

THE MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1092127

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [04374320](#)

Registered 2002-05-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 497 New Chester Road
Wirral
Merseyside
Merseyside
CH62 3LD

Phone 01516380547

Email mtpsenquiries@yahoo.co.uk

Website www.mtps.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE SOCIETY IS ESTABLISHED:-A) TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, A TRAMWAY AND TRANSPORT MUSEUM AND FOR THE LIKE PURPOSE, TO PROMOTE THE PERMANENT PRESERVATION OF TRAMWAY AND ASSOCIATED VEHICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST OR EQUIPMENT OR ANY OTHER ITEMS OF TRANSPORT INTEREST OR OF ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL HISTORICAL OR SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL VALUE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ITEMS HAVING A CONNECTION WITH THE AREA COMPRISED WITHIN THE COUNTRY OF MERSEYSIDE.B) TO TAKE OVER AND HOLD THE WHOLE OR ANY PART OF THE UNDERTAKING AND THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY OF, AND TO TAKE OVER AND UNDERTAKE THE PERFORMANCE AND DISCHARGE OF ALL OR ANY OF THE LIABILITIES OF, AND (SO FAR AS THE SAME IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS MEMORANDUM) TO CONTINUE TO CARRY ON THE WORK HERETOFORE CARRIED ON BY THE EXISTING UNINCORPORATED SOCIETY KNOWN AS THE "MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY" WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN THE YEAR 1960.

Activities: To preserve and document Merseyside and the North West's tramway heritage

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Knowsley
- Lancashire
- Liverpool City
- Sefton
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£10,226	£35,376	-	-
2024-08-31	£13,635	£12,425	-	-
2023-08-31	£42,795	£26,550	-	-
2022-08-31	£33,697	£15,961	-	-
2021-08-31	£10,955	£26,279	-	-
2020-08-31	£37,298	£37,638	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
TERENCE JOHN MARTIN	Chair	
BRIAN CARAHER		2012-11-26
Charles Michael Mercer		2022-11-28
David Corey		2022-11-28
IEUAN KEITH RAYNER		2014-11-24
KEITH JOHN CARMICHAEL		
RONALD MARTIN		
robert jones		

THE MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1092127

Accounts

MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered Charity Number 1092127

Company Number 4374320

Registered Office
103 Grove Road
Wallasey
CH45 3HG

ANNUAL RETURN

For year ended 31st August 2023

SUMMARY OF ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

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Submitted by:-



R S Jones
Company Secretary and Charity Trustee
Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society Limited

MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered Charity Number 1092127, Company Number 4374320

DIRECTORS' REPORT

AS GIVEN AT THE 63RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on November 27TH 2023

WELCOME: The chairman welcomed 37 members. They were: R. Jones, T Martin, G Wilson, D Evans, J Nolan, S Finch, R Hampton, P Knapton, W O'Mahoney, D Webster, J Howard, D Whitehouse, B Caraher, R Cobbe, A Jones, C Roberts, I Rayner, J Brown, P Jackson, A Percy, K Thomas, D Corey, A Hurren, B Barlow, J Codling, I Latimer, T Bowen, R Martin, J Hewitt, B Corkill, K Carmichael, D Birch, J Harrison, J Hughes, I Mackenzie, C Murtha and S Redmond,

Apologies for absence were received from: J Slater, G Nelson, M Mercer, M Jenkins, Mrs J Rayner, A J Day, G Price, F Williams, R Winfield, V Kelly, A Howley, Mrs C Evans, M Wright, J Howarth, C Williamson and J Moran.

The minutes of the 62nd AGM held on November 28, 2022 were adopted with no matters arising. This was proposed by Brian Caraher and seconded by Wayne O'Mahoney and carried nem con,

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS: Terry Martin said he had become secretary of the MTPS in 1968, taking over from John Maher. In 1978 he became chairman and it was now his 45th year in post. He was standing for a further three years, but said at 80, he should start taking things a little easier. It all underlined how much new blood was needed on the board. Dean Paton CEO of Big Heritage for instance, was only 40.

