

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

RAGES Committee Meeting

23rd. August 2023 1.30pm, Dunbar Library, Bleachingfield Community Centre.

Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attended: Barrie Forrest BEM, Harald Vox, Glenn Moulding, Tom Dickson, Ian Bowman, Stewart Leslie, Allison Cosgrove, Tom Thorburn.

Apologies: Tom Flanagan.

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 12th. July 2023

Minutes of previous meeting were approved subject to an edit to record that Ms Hyslop MSP was unable to attend as guest speaker at our AGM.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes.

None.

3. Station Reports

- Berwick

Allison reported (again) that the Ladies toilets are in a poor and filthy state although it is understood they are to be refurbished. Likewise the station lift has been defective for the last few month. Again, in the long term the lift is to be refurbished.

Berwick ticket office is threatened with closure as part of the LNER cutbacks. Tom T, Barrie and Tom D attended a public rally on 21/07/2023 at The Maltings Berwick to protest against the closure.

Barrie and Tom D met up with Councillor Georgina Hill (ward Berwick East) to discuss the proposed ticket office closures.

- Dunbar

The station continues to be very busy based on observed passenger numbers. The ticket office staff have been observed on several occasions helping travellers purchase the cheapest ticket for their journey.

- East Linton & Markle

Markle – The planning application for the upgrade has been approved. Some type of excavation work was observed late July/early August. That work has since finished, and no further site activity has been observed.

The station platform is now 100% complete. Work on the construction of the walkway's platform 1 side progresses and progress can now be seen with the car park.

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The station is now listed on the following websites: ScotRail, Network Rail, RealTime Trains, RailCam and Google Maps as well as East Lothian CRP interactive map.

[East Lothian Scenic Line](#) | [East Lothian Community Rail Partnership \(eastlothiancrp.org.uk\)](#)

- Haddington

RAGES had a stall at HFM on 29/07/2023. Ian, Stewart, Allison and Barrie attended. The day was deemed a success with the recruitment of new members and a discussion with Paul McLennan about trying to arrange a meeting with the Scottish Transport Minister.

HFM 26/08/2023, Ian, Stewart and Tom D will be attending.

- North Berwick & Drem

Drem seems to be busy, although it was reported that parts of the station were looking neglected and required painting.

North Berwick, the platform kiosk building which is currently vacant is being looked at by ELCRP with a view to converting the kiosk into public toilets and ScotRail have also reported that there is an interested party in acquiring the kiosk building.

Allison also reported that the mural at Prestonpans was looking good and that Wallyford station was busy.

- Reston

Barrie has contacted Rachel Hamilton MSP requesting a face-to-face meeting to discuss aligning the local bus timetable with the train timetable.

A new north bound road sign with station signage has been erected on the A1 just before the Reston junction. Awaiting the southbound sign. Barrie has contacted SBC for road signage at Coldingham to be upgraded to include Reston station signage. The lift at the station has been defective but was repaired promptly thanks to the power of Facebook.

Tom T reported another instance of TPE trains being cancelled and the passengers affected not being allowed to travel on a LNER train. Tom will contact John Lamont about this issue.

4. Membership Report.

Total membership is 302. This figure includes paying and interested non-paying members. We currently have 60 non-paying members. There are currently 37 members still to renew with a cut-off date to renew by 31/09/2023. Taking into account the aforementioned numbers we currently have 205 fully paid-up members.

Membermojo is now fully up and running. Recognition and thanks in no small measure is due to Russell Darling for setting up and tailoring the system to our needs. This would have involved hundreds of hours of work on his part.

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Membermojo is not as flexible as our previous membership systems and a feature of the new system is that when the database was imported into membermojo, and a member was already paid in advance the system wouldn't allow for an annual payment to be made. This affected several members. We contacted all members and apart from three, they all replied saying to make this year's payment a donation. The three members who didn't reply, I've since made their payments for this year donations. If in the future, they do reply requesting a refund then this will be facilitated.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Ian provided the following treasurer's update –

Balance on 12/07/2023	2239.92
Income	47.00
Expenditure	
Computer Support	50.00
Railfuture Trave	185.95
50 Second Class Stamps	37.50
250 RAGES Rags	112.90
Balance on 23/08/2023	1900.57

6. Haddington Farmers Market

See update under Haddington station report.

7. Correspondence and Meetings attended

15/07/2023 Rail Future Awards presentation London.

18/07/2023 Barrie and Tom D met up with Berwick councillor Georgina Hill to discuss the proposed ticket office closures.

26/07/2023 Berwick upon Tweed Probus RAGES presentation.

29/07/2023 Haddington farmers Market.

05/08/2023 St Abbs Lifeboat Gala & Family Fun Day

12/08/2023 Ayton Fete.

Letter from John Lamont congratulating the group on our Rail Future award.



John Lamont letter

Extract from East Lothian Courier regarding the group receiving our Rail Future award.



East Lothian Courier
article

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Future Meetings

2/09/2023 The Ayton Show

2&3/09/2023 Aln Valley Model Railway exhibition.

04/09/2023 Round table discussion at the Royal Mackintosh Hotel Dunbar about withdrawal of services from Dunbar

18/09/2023 East Lothian CRP meeting, Royal Mackintosh 1.30pm.

13/11/2023 Dunbar Rotary Club RAGES presentation Royal Mackintosh 6pm.

08/01/2024 Haddington Probus RAGES presentation.

8. AGM

The AGM is planned to be held on Thursday 21st. September 7pm at East Linton village community hall.

The RAGES constitution was presented to the committee for approval by Tom T, the constitution was approved at last year's AGM subject to some minor text and grammar edits. In addition to these edits, a further edit of section 2 Aims a) was carried out. It was agreed by the committee that the additional edit was of a minor nature and didn't require to be presented at the AGM for approval. The revised constitution was approved by the committee.

Allison agreed to contact Dunpender CC to provide personnel to serve teas at the AGM.

9. AOCB.

RAGES Christmas lunch, the date and venue were agreed. The date is Thursday 14th. December 1pm at the Linton Hotel. Numbers to be confirmed. Post meeting note – Allison has booked the venue, menu to be supplied later.

Click on link below for further information on the Dunbar to Tranent active travel route.



Fwd_ Connecting
Dunbar to Tranent.m

Aln Valley Railway, 9th. RailEx, 2nd. /3rd. September.

Saturday 2nd. Tom & Glenn attending.

Sunday 3rd. Barrie & Allison attending.

The Ayton Show 2nd. September - Barrie & Ian attending.

A discussion took place about the negative issues with split ticketing and also the removal of return tickets which has resulted in two single tickets costing more than the previous return journey ticket.

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10. Date of Next Meetings

Committee meetings - 25/10, 29/11, 1.30pm at Dunbar Library, Bleachingfield community centre.