

SIGNALLING RECORD SOCIETY

Founded in 1968 for the study of Railway Signalling and Operations in the British Isles and Overseas

**Notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held On-line at
11:00 am on Saturday 13th May 2023.**

Officers Reports to Members for 2022

Trustees' Report & Accounts for 2022

***** Pre-registration for the meeting is essential *****

Please check inside on for instructions and what to do if you cannot get on-line

Electronic copies of the Annual Report, including the Trustees Report to the Charity
Commission can be downloaded from www.s-r-s.org.uk/agm

Trustees 2022-23

Elected in 2021

John Lacy – Retires in 2023

Elected in 2022 and remain in office until 2024

Paul Armstrong

Richard Foster

Reg Instone

Elected in 2022 and retire this year:

Chris Hall (Chair)

Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton (Treasurer – Resigned as Treasurer 5th January 2023)

Peter Davenport (Secretary)

Steve Sharpe

SRS

The AGM will be on-line

As members will be aware the Society introduced online meetings during the COVID crisis, and these have proven popular with increased participation at the previous AGMs. It also allows members who are some distance away to participate easily. Therefore, the AGM in 2023 will be held on-line as follows.

You need to pre-register

You will need to pre-register your intention to attend by sending an email to agm@s-r-s.org.uk no later than the 11th May. The email should include your name and membership number which you will find on the address carrier above your name and address.

How do I attend?

You can attend the meeting from the comfort of your own home by simply logging on to the meeting shortly before the start time. Please locate yourself where you will not disturb any other members of your household and where you will not be disturbed by them.

A few days before the meeting all pre-registered members will be sent an email containing full details of how to join the meeting. **Please ensure that the name you use on joining the meeting identifies you to help the Secretary.**

Do I need any Applications on my device?

That's up to you. If you want to install the appropriate Zoom App for the meeting, you can do so beforehand. Otherwise, all you need is your normal web browser.

Will my device be suitable?

Your computer, tablet or mobile phone should be suitable provided it can connect to the internet.

To speak at the meeting, you will need a suitable microphone. Phones, tablets, and laptops normally have these built in. External microphones may be necessary if your device doesn't have one built in. Don't forget to check that your microphone is switched on and working before the meeting and keep it muted until you are asked to speak to minimise interference.

You will be able to see what is happening on your device display. If you turn up your sound volume you will also be able to hear what is being said.

Do I need a camera?

You do not need a camera to attend the on-line meeting. If you have a camera, you may be invited to turn it on when speaking. Don't forget to check beforehand that it's working.

What time does the meeting start?

The meeting will start at 11:00 am (British Summer time). You will be able to log-on to the meeting from 10:30 to allow you to test your equipment and connection before the meeting commences as well as joining the general discussion.

How long does the meeting take?

The meeting will take approximately an hour and a half dependent upon questions and contributions to the various discussions.

Can I telephone in?

If you wish you can join the meeting using your house or mobile phone. However, this could prove expensive if you pay for your calls by the minute. You also won't be able to use the chat room and hand raising functions.

No internet access?

Members who don't have internet access can still take part in the elections and resolutions listed on the agenda. A voting form is printed on the back of the address carrier sheet together with instructions for its completion and return.

Counting of votes.

Voting forms received by the closing date stated on the form will be counted and added to the votes cast during the meeting by the meetings attending on-line.

The combine voting figures will then be declared.

Will the meeting be recorded?

The entire meeting will be recorded as a means of ensuring accurate minutes can be produced. Access to the recording will be limited to Society Officers.

Ask not what your Society can do for you;

ask what you can do for your Society !

Meeting of: Annual General Meeting of the Signalling Record Society

Venue: Online (Zoom)

Date & Time: 13 May 2023 @ 11.00

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome:
 - Introduction and opening remarks
 - Members who have passed away over the last year
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes:
 - Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 14 May 2022
 - Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Officers' reports for the year to 31 December 2022
- 5 Finance:
 - Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year to 31 December 2022
 - Trustees' recommendation for the appointment of an independent examiner for the year to 31 March 2024
- 6 Proposed amendment to Rule 8
- 7 Election of members of the Board of Trustees:
 - Chris Hall (Chair), Proposed R.D. Foster, Seconded P.S.J. Davenport
 - Peter Davenport (Secretary). Proposed P. Sharpe Seconded J. Russell.
 - Steve Sharpe. Proposed K. Heath, Seconded K. Thomas.
 - Charles Melton. Proposed R.D. Foster, Seconded by P.S.J. Davenport
 - Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton. Proposed R.Dey, Seconded by S.Lowe

[Note: There are no nominations for treasurer - Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton resigned as treasurer on 5 January 2023]
- 8 Awards:
 - John Howard-Turner award for 2022
- 9 Date, time, and location of the 2024 AGM
- 10 Any other business
- 11 Closure of the meeting followed by Members' Forum.

Peter Davenport Secretary February 2023

Annual General Meeting Saturday 14th May 2022

Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Following the success of the 2021 AGM in encouraging more participation and attendance at the AGM the Trustees announced in the Record that the 2022 meeting would be held on-line utilising Zoom. Members were asked to pre-register and to enable those members who weren't able to attend the notice, agenda, minutes of the 2021 AGM, Annual Report, and Trustees Report to the Charity Commission together with a voting paper were circulated with the Spring 2022 Record.

The following 36 members took part in the on-line meeting:

Paul Armstrong*, Mike Beach, Michael Brougham, Peter Burke, Graham Cloxton, Adrian Coveney, John Creed, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton*, Peter Davenport*, Edward Dorricott, Tony Elliott, Raymond Edwards, Richard Foster*, Hessel Franssen, Stuart George, Peter Gibbons, Chris Hall, Eric Hayman, Dave Helliwell, John Hinson, Ian Hutchinson, Reg Instone, Hans Kron, John Lacy*, Ian Legg, Chris Littleworth, Del Lomas, Neil Mackay, John Mair, Charles Melton, Chris Osment, Richard Pulleyn, Ian Scott, Steve Sharpe*, Robert White, Roger Wilkins

* Had submitted voting papers and did not vote during the meeting

In addition, the following 84 members (including 7 who took part in the meeting) submitted voting papers:

D A Collins, R D Foster*, J M Elms, F G Voisey, D L Nicholls, R G Sharp, G N Clear, A I Davies, R Clarke, J G H Jenkins, G Hardcastle, A Pym, A V Davis, D J Grainger, P Armstrong*, J Lacy*, R J Caston, D R Davidson, R S E Wilson, J Tinkler, C R Potts, G Floyd, K D Hooper, P Hampson, A K Overton, C A Robey, M Shaw, T J Stevens, R C H Lock, G G Stott, D Coe, A V Colson, J A Wickens, A G Beck, J Sneider, A T Wallis, S Sharpe*, I D Smith, Dr R M Young, L J Kelly, M E Salmon, F W Oakley, C Durrant, M G Hodgson, R Chapman, P W Littler, Rev I J Pusey, R Sawyer, F Dalrymple-Hamilton*, C Allenby, D Clarke, N J F Cordery, S D Peplow, I Stemp, L R Agutter, M P White, C Roffey, T L Tracey, T Moseley, I Blackburn, J Lillford, C E Brown, K Gray, M Richards, M Thornber, N Garnham, M Lamb, P S J Davenport*, A Thompson, S R Robitaille, R Macintyre, S Ward, A Gauld, P J Mallory, S Westwood, C P Humphreys, C Phillips, J Godfrey, Rev M Howarth, M Mandelartz, M J Jackson, J P Good, C Springett

* Attended the meeting but did not vote

1. Welcome

The meeting commenced at 11.00. John Lacy welcomed members to the meeting and explained how it would be run. He then introduced Chris Hall who would chair the meeting. Chris explained that a number of Committee Members including himself had gathered at the Archive in Kenilworth in addition to those individual members who had joined the meeting using Zoom.

2. Members who have died in the past year

The meeting remembered those members who had passed away during the last year.

Keith Steel, Edward Chambers, Ian Pell, Barry Bridges, Roger Phelps, Malcolm Dickin, Peter Coward, Roger Wilmott, Donald Steggle.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following members:

David Cockle, Ian Blackburn, D R Davidson, David Collins, J M Elms, Graham Floyd, Nick Garnham, Stuart Hicks, Paul Humphreys, Marcus Mandelartz, Trevor Moseley, Carl Phillips, Sean Robitaille, Alan Rhodes, Robin Walker, Russell Browning, John Webb, David Preston, David Lowe, David Harrison, Mike Turner, Chris Springett, I Stemp, John Young, Allan Beck, Ian Davies, John Hamley, David Allen, Dr John Penny, Dr R M Young

4. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting had been circulated. There being no corrections the these were AGREED by the meeting (87 votes in favour, 4 abstentions).

