man'. So there I am, less than five minutes away from a Registry Office where I'm to see my school pal get wed a second time and discover that I'm the Best Man! – We muddled through OK!! Tom had also previously advised that the Wedding Breakfast was to be at a hotel in Attleborough, another village a few miles from Thetford, and which I knew had a railway station. This was all in pre-internet days so I couldn't check anything online, as I would do now. However, my office had and used TOPS, which in turn had a timetable function, so I had researched train times home in advance and knew what time the last train left Attleborough on a Saturday evening that had connections through to Preston.

On arrival at the hotel, I checked at Reception to see how far away the station was, (not far) and how to get there. We had the meal, speeches etc., and later the time came when I knew I needed to make a move, so went to Tom and his bride to thank them for inviting me, wished them well for the future, not that they stayed together long, and headed for Attleborough station.

But it's now around 6 pm and dark outside, and I must have taken a wrong turn somewhere because, by the time I found the station, I'd missed my last train! So, there I am on a little village station in Norfolk early on a Saturday evening, with no money to speak of, and I've missed my last train home!! What was I to do? Then I spotted what I thought might be my salvation.

There was a signal box at the end of one of the platforms, with a light on inside and I could see a signalman moving about inside, so off I went down the platform and up the steps to his door, I could see him looking decidedly apprehensive, so I showed my priv. card to prove I was staff, and friendly. He came to the door, I explained my predicament, and asked if he had any advice. All he could suggest was that there was a train due about twenty minutes later, going to Ely. He suggested I catch that and see how far up country I managed to get before the trains stopped running. I couldn't have expected more from him. I returned to the platform, the train to Ely duly arrived and I caught it.

On arrival in Ely, I was surprised to see a number of folks on the platform, and quickly realized they were waiting for a late-running train from Stansted Airport that was going forward to Peterborough. No sooner had my train from Attleborough disappeared the Peterborough train arrived so off I went to Peterborough. As we were running into an island platform at Peterborough, an HST was running into the opposite side of the same platform, heading north. I was off one train and on to the other like a shot and in less than five minutes I'd both arrived at, and then departed from Peterborough. A few minutes later, the guard come over the PA 'Welcome to passengers who've just joined us at Peterborough. This is the xx hrs train to wherever (I can't remember those details) and we will be calling at Grantham and he listed a number more calling points north thereof. He then added that passengers should change at Grantham for a connecting service to Nottingham. My ears pricked up at that, as Mary's sister and her husband were living in Nottingham at that time, and I thought

that if I could get no further, I could ring home, get Mary to ring them, and hopefully kip on their sofa overnight. Sure enough, when we stopped at Grantham, there was a DMU in the bay alongside, waiting to take me and a number of others to Nottingham. On arrival there, I thought I'd quickly check the departure board, just in case, before ringing Mary. To my surprise and delight, there was a train imminently due, that was going on to Crewe. Needless to say, I was on it!!

Let me briefly take you back to Attleborough. Had I caught my intended train (the one I missed) I would have gone to Ely, connected into a train to Liverpool Street, hopped across to Euston on the Tube, and caught the last through train of the day from Euston to Preston. When I got to Crewe it didn't take me long to realize that my several wafer-thin connections, one only possible due to a train running significantly late, I had managed to get to Crewe before the train from Euston I should have been on by that stage.

I, therefore, waited for it, only to soon discover that things were going to get even better!! Whilst standing on my platform for the Preston train, and watching the handful of trains still running, come in and out of the station, a train of TPO vehicles (Travelling Post Office) came into my platform and stopped. From nowhere, a driver and guard started walking towards it to take it forward on the next stage of its journey. They were a Preston train crew and the guard spotted me and came over. 'Are you going home?' he asked. On getting an affirmative response, he told me to wait there while he quickly hunted out the Post Office Manager on the train to ask if I could travel with the guard in the Guard's Van. The Post

Office was still very cautious about such things following the Great Train Robbery back in 1963. However, permission was granted, and I ended up in Preston several minutes sooner than I would have done had I caught my 'last train'. To my dying day, I doubt I'll ever have a journey like that again!!

*Tim Young*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **TSSA Annual Conference and 125 anniversary.**

The Final Agenda should be published by 16 April: we will circulate a link to it with the updated meeting papers closer to our meeting date.

There is only one contested election, for the TUC delegation. We nominated three candidates for the three seats, so the Committee has agreed to vote for our nominees.