The chairman said our tram maintenance team has been decimated in the past year by illness and one person had died.

He said we could all agree we ran the Wirral operation very well in the decade leading up to the arrival of Big Heritage. After ORR made their visits, we had set about carrying out their many recommendations. A consultant we hired said the tramway will need a lot of work done in two years' time which would cost six figures. The tramway had remained shut since April and though WBC reps said they wished it to reopen soon, they kept moving the goalposts. A recent press release from the council following the asset transfer completion on November 17, never mentioned the tramway operating, while a report shortly afterwards from Big Heritage said they needed our involvement, indicating the outside help they had been seeking instead of asking us, had not been forthcoming. Their announcement forgot to say the cost of moving 730 and the IOM horse cars to Hooton and the ongoing rent was all being *paid for by the MTPS*.

He said we had three choices: Just knuckle down and be instructed what to do by the new volunteers' co-ordinator and follow their orders or (2) we could take a one out, all out approach and move all MTPS trams to another museum where the vehicles would be maintained and well looked after when we are all gone. At present, we had little trust in Big Heritage looking after our trams. "We only need look at their track record with regard to our archive room, the model railway, the lathe room machinery or our containers in the yard," he added.

Their very latest idea is to offer us a loan agreement (which they had previously ignored) Perhaps we should go for this, monitor the situation, and decide if the trams' future was safe or not.

He concluded by thanking all the board for the work done in the past 12 months, especially Rob Jones and Ron Martin.

After other questions were asked, the chairman read out a statement from Leeds member Robert Winfield. Ian Latimer then asked several questions.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Rob Jones in his 30th consecutive report as secretary said our tenure of running the tramway ended on Sunday April 15 when we were informed the locks were being changed the next day. He said we were no longer allowed in the museum without prior permission. He then listed all that had happened to the museum and tramway in what was a most momentous and upsetting time for him as secretary. He then went on to list in detail all the events which had happened over the past 12 months. On December 1, 2022 he had gone with John Hewitt to an ORR presentation in Manchester who gently reminded us to keep on top of jobs so within six weeks we had ladder inspections done (thank you Ian Mackenzie) medicals for platform staff checked and updated, guard written training done (thank you Dave Corey), track inspection minor repairs in hand, workshop inspections done, rolling stock inspections done and up to date, near misses file being processed, SMS and Risk Assessments brought up to date and checked. And ultimately the first thing ORR wanted to see when they came in April was our SMS documents, which were all up to date. In January Big Heritage appointed Mark Butchard Associates to complete an independent business model on the museum. They wished to see our books, so our treasurer Ron Martin supplied so much detailed information on ticketing, fares, income, sales and expenditure, I believe he was overawed. On January 24, the new lessees moved a classic WW2 jeep into the museum. Following a WBC, MTPS and BH meeting, it was advised that WBC would cascade information about the asset transfer down to us, but it didn't quite work out that way. March 1 saw the last school visit to the tramway, 63 four-to-five year olds, from 9.30 am to 2.00 pm! On March 9, WBC authorised the asset transfer negotiations to continue.

Repairs to points and crossings by 1st Rail contractors took place in early March. Paid for from museum (not MTPS) funds. WBC hoped the new lessees would be on seat by June and granted keys to them. They made their presence felt and removed the bookstall without reference to us. After a letter of complaint came from a member of the public Big Heritage gave us £100 as compensation. Then two Willys jeeps arrived, one inside and one parked in the yard.

50 or so volunteers were contacted to a presentation by Big Heritage at the Start Yard near Birkenhead Woodside, on April 3.

A visit to the museum was requested by the new Director of Regeneration Dave Hughes this was done.

April 12 turned out to be the last day of public operation for the tramway, car 69 was in service. Car 78 was also out on brake testing. Next day we were told to close the museum immediately

On April 13, new rules were introduced by WBC: No working at height by anyone, trained or untrained; No welding whatsoever, Welding machines to be disconnected. (they were anyway) Nobody to drive the FLT due to diesel fumes. A new £9,000 fume extraction unit would arrive soon. It never did.