5. Matters arising

Chris Hall reported that the Volume 1, GWR Signal Box Register, was now available on-line. He also advised that as a consequence of an agreement with NERA its Cabin Register would become available to SRS members. An updated volume 3 would be available later this year.

Richard Pulleyn thanked Chris for his hard work in getting the Registers on-line.

Reg Instone mentioned the importance of the Society being aware of wills and donations.

6. Trustees' reports to the Charity Commission for the year ended 31st December 2021

The meeting was asked to receive the Trustees report to the Charity Commission. The Chairman advised that there had been some discussion about the terminology of the item. As recorded on the chat Michael Brougham pointed out that the annual report and accounts are a public document. Chris Osment queried as to why the report and accounts weren't approved rather than received. Michael Brougham advocated that the resolution should be to adopt and not receive.

The Chairman invited questions and there were none verbally.

A poll was taken of all members present in addition to the advance votes to allow them to express their support for the report. The meeting AGREED to receive the report (105 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions)

7. Officers' reports for 2021

The Officers Report had been circulated in advance with the Spring mailing. The Chairman invited questions from members. There were none and the item moved to a vote. The meeting AGREED to approve them (106 votes in favour).

8. Election of Key Officers and Trustees

The meeting ELECTED;

- Chris Hall as Chair and Trustee (votes in favour 100, against 5, abstentions 4)
- Peter Davenport as Secretary and Trustee (votes in favour 108, with 2 abstentions)
- Francis Dalrymple Hamilton as Treasurer and Trustee (106 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions)

9. Election of Trustees

The meeting then moved on to consider the nominations received for election as Trustees. (Note that Trustees retire in a two yearly cycle. John Lacy had not reached the end of his term in 2022)

There had been four nominations for a maximum of nine Ordinary Trustee posts. All were ELECTED as follows:

Paul Armstrong Votes in favour 103, abstentions 4

Richard Foster Votes in favour 107, against 2, abstentions 2

Reg Instone Votes in favour 104, against 6, abstentions 1

Steve Sharpe Votes in favour 107, abstentions 3

10. Independent Examiner

The wording of the item set out in the agenda was discussed. It was noted that the duty to appoint a suitable Independent Examiner was one for the Trustees. Several members queried the wording of the item and whether the meeting had a role in the appointment of the Independent Examiner.

After a discussion the Chairman proposed that to provide the meeting with an opportunity to express its views a vote should be taken to approve rather than note the appointment of Jonathan Innes as the Independent Examiner. This was AGREED by the meeting (Votes in favour 25, against 1 and abstentions 2). The advance voting for the agenda item was 82 votes for and none against.

11. To announce the winner of the Colin H Betts Award

The winner in 2021 was for their article "200 Miles from Carlisle – Bridge of Dun" (*Signalling Record* 202) Graham Roberts and Robert Dey.

12. Presentation - Volunteer Resources

Richard Foster gave a presentation which outlined the key activity areas of the society and the outlined where extra help was needed. He highlighted the need for assistance in editing the Record. To illustrate the need he advised that the next edition of the Record would be delayed. Many of the current volunteers were in their 70s and beyond so new volunteers were required. He thanked those who had volunteered recently to assist. The Society had to ensure that a succession plan was in place for officers to safeguard its future.

Importantly, he highlighted that the Society was keen to publish new books, monographs, research papers, and signalling papers. He asked that those members who had manuscripts to contact him.

Chris Hall followed up the request by explaining that the roles available could be divided by using modern technology. The Society was flexible, and the work could be done online. Advice would willingly be given to any volunteers. He also noted that the next edition of the magazine would include a request for volunteers.

Chris Osment observed that there was a tension between producing a document for web publication and then developing a printed version. Web publications were being easier to update and correct. Richard Foster commented that members continued to like printed materials even when there are options available on-line. He observed that the work involved in producing signalling papers can be spread around.

Chris Osment commented that he was willing to assist but also wanted to research additional material. There followed a discussion about how material could best be presented to members with the overall conclusion being that the enthusiasm to provide content should be encouraged and that it was crucial to capture the knowledge of those members of advanced years who may well have seen things first hand.

Richard concluded by mentioning one of the projects in progress at that time which was to look at signal box diagrams of the Scottish region. It was in its early stages, but he would like to obtain some more illustrations to make the work comprehensive and attractive. He asked members with photographs to get in touch, so that we could make this a really spectacular publication. For instance, he highlighted that that by examining the detail of diagrams it would be possible to illustrate styles and practices. To do this it was necessary to obtain close ups of diagrams which demonstrated lettering styles, standard layout for symbols, tracks, etc...

13. Archive Sub-Committee

John Lacy gave a presentation about the work of the Archive Sub-Committee. He began by apologising that his health had been preventing him doing as much to the Digital Archive and the website as he had hoped. In addition, he requested a volunteer to administer the Gift Aid that the Society receives.

He highlighted the following areas;

- Archives Sub-committee Review – This was looking at premises, usage, scope of the collections, management of the archives, funding, partnerships, reaching out to others, the physical archive, and the digital archive. He invited contributions from the members present to the review.
- His need to reduce his workload and the urgent need for volunteers to administer the Gift Aid and for a Zoom Host.
- Loss of Records (Death) - The SRS has a problem in ensuring that collective knowledge of its members was not lost. For instance he highlighted the need for members to make provision in their wills to share information with the society.

14. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held on the 13th May 2023

15. Any Other Business

Richard Pulleyn advised that Chris Roffey had unfortunately had a stroke and would be unable to continue as a Corresponding Member. The meeting sent Chris its best wishes.

Chris Osment asked what had happened in relation to the query last year about updating publications before they were reprinted. Chris Hall advised that he had found a way of incorporating changes in the Signal Box Registers which included notes of corrections. He had updated volume 1 and an updated version of volume 3 was in preparation. As a consequence, it was far more straightforward to update documents. Chris Osment also raised the need to correct errors in diagrams whilst accepting that this would take resources away from other work. Chris Hall advised that the Drawing Office were working through corrections. Chris Osment offered to contact Chris Hall and John Lacy privately.

16. Members' Forum

The Chairman then invited members to have a general discussion.

Richard Pulleyn wanted to understand why the results of the Corresponding Member Review hadn't progressed. Chris Hall and Richard Foster responded that the Trustees supported the recommendations, and these would need to be taken forwards by the Corresponding Members with any necessary financial and other support as required.

Neil Mackay commented that he had undertaken reviews of a couple of Middleton Press books which contained lots of errors and consequently he had to file negative reviews. Richard Foster observed that if the SRS generated more publications, it would widen awareness of the subject. To improve the quality of the books Neil suggested that the SRS should contact publishers to make them aware of the knowledge that the Society had. This was supported by a number of members.

John Mair observed that having worked with Oakwood Press they were aware of the SRS and were well disposed to include more information about signalling.

Francis Dalrymple Hamilton felt that the society should feed back to the publishers where there were faults.

Chris Littleworth mentioned that he had been working on a LYR Society book about Manchester Victoria. This would be using plates from the Scrimgeour collection. Therefore, he felt that the awareness of the availability of SRS materials need be raised.

Reg Instone observed that the Middleton Press Leeds to Selby Railway book was very poor on signalling. He then expressed his view that authors didn't necessarily see signalling and operations as a priority. One of the ways that the society had improved the presentation of signalling on model railways was by presenting an award. It could be an idea to invite members to nominate books for an award by the SRS. His experience of working with authors on signalling coverage in books was mixed and it was important to ensure that any offer could be delivered. This prompted a discussion about the benefits of the SRS publishing documents versus supporting others.

Chris Osment observed that the latest approach of publishers was to produce a book of photographs. As many of these featured previously published photographs the errors in the captions were being repeated. It was suggested that the SRS could for instance require that its caption to be used to describe photographs it supplied. Kidderminster Railway Museum and others do provide the caption to the photograph. Any assistance to Paul Armstrong to assist in this would be welcome.

Steve Sharpe and Paul Armstrong requested gifts and bequests of photographs particularly where this included the copyright. This could either be done by an open-ended licence or the donation of the copyright. So far 12,000 photographs had been scanned.

Neil Mackay asked whether a new edition of the directory was planned to be published. He was advised that there were no plans to do so at the moment. His query was prompted by errors he'd seen in a book which had been based upon the directory. He was happy to update the correction list for the Directory. Any others were welcomed.

Dave Helliwell asked whether it would be an idea to make an award at other exhibitions in addition to Warley? Chris Hall ran through the approach that's adopted at Warley which involves four judges. If the volunteers were available, it would be a good idea. Dave volunteered to represent the Society at Exhibitions in the SW of England.

The meeting ended at 12:45.