The Celebration of TSSA's 125th anniversary, on Monday 9 May, looks likely to be a really interesting day. It will be open to all TSSA members and we hope that many RMG members will be there. Details are on the TSSA website at <https://www.tssa.org.uk/news-and-events/events/tssa-125-celebrations>

*Luke Howard*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **2021 Report and Accounts**

The Report and Accounts (R&A) should be circulated by 9 April, with questions to be submitted by 23 April. We suggest that members should let us know of any questions they want to put forward by Tuesday 19 April, and the Committee will decide in

correspondence if we are unhappy with any of the questions proposed. We will ask the meeting on 28 April to ratify any questions we put forward and withdraw any that are not approved.

We have had no reply to our comments and questions on the 2019 and 2020 R&As, and we have proposed an amendment to the EC motion at Conference to require all three sets of R&As to be presented and debated at Conference in the normal fashion.

*Luke Howard*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RMG General Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The RMG meeting will be held via Zoom on 28<sup>th</sup> April starting at 11 am and finishing no later than 15.00hrs.

The agenda includes

- 11:00 Welcome.
- 11:05 Minutes of the last meeting.
- 11:10 Officers and Delegate reports.
- 11:50 A committee member to be elected.
- 12:00 Report from Luke Chester.
  
- 12:30 to 13:30 Refreshment Break.
  
- 13:30 Proposed Merger and SDC.
- 14:10 2021 Report & Accounts.
- 14:15 TSSA Annual Conference 2022 Sheffield 7-10<sup>th</sup> May updates.
- By 14:50 Motions from members/AOB
- 15:00 Close

More information will be circulated by email nearer the meeting date: If you get the newsletter by post and want to take part in the meeting, please email [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk)

Full details including the agenda and on how to **join the Zoom meeting** are in the Appendix.

### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID                      Passcode  
**536 628 7974**                      **636869**

Meeting link  
[Click here to join meeting.](#)

Smartphone link                      [Click here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Please let the Secretary know if you have any ideas for a visit to a future venue, bearing in mind we have an ongoing pandemic so cannot go on visits at this present time. However, let's take this opportunity to plan these events for the future. Note:-if you want to help arrange these visits, please drop a line to the RMG Secretary Luke Howard.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Meetings in 2022**

The dates of future meetings are shown below. Details of the agenda for each will be given in the relevant newsletter.

We are looking to have RMG future meetings in 2022 as face-to-face/Hybrid meetings. If you know of any suitable locations, please let us know. Note the following planned dates.

### **General Meeting Dates 2022**

28<sup>th</sup> April  
22<sup>nd</sup> September  
17<sup>th</sup> November (AGM)

### **Committee Meeting Dates 2022**

11<sup>th</sup> August  
6<sup>th</sup> October  
8<sup>th</sup> December

If you have any information for the officers to consider or required to be included in upcoming general meetings

it would be helpful to submit it to the secretary before the Committee meetings.

Note: - 2022 dates were confirmed at the AGM but may still be subject to changes later. Any changes to these will be published in the Newsletter if possible and will also be placed on our website which you can access through "MyTSSA" on the TSSA website.

\*\*\*\*\*

The RMG Secretary is Luke Howard, please contact via email at [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) or via text on mobile 07989 393210.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **A Brief Report on NPC Biennial Delegates Conference by Joel.**

My first time not only on NPC Standing Orders Committee but also elected its Chair in this first term! As too few people were nominated for the next SOC, I and three others were automatically re-elected, so TSSA still maintains a strong presence inside NPC.

The number of motions and amendments submitted threatened to derail the agenda. My TSSA SOC experience proved useful in reaching a compromise with my SOC colleagues and the NPC 'top table' to ensure all the motions could be debated. As I was to observe several times, "TSSA teaches its members well."

TSSA as a single union has only one approach to Conference, but as NPC is made up of many unions plus non-union origins, there is no agreed standard for debate, so 'Citrine' has to be invoked, which is alien to some (for example, one union does not allow amendments at their Conferences...); not many at NPC are that familiar with

'Citrine' and of those who were, some were selective in the use of it...

I had to guide the Conference through the process on a few occasions, especially when an unexpected call came from a delegate to remit a motion, taking Conference step-by-step through that process. Fortunately, this was an occasion where I was listened to (a rare experience!) and the motion reached a successful conclusion.

Rising noise throughout the first day resulted in formal and informal complaints to the General Secretary. I was asked at the start of the second day to make a statement on behaviours (which I had already done in my opening presentation to Conference, covering democracy, process, what SOC is and does, and the tight timetable needing agreement from all to ensure all motions were debated), and as I had been bypassed the first time, this repetition was blunt, 'reading the Riot Act'. Many delegates, myself included have varying degrees of hearing impairment; background (and sometimes loud) chatter prevented some from following the debates. I may not have been popular with some delegates, but the forthright approach worked.

