



Friends of the Choo-Tjoe

*The Loop*

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## **NEWSLETTER NUMBER 29 – APRIL 2019**

### **EDITORIAL**

At a recent committee meeting the question was asked, "Is there any point in continuing with the Friends?" There has been no positive news, indeed any news for well over a year now. We had three choices namely, carry on, close up shop or go into hibernation. These options were put to members with the AGM notice and from the responses we received, it was clear that going into hibernation was the preferred choice. This policy was adopted at the AGM. In practice it means that everyone who was a paid up member in 2017 will still be regarded as a member but no fees will be payable. In addition, there will be no further issues of the Loop. Should the situation change, all members will be notified.

At the AGM, it was decided to contribute R10,000 to DRISA, a volunteer organization cataloguing the archives of Transnet. This seemed a worthwhile thing to do as it is helping to preserve and make available our railway history. They have a website [www.drisa.co.za](http://www.drisa.co.za)

### **Julie Jenkins**

#### **Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the *Friends of the Choo-Tjoe* held at the Sedgefield Bowling Club on 25 March 2019 at 15:15**

1 **Welcome:**

Colin Jenkins, chairman of the *Friends of the Choo-Tjoe*, welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting.

2 **Notice of the Meeting:**

The notice of the meeting and the agenda were taken as read.

3 **Attendance:**

As per the attached attendance register, 7 attendees signed the register.

**Apologies:**

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2 apologies were received, namely: Philip Caveney and Murray Douglas.

Proxies Received:

1 - from Hennie Pranger.

There being a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

4 Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM:

The minutes were taken as read. Proposed: Allan Waterston. Seconded: Dirk van der Zeyden.

5 Matters Arising:

9.1 Colin Jenkins said that a year had passed and there was no progress to report.

9.2 Ceres Rail is very active and had done a number of trips to Elgin from Cape Town – according to reports, most were fully booked. Atlantic Rail has been taken over by Ceres Rail. Work at Voorbaai loco shed has come to a stop for the time being.

6 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for 2018:

Allan Waterston highlighted the main points in his report. A copy of Allan's report is attached as **Addendum 1**.

7 Chairman's Report:

Colin Jenkins read his report. A copy of the report is attached as **Addendum 2**.

8 Election of a management committee for 2019-20:

The Chairman announced that no nominations had been received for the 2019/20 committee - and after inviting nominations from the floor (there being none) – it was proposed by Julie and seconded by Dirk, that the 2018 committee be re-elected. There were no objections. The new committee will therefore consist of the following members: Colin Jenkins, Julie Jenkins, Allan Waterston, Dirk van der Zeyden and Kees Estié. A Chairman will be elected at the first committee meeting.

9 Other Business:

9.1 Fedrail: A renewal reminder for membership of Fedrail had not been received to date. Kees will email Fedrail on the status of our membership and also query content of their newsletters regarding Heritage Rail in South Africa.

9.2 The way forward: Members agreed that in view of the lack of action by Classic Rail, that the *Friends* would go into hibernation until such time as positive news is received from them.

9.3 DRISA: Colin reported the he had contacted DRISA about a possible donation from the Friends but he had to date not received an acknowledgement regarding his query. A donation of R10 000 in support of the activities of DRISA was approved by members subject to verification of bank account details.

10 Closure:

In closing, Colin thanked members for their attendance and support. The meeting ended at 16:00.

Chairman:

Date:

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**Addendum 1: Treasurer Allan Waterston's Report for the 2019 AGM**

I have pleasure in presenting the financial position of the Friends of the Choo-Tjoe for the year ended 31 December 2018. This financial report has been prepared on a cash basis.

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Another year with very little activity on all fronts. The table below reflects the cash transactions that took place during the year under review

|                   | 2018           | 2017            | 2016            |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Income</b>     |                |                 |                 |
| General donations | 2600           | 3 400.00        | 3 750.00        |
| Membership fees   | 220            | 2 630.00        | 3 490.00        |
| Sundry income     | 0              | 0               | 140.00          |
| Interest          | 12.74          | 13.91           | 512.21          |
|                   | <b>2832.74</b> | <b>6 043.91</b> | <b>7 892.21</b> |

| <b>Expenditure</b>                 |                |                 |                 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bank charges                       | 815.66         | 821.10          | 542.55          |
| Website hosting                    | 616            | 565.00          | 526.00          |
| Fedrail membership                 | 0              | 0               | 600.00          |
| Postage/Stationery/Sundry expenses | 0              | 2 268.00        | 1 090.05        |
|                                    | <b>1431.66</b> | <b>3 626.10</b> | <b>2 758.60</b> |

During 2016 an investment account was opened to maximise interest on surplus cash held by the Friends. The balance on this account at the end of the year was R118 470.07 (R111 658.98). Interest earned on the transaction account amounted to R12.74 (R13.91). Bank charges arising in respect of cash and cheque deposits to our account remain high, eft transactions don't attract charges. As a consequence of little activity, no expenses were incurred in respect of postage and stationery expenses.

A surplus of **R1 401.08** (R2 417.81) was reflected for the year under review.

At year end cash and bank totalled **R147 960.17** (R139 823.84).

The financial position of the Friends is healthy.

The liability in respect of expenses (R24 853) incurred in the refurbishment of the Trolley, which were funded by specific members, reported in previous years remains. A record of these expenses and the funders is maintained, details of which are available on request. Other than the former there were no outstanding commitments at year end.

Allan Waterston

Treasurer

10 January 2019

**Addendum 2: Chairman Colin Jenkins' Report for the 2019 AGM.**

This year has been a bit of a disappointment. It started with such high hopes. We were told by Classic Rail that everything was in place and it only awaited a signature from the minister and then it would be all systems go.

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It seems that the ministry looks at such proposals every three months. As each quarter came around, with no sign off, it was getting more and more frustrating.

Your committee took the view that we could not expect members to keep on paying their subs when we had nothing to tell them. Your committee therefore decided that members who had paid up in 2017 should stay as members but not pay subs.

We are now one year on and the position now is that Transnet still have to complete some paperwork.

The worrying thing is that the team at Voorbaai who have done such sterling work in restoring five locos, in addition to carrying out bi-annual maintenance on two of them, now find themselves on extended leave with no work in the pipeline. It would be a blow indeed if the staff were forced to find other work.

**We do not know what this year may bring but let us hope we get some positive action.**