Peter Davenport

Secretary

Item 9 – Proposed Amendments to Rule 8

The Society is governed by its Constitution, Rules, and Standing Orders for the Conduct of Committee Business. These can all be inspected on the SRS website at <https://www.s-r-s.org.uk/about.php>

The current wording of Rule 8 has been in place since the old Society adopted a revised set of rules in 2000. When the rule was written AGMs were held at a venue and elections were normally determined by a show of hands in the room. Rule 8.3 was only invoked when there were more candidates for election than the number of vacancies. In recent years this circumstance has not arisen although aspects of the rule were used if a secret ballot was asked for by the members present.

Changed Circumstances

From 2021, because of the Covid problem, we have held our general meetings either on-line or as a combination of on-line plus some members at a venue. In 2022 the members physically present were all existing trustees and no ordinary members joined them.

The present Rule 8 would benefit from a revision to set out voting requirements in the changed circumstances when some or all the votes are cast using electronic means and some or all of the members voting are not physically present.

It is also opportune to include provision for electronic voting even though all attendees are there in person.

Proposed Changes

Proposed changes to Rule 8 are set out in below and are designed to allow for voting at general meetings in any of these circumstances:

1. All members voting are present in the room,
2. All members voting are in attendance on-line,
3. Members voting include some present in the room and others who are on-line.
4. Provision is made for postal voting in advance.

The Trustees recommend that the meeting approves the amendment to Rule 8 and that the Rules are amended accordingly.

The Current Rule 8

8 CALLING OF MEETINGS and CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

8.1 The secretary shall be responsible for calling general and committee meetings, and shall keep proper and accurate minutes of all such meetings.

8.2 The secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that elections are conducted in a proper manner and in accordance with these procedures.

8.3 If the number of nominations for a post on the committee exceeds the number of vacancies the following procedure shall be adopted:-

8.3.1 The secretary will write to all nominees after the close of nominations (see Rule 9.1) advising them that there will be a ballot and of the procedure for the election.

8.3.2 The ballot will be a secret ballot on papers previously prepared by the secretary.

8.3.3 At the general meeting during which the election will be held, the secretary will appoint two scrutineers who are not seeking election to the committee and who have not nominated any of the candidates; these scrutineers will distribute, collect, and each count the ballot papers when required from the chair.

8.3.4 All new nominees will introduce themselves to the meeting by one of the following:-

Give a one minute speech; or

Nominate somebody to give a one minute speech on their behalf; or

Make available a written handout (100 words max).

8.3.5 Only members present at the annual general meeting shall be eligible to vote.

8.3.6 Each member in 8.3.5 above will be able to vote for a number of candidates up to the number of vacancies, beyond which the ballot paper will be adjudged spoiled.

8.3.7 The member(s) elected shall be those having the highest number of votes, counting equally the votes on each and every paper.

8.3.8 The ballot papers shall be kept by the secretary for six months before disposal.

Proposed Amended Rule 8

- 8 CALLING OF MEETINGS and CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS
- 8.1 The secretary shall be responsible for calling general and committee meetings, and shall keep proper and accurate minutes of all such meetings.
- 8.2 The secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that elections are conducted in a proper manner and in accordance with these procedures.
- 8.3 Members may be nominated for more than one position. Nominations must have the support of at least two other members who shall be designated proposer and seconder respectively.
- 8.4 The secretary will contact all nominees after the close of nominations set in accordance with Rule 9.2 advising them that there will be a ballot and of the procedure for the election.
- 8.5 The names of each person nominated shall be shown on the agenda for the meeting together with the names of the persons proposing and seconding their nomination.
- 8.6 Scrutineers will be appointed to count the votes and shall ensure that no member is able to vote more than once in each ballot. Scrutineers must be members but must not be seeking election to any of the positions at that meeting or be supporters any of the candidates.
- 8.7 A separate ballot will be held in turn for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and each of the ordinary trustee positions that is vacant. In each ballot members will be given the option of casting a vote either 'For' or 'Against' or 'Abstain'.
- 8.8 At the meeting, each candidate may be allowed a one-minute speech in support of their candidacy or, if they are not themselves present, the speech may be delivered on their behalf by either their named proposer or seconder or they may provide a written hand-out comprising no more than 100 words. This may be followed by questions from the floor.
- 8.9 On completion of each ballot, the scrutineers will advise the result to the Secretary who will announce the result of that ballot and the total numbers of votes 'For', and 'Against' and 'Abstain'.
- 8.10 A candidate can only be elected, even if they are the sole candidate for the position, if the number of votes cast 'For' exceeds the number of votes cast 'Against' them in that ballot. Abstentions are excluded for this purpose.
- 8.11 If the number of candidates for ordinary trustee posts exceeds the number of vacancies, the member(s) with the greatest number of votes cast 'For' shall be elected. In the event that there is a tie amongst the candidates with the lowest number of votes 'For', then the number of votes 'Against' shall be taken into account in determining which candidate(s) is elected. Abstentions are excluded for this purpose.
- 8.12 Pending the announcement of the result of a ballot, the meeting may proceed to the next ballot or item of business unless it is appropriate to wait for the result before proceeding.
- 8.13 If all attendees at the meeting are physically present in the meeting room, the vote shall be taken on a show of hands unless the members present demand a secret ballot. If the meeting agrees to the ballot being 'secret' then either the provisions of Rule 8.16 shall apply or a secure electronic voting system, if available, may be used.
- 8.14 If all attendees at the meeting are attending online, then the vote shall be taken using an appropriate on-line poll system.
- 8.15 If some attendees are present in person and others are attending online (hybrid meeting) then the votes cast by those physically present shall be cast using the provisions of Rule 8.13 following which those attending on-line shall vote using an appropriate on-line poll system. The results shall not be announced until all votes have been counted.
- 8.16 When it is appropriate for voting in a ballot in the room to be secret and no secure electronic voting system is in use, the Scrutineers shall provide each member present with a ballot slip allowing them to cast their vote. Completed ballot slips shall be handed to the scrutineers who will proceed in accord with Rule 8.6.
- 8.17 The committee may, at its sole discretion, authorise ballot papers to be distributed in advance of the meeting and make such requirements as may be appropriate for their return in advance of the meeting. Distributed ballot papers returned after the time for their return has expired shall not be counted. Ballot papers returned shall be retained by the Secretary for at least six months after the date of the meeting.

10 and 11 Candidate Biographies

Chris Hall (1344)

Chris has been a member of the SRS since 1994 and has acted as Signal Box Register compiler. This latter role involves him in coordinating the efforts of a team of volunteer experts and producing the final document for publication. Chris lives in Bristol and is also an active volunteer on the Severn Valley Railway in the S&T and Signalling Operations departments.

Peter Davenport (2224)

Peter joined the society in 2016 because of his lifelong interest in railways and signalling. His hope is that the SRS acts as a font of knowledge on signalling practice. In particular to make more of the material the society holds more accessible he would like to see more digitisation which members can access. He's also a volunteer on the Severn Valley Railway as well as actively working with other Heritage Railway colleagues. Peter became the Secretary and a Trustee at the 2022 AGM. Peter is a Chartered Engineer and lives in Staffordshire.

Steve Sharpe (1489)

Steve joined the SRS in 1996 and had been an ordinary member not involved with the operation of the society until 4 years ago when he took on the role of Membership Secretary. Alongside this annual process of gathering the subscription he has been looking into ways of streamlining and improving the way we do this and how we communicate with members through this process. Around the same time, he became more involved as a Trustee as well. Through this he would hope that whilst acknowledging what we have done over the last 53 years that we can do everything possible to push the society along using new and sometimes novel methods to get the word out about how much there is to know about all aspects of signalling. Away from society activities he is a Signal Engineer within the Track Renewals organisation of Network Rail. He also collects signalling diagrams and equipment of many shapes and sizes.

Charles Melton (573)

Charles is a life-long enthusiast of railway signalling, having been 'captivated' upon first visiting a signalbox aged 12 years way back in 1968. He is a long-term member of the Signalling Record Society, having joined in the 1980s. Over the many years of membership, he has enjoyed the wealth of high quality specialist articles presented in the Journal, and very much appreciates the super high quality publication which is now *The Signalling Record*. In answering the call to become a Trustee, it is hoped to help secure the Society into the future.

Charles is a retired mechanical engineer and has volunteered as a signaller in the heritage sector all his adult life, previously at the Nene Valley, then North Yorks Moors, and now at the Bluebell Railway, where he is also responsible for training and assessing signallers.

Francis Dalrymple Hamilton (1852)

Francis has been a member of the Society since 2004. He has until recently acted as the Society's Treasurer and continues to edit *The Signalling Record*. He is the Corresponding Member for the Caledonian, Glasgow and South Western, Great North of Scotland, North British, and Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Railways.

Francis lives in the borders.

