



Buses Worldwide Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18 May 2019

Officer's Reports

CHAIRMAN (Steve Guess)

Welcome to the 2019 AGM of Buses Worldwide. A big thank you to all who have contributed to the Society over the past year. A special big thank you to Norman Bartlett who was one of the founding Committee of BWW, and has been its News Editor for almost 30 years. Norman also organised many of the BWW trips in the pre-internet days when travel beyond Dover was often difficult and time consuming to plan. We all look forward to Norman's presentation on his latest adventures after the formal meeting is concluded.

We have yet to find a successor to Norman, ideally someone who can co-ordinate the team of Sub-editors and harvest information / photos from other places.

Darren's recent illness has shown the importance of keeping other people up to date on what we are each doing and how others can access important files should something untoward happen. Should we be using a common "Cloud", for example.

I'd like to remind Members that we have active discussion groups on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/buses.worldwide/> and on Yahoo

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/busesworldwide/info>

SECRETARY

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Stuart Harvey)

In 2018 the decline for all three magazines was consistent, with around 7% non-renewals from the previous year, although I would expect as seems to happen a few of these will re-join during 2019, a trend we have seen over the last few years. However, the positive aspect was the number of new Members for at least one of the magazines in 2018. The table below shows how things stood at the end of 2018.

Magazine	No. at End 2018	Non-renewals 2018	New Members 2018
BWW	262 inc 4 Digital	19	9
BBA	234	17	5
MTN	262	18	13

2018 for MTN saw the return of some Maltese readers as well as some new ones, which was part of the plan for 2018, and will be continued to be a focus for 2019. The adverts in Buses have helped

our focus on our awareness in the UK market, which along with the Rally attendances have supported the new Members number, which hopefully can continue in 2019. In 2018 we attended four rallies, Alton, Brooklands, Rotherham and Buses Festival at Gaydon.

As in previous years, 2018 revolved around ensuring our costs was kept in line with the revenue from the three magazines. Expenditure outside of the creating the three magazines focus purely on our Rally attendances and advertisements within Buses Magazine, other adverts which are on a free basis in other publications has continued.

Overall 2018 saw a third year in a row of a Surplus (£89.89), although lower than in 2016 and 2017, the plan for 2018 was based around break even, which we successfully achieved. Based on this budget this allowed for subscription rates to remain the same for BBA and MTN, with a slight increase in BWW to align with increased costs incurred through the magazine's dispatch and print in 2019. The surplus we have in hand is expected to help support at least one new project get off the ground over the coming year, more will follow on this topic in due course.

When looked at on an individual basis, all three magazines, along with ongoing book sales, of our past publications all contributed positively to the overarching society expenses. This was also supported by our ongoing relationship with Swiss Railways society in promoting and selling their books on the website at rallies and to our members.

As stated previously we have a good cost control management on the print runs for BBA & MTN, however this has always been more of a challenge for BWW, something that continues to be looked at, and will be a focus on in 2019 to ensure we can maintain appropriate cost in line with the number of members taking the magazine. The Digital version of BWW hasn't created the interest we expected, and although it has been available to purchase copies on a digital app, this will cease in 2019, as the hosting apps, are now being charged license fees by Google and Apple that are in excess of the revenue we receive.

The budget for 2019 was also set with a break-even approach maintaining the strategy from 2018.

BWW NEWS EDITOR (Norman Bartlett)

There continues to be a massive amount of worldwide news available about buses. This needs to be to captured, sometimes translated, then evaluated, summarised and edited for publication. The problem for such a small volume magazine as BWW, is the resources are not available to do those tasks comprehensively.

Where BWW scores is that we have a devoted band of regular contributors who keep watch on the territory for which they have taken responsibility. They make a major contribution.

Typically an issue of the magazine has 36 pages of Bus Business and World News. These 3-column pages contain about 2,900 column centimetres (ccm) of material. Photos, maps and captions usually take 20% of that total. Again typically, 45% of the text is contributed by BWW's dozen regular contributors, another 5% by occasional contributors and 25% by the news editor reporting and researching. The remaining 5% is taken by headings and headers.

There are two other pages available for Members' Forum, Diary, Book Reviews and similar that provide another 160 ccm.

BWW FEATURES EDITOR (Malcom Chase)

The articles continue to come in, even if some countries and subjects may not be represented. I am grateful to all contributors.

But I am also grateful to Richard for making the articles so attractive, with layout, maps, etc. We

always have to omit many pictures for lack of space.

I have a fairly good list of articles awaiting publication, but don't stop sending them. It is only a small minority of members who actually write articles.

If you can think of new subjects, don't hesitate. But if you want any other types of column, the Editorial Team is always open to suggestions.

If anyone wants to know what has been published already, do ask.

BWW PRODUCTION (David Stevenson)

BWW has appeared on time for the last year. The current system of Richard Stedall doing the articles and sending me PDFs, I do the news, reviews and forums and then put it all together to send to the printer is working well. Richard is happy to continue into next year as am I, the only cloud on the horizon is the impending retirement of Norman who has produced the news so admirably for a long time now.