After numerous reminders from us for new Danger of Death signs for tram poles, on the announcement of a visit from ORR, WBC placed the order. Rob then described in great detail the first visit of ORR's Dr Lindsey Smith and her assistant inspector Mrs Mouli Rahman and how all four WBC personnel had left the meeting by 12.10 pm, not to return! The meeting ended at 5.30 pm.

On April 27, WBC was reminded to get the overhead line checked by MAP Automation. It never got done. In May an army lorry called a Dodge Weapons Carrier, arrived in busland. MTPS tram seats were unceremoniously dumped outside half under cover,

without consulting us. After comments from ORR about how we removed electric motors from trams, we bought a properly tested new A frame and paid for. The cost was around £2k included tested slings and hooks.

A quote for relaying and redesigning the college curve was received from contractors for £129,300, and it was sent to WBC.

On May 18 WBC on learning of the arrival of Big Heritage exhibits, and the loss of our rooms upstairs advised we must not deal with the new lessees but only with the manager of the Floral Pavilion and the Head of Health and Safety. The council set up an ORR Response Team, we were not part of this despite being at the ORR meeting all day.

The FLT was not to be used unless there were properly trained drivers. So training was arranged for John Harrison and Stewart Finch. The certificates were sent to WBC to be lost in their system. The new lessees had keys to the building and occupied half the Crosville Room and had also been given Dave Anders' old room plus another room.

On May 16, a formal report from Merseyside Fire and Rescue arrived. The assistant director of WBC met BH it was not appropriate they occupy the building before the asset transfer took place, so they had to hand their keys back in. On June 8, The FLT was rescued after a parks and Gardens team from WBC came to remove it.

On June 14, new Venues Manager Sam Howes asked that we work on preparing the museum so we could reopen asap., conclude the ORR work and set up a rota for opening and closing the museum while contractors were working there. She was pleased with the amount of COSHH paperwork done. We were told the *hired* radio contract was being cancelled as a cost saving, so MTPS paid for identical replacements.

By this time, we had completed 50 out of the 92 jobs highlighted by ORR. Sam Howes followed up by saying she wanted a list of machinery that had been removed and by whom. She wanted MTPS to transition towards the new lessees.

At the end of that month, WBC advised all work in the workshop safety critical jobs be put on hold. This included painting. All COSHH items were to be gathered for disposal by a contractor. Around this time, WBC announced a week's amnesty to remove all COSHH chemicals, all personal lockers to be left unlocked otherwise they would break the locks off.

On July 1, WBC instructed all machines in the workshop are now to be disconnected.

On July 3 they said they would get the aircraft removed from the yard. It is still there.

On July 6 ORR made their second inspection. Some items queried: How did we measure volunteers' competency? Can we introduce a system of measuring track wear? Can MTPS quantify how we take passengers off a stranded tram?

On July 14, WBC confirmed they would own the tramway on transfer of the museum to Big Heritage. WBC and BH say MTPS will continue to be the training agency for tram driving and crew training on trams. BH say the model railway is too big and will have to go. They also say MTPS can have a room for archives. On July 22 our chairman wrote to BH about a proposed tramcar loan agreement hoping to meet in early August.

On July WBC confirmed the locks were being changed and no more access allowed by us. The museum was to become a building site! July 30 was the last non-working party so named as we had been unable to do anything tangible for weeks. On this day, special paints such as brushing enamels were removed from the museum to Hooton. Next day, contractors were coming in to remove all chemicals.

"On August 2, BH advised Warrington 28 would have to go as it was not a runner, and Lisbon 703 as it had nothing to do with Wirral also had to go along with the two Isle of

Man cars. This was one of the most disharmonious and dispiriting meetings I have attended this year," he declared.