Ask not what your Society can do for you;

ask what you can do for your Society.

Officers Reports to Members for 2022

Chair, C. K. Hall

This is my seventh year as Chairman and, thank goodness, normal service has been resumed, following the hiatus caused by COVID.

Financially we are running a small surplus, with some of our ordinary activities being subsidised by the trading profit. Such a loss on ordinary activities is a typical result for a penultimate year before considering an increase in the subscription rate. However, at the current time the Society remains buoyant with sufficient reserves and therefore the 2024 AGM will be the time to reconsider subscription levels.

We have had some success in attracting new volunteers and I would stress that no technical knowledge is required for almost all of the tasks!

One of our long-standing Trustees, John Lacy is standing down and is reducing his onerous responsibilities. I'm sure that we are all grateful for the work he has done and will no doubt continue to do for the Society. Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton has similarly decided that he needs to reduce his workload but wishes to continue as a Trustee and our Editor. Richard Foster is also looking to reduce his current workload in order to free some time for other activities. This highlights the need for members to step forward to help reduce the workload that falls onto the shoulders of the small number of active volunteers running the society. In this respect I should stress that this involves doing some of the tasks that have to be done rather than just acting as a Trustee – less formality and less distraction from other activities of the Society. We also need to attract some younger and more active members to assist with some of the tasks.

Secretary, Peter Davenport

This year I've become the official Secretary rather than the acting one. I've now gained a lot of experience in the operations of the Society which has greatly helped with a lot of assistance from other Trustees. Our Trustee meetings have once again adopted a hybrid form which allows those who live further away to participate fully. It's worked well and the Wi-Fi at Kenilworth has proven up to the task.

Membership, Steve Sharpe

Once again, the membership levels in the society continue to rise year on year with numbers this year tantalisingly close to the milestone of 800. This is all great for the society but more work for me, there is always a trade off!

Referring back to last year's report we ended 2021 with 775 members (aggregate of 782 including deaths during the year), moving to this current year we have managed to reach a level which is once again the highest number of members the society has ever had with 784 members at the 31st December. That gives us an aggregate of 793 members during the year as we sadly recorded the passing of 9 members during the year. I would have hoped that over the coming year that we might manage another significant milestone of 800 members, but I suspect the current financial situation may have some effect on that as we are already seeing some members who are having to choose whether they can justify such discretionary spending as society memberships

We are now at the point where all the new members who are joining the society are doing so through the website or have used the website to create the form to then send to me. We have after a gap of two years managed to have a presence at some modelling shows this year and whilst this has not gained us many new members it does a lot to help with increasing people's awareness of the society and what we do and who knows some people who have talked to us may join later.

As I do each year, I would ask that, if possible, members share their email address with us to aid in this process for the day to day operation of the society. This is separate from the process in place for the use of the societies e-mailing list which members need to specifically opt in to and is used for more general announcements and urgent broad-based notices. Through this membership acknowledgements and queries are dealt with relatively quickly and without cost to you or the society.

Over the renewals periods in 2021 and 2022 we have been asking for an additional piece of information which was a date or year of birth. This is to help us better understand the age profile of the society and we will continue to maintain this information so that we can see how it changes through the years. Up to now there have been no great surprises that the general age profile is in the over the (theoretical) retirement age, but there are more of the recent joiners who fall a little below this. With around two thirds of the members having provided this so far we can say that the average age in the society is just short of 69 years old, with our youngest member being 21 and the oldest being 96, showing that we cover literally all age groups! However, those below 50 years old only number 35 within this number so this is an area we need to work on improving.

Gift Aid Administration John Lacy and Paul Waldron

First can I give a hearty thanks to all of you who have signed a gift aid declaration and equally to those of you who have confirmed that you are not eligible to sign a declaration. Equally I place on record my thanks to Steve Sharpe (Membership Secretary) who put a lot of effort into getting members who could to sign declarations.

I have been managing the Gift Aid Administration almost since we started doing so after we became registered charity but it now time to pass the baton on to another volunteer and I'm pleased to say we have such a person. In fact, we had three

members offer to take this on so thank you to all three of you. As from 3rd September, the baton was passed successfully to Paul Waldron whose details will appear on the back page of SRS News as the Gift Aid Administrator. I wish Paul every success in carrying out this valuable task for us in the future.

Paul Waldron continues - I took over from John Lacy in September 2022 and am most grateful to him and the other officers of the SRS who have helped make the transition go very smoothly. Thank you also to all members who continue to allow the Society to claim Gift Aid by completing declarations. The claim lodged with HMRC in 2022 raised £4359 – funds that are very welcome and needed by the Society.

Website, John Lacy

Some changes occurred during the year and these have been reported in SRS News. Many locations of North Eastern signal boxes have been plotted and the signal boxes in the north east have been added to the OSMap page at www.s-r-s.org.uk/osMap.php Work is ongoing to draw the lines and add the locations to the Gazetteer. Dave Vaughan has drawn several lines in the northwest and in Wales and work is ongoing to add these to the map page as well.

Archives and Research

Archive, David Garland

Following the final (and long-awaited) removal of all Covid restrictions, we were able to return to monthly Open Days at Kenilworth throughout 2022. In all the Archive was opened on eighteen occasions, with a total of 40 visitors. The number of visitors remains significantly below pre-Covid figures; this may in part be due to our decision to ask for advance notice even on Open Days, so we have decided to do away with this requirement in 2023. The steady flow of donated material into the archive has continued during 2022, including the following:

- A large quantity of material from the collection of the late Tony Endersby, donated by his daughter Charlotte McLaren;
- A number of LNWR/LMS layout sketches and other diagrams, donated by Jonathan Jarvis;
- A collection of BR(WR) box diagrams donated by John Hull;
- A selection of diagrams donated by Paul Thompson, formerly of Birmingham S&T;
- Several accident reports donated by the late Malcolm Dickin, with thanks to his son Andrew Dickin;
- A number of bound volumes of *The Signalling Record* and its predecessor the *SRS Newsletter*, donated by Howard Sprenger;
- A substantial collection of LMS and BR(LM) locking charts donated by the late Ross Clavell (formerly of the Manchester S&T office) – thanks to Trevor Moseley for providing the introduction, and sympathy to Ross's family for their loss;
- Ten volumes of LMS and BR(LM) track circuit test sheets donated by the National Railway Museum through the good offices of Richard Pulleyn, bringing together all these volumes in the SRS Archive;
- A set of 1985 wiring diagrams for Salop Goods Junction box (Crewe) donated by Robin Green;
- A 1983 Train Register Book from Wormley box, donated by David Malt;
- A collection of contractors' material, Signal Box Opening Hours booklets, and other material, donated by Martin Shaw;
- A large collection of locking charts and other material for boxes in Northern Scotland, belonging to former Highland area locking fitter Robert Milligan and donated by Graham Maxtone (thanks also to Keith Fenwick for bringing them to Kenilworth);
- Various BR(S) locking diagrams donated by David Foster;
- Four Weekly Operating Notices from the late 1950s and early 1960s donated by Peter Ball;
- A complete set of A5-sized *Signalling Records*, and a variety of Signalling Notices, donated by John Phillips.

The Society is as always most grateful to all donors, and to those who have let potential donors know of the existence of the archive and have helped them make contact and get their material to us. In addition, I'd like to thank Ken Booth, who has not only drawn up revised catalogues of his collection (which has been part of the Archive for many years) but had added substantially to it.

Before 2020 John Lacy had taken on the massive task of sorting Michael Back's collection of signal box diagrams and scanning them so they can be made available to members. This in turn allows the originals to be stored in boxes, so occupying much less space at Kenilworth than Michael's original ring binders. However John has not been able to continue this work and I have taken it on myself after receiving the necessary training on the L&NWR Society's scanners (which the SRS can use in return for a contribution to their costs). This work will continue during 2023.

Review of the Corresponding Members Network

The Society is fortunate to have a network of people who take a particular interest in the detail of railway signalling either geographically or of a technology. Quite how we utilise and safeguard this knowledge in a world where none of us is getting any younger and first-hand knowledge is extremely valuable and has been exorcising your Trustees for some time. Modern technology makes capturing our collective knowledge more robust, but it must be done before it's lost. During 2021, a series of online meetings were held to which all Corresponding Members (CMs) were invited. This led to Reg Instone and Richard Pulleyn recommending that the Trustees should consider how the network could be better utilised.

and asking them to review the CM system and define a new role that would redefine the system to meet the current and future needs of the Society and the Membership.

These were considered in detail by Trustees in the first half of 2022. This led to the definition of a new role for the CMs. Articles in *SRS News* no. 12 and 14 cover the work and the redefined role in detail. The overall conclusion was that CMs needed to become much more outward facing to the society and Membership as a whole. A key aspect of this is generating material for dissemination and publication to safeguard knowledge over the longer term. Reg will be organizing more Zoom meetings with CM in 2023 to take the outcomes of the review and the new role forwards. There remain vacancies for CM so if you have any knowledge that could be of value please do get in touch.

