

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR 6th APRIL 2024 – 5th APRIL 2025

By the Spring of 2024, the winter trackwork renewals had been completed, some of the operational cars varnished and/or repainted and work had started on designing a new control system for two vehicles. All of the above was done with the Association's help.

During the 2024 operating season, regular assistance was given to the railway management by providing relief drivers to enable the full service to operate and also on a regular basis on one day each week. Minor track and general maintenance continued over the summer. Internal blinds were fitted in Aquarium Station to improve the presentation of talks and courses.

On four occasions the Association operated the service on a weekend evening, the last being until after sunset with illuminated trains. We have improved the definition of personnel duties for similar future occasions.

During the winter of 2024/25, two separate sections of track were renewed by volunteers and staff assisted by a grant of £2.5k from the Association's Reserved Funds. Scrap metal was collected for recycling.

Also, over the winter, six talks were arranged covering Southern Transport, London Trams, Public Transport in Paris, the Spa Valley Heritage Railway, American Trolley Museums and Crich Tramway Museum 50th Anniversary.

By January 2024 it had become clear that the poor condition of Black Rock station building (owned by Southern Water) meant it would be unusable for the start of the railway's 2025 operating season. The Association hired a portable building and negotiated cost recovery for all of the Association's expenditure from Southern Water. With additional access works by the Council and by the Association, the temporary arrangements were installed that permit refurbishment of the main building to commence in due course without disrupting railway operations.

A fresh technique for vegetation control on the track itself was implemented and will be repeated annually. A foot crossings safety project was set for University of Brighton students; the results will be presented in May 2025. Storage units have been acquired to hold the Association's plans and records at Aquarium station.

Currently the Board comprises four trustees Mick Mills (Chairman), David Cowstick (Treasurer), Tim Steven (Secretary), and Phil Hamerton (Membership Secretary) along with non-trustees Barrie McFarlane (Archivist/Historian), David Bailey (Editor).

For a time in 2024/25, non-trustee Ben Simmonds (Publicity Officer) also played an active part until becoming a Council employee. We remain under resourced and are inviting more members to consider becoming trustees or take an active role.

A Christmas card was produced to raise funds, the production being funded by a member. We continued to publish our regular journal Volk's News, containing up-to-date information about our activities, about the railway together with articles of relevant transport and historical interest. It is now made available in digital format to all members.

In late 2024 several members part-funded a bid by The Keep (Archives & Records Office) to acquire a unique collection of photos taken in 1896 of the Brighton & Rottingdean Seashore Electric Tramroad. This line was built by Magnus Volk who also built the Volk's Railway. The bid was successful and digital versions of the photos are now publicly available.

Through the above, we consider that we have paid sufficient regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and thereby complied with Section 4 of the 2006 Act. At the year end, the Association held total cash assets of £36,000 of which Reserved Funds amounted to £29,000.



Signed:

(Chairman)

(On behalf of the Trustees) 28th May 2025



Signed:

(Secretary)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Volk's Electric Railway Association

No (if any)
1186970

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
4/6/2024

To

Period end date
4/5/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Transfer from previous non-charitable Association	-	-	-	-	
Membership Fees	2,194	-	-	2,194	2,205
Unrestricted Donations	2,008	-	-	2,008	871
Restricted Donations	-	501	-	501	
Miscellaneous income received	583	-	-	583	376
Fund raising activities	561	3,025	-	3,586	8,228
Interest	224	-	-	224	213
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	5,570	3,526	-	9,096	11,893
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,570	3,526	-	9,096	11,893
A3 Payments					
Meeting expenses	120	-	-	120	193
Volk's News magazine production & distribution	1,006	-	-	1,006	896
Insurance policy	-	-	-	-	
Restoration	-	4,340	-	4,340	2,467
Hospitality	193	-	-	193	493
Administrative Expenses	149	-	-	149	190
Fund Rasing Stock	70	-	-	70	256
Bank / Square / SumUp Charges	-	45	-	45	107
Website Costs	106	-	-	106	1,010
Special Event Expenses	-	-	-	-	210
Miscellaneous	49	-	-	49	73
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,693	4,385	-	6,078	5,895
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Computer equipment	-	-	-	-	403
Loud Speaker	-	-	-	-	64
Sub total	-	-	-	-	467
Total payments	1,693	4,385	-	6,078	6,362
Net of receipts/payments	3,877	-859.00	-	3,018	7,560
A5 Transfers between funds	-	4,394	-	-	244
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,834	26,075	-	33,909	28,378
Cash funds this year end	7,317	29,610	-	36,927	36,182

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash floats		-	-
	Bank Account funds-Working capital	7,317		
	Bank Account funds for Council projects		8,704	
	Bank Account funds for VERA Projects		16,809	
	Bank Account funds for Car 9 project		4,097	-
	Total cash funds	7,317	29,610	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Southend Railway Car No. 9	Restricted Car 9 Fund	-	1,000
	Museum Models	Unrestricted Funds	-	5,000
	Heritage Artefacts	Unrestricted Funds	-	17,000
	Miscellaneous	Unrestricted Funds	-	250
	Office Equipment	Unrestricted Funds	-	650
			-	
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

<i>S. Smith</i>	DC COWSTICK	17.07.25
<i>Steven</i>	TC STEVEN	17.07.25