Our two delegates, Cheryl O'Brien and Steve Whitehead (elected NPC Treasurer unopposed - TSSA at the top!) pushed through all our motions and amendments successfully. One delegate came up to me and praised Cheryl for presenting the only sensible speech at NPC; another praised (I think!) me for being "knowledgeable and assertive" for managing the agenda. As I said, "TSSA teaches its members well!"

Joel Kosminsky

\*\*\*\*\*

### Test your knowledge on Penultimate Stations.

In the table listed below are thirty stations all of which are either on the UK rail network, or the networks of NIR and CIE. The one thing they all have in common is that if you travel from them in one direction, you will access the national rail network of the country you're in, and if you travel in the opposite direction, the next station is the end of the line, hence they are all penultimate stations. For each of these stations, you need to name the next station that is at the end of the line. I have not included any London termini, LUL stations, or any major provincial termini e.g., Manchester Piccadilly, Liverpool Lime Street, or Glasgow Central. There is at least one station listed from all four home nations plus the Irish Republic.

1. <a href="#">Banstead</a>	16. <a href="#">Inverkip</a>
2. <a href="#">Bellarena</a>	17. <a href="#">Marske</a>
3. <a href="#">Ben Rhydding</a>	18. <a href="#">Meols Cop</a>
4. <a href="#">Castlebar</a>	19. <a href="#">Merryton</a>
5. <a href="#">Connel Ferry</a>	20. <a href="#">Park Street</a>
6. <a href="#">Datchet</a>	21. <a href="#">Pontlottyn</a>
7. <a href="#">Deganwy</a>	22. <a href="#">Quintrel Downs</a>
8. <a href="#">Dingle Road</a>	23. <a href="#">Seamer</a>
9. <a href="#">Dormans</a>	24. <a href="#">Shiplake</a>
10. <a href="#">Dovercourt</a>	25. <a href="#">Sundridge Park</a>
11. <a href="#">Fairlie</a>	26. <a href="#">Thames Ditton</a>
12. <a href="#">Farranfore</a>	27. <a href="#">Thorpe Bay</a>
13. <a href="#">Galashiels</a>	28. <a href="#">Wallasey</a>
14. <a href="#">Havenhouse</a>	29. <a href="#">Ware</a>
15. <a href="#">Highams Park</a>	30. <a href="#">Wilmcote</a>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Editor's note:* - Is there any other Quiz masters out there who would submit an interesting Quiz to our newsletter?

\*\*\*\*\*

## National Pensioner Convention (NPC) News.

Despite the withdrawal of government restrictions over Covid the NPC is still cautious over member health and some meetings remain via zoom. A very worthwhile feature is the growth in the use of NPC webinars (also on the NPC YouTube channel) and the annual convention will be built around regionally-based webinars.

The NPC Transport Working Party has met regularly, trialing one 'real' event in Coventry and the rest still online, as premises for ten people safely apart are not easily found. Meetings are well-attended, with full agendas covering almost every aspect of UK transport. Some items are only discussion and awareness-raising, while others are to gather information for reports to NPC's Head Office and Executive Committee, as well as our own affiliates to take action (we hope) on. Joel is the only member with inside if ancient knowledge of bus operations and planning, but others have different and extensive ranges of experience for buses and trains.

Ongoing issues are funding of buses (what use is a Bus Pass when few or no buses to travel on?); rise and menaces of e-scooters; keeping the railway staffed for all, not just those who have no access to online facilities. We have prepared submissions to various government transport consultations, where we often note the questions are rigged to avoid answers which oppose the objectives of the exercise.

The January 2022 EC meeting covered a wide range of items such as the continuing discussions on the Health and Social Care Bill, the Pensions Triple Lock, the NPC Structure Review, and

the planned Dignity Day Webinar. There was a debate on revisions to NPC Housing Policies and two amendments to the policies from TSSA was approved. Reports from working parties included Digital, Finance, Health and Social Care, Pensions and Income, Housing, Women's, Transport and Minority Elders (BAME).

The Finance Working Party (FWP) met in February to consider the draft end of year finance report. The FPW has monitored the financial position very closely and was pleased that the end of year deficit was only £2,000, substantially less than the budgeted £28,000. The saving was very largely attributed to almost all face-to-face events taking place online instead, but one or two unplanned additional trade union donations were very welcome.

The draft budget for 2022 shows a deficit of about £21,000 and the FWP has approved an annual review that will be sent out with all affiliation and membership reminders to ensure that key income source is maximized. The FWP is determined that their 2022 focus will remain on measures to boost income and reduce costs so the final deficit will be less than forecast.