Research Coordinator, Reg Instone

In addition to his role as coordinator of the Corresponding Member network Reg also acts as a CM in his own right for the Great Central, Great Western London Division, London Midland and Scottish - advisory, and Interlocking, mechanical and electrical. He also acts as an assistant to the Archivist.

As an example of the work the role involves, he has also spent a good deal of time in 2022 supplying data for SRS Signalbox Registers; in the early part of the year for revision of the LNER (S Area) volume and towards the end for the new NER volume. Members may not realise that each volume is estimated to contain over 10,000 separate items of data, well beyond the capacity of a single person in any reasonable timescale; they are of necessity collaborative efforts. For the LNER (S) volume, his effort this year was limited to checking and augmenting the data on lever frames for the GER section, with some input also into the GNR section; work on the GCR had to be deferred when time ran out. Members should be aware that these Registers are ongoing works, and information from many sources remains to be checked, collated, and verified. He has tried to ensure that all members with relevant knowledge or records are brought into the process.

Similarly, Reg has been trying to ensure that the lever frame information for the NER volume is as complete, accurate and comprehensible as it possibly can be. On the GNR, much remains to be discovered about in-house design and manufacture of lever frames, as well as the detailed histories of individual signalboxes, especially those on the main line from London to Doncaster. To help in researching this area contact has recently been re-established with Michael Vanns (author of "GNR Signalling") and while we cannot expect him to do all this, perhaps he may be able to assist in the development of our knowledge.

More broadly, as discussed at last year's AGM we need to do our best to improve the coverage of signalling in the many line history" books that are being published. These often include incorrect information and Reg has been working with CM to provide information to authors and correct their errors.

Reg has also been in contact with the MR Study Centre, LNWR Study Centre and NRM ("Search Engine") regarding the best locations for certain specific signalling documents, how to deal with series of documents which are spread across several physical locations and continued to devote time to producing "joined-up" cataloguing, indexing, and finding aids which effectively gives "one stop" access to finding documents in such series.

As an example of the Society's international links work is in hand with friends in Argentina to find ways of discovering more about the history of signalling on their huge historic network, the great majority of it supplied by the Railway Signal Company from Liverpool, also with large amounts from Saxby & Farmer, later Westinghouse, from Chippenham.

In short, the job is all about working with as many organisations and individuals as possible to bring together as much knowledge, information and data as possible about the history and technology of railway signalling, safety and operations in the UK and British-style signalling overseas. Reg hopes that he has been moderately successful in this respect.

Digital Archive, John Lacy

Several members have contributed material to the Digital Archive during 2022. The key donations have been reported on a reasonably current basis in *SRS News*. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. I hope to find more time in 2023 to devote to organising the Digital Archive and making more items available for interested members to download. Do you have some gems hidden away in your archive or attic? If so, could you share them with the Society please.

Drawing Office, Ray Caston & Allan Pym

We are pleased to report a very good trading year for the Drawing Office. This is due in no small measure to the efforts of John Lacy in handling orders for diagrams produced electronically, and we thank him sincerely for that. We also wish to thank Chris Hall and our friends at Kidderminster Railway Museum for their help in scanning diagrams, thanks also to Bernhard Archer, our draughtsman, for his continuing efforts. Many friends have helped during the year including Richard Foster, Garth Tilt and John Hinson. We thank you all.

FARSAP, Richard Pulleyn

Our "London Transport" film has finally been added to the SRS website; this covers visits to Baker Street, Edgware Road, Harrow on the Hill, and Rickmansworth.

A film of former signalman Steve Rickett awaits uploading to the website. In the film, Steve is talking about the early part of his railway career starting at Largin and, over the years, working a wide range of boxes primarily in Cornwall before taking promotion to work at Swindon Panel.

Photographic Collection– Paul Armstrong

The Society has received the following collections donated by Brain Andrews (from the Great Eastern Society), Bruce Bennett (who's donation includes some slides from the collection of Larry Crozier), Ross Clavell, Malcom Dickin, Tony Endersby, plus smaller collections from Rodney Agutter Richard Foster, Edward Dorricott, David Sanderson, Jan Lukaszewski, plus three albums of photographs by Matt Saunders, which join his other albums already at Kenilworth

I have also purchased several batches of slides and prints on behalf of the Society at auction and collectors' fairs. I have worked on the scanning of items purchased during the year. I have also been working my way through the John Talbot and Tony Endersby collections, although I have not managed to copy as many items in 2022 as previous years due to poor health and subsequent death of a family member. I must thank David Garland, John Lacy, and Steve Sharpe (especially in his work to acquire the Malcom Dickin collection) for their help during the year.

The SRS Signal Box Alterations (SBA), John Sneider

I am continuing the task of producing the 2022 SBA, with the format including photos, and am hoping it will be ready for the Summer 2023 mailing. The sections, based on the *Signalling Atlas and Signal Box Directory* by Peter Kay, remain the same, but with the added section 8, which allows for any updates/corrections/amendments to previous SBAs. So, if anyone has additional information or updates from previous SBAs these can be easily included. I collate the information provided from various sources e.g., Andrew Overton's Signalling Digest, weekly operating notices and any additional information provided by members. My thanks go to all these providers.

The SBA can only cover items of information received, so if anyone has items of interest that they think could be added please e-mail them to me, I can edit to fit as required. It is helpful if the location, date, and railway association are included, even better if a TRACKmaps reference is available. If you provide any photos, it is helpful if you can include the date and location taken, a short comment about the subject and who is to be credited.

Publications

Signalling Record & Member Publications, Richard Foster, Francis Dalrymple Hamilton & Michael Ellis

Spring 2022 marked the start of the Second 12 issue volume of the A4 Editions of *The Signalling Record*. It is hard to believe that 4 years have gone by since we made the big leap forward to A4 size and colour in each edition. A great deal of work has gone on behind the scenes to produce and maintain the quality of our flagship publications *The Signalling Record* and *SRS News*.

It is now many years since the Society was last able to produce an index to the contents of *The Signalling Record*. An innovation during the year was the publication of an Index covering, not only the 12 issues of the *Record*, but also the signalling content of first 12 issues of *SRS News* into the bargain! The index covers the years 2019 to 2021. Special thanks are due to Andy Overton, who took on the bulk of the work in compiling and bringing together the contents of the indexes. We hope to continue to produce indexes for future 12 issue volumes.

During the year we produced and mailed to members the following publications: *The Signalling Record* - 160 Pages, *SRS News* - 108 Pages, *Signal Box Alterations 2021* - 24 Pages, Index 2019 – 2021 8 Pages, *Annual Report for 2021* - 16 Pages

There were developments during the year with *SRS News*. Up to the middle of the year Richard Foster had carried the responsibility of compiling and editing the contents of *SRS News* from its inception at the beginning of 2019 (14 issues) and the time had come for change to allow Richard to work on other projects for the Society. Fortunately, member Stuart Johnson came forward with an offer to take on the Editorship of *SRS News*. This led to the Autumn News being produced jointly between Stuart and Richard, with Stuart taking over as Editor for the Winter edition (No 16). All our thanks are due to Stuart for taking on this very important role and we extend our best wishes to him for the future. Stuart's Report on *SRS News* appears below.

In addition to the important developments of the introduction of an index and the appointment of a new Editor for *SRS News*, there were significant developments with the content of *The Signalling Record* with the start of a landmark series of articles (*Record* 205) covering the history, development, and details of the major types of block instruments, written by John Young. This was followed in *Record* No 208 by the start of another landmark series of articles covering single line instruments by Mike Christensen. It is hoped that both John and Mike will be able to write further articles on these subjects for publication.

It is encouraging that the feedback from members is that they consider the quality of production and content of the *Record* and *News* are of a very high standard, indeed some consider them to be among the best publications of all the equivalent 'line' Societies. However, achieving and delivering this requires a considerable amount of volunteer effort to produce and maintain the standards. Fortunately, a few new volunteers have come forward during the year to offer help and to join the small behind the scenes team that makes the things happen. As well as the new Editor for *SRS News* we have new people to help with preparing drawings and sketches, laying out publications, helping to find photographs and illustrations, and help with proofreading and sub editing work.