We were asked by WBC not to put anything on social media about the developing situation. Their media dept would handle any press releases. WBC advised if BH don't take over the museum, it will be closed. Days later, Hooton Park agreed they would house three horse trams. They were very understanding of our circumstances.

The secretary said generous legacies were received from the late Denys Owen and Alan Kirkpatrick and he listed members who had sadly passed away: Denis Butler, Bob Warwick, Tony Bryant, Dennis Gill, Alan Taylor and Derek Foster. He said Alan Pearce had offered to pay £6k for a repaint of Lisbon 730. The secretary thanked Ron Martin and Neil Cunningham for their dedicated and meticulous work controlling our finances. He concluded by thanking everyone for sitting through such a very long report...

possibly his longest... and least funny, but he just wanted everyone to know what has been going on.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Martin said the financial year ended on August 31, but there were only 8 months activity. It had started well with a very successful 2022 Bus and Tram Show, and £3,800 taken on the three trams, £560 in sales, and £531 in the tea room. In November, the *Night at the Museum* event exceeded our expectations, taking £974 on the trams, £506 on sales and £295 in the tea room.

We had a legacy of £9,244 left to us by the late Doreen Kirkpatrick, widow of Alan Kirkpatrick, which is designated for meeting the cost of repairs to the wheels of Birkenhead 20.

Restoration expenditure was concentrated on the Douglas horse trams and Tower Wagon. While £2,822 was spent on the new lifting Frame for extracting tram motors. Latterly there had been spending of museum funds on work required by ORR, fire prevention and COSHH requirements. Everything stopped in April so major expenditure covers only 8 months, or two thirds of the society year. Had the museum operated as normal over the spring and summer months, we could have been looking at record receipts and visitor figures. He said: "We are no longer managing income from fares, tea room and model railway, nor expenditure on the museum. Funds held by MTPS on behalf of WBC were being transferred to them leaving us to concentrate on just looking after our vehicles and archives, as we had done before 2014.

Ron then went meticulously through the accounts, and a proposal to adopt the accounts was made by John Nolan and seconded by Peter Jackson.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Mr Neil Cunningham was proposed by Ron Martin and seconded by Rob Jones.

ARCHIVIST REPORT: Mike Mercer was not able to get to the meeting due to a slow recovery of his broken femur so his report was read out by the secretary. After a five-year break, Mike had returned as archivist. He said he had removed 17 bin bags of rubbish from the archive room. After being instructed by Big Heritage to reduce the book collection, he was assisted by Bill Barlow. They had removed over 650 railway, shipping and aircraft books to various heritage groups or sold off for donations to MTPS funds. The archive room is wanted by Big Heritage, and hopefully a room could be found at Hooton for our archives.

SALES OFFICER/WEBMASTER REPORT: Keith Carmichael said some revenue was coming in from film shows, and sales had been good until the museum closed. Brian Caraher reported that all the sales items were now stored in his garage, and he was currently exploring the idea of a new online shop. He said there were 597,000 MTPS website hits and Facebook had 8,500 'likes.'

Adam Jones said BH wanted to take control of all the museum's social media accounts – Facebook, Google etc. but he was unable to give them access to the Facebook page as he had lost the owner rights when his own personal Facebook account was hacked and deleted. He had a second backup personal profile which still allowed him access to post on the museum Facebook page, using this account,

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Ieuan Rayner reported that a number of members had already paid their subscriptions for 2024. We had 282 members and 42 life members.

OPERATIONS MANAGER: John Hewitt outlined events leading up to the ORR visits to the tramway. No criticism was levelled by the ORR inspector at the way the tramway was operated, but warnings were issued about the danger of using sand without a face covering because of the silica content; evacuating air from the tanks at the end of service without ear defenders; the procedure for turned power on and off in the shed; how a stranded tram blocking a road would be removed and the infrastructure of the tramway, overhead and substation over which we have no control.