The Structure Working Party review continues. A report was approved at the Biennial Delegate Conference that proposed merging the double-headed NPC structure of an Executive Committee and National Council into one National Executive Committee. It may take time to bring it into full effect as a number of minor rule changes will be required as well as numerous changes in long-established working practices. It is however a very welcome change, one that your delegates have been pressing for.

The establishment of the new NPC Fundraising Charity- Age Positive Foundation (APF) is almost complete. In March an application for Charity Commission Registration has been submitted as well as a Bank account application. A meeting will soon be held with Vantage Fundraising (NPC-appointed fundraisers) to discuss obtaining charitable grants for APF activities and for wider support to NPC activities.

The NPC Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) took place in mid-March at Yarnfield Conference Centre in Staffordshire. We submitted two motions, one on Rail Travel and one to change the annual convention rules and both were widely supported, and our amendments to other motions were also approved. All but one of the nominations for the NPC President, Vice Presidents, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary and Treasurer as well as for the Standing Orders Committee were approved.

As I have been elected as NPC National Treasurer for the next two years I have stood down as TSSA/RMG delegate to NPC and this will be my last NPC newsletter report. I want to thank all my TSSA colleagues for their support to NPC over a number of years and I look forward to RMG appointing a new delegate when NPC office issues the call for nominations.

*Steve Whitehead*

\*\*\*\*\*

All to Note: - There is no members comments this time round. If you want to comment on the Newsletter or inform us of some information, then drop us a line to RMG Secretary stating **[Comment for Newsletter.](#)**

## [Update on the proposed merger with IBB.](#)

The SDC has been put back twice and is now due to take place on 6 May, the Friday afternoon before the Annual Conference. The SDC will be a hybrid event based in Sheffield. The two deferrals have been because of the continuing high incidence of Covid.

Colleagues will recall that, during the last RMG meeting on 3 February, a Circular was received that:

- reported on the result of the reps' poll (well over 80% in support of the merger, with support from an absolute majority of reps).
- announced the (first) rescheduling of the SDC.
- announced that a poll of all members would take place by email.
- reported a significant change in the legal position.

It appears that this cannot be a merger governed by the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act (TULRA), and it is not clear just what the legal status of the merger will be as a result. It is possible that no formal ballot process will be needed. (Although TULRA is a significant plank of the anti-trade union laws brought in by Tory Governments, the merger provisions provide constraints and protections intended to limit the powers of union Executives and senior officers to impose changes on union structures.

We discussed this information during the meeting, and after the meeting, we emailed to ask that any ballot should be accompanied by a balanced view of the arguments for and against the merger; and that the EC should issue an updated report with a fresh opportunity for branches and SOGs to submit amendments. Frank Ward, Assistant General Secretary, responded that the

EC did not intend to issue an updated report. The 3 February Circular also announced that a survey of 'all members would be conducted by email.

A week later a Circular from SOC advised us of the amendments the EC had decided to accept, which included the one from RMG (specifying some information to be published before a formal ballot) and one from Network Rail London South that called for a survey of members and changed the instruction in the motion from 'endorses the report' to 'notes the report'.

In further correspondence, we pointed out that accepting this amendment means there is no way for the SDC to approve the merger and expressed concern about this gap in the democratic process. The reply, again from Frank Ward, indicated that the 'ballots' of reps and all members (with email addresses) meant that no Conference decision would be required. The email poll has now ended, with about 32% turnout – relatively high for a union poll of this nature. The votes were almost 85% in favour of the merger so a little lower than the result from the reps' poll. The EC reports that, with members providing email addresses during the course of the poll, the union now has addresses for 91%

of members, while the recent diary mailing indicated that we do not have valid postal addresses for about 4%.

The RMG Committee considered this situation at our meeting in March, and decided to propose an emergency motion, to be debated at either the SDC or Annual Conference. The motion will fill the gap left by the EC agreeing to 'note' the Report: instructing the EC to conclude discussions with IBB, secure any necessary permissions from relevant authorities, review the revised Rule Book that was put forward and put the changes to Annual Conference, and once all is in place to complete the merger. Although there are still concerns about some aspects of the merger, we do not think the Retired Members' Group should try and second-guess the results of the polls: but we think there are great risks in the EC's apparent intention to proceed without any Conference mandate for the merger.

*Luke Howard*    *RMG Secretary*  
[retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

---

---

## Your RMG committee 202.

### **Post**

Chair  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee Member – (Minutes)  
Committee Member –  
Committee Member –  
Committee Member – (Newsletter Editor)

### **Postholder**

John Rees  
Cheryl O'Brien  
Luke Howard  
Dave Porter  
Tim Young  
Dinesh Bhardwa+  
*Vacant*  
Bob Bayley

Note 1: - Committee members can be contacted via RMG secretary Luke Howard on [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) or by text via 07989 393210.