Our particular thanks to all the members who have come forward as volunteers to help with the behind the scenes work that makes our member and other publications possible. The following have contributed in some way during the year from major help through to small but important, contributions:

Paul Armstrong, Tim Bourne, Geoff Brown, Graham Bowring, Peter Davenport, Michael Ellis, Martin Elms, John Hinson, John Lacy, Richard Lemon, Chris Littleworth, Charles Melton, Robert Mills, Mick Nicholson, Andy Overton, Chris Potts, Richard Pulleyn, Alan Pym, Roger Sawyer, Ian Scott, John Sneider, Chris Springett, Chris Togwell. We express our heartfelt thanks to you all and with apologies for anyone I have missed. Also, our grateful thanks to all those who contributed material for publication, whether articles, letters or help with the supply of information and illustrations. Without them there would soon be no Society.

Our editor for *The Signalling Record* has significant underlying health issues which limit the time and effort he can spend on Society matters, and to add to the scale of the issue, he has undertaken the dual role of Society Treasurer, which is demanding. As a result, we are struggling with finding resources to take on the editorial tasks of bringing manuscripts and articles from submission to a finished state which is ready for laying out and publication. This includes work such as checking content, finding more and better illustrations and liaising with authors to ensure articles are as comprehensive and detailed as possible.

If you think you might be able to help, in even a small way, please get in touch and we can discuss how you might be able to help. There is an appeal for sub-editing help in *SRS News* Nos 16 which provides more details. Please give some thought to how you might be able to help.

SRS News, Stuart Johnson

SRS News gained a new editor during 2022. Stuart Johnson has built on the solid foundation laid by Richard Foster and the *News* continues to provide essential Society information alongside signalling news items of interest on shorter lead times than is possible in the *Record*. A bumper 36-page issue in Autumn 2022 was followed by the 24-page Winter issue, and we expect to continue at around that size. A very popular feature has been the 'Mystery Photograph' section, in which pictures from the Society archives and other sources which have become detached from their descriptions are offered to the membership for identification. This both helps the completeness of the Society's records and provides a platform for the exchange of information about often obscure and interesting locations, to the great benefit of everyone. We continue to welcome contributions and suggestions for future content, such as book reviews, reports on events in the heritage sector, and accounts of the application of signalling to model railways. The *News* is also the place for news about the human side of signalling, such as the saga of the L&YR Signalling School trophy featured in issue 16.

Stand Alone Publications, Richard Foster

As has been noted in *SRS News* during 2022, I am very anxious to get the Society back into the publication of other material separate from the Member Publications that can be made available for sale to members and the public to increase the knowledge and awareness of signalling as widely as possible. After a gap of the best part of 20 years, when very little has been published, there is a great deal to be done to establish processes, establish skills and find volunteers to help with the work.

Fortunately, member Simon Lowe came forward with the manuscript of a book covering the history and details of the design and production of the actual signal box diagrams used in Scotland by the Scottish Region signal engineers. This is to be extensively illustrated by photographs of actual box diagrams. A small, team was set up to take this forward through editing, review, laying out and production to a very high standard with colour printing throughout. *Production and Design of Signal Box Diagrams: B.R. Scottish Region*, by Simon Lowe will be published in 2023. Please see *SRS News No. 17* for full details and details of a special introductory offer.

Signal Box Registers, Chris Hall

There is a lot to report this year as a huge amount of work has been undertaken to update Volumes 1 and 3, which have both been published in both hardback and paperback forms. They are in stock now via the bookstall. Volume 1 has also been published in digital format and is available from the members only area of the SRS web site in HTML format. Links are provided both internally and to external map sites. Making volume 1 available on-line and in print is an experiment and, if successful, will lead to other registers being available in this way. Now that volumes 1 and 3 have been revised, the correction sheet has shrunk from 91 pages to 23 pages.

We have also reached a formal agreement with the North Eastern Railway Association for use of their digital signal box register information. This register is now available from the members area of the SRS web site in an identical form to that on the members only area of the NERA web site. A printed register, volume 7 in the current series, is in an advanced state of preparation running to some 408 pages with publication expected in the first quarter of 2023. A discount scheme will operate for both SRS and NERA members in accordance with this agreement.

Although volumes 6 (*Scotland*) and 8 (*LT*) are not listed on the SRS web site, they are not out of print and more copies would be printed if there were any orders although we would probably confine reprints to a single format such as paperback. All the published registers therefore remain available even if some of them are not advertised, a term familiar to those with an interest in railways. Now that the registers are on public record in copyright libraries, printing more copies to fulfil orders is not a profitable activity for small numbers of orders and is only possible because making such information available is one of our charitable objectives.

Progress with volumes 2 (Midland) and 5A (LNWR Euston to Crewe including North Staffs) has been much slower than anticipated and these are unlikely to be published during 2023. The next project once Volume 7 has been published will be to revise either volume 4 (Southern Railway) or volume 6 (Scotland) using the same approach as was used for volume 3.

That is to include the version of a particular page as originally published but with an 'update' note against each register entry where new information has come forward.

Images of the relevant signal box register entry for individual signal boxes are now available from the OS Map view on the SRS web site. This includes 'work in progress' entries for volumes 2, 5A and 7 although these are redacted until the volumes have been published for 2 years so as not to affect sales and, in the case of Volume 7 contingent on further agreement being reached with NERA that unredacted images could be provided in this way.

For each of the published registers there is a corrections coordinator nominated to receive proposed corrections so that they can be added to the correction sheet from time to time and, in the case of registers published on line, to allow these to be kept up to date. As more power signalling is introduced reference is likely to be made to the BPSR rather than to try to capture such detail in a register designed for mechanical signal boxes. Details of contact addresses for these coordinators are published occasionally so that technical discussions over historical data do not get lost to posterity. The experts in this field are in frequent contact on this matter.

Signalling Digest Compiler's Report 2022, Andrew Overton

Four editions of the digest have been produced and published to members.

Bookstall, Chris Springett

The transition from John Lacy to myself started in mid-year. It is progressing with a few challenges on the way. With help of Steve Sharpe, Richard Foster and John progress is being made and new products have been added to the Bookstall site.

To date I have added the Signal Box Registers for Eastern Region and the revised Great Western. Early Bird discount now seems to be working well, although there will always be the odd gremlin with logins and payments. Total sales for the year were £3,771.85 up by nearly £800 on 2021. We did see an increase in sales in the last 4 months perhaps due to GW register being available. It must be said though that sales of established publications and digital copies (DO diagrams etc) still contributes about a third on income.

The aim for the first half of 2023 is to complete the transfer from John, catch up with Steve and reconcile stock levels. New publications are planned for 2023 and the Bookstall works with the contributors on these. Email lists for notice of new arrivals and offers is being compiled, as well as some advertising material, so that societies and organisations outside of SRS can be notified to hopefully increase sales. My thanks to the events team for support on sales too. My thanks to John Lacy for his help to date, his knowledge is invaluable, and I hope to utilise it fully in the coming year.

Back Numbers and Non-commercial Publications – Steve Sharpe

Unfortunately progress at getting the full service back up and running have not been as successful as had been hoped. This has primarily been slowed down by a combination of my other role as Membership Secretary and the full-time day job. All being well service will be resumed in the coming year.

On a positive note, the more recent A4 sized back issues of *The Signalling Record* are now available through the bookstall on our website either individually or in year packages. Whilst not of interest to a lot of members this will be particularly useful for our more recently joined members.

Meetings and Promotional Activity

Exhibitions, Natalie Jones

This year has been the first where exhibitions have been held since COVID struck. The Society had been represented at three exhibitions, Expo EM in Wakefield, Guildex at Stafford, and Warley at the NEC. Each exhibition had generated interest in the Society with several new members joining as well as sales of publications. At Warley an award was presented to the "Best Signalled Layout" which this year was Plumpton Green owned by Barry Luck. Thanks are due to Graham Bowring, Andrew Hartshorne, Kelly Harding, Chris Hall, Reg Instone, Steve Sharpe, and Peter Davenport for their assistance. Unfortunately, David Garland and Andrew Barton were unable to assist at Warley due to train service cancellations.

Forum, John Lacy

Subjects featured in the Forum are mentioned during the course of the year in *SRS News*. Whilst we do have quite a many regular contributors to the forum it would be nice to see more of the membership taking a look to see what's being discussed and share their knowledge and experiences.

Area Organiser North East/Corresponding Member, Richard Pulley

I have responded to a wide range of enquiries from other authors who wish to include signalling material in their books; for example, Martin Bairstow has just published "*Railways Through Harrogate*" which contains many photographs of interest to supplement the articles by Neil Mackay in the *Record*. I have contributed a number of articles to the *SRS Record* and to *SRS News* myself.

Earlier in the year, I was pleased to work with Reg Instone when we conducted a series of meetings to consult Corresponding Members about their roles. I also participated in a series of consultations led by John Lacy regarding the future of the SRS Archive. Through my roles at the NRM, I managed to arrange transfer to the SRS of a number of

London Midland & Scottish Railway and British Rail (London Midland Region) Track Circuit Diagram books, and to acquire a collection of colour slides for the Photographic Archive. (See also news of a book Richard has produced about signalling in the Leeds Area in *SRS News*)

Area Organiser North West, Ken Booth

2022 - The year of the Zoom. During 2022 zoom meetings were organised for February and October.