Like all of us I am concerned about the future. Unless some younger volunteers step forward then BWW and the other magazines will cease at some point in the future. By younger I mean late 50s and early 60s by the way, to most of us this is young! This is a dilemma facing many similar societies and at present there does not seem to be a solution. We make the same or similar request every year and it is rare for anyone to put their name forward. A problem for us all.

One minor consideration for the future: all our magazines are produced separately and have differing production values and page layouts. I would personally like to see more consistency between them so that they become recognisable as part of Buses Worldwide overall in the way National Geographic or the PSV Circle does between their many different offerings. It's just a thought but it might help to encourage sales of the magazines between the different sections of Buses Worldwide.

WEB MASTER (Alan Moore)

Wordpress has been kept up to date as new versions are released. Version 5 has introduced some new features which will be gradually introduced. A page for the purchase of back issues BWW has been added, starting at issue 199 and working backwards as time permits. Further back issues have also been added to the MTN and BBA Pages.

We have continued to receive contributions to the galleries from around the world. The galleries themselves need to be update as and when time permits. There are the last parts of the site running on the old software.

A list of countries that accessed the website during March 2019 is available on request.

MTN EDITOR (Daren Vickers)

Another busy year for MTN with the usual four issues published. Unfortunately not all on time with the December issue MTN 54 coming out a month late While I apologise for this but at the same time it was something that I had no control over, as a few days before the December issue was due to go to print I was unexpectedly taken ill and had to have a major operation resulting in me spending almost a month in hospital, when I came out although I was able to complete the final tweaks of MTN 54 and send it to print, and decide what would feature in the following issue I was not in a position to be able to put MTN 55 together which could have left us in a sticky situation. Luckily we were not stuck for help as Richard Stedall worked on MTN 55 on my behalf and I am picking up the reigns again and putting together the June issue MTN 56.

So looking back at the last twelve months of MTN the four issues had a total of 41 features written

by 11 different people and we also used images supplied by 34 people including five Members of the committee and I would like to thank everyone who contributed in some way. As usual the images on the covers represent articles in the respective issues, with the coloured bands on each cover complementing the main image. Unusually for a BWW publication the delayed December issue had a main image of a Reading Scania double deck bus taken in the UK and that issue feature an article on Reading Scania buses that were now open top in Malta. The other covers featured an AEC Mercury, Beulus-bodied Iveco and an AEC Reliance that had been converted with a radio studio in the rear waiting area in the middle and the front taken by a serving hatch for Costa Coffee. It has been mentioned elsewhere for a wish for all the magazines in the BWW group to have a standard look MTN does not fit the standard being more of a standalone publication and unique in that it does not only cover buses but we also have a thriving commercial section in each issue and also feature other transport related items with for example an aircraft/maritime feature in MTN 54 and MTN 56 will carry a feature on early electric milk floats in Malta. We are also the only magazine not to feature a portrait image on the cover preferring to use landscape images as this gives us more flexibility in our use of images chosen for the cover and the coloured bands. This is especially effective when we have stalls at various transport events making each issue stand out when displayed in our display cases.

The age demographic of the people involved in MTN team those who help put together and distribute the magazine is fairly young with over half the people involved being under 50 years of age, and I would like to thank the MTN team individually for the hard work they put in to make MTN the magazine it is.

Firstly Stuart Harvey my assistant editor who has provided extra support especially while i have been ill taking on the work of extra articles and taking pressure off me to concentrate on 'booked' appointments.

Chris Maxfield, my News Editor who has made useful contacts with Maltese vehicle owners. Richard Stedall who not only provides up to date details of new to Malta vehicles but also with production issues, Andy Balisat who looks after the commercial side of MTN, Mick Mitchell who is responsible for distribution of MTN and finally our man in Malta, Marco Zammit.

BBA EDITOR (Paul Bateson)

The British Buses Abroad magazine has continued to be published quarterly and on schedule. Each issue has contained 36 pages, although it could easily fill 40 pages.

There has been a wide variety of articles during the last year and I pass on my thanks to both the regular and occasional contributors. My valued news correspondents have continued with their respective columns.

I owe a particular debt of gratitude to David McGow who continues to perform an excellent job in the design and production of the magazine. The layout is standardised and favours large-sized photographs.

The magazine has had a standard format throughout its existence. Each issue has a short informal editorial introduction and includes colour-coded news sections as well as feature articles. It is well received and there is no reason to make any changes to its well-established design and layout with which readers are familiar. The Editorial team is very pleased with the magazine that is produced and with the standard of printing by Catford Print.

It has to be remembered that we are all volunteers and for my part as Editor I spend countless hours putting the magazine together. I look forward to another successful year.

PUBLICITY OFFICER (Philip Walters)

Malcolm has successfully used his contacts to obtain advertising for BWW in other publications.

Progress so far is:

PSV Circle. A half page write up for the society appeared in the April Editorial.

Classic Bus. We have been offered two free quarter page advertisements. David has produced the artwork so hopefully these will appear in the near future.

Omnibus Society. Still waiting for a response.

Meanwhile we have continued with the regular advertisements in "Buses".

Steve Guess
Monday, 13 May 2019