### **Other Roles.**

Auditors: - Tim Bartlett and Neil Baker

\*\*\*\*\*

*Please note that the views being expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the RMG or TSSA. Unsigned articles or reports are the responsibility of the editor.*

*If you have comments on our newsletter, you have news or other items for inclusion in later issues, or you have comments on readability please contact the RMG Secretary.*

*Any changes or additions to the mailing list can be notified via the Secretary*

\*\*\*\*\*

## General Meeting

**11:00 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
**By Zoom**

### Appendix (i) – Agenda Details.

#### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID	<b>536 628 7974</b>	Passcode	<b>636869</b>
Meeting link	<a href="#">Click here to join meeting.</a>	Smartphone link	<a href="#">Click here</a>
Dial in on	44 20 3901 7895	or	44 131 460 1196

1. Welcome and apologies	John Rees, Chair	11:00
2. Remembrance of deceased colleagues		
3. Minutes of last meeting	Luke Howard	11:05
4. Officers' and Delegates' reports		11:10
a. Secretary	Luke Howard	
b. Newsletter Editor	Bob Bayley	
c. Treasurer	Dave Porter	
d. Pensions matters	Neil Baker	
e. National Pensioners' Convention	Joel Kosminsky, Steve Whitehead	
f. Pre-retirement Seminars	John Rees, Cheryl O'Brien	
g. Group outings	nothing to report	
5. Election of additional Committee member	Luke Howard	11:50
6. Luke Chester, TSSA Organiser		12:00
Refreshment break		12:30
7. Proposed Merger and Special Conference, 6 May		13:20
8. 2021 Report & Accounts (see Newsletter item)		14:10
9. TSSA Annual Conference 2022, Sheffield, 7-10 May		14:15
a) Update		
b) Mandating or particular issues for the delegate		
c) Emergency motions		
d) Voting		
e) Arrangements for celebration of 125th anniversary		
10. Motions from members/Any other business		by 14:50
11. Future Meetings		
Next Committee Meeting (Zoom)	11 <sup>th</sup> August, 14:00	
Next General Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 11:00	

Note: - All timings are approximate and may be changed as appropriate

For items 7; 8 and 9 there are newsletter items associated.

## Appendix (ii) – Using Zoom.

If you have not used Zoom yet, we suggest you install it and try it out before joining the meeting. There are useful tutorials on the Zoom website [zoom.us](https://zoom.us).

Zoom can be used on any computer with a web browser, iPad or Android tablets, iPhones and most other smartphones, or an old-fashioned non-smartphone. Apps can be downloaded for Windows and Apple computers, Apple and Android tablets and phones, and some other systems.

A camera allows other participants to see you: speakers or an earphone are needed to hear the discussions; you need a microphone or an earphone/microphone combination to speak.

### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID	<b>536 628 7974</b>	Passcode	<b>636869</b>
Meeting link	<a href="#">Click here to join meeting.</a>	Smartphone link	<a href="#">Click here</a>
Dial-in on	<b>+44 20 3901 7895</b>	or	<b>+44 131 460 1196</b>

### **If you have Zoom installed**

- click on one of the links above which will open the Zoom app and go straight into the meeting, or
- open Zoom: click 'Join meeting' and enter the meeting ID and your name, then you will be asked for the meeting passcode.

### **If you are new to using Zoom**

- click on the link above which will download and install the Zoom app before going into the meeting, or
- go to the Zoom website ([zoom.us](https://zoom.us)): you can either download and install the app or use the menu option to join the meeting in your web browser

### **If you do not have a computer or smart device or have limited Wi-Fi etc**

- you can use any phone by dialling one of the numbers below and entering the meeting ID and password (followed by the # key) to get a voice link into the meeting
- you can press \*6 to turn 'mute' on and off, and \*9 to 'raise your hand' and attract the meeting Chair's attention
- unfortunately, the 'polling' arrangement for votes will not work using a non-smartphone, we will ask you to raise your hand (\*9) at the appropriate point when we are voting
- Dial-in on **+44 203 901 7895** or **+44 131 460 1196**

### **If your computer does not have a camera, speakers and/or microphone**

- join the meeting on the computer using one of the methods above, then
- click on the 'i' button at the top left and make a note of your participant ID
- using a phone, dial one of the phone numbers above, and enter the meeting ID and your participant ID when prompted. This will link your dial-in to your computer connection so other participants can see your name when you speak, and you will be able to vote using the computer screen.

\*\*\*\*\*