



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF MUSEUM & TOURIST RAILWAYS

Fédération Européenne des Chemins de Fer Touristiques et Historiques
Europäische Föderation der Museums- und Touristikbahnen

TRAMWAY GROUP MEETING 19TH APRIL 2018 NO.2 SURGEON'S HALL, EDINBURGH

In attendance: Mimmi Mickelsen (Chair, FED & Svenska Spårvägssällskapet), Jenny Nunn (Secretary, FED, HRA & Seaton Tramway), Jaap Nieweg (FED President), Colin Heaton (National Tramway Museum, Crich), George Murray (Summerlee), Peter Hyde (Brisbane Tramway Museum & COTMA), Peter Ovenstone (FED & HRA), Thomas Lange (FED & Svenska Spårvägssällskapet), John Jones (FED), Warren Doubleday (ATHRA), Geoffrey Claydon (HRA & UK Trams).

Apologies: Bas Schenk, Rolf Hafke (VDVA), Ian Longworth (Isle of Man), David Keay (Seaton Tramway), Harald Baminger (Austria).

1. Mimmi Mickelsen welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Tramway Group.
2. There were no minutes from the inaugural meeting of TOG but an overview was given of the notes made in Antwerp 2017 and a discussion was held on the following points:
 - Attracting younger membership
 - Fedecrail youth camp
 - Commercial challenges
 - Erasmus project funding

3. There were no matters arising

4.a By 2026 the EU's plans to offer public transport contracts in the marketplace will become legislation.

What happens to public collections? Does each city take responsibility for this as there are financial implications if councils start to limit their budgets. There is no current obligation on councils to preserve and consider the needs of the heritage network and a cultural shift will have to take place in order for local authorities to be appraised of the situation. The infrastructure may change dramatically and may deter heritage trams from operating within this.

As per the Paris Plan, it was agreed that TOG should ascertain which countries have a national asset register and that if none existed each member country should coordinate a national register of heritage assets, an example of which is the HRN's work in this field.

Jaap agreed to lobby on TOG's behalf and involve EU's Tourism Commission to support funding if required.

4.b The Strategic Plan is attached here.

4.c External Relations and potential working partnerships include:

UK Tram, HRA, HRN, Svenska Spårvägssällskapet (Sweden), AHN (Germany), VDAM, UITP, Brussels, Europa Nostra, WATTRAIN.

Jaap reported on his recent attendance at the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Historischer Nahverkehr (AHN) meeting in Chemnitz.

4.d In order that TOG encompasses not just operating tramways but all tramway groups and museum organisations, it was agreed to change the committee's name to Tramway Group henceforth.

4.e Tramway Principles & Guidance

A discussion on national operating standards and research what documentation is available within each member country:

Jenny to circulate the UK

Mimmi to circulate the BEOSTRAB operating document.

4.f Recommendations from RAIB (Rail Accident Investigation Branch) after the Croydon tram crash.

Jenny to circulate report: <https://www.gov.uk/raib-reports/overturning-of-a-tram-at-sandilands-junction-croydon>

Warren agreed to circulate information on the Melbourne incident and any other member to circulate relevant reports to Tramway Group to encourage Best Practice.

5. Health & Safety – see 4.f above

6. Staffing & Volunteers

The general issue of age limits for tramway drivers was raised and assessing cognitive ability rather than actual age of candidate. Fitness to work after volunteer drivers have driven a long distance to start work was also a concern and how to measure this effectively.

How to recruit and retain new volunteers is also sometimes a challenge for heritage tramway operations and the suggestion from Seaton Tramway was to run a recruitment advert in the local media, from which Seaton has had great success. Included in the volunteer package is a free lunch voucher.

Geoffrey Claydon reported on the status with the UK legislation from 1920 which prohibits children under 16 from working or volunteering at an industrial undertaking such as a railway. HRA is lobbying hard in the UK to get this repealed.

Peter Hyde mentioned the success of the Men's Shed initiative in Brisbane and how having intellectually challenging projects stimulates older people as volunteers.

Mimmi spoke about the need to engage younger people in the industry and announced that this year's Fedecrail Youth Camp will be held in Sweden.

7. Jenny gave an overview of the type of marketing and event initiatives that have been successful at Seaton Tramway and stressed the need for heritage railway attractions to embrace social media thus appealing to a new and younger generation of customer. It is also essential to respond positively to all comments made on platforms such as Trip Advisor and Facebook in a timely fashion. 'Premiumisation' of product offer was also a key point where

tramways could offer enhanced packages for tram driving lessons and special event days such as The Polar Express, wildlife watching trips, Murder Mystery etc.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.