After tramways manager David Armstrong had given permission to operate the tramway for crew training and maintenance, this had resumed on May 14 and training and maintenance runs took place on 13 occasions up until July 19. At present no tram crews are in ticket, he added. John paid a warm and heartfelt tribute to all the tram crews for continuing to operate the tramway safely and efficiently. He ended saying: "We should all face the future in a calm, measured, unhurried, considered and mature fashion, confidently moving forward and working with Big Heritage with our customary enthusiasm, delight and enjoyment for the benefit of all our future customers."

RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS: With time rapidly running out for the hire of the room, the following were re-elected unopposed for a further three years en bloc: Chairman, Terry Martin, Archivist Mike Mercer and Webmaster Brian Caraher. This was proposed by Dave Armstrong and seconded by Geoff Wilson, and carried nem con.

After some discussion, the meeting then concluded with a proposal to negotiate with Big Heritage a 12-month loan with 3 months termination on either side, for three trams (20, 78 and 762) This was agreed unanimously, bar 4 against and one abstention. That concluded the formal business of the society. A few further discussions ensued before biscuits and hot drinks were served up by Bill Barlow.

Signature of Chairman *T. J. Martin*

T J Martin

Signature of Secretary *R S Jones*

R S Jones

Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society Limited
Company Number: 4374320 **Charity Number: 1092127**

Statement of Financial Activities

for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

	£ 2023	£ 2022
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Museum Income	15,083	17,518
Donations	12,843	4,322
Sales	4,041	4,054
Members subscriptions	4,205	3,989
Special Events	3,655	1,853
Gift Aid	2,266	1,332
Wallasey 79/Bus 48/Slots	660	629
Interest less Bank charges	42	(110)
	<u>42,795</u>	<u>33,587</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Museum Costs	14,910	7,360
Tramcar restoration/ maintenance	5,262	3,979
Postage & Stationery	1,789	1,383
Track Survey	1,000	
Cost of sales	1,721	1,496
Insurance	636	324
Depreciation	510	320
HRA/Crich Subs/meetings	204	204
Consumables	173	131
AGM	100	113
Auditor	100	100
Archives	70	
Co. House / Inform Commissioner	40	150
Write off	20	
Picture Frames	15	
Travel		203
Miscellaneous		88
	<u>26,550</u>	<u>15,851</u>
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources	<u>16,245</u>	<u>17,736</u>
Funds At 31st August 2022	105,043	87,307
At 31st August 2023	121,288	105,043

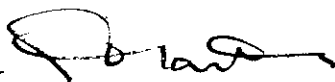
Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society Limited

Company Number: 4374320 Charity Number: 1092127

Balance Sheet at 31st August 2023

	<u>£</u> 2023	<u>£</u> 2022
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Tangible Assets	4,276	1,800
Total Fixed Assets	<u>4,276</u>	<u>1,800</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Stocks of goods for resale	1,877	2,629
Debtors		
Cash and Bank	<u>117,499</u>	<u>102,523</u>
	<u>119,376</u>	<u>105,152</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(2,364)	(1,909)
Net current assets	<u>117,012</u>	<u>103,243</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>121,288</u>	<u>105,043</u>
Net Assets	<u>121,288</u>	<u>105,043</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
Unrestricted Funds	92,618	76,546
Restricted Funds	<u>28,670</u>	<u>28,497</u>
	<u>121,288</u>	<u>105,043</u>

Signature of Treasurer



Ronald Martin

MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Reg. Charity Number 1092127

Company Number 4374320

The Notes on the following pages form part of the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 August 2023

1. Accounting Policies.

(a) Basis of Accounting:

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards. Despite the Society's relatively small size, where possible the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 and with the Companies Act 2006.

The Statement of Financial Activities discloses the identical information as that of the Income and Expenditure Account and as such no Income and Expenditure Account has been prepared.

Income and expenditure is largely accounted for on a received and paid basis. However the Trustees accrue for all items wherever practical and reasonable to do so, e.g. member's subscriptions.

(b) Incoming Resources:

All income is on a received basis except for members' subscriptions.

Donations, subscriptions and grants are credited to income and expenditure account as they are received.