Saturday 26th February 2022 Crewe Meeting – “Freedom of Scotland” by Andrew Gardiner

The registered attendees numbered 37 but the actual attendance will be higher due to last minute registrations. The presentation essentially covered signal boxes, past & present, in the Western and Eastern Highlands. Notes on the meeting can be found in *SRS News* No 14. The presentation was well received and generated a robust question session. All comment on the day proved most favourable. Such was the popularity of Andrews’s presentation that he will return in February 2023 to present a Part 2.

The date for the autumn meeting eventually settled on 1st October 2022 and was due to have Chris Bellett delivering a talk on “Signalling on the Bodmin & Wadebridge Railway”. Unfortunately, Chris was unable to attend and Graham Floyd stood in at very short notice. We came close to having to cancel but Graham saved the day.

Saturday 1st October 2022 Crewe Meeting – “Visiting those hard to visit places” by Graham Floyd

The registered attendees numbered 48 according to Zoom. Graham’s presentation detailed signal boxes in several regions of the country, including London Transport, over several years. The key being that they all were not easily visitable and some were positively risky! Extensive use was made of external and internal photographs. Graham discussed the layout, equipment, and any unusual features which, on occasion, involved some dubious operating procedures! He also had several tales to tell about some of the more colourful characters that inhabited these work places in times past. All in all, a most interesting session which generated many questions and much banter. All comment on the day proved most favourable. Both meetings were recorded but are not yet available to the membership due to the lack of a volunteer to perform the mystic arts of video editing.

Future Crewe Meetings - assistance required

To date there has been no response to my call for speakers made via the *SRS News*. We need two speakers a year to continue having meetings. Meetings will be presented using Zoom to reach the widest audience. Therefore, we need people to volunteer, members or non-members that you know, who can present a signalling related subject. If you can help, please contact me via falconrs@outlook.com. If you want to discuss the technical side of Zoom as a potential presenter then please contact our Webmaster John Lacy. One meeting is planned for 2023 – “Freedom of Scotland Part 2” by Andrew Gardiner. To be held on Saturday 25th February 2023. Details as per *SRS News* No 16.

Visits Heritage North, Richard Pulleyn

I offered to assist with publicising the SRS to heritage railways in the north but have yet to receive any material to enable this to be progressed.

Visits Heritage South, Edward Dorricott

No visits took place in 2022. On the other hand, a fixture for 5th August this year is being arranged to the Epping Ongar Railway, so please look out for announcements in the Newsletter and on the SRS website. Those on my mailing list will receive email notification.

Visits Network Rail, Transport for London & Metro, Peter Addis

Network Rail rightly banned third party access to its operational installations in early 2020 when the Covid pandemic became evident, and this prohibition was only beginning to ease towards the end of 2022. However, the industrial relations problems, including strike action and an overtime ban, commenced about the same time effectively preventing any SRS visits being organised - apart from a visit on 25 November 2022 to Folkestone East and a slave panel at Dover, which should have been abolished had past strike action not intervened - a further strike day enabled the Dover panel to be taken out of use on 6 January 2023. This visit had been arranged for 26 March 2020 but cancelled due to the embargo on third party visits being introduced but members who had been allocated places on the March 2020 visit were able to participate in November 2022.

Subject to the industrial action being resolved it is hoped that various visits, at present notably in East Anglia and southern England, will become possible during 2023 and appropriate enquiries are being made to that end. Should any member be able to advise me of suitable contact information facilitating an introduction that would be most helpful.

Treasurer, John Lacy

Rather unexpectedly, as I had intended giving up my roles in administrative activity and being a trustee, I have slipped into the role of being your Treasurer for the time being. I hope this will not be for too long and that one (or more) of you will volunteer to take on the role.

I wish to place on record my thanks to Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton for carrying out the role and tasks for the past four years. Unfortunately, health issues got in the way and he resigned as our Treasurer in early January. Francis remains a trustee so he will still be contributing to the work of the Society. I'm sure you will all wish to join me in thanking Francis and in wishing him better health in the future.

The accounts for 2022 have been externally examined and are presented on the following pages. It is appropriate that I include a few words of additional explanation here. The financial columns on page 21 show our income and expenditure in three columns.

Restricted funds are moneys that can only be spent on the purpose for which they are intended. We have just one such fund, the *Archive (Purchase) Fund* which comprises moneys donated to the archives or raised from sale of archive surplus. The surplus can include duplicated items and items part of a wider donation or purchase that do not fit with our collecting policies. Moneys will be drawn from this fund before recourse is made to the General Fund for archive purchases.

We have two designated funds which consist of moneys put to one side for specific purposes and the trustees can redesignate these funds in whole or in part if circumstances change. The *Enterprise Fund* is there to meet the costs of special projects carried out as part of delivering our charitable objectives and the costs of development work which may, or may not, result in an income stream at a later date.

It is a fact of life that active archives grow in size and eventually outgrow the storage space available. For that reason, we have a second storage point which acts as an 'overflow' for items awaiting digitisation. There is also a serious issue of security of tenure. We can be evicted from the premises at Kenilworth at just five months' notice which is insufficient time to enable us to locate and move into fresh premises. The National Railway Museum have handed some material from their archives to us for safe keeping and have rightly expressed concern. It is, therefore, prudent to set aside some of our funds to meet the costs of a hasty retreat from Kenilworth should we be faced with the necessity to do so, or of a move of our own volition to larger premises. The moneys set aside as the *Archive (Relocation) Fund* are intended for this purpose.

We have continued refining the categories that we use for budgeting and facilitating delivery of our financial responsibilities as trustees.

Ask not what your Society can do for you; ask what you can do for your Society.

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

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The Signalling Record Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Status of Charity and Governing Document

The Signalling Record Society is established by Constitution. The charity is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Charity Commission (No. 1176506).

Aims and activities

To advance the education of the public in all aspects of railway signalling, and all associated science, technology and research, in the British Isles and overseas, in particular but not exclusively by:

1. Promoting the study and preservation of information, drawings, photographs and other material through creation of a website and archive;
2. Publishing and disseminating the useful results of research;
3. Arranging meetings, visits, lectures, exhibitions and similar related activities.

The SRS maintains an archive in order to preserve (in physical or digital form as appropriate) documents, drawings and photographs related to railway signalling and make them available to the public. Regular open days are held to allow public access to the physical archive: access is also possible at other times by prior arrangement with the archivist.

The SRS maintains a website available to the public which provides a great deal of information on railway signalling, as well as providing access to the digital archive.

The SRS maintains a photographic collection which is available to the public through the Kidderminster Railway Museum.

The SRS publishes a journal *The Signalling Record* containing some of the results of members' research, and also occasional books on subjects relating to railway signalling.

The SRS arranges meetings and visits to locations of railway signalling interest, and attends relevant exhibitions.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commissioners on public benefit.

Trustees and Office Bearers

The charity Trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. The Trustees who served during the year and to the date of this report are as below.

Chris Hall	Chair	
Peter Davenport	Secretary	
Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton	Treasurer	until 6 th January 2023
John Lacy	Treasurer	from 26 th January 2023
Richard Foster		
Paul Armstrong		
Stephen Sharpe		

Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new Trustee, whether in place of a current Trustee who has retired or as an additional Trustee, provided that the limit of 12 Trustees has not been exceeded. At every subsequent annual general meeting, at least one-half of the Trustees shall retire from office. The number of Trustees must not exceed 12 and must not fall below 3.