(c) Resources Expended:

Expenditure is classified by type of expense, rather than under principal categories of charitable and other expenditure, in order to provide more useful and relevant information to users of the accounts.

This better reflects the relative size and focus of the Society.

(d) Tangible Fixed Assets:

The value of fixed assets represents cash paid by the Society, and does not take into account donations in kind or members' voluntary labour.

The Society's collection of vehicles and archive material has not been capitalized on the Balance Sheet, as it is considered to be inalienable.

Tools and Equipment are subject to straight line depreciation of 10%

(e) Stocks

Stocks represent goods for resale and are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

(f) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated or granted for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular purpose.

(g) Heritage Assets

As permitted in the SORP the heritage assets maintained by the society have not been recognised in the Balance Sheet. With no open market available there is no reliable basis for valuation. Additionally in view of the fact that:

- a) the trams are unique
- b) most have been donated [usually involving only the transportation costs to re-locate]
- c) others were purchased a long time ago
- d) some are owned, others are restored and maintained on behalf of other owners
- e) there is a strong presumption against disposal of any of its heritage assets[except to another museum]
- f) accurate valuations would be difficult or impossible to obtain
- g) detailed records of acquisition and restoration costs are not currently researched and collated.
- h) Labour costs in restoration and maintenance are given freely, so costs are limited to material costs only
- i) any loss would not automatically imply a desire, intention or the ability to replace the item

the Trustees currently do not feel it is appropriate to attribute a capital value to the trams and archives in its formal collection. There is therefore no heritage asset value in the balance sheet.

However for good order, the Society does maintain an asset register of its inalienable assets [mainly its trams], and also its archives. The Society, if required, does have the choice to offer limited information regarding details of acquisition or donation value, restoration costs and disposals if any.

The following can be disclosed already:

Most trams and one tower wagon are owned by the Society, and until the recent handover by Wirral Borough Council of the management of the Transport museum to Big Heritage, had been fully restored and maintained. Some other trams are maintained by the Society but not owned by the Society [e.g. Liverpool 245 owned by National Museums Liverpool].

In the last 10 years £169,851 has been spent on restoration and maintenance of trams. The three main recipients being: Liverpool 245 -£37,940; Wallasey 78 - £36,855;

Warrington 28 - £ 68,721

In the last 5 years £71,375 has been spent of which the top six amounts expended were: £54,872 spent on Warrington 28; £5,674 on the two IOM trams; £3,678 on the Birkenhead 20; £2,467 spent on the Tower Wagon; £1,727 spent on Wallasey 78 and £1,654 has been spent on the Lisbon 30..

In the last 2 years the main recipients were IOM trams £2,446; Tower Wagon; £1,681 on the Tower wagon; £1,439 on the Lisbon 30 and £1,301 on Warrington 28 .

The last disposal was the Dundee tram in 2009 for £2,500.

For the avoidance of doubt @ 31 August 2023 the MTPS owns the following assets:

Birkenhead 20.

Warrington 28 [formerly Warrington 2]

Wallasey 78

Liverpool 762

Tower Wagon [Road Vehicle, registration number GKD 317]

Lisbon 730

Liverpool 43

Wallasey 79 [children's slot machine tram ride – not full size]

Two Douglas horse-drawn trams numbered 11 and 47

Ferry model

Bus 48 slot machine.

Assets held in trust and maintained by MTPS for other organisations are:

Liverpool 245 – owned by National Museums Liverpool [NML]

Birkenhead 7 – owned by Wirral Borough Council

Hong Kong 69 and 70 – both owned by Wirral Borough Council

2. Tangible Fixed Assets.

	Gross	Depreciation	Net
Opening	6,684	4,884	1,800
Purchases in the year	2,986		2,986
Depreciation in the year		510	-510
Closing	9,670	5,394	4,276