The Signalling Record Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Appointment of Trustees (continued)

The charity Trustees will make available to each new Trustee, on or before his/her first appointment:

- A copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and
- A copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

Achievements and performance

During the year the main achievements of the charity included:

- Public days held at the SRS archive continued to be restricted during the early part of 2022 owing to the coronavirus pandemic. As the restrictions and concerns gradually eased so the extent of opening increased and the pre-booking requirement was removed. In total we managed 12 advertised open days and 6 other days. In all a total number of 59 visitors attended the various open days.
- Donations to our archives continued to flow in during the year aggregating to 28 new archive boxes of additional material plus more material added to existing boxes and the digital archive. The archive catalogue, available from our web site, continued to expand.
- During 2022 we expanded our photographic digital archive with some 4,000 newly scanned pictures.
- The SRS website continues to offer information to visitors and was visited on 156,989 occasions during the year, with a total of 805,001 page views. Documents available on line were downloaded 128,966 times and our OSMAP page generated 131,579 map views.
- The FARSAP series of videos produced by the Friends of the National Railway Museum and continues to be popular with no less than 7537 viewings during the year.
- Our main means of disseminating information in printed form is through our flagship magazine '*The Signalling Record*' which is published quarterly and made available for purchase by the public. During the year the journals ran to a total of 160 pages containing a large amount of current and historical material relating to our charitable objectives and arising from research work by our members.
- To supplement this we produce a newsletter, '*SRS News*', containing news items and information relating to the operation of the CIO and containing news and information related to current activities in the signalling field. During the year '*SRS News*' ran to a total of 112 pages enabling us to promulgate information widely.
- The successful holding of meetings by Zoom during the covid restrictions period was continued and made it easier for people to attend regardless of where they live.
- The restrictions arising from the covid pandemic having eased, we were represented at a number of exhibitions during the year. Most notably at the Warley Model Railway Exhibition when our annual award for the best signalled layout was presented by Pete Waterman on our behalf. This received extensive coverage in the model railway press.
- During the year we carried out extensive reviews into both our Corresponding Members system and our archives with a view to identifying improvements in our services. Some changes will be made in future years in consequence.
- Our on-line Bookstall continues to offer our publications and drawings for sale. During 2022 direct download for some of our drawings proved more popular than printed material. The drawings are similar in style to signal box diagrams and they continue to be available in paper form as well.
- The SRS Enquiries Officer continues to receive questions from members of the public and circulate them to members with the relevant information so as to ensure the best possible quality of response.
- Some of the enquiries involve a considerable amount of research effort, often for authors seeking details or confirmation of facts. The results of these efforts often appear in books and articles published by other organisations. Sadly, the authors do not always mention the help they get from us.
- The SRS works jointly with the National Railway Museum in areas of mutual interest.
- This year has seen an increased awareness of the Society in some areas resulting in membership numbers rising higher than at any point in the Society's past, reaching a total of 793 members at the end of 2022.

The Signalling Record Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Financial review

Results for the year

The financial statements for the year are set out in pages 21 to 23. The Receipts and Payments Account on page 21 reflects a net increase in cash for the year of £1,571 (2021: £4,193).

Reserves

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months unrestricted expenditure that allows sufficient funds to enable the ongoing work of the charity to be maintained. The General Fund on page 22 at 31 December 2022 amounted to £69,136 (2021: £63,770) which is above the required level.

Total reserves, including designated and restricted funds, amounted to £86,592 (2021: £85,021).

Reference and administration details

The Signalling Record Society
1176506

Principal office

66a Lower Wyche Road
Malvern
Worcs
WR14 4ET

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees:

C K Hall
Chairman/Trustee

Dated: 29th February 2023

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 21 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jonathan N Innes FCCA
Managing Director

Innes & Partners Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

Date: 31/3/2023

Innes House
18 Shairps Business Park
Houstoun Road
Livingston
EH54 5FD

Innes & Partners
Chartered Certified Accountants

The Signalling Record Society

Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
		£		£	£	£
Receipts						
Subscriptions		22,070	-	-	22,070	23,600
Donations - general		452	-	-	452	373
Donations to archives		-	-	44	44	247
Sale of archive surplus		-	-	257	257	-
Sale of books		1,651	-	-	1,651	2,202
Sale of back numbers and other publications		158	-	-	158	174
Sale of drawings		1,472	-	-	1,472	2,051
Sale of ties and binders		-	-	-	-	108
Sale of Records SRSV		780	-	-	780	877
Sale of Signalbox Registers		1,488	-	-	1,488	-
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed		4,359	-	-	4,359	5,127
Bank interest		63	-	-	63	471
Investment income		301	-	-	301	-
Subscriptions paid in error		58	-	-	58	73
Total income		32,852	-	301	33,153	35,303
Expenditure						
Record production		6,864	-	-	6,864	9,878
Record distribution		7,206	-	-	7,206	7,667
Signal Box Alterations		533	-	-	533	-
Annual report Production		477	-	-	477	-
Membership notices and newsletters		2,882	-	-	2,882	1,931
Archive costs & purchases		345	-	-	345	2,248
Digital Archive hosting & purchases		-	-	536	536	-
Storage of Archives		4,384	-	-	4,384	4,285
Events & Meetings		119	-	-	119	14
Committee meetings		235	-	-	235	392
Administration		292	-	-	292	608
Advertising & Marketing		112	-	-	112	108
Register Development		-	465	-	465	67
Register Printing		923	-	-	923	-
IT Equipment for Digital Archive		-	-	1,301	1,301	-
IT Software & Consumables		306	-	-	306	-
Membership Expenses		-	-	-	-	1,689
Treasurer Expenses		36	-	-	36	-
Exhibition costs		231	-	-	231	-
Cost of "other publications" sold		-	-	-	-	127
Bookstall Sales Expenses		120	-	-	120	258
Book Sales Expenses		50	-	-	50	-
Register Expenses		821	-	-	821	-
Publications Sales Expenses		-	-	-	-	68
Cost of drawings sold		54	-	-	54	35
Cost of printing drawings		160	-	-	160	350
Photographic Purchases		-	-	1,356	1,356	-
Bank Charges		311	-	-	311	351
Professional Fees		215	-	-	215	210
Cost of ties and binders sold		-	-	-	-	64
Scanning Drawings		-	438	-	438	-
Independent examiner's fee		660	-	-	660	660
Other		150	-	-	150	-
Donation		-	-	-	-	100
Total expenditure		27,486	903	3,193	31,582	31,110
Surplus for the year before transfers		5,366	(903)	(2,892)	1,571	4,193
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year after transfers		5,366	(903)	(2,892)	1,571	4,193
Cash balances brought forward		63,770	17,342	3,909	85,021	80,828
Cash balances carried forward		69,136	16,439	1,017	86,592	85,021

The Signalling Record Society

Statement of Balances as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022			2021		
		Opening balance £	Surplus for year £	Closing balance £	Opening balance £	Surplus for year £	Closing balance £
Bank Accounts		85,021	1,571	86,592	80,828	4,193	85,021
Bank balances		85,021	1,571	86,592	80,828	4,193	85,021
Represented by:							
Unrestricted funds	4						
General fund				69,136			63,770
Designated funds	4						
Enterprise fund				6,439			17,342
Archive (Relocation) fund				10,000			-
Restricted funds	5						
Archive (Purchase) fund				1,017			3,909
				86,592			85,021

Statement of assets at 31 December 2022

Fixed assets:

Exhibition display equipment	512	512
	512	512

Current assets:

Gift Aid	-	184
	-	184

Statement of liabilities at 31 December 2022

Independent examination	726	780
Subscriptions paid in error	761	703
Subscriptions paid in advance	18,244	19,659
	19,731	21,142

The financial statements on pages 21 to 23 were approved by the Trustees on 28 February 2023 and signed on their behalf by the undersigned:


C K Hall
Chairman/Trustee


John Lacy
Treasurer/Trustee

The Signalling Record Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the purpose of the Receipts and Payments account as shown on page 5, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other income received for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds comprise those funds which the Trustees have designated for specific purposes. The funds held within the designated funds are expected to be used over the next 24 months.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the charity and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

2. Transactions with Trustees and related parties

There were no transactions with the Trustees or related parties during the year ending 31 December 2022 (2021: nil).

3. Reimbursement of expenses

No Trustees received reimbursement of personal expenses during the year to 31 December 2022 (2021: nil).

4. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.22	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	63,770	32,852	(27,486)	-	69,136
Designated funds					
Enterprise fund	17,342	-	(903)	(10,000)	6,439
Archive (Relocation) fund	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Total unrestricted funds	81,112	32,852	(28,389)	-	85,575

Explanation of funds

The *General fund* represents all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is restricted.

The *Enterprise fund* represents funds intended to allow the SRS to undertake projects, such as publishing where some preliminary investment is required and some time may elapse before this investment is recovered. Some of the funds are kept to guard against future conditions beyond the SRS's control which might increase costs or reduce income, to ensure that the SRS can withstand such variations.

The *Archive (Relocation) fund* is intended to provide moneys to cover removal and other costs when relocating.

5. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01.01.22	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£	£
Archive (Purchase) fund	3,909	301	(3,193)	-	1,017
Total restricted funds	3,909	301	(3,193)	-	1,017

Explanation of funds

The *Archive (Purchase) fund* represents income which is to be used solely for the purchase of archive material for the SRS Archive collection.

The Society is moving forward !!
as our recent publications show

Signal Box Diagrams, Scottish Region
Signal Box Register volume 1 WR
Signal Box Register volume 2 ER
Signal Box Register volume 7 NE

We want to do more
more publications
more visits
more meetings

Can you help us
to do this ?



We Need
You
to volunteer

Contact Richard Foster or John Lacy to find out how
you can help us to achieve more.

Our contact details on the back page of SRS News

Ask not what your Society can do for you.

Ask what you can do for your Society !!

SRS