3. Restoration and Maintenance.

	Total	Restoration	Maintenance
Tower Wagon	457		457
Liverpool 762	21		21
Wallasey 78	1,091		1,091
Lisbon 30	1,224		1,224
Birkenhead 20	21		21
Ferry Model	212	212	
IOM	1,417	1,417	
Warrington 28	820	820	
Total	5,263	2,449	2,814

4. Cash and Bank

	£
Current Account	86,149
Business Money Manager	
Account	31,270
Petty Cash	80
Total:	117,499

5. Amounts falling due within One Year:

Prepayments for members' subscriptions:	1,425
Unpresented cheques	839
Auditor	100
	<u>2,364</u>

6. Restricted Funds

Opening Balance	28,497
Income	15,083

Expenditure	14,910	173
	28,670	

Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of the charity

Report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the statement of financial activities [including income and expenditure account] statement of financial position and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income was below the audit threshold and therefore an independent examination is required in law.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of opinion and scope of work undertaken

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement, report and opinion

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

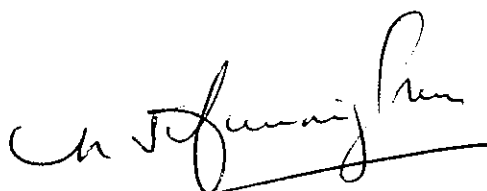
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Neil Cunningham FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
48, Woodsorrel Road
Wavertree
Liverpool L16 6UD



The date upon which opinion is expressed is 7 March 2024.

THE MERSEYSIDE TRAMWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1092127

Accounts

Annual General Meeting is cancelled

The MTPS Board decided in mid-January that the Annual General Meeting which had been re-scheduled for March 1, was no longer viable in view of the then worsening effects of the pandemic.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the 59th AGM held on November 25, 2019 and published in Newsletter 204 of February 2020 were proposed for adoption by Brian Caraher and seconded by Terry Martin.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS. In an address prepared for the cancelled AGM, Terry Martin said the society and museum had been on a real high at end of 2019 that was summed up by our November 2019 newsletter headline of Great Expectations – roll on 2020.

We had just enjoyed a dazzling *Night at the Museum 4* and had lots of exciting events planned for the following 12 months. Plenty of advance bookings were taken for private parties of visitors to the museum. Takings in the café, sales kiosk and on the trams were all rising to their highest levels.

But instead of being bigger and better, 2020 had been an unmitigated disaster for the museum and tramway.

While other museums up and down the country reopened for short periods during relaxations in lockdowns, we stayed shut. The future still looks murky. There are worrying signs on the horizon. Wirral Council is struggling to balance its budgets; the Williamson Art Gallery, whose wing we come under, may never reopen if the doomsters get their way, claiming it is cheaper to keep it shut than to reopen. However, an exciting proposal by National Museums Liverpool, about which we cannot say much at the moment, could transform our fortunes and the area around the transport museum, while Peel's plans to extend the tramway may also be a game changer.

The chairman thanked everyone who volunteered to put time in to keep the society going, and especially thanked Brian Caraher for all his assistance with the newsletters.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (covering the period November 26, 2019) This is my 27th consecutive report as your secretary, and covers a longer period than normally but paradoxically, has the least content of my previous 26 reports, says Rob Jones.

We are now in our eighth year of running the Transport Museum and the heritage tramway on behalf of Wirral Borough Council.

The covid outbreak caused the closure of the museum and tramway in mid-March 2020 by which time we had had three board meetings. This was followed by a further two email discussion groups via email. And these were minuted as virtual meetings 4 and 5. But since the total closing of the tramway and museum, all the normal on-going subjects such as income and expenditure, sales, grant applications, and museum news has dried up. No further virtual meetings have taken place but any society business has been done as appropriate. It has not been possible to have zoom board meetings.

Since the closure last March, the museum manager has gone into the museum three times a week to check security, roof leaks, and other statutory and regular maintenance work that has to be done. We give our thanks to Tony Cooper.

The heating units, one of which never worked satisfactorily to start with, have been made fully functional during the lockdown by professional engineers. Likewise, professional mechanics have been working on repairs to a number of buses.

The health and safety committee has met twice, the last time being on February 12, 2020. The meeting scheduled for April was cancelled.

The bus and tram show committee met and decided in April to cancel the Bus and Tram Show for 2020, a decision to run the show in 2021 will be made in April but it does seem unlikely for this year.

Despite the pandemic, green shoots of future aspirations still exist and during lockdown I have had zoom meetings with Peel Holdings (Wirral Waters) and Parkinson Inc regarding extensions to the tramway across the area called Four Bridges. In addition to this, NML have involved us in support for an exciting new scheme in the area.

The secretary thanks all volunteers and officers for all services provided to the society and for the stoic acceptance of the frightful pandemic, with the hope that we will eventually get back to some sort of normality.

SALES OFFICER Keith Carmichael said that sales at the kiosk were showing a sharp increase when the pandemic lockdown first began in March 2020.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT: Brian Caraher reported that we have had 508,953 hits to date, 25,420 in the past year.

"The website is up and running with no problems that I'm aware of. I am in the process of updating the sales page to include the new mugs and model trams. These will most probably go out at £9.99 and £16.99 respectively including p&p. I will confirm the prices after more research," he said.

Internet Sales: "With the museum being shut since March 2020, our only source of sales income has been the website. Since May 2020 we have received £122.71 after paypal fees. I am looking to increase this by updating the sales page on the website and using social media," he added

Sales Kiosk: While Keith and I tried to build the sales, the closure of the museum put a stop on what we were doing. When we reopen we will be in a strong position to get sales moving very quickly. Our biggest sales aid will be the fact we will be able to accept card payments. The new card machine also has the ability to accept contactless payments up to £45. I feel this will benefit all areas of sales, café, kiosk and tram tickets. I feel positive about our future sales. We will still need to boost our volunteer numbers in the kiosk. I will be holding a refresher course in using the till and will also training to use the card machine.

We look forward to the coming year and hope that we can increase our sales even further," he concluded.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT: Ieuan Rayner reported that the years 2107 and 2018 saw membership of around 320. Last year more than likely due to the worry over the coronavirus pandemic, membership reduced to 284, as some may not have renewed as they were missing out on tram rides. The value of membership goes beyond that as tramcars are restored and preserved not only for us but also for generations to come. In the light of this, he thanked all those who have renewed their subs for 2021 and given generous donations. He said we had two new members for 2021 already and 189 have renewed so far.

"May I request two things from our members. Firstly, please remember to put your membership number on the renewal (found on the front of your Newsletter envelope or on your membership card) as there are members with similar names. Secondly please address my envelopes to Mr I Rayner as my son is Mr L Rayner," he said.

ARCHIVIST REPORT: David Taylor said: "As I have done very little in the past year, I have nothing to report except for a couple of queries. We have several old glass negatives which we could donate to NML and a collection of old printing blocks which could go to the letterpress printer at Amorini, who was previously at the Bluecoat in Liverpool.

"If anyone has back copies of Manx Transport Review or its predecessor Manx Tram, Steam Railway News or its successor Manx Steam Railway News, Scottish Transport No 53 onwards and Bulletin and Tram Fare 1 to 51, can they donate them to our archive, please," he added.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Martin presented his report in the last newsletter, and not a single query has been received in response to the figures. Consequently, the board has agreed to adopt the accounts. This was proposed by Brian Caraher and seconded by Rob Jones.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Mr Neil Cunningham had indicated he was willing to continue for the present financial year. His appointment was proposed by Ieuan Rayner and seconded by Mr David Taylor.

RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The three board vacancies retiring by rotation, ie the chairman Terry Martin, webmaster Brian Caraher and archivist David Taylor, are being filled by the present incumbents who have all indicated they wish to serve for a further term. There were no other nominations. It must be pointed out that the worryingly high average age profile of the board needs to be balanced by some younger members. It is hoped that the next Annual General Meeting of the society will actually be able to take place in November this year, and maybe this problem can be addressed.