

### Newsletter Number 38

#### Table of Contents in RMG Newsletter

View from the Chair .....	1
Editor's Note .....	2
RMG Special Meeting 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 .....	2
Proposed Merger and Special Delegate Conference. ....	2
Summary of RMG Meeting 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 .....	4
RMG General Meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022 .....	5
Meetings in 2022 .....	5
National Pensioner Convention (NPC) News.....	6
There's no easy way to tell you this....	7
Members Comments.....	10
Your RMG committee 2021.....	11
Appendix (i) – Agenda Details (SDC). .....	12
Appendix (ii) – Agenda Details (General).....	13
Appendix (iii) – Using Zoom. ....	14

#### View from the Chair

Happy New Year one and all! Well, as happy as one can be in the present circumstances. At this time last year, most of us were thinking that the Covid situation was finally getting under control and 2021 would see us meeting up with friends and colleagues, going to theatres, cinemas, exhibitions and the such like. We thought we could again see our loved ones without restriction

and never have to wear a mask again. Things could not have been more different! At the time of writing this piece, not much has changed. Is this really the “new normal”?

The Retired Members Group continues to function happily, keeping you updated on all things TSSA and anything that might affect us as pensioners. We're here for YOU and all those who will be retiring as time goes on. You may, or may not, recall that we have been facilitating Pre-Retirement Seminars for those planning their retirement for some years. During Covid, however, they have been suspended for obvious reasons, but we are now in the process of revising these seminars so that they can be conducted virtually via Zoom. We are almost ready, but we are looking to find some RMG members to help us with the last piece of the seminar jigsaw.

We are looking for a member who is part of a couple and retired in the past few years. The intention is to film an interview with the couple, with pre-set questions on the impact of retirement on home life. For instance, how did you cope with the transition from being at work most of the week to being home together 24/7? We already have a volunteer for such an interview who is single and living on their own – they would naturally have a different story to tell. If anybody is interested in taking part in the couple's interview, please contact me directly by email at [johnrees.tssa@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrees.tssa@btinternet.com) or by phone – 07958 654239.

And now a change of subject – you should all now be aware of the proposed merger of TSSA with the US IBB union. There is more about this elsewhere in this Newsletter – if the merger goes ahead there could be major changes in the way TSSA operates. A Special Delegate Conference is being held in February and if the Conference endorses a merger the matter will go to a ballot of all members for a final decision. In that event, I would urge that you all consider the proposals fully and cast your vote accordingly.

Finally, remember to stay safe, wear your masks and keep washing those hands.

*John Rees*

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### **Editor's Note**

By the time you read this another year has gone by, with COVID still affecting our lives. Christmas is over, which I hope you have all enjoyed.

Whilst scrutinising the internet I kept seeing a lot of advertisements about Grammarly, so as your editor I've taken the plunge to try their free version for the first time on this newsletter. After doing the checks, I changed the setting from American-English to British-English version and did it all again. However, I did find it easy to use and with any luck, you will gain a better newsletter for free.

I understand the Special Delegate Conference is on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hope to see some of you there.

*Bob Bayley*

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### **RMG Special Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The special meeting will be held via Zoom on 20<sup>th</sup> January starting at 11 am and finishing no later than 15.00hrs.

The agenda includes

11:00 Welcome.

11:10 Introduction to the Issue.

11:30 Review and discussion of EC responses - [Link for TSSA-talks-with-IBB](#).

12:30 to 13:15 Refreshment Break.

13:15 Debate continued.

14:00 Propose an amendment to the motion at SDC.

14:30 Questions on EC report and Accounts for 2020

15:00 Close

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### **Proposed Merger and Special Delegate Conference.**

#### **Background**

The EC is proposing a merger with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB), a US-based trade union with some membership in Canada and about 500 members involved in US rail transport.

This was the major debate at the Annual Conference in Birmingham in September 2021, taking up over a day and a half of the three-day Conference. Many questions were raised by delegates and visitors to Conference, and the General Secretary gave us a great deal of information to complement the EC Report that was published shortly before the Conference. Since then, the EC has published more information about IBB

and the proposed merger, including a transcript of the Q&A from Birmingham and a draft of the TSSA rule book that would apply after the merger. The EC invited comments and questions from branches and SOGs and has published replies to some of these. These documents are on the TSSA website at <https://www.tssa.org.uk/about-tssa/our-union/tssa-talks-with-ibb>.

The RMG Committee sent a group of questions to the EC after our meeting in October, and we raised further issues after the discussion at the full RMG meeting in November. Unfortunately, the EC responses on the website do not include our second set of questions: I have raised this with Head Office and asked them to update the document to address the additional points.

### **Special Delegate Conference**

The merger will be considered at a Special Delegate Conference on February 12. This will be a hybrid event: we have asked whether visitors will be able to attend. Details of the Conference, the motion to be debated and the new EC Report are here: <https://www.tssa.org.uk/news-and-events/events/tssa-special-delegate-conference>. The motion and Report are in the document '[Proposed TSSA Merger with the Boilermakers](#)' on this web page: we can propose an amendment to the EC motion. We decided in November that Luke Howard will be the RMG delegate to this Conference.

### **RMG Meetings**

We will have a special meeting by Zoom to consider our amendment to the EC motion on Thursday 20 January 2022, starting at 11 am. We apologise for the short notice of this meeting. Details are included in this newsletter.

We will also discuss the issue at the next normal RMG meeting, on 3 February, where we will hopefully be able to see other amendments that have been put forward and decide how we want our delegate to vote at the Special Conference. Details of this (Zoom) meeting are also attached. If you receive the newsletter in the post and want to take part in either of these meetings, please let the Secretary know by emailing [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) with your email address. We will circulate updated papers for the meetings by email in the week before each meeting.

### **Discussion**

It is worth noting that, according to the limited forecasts and assurances published by the EC, a merger with IBB may be the best way to maintain the TSSA's identity and organising strength. However, some questions remain to be resolved before many parts of the union will feel comfortable with transferring ownership of all our assets to become a part of a US based union.

We have raised several critical points of concern about the proposed merger, and many of these have not been satisfactorily addressed by the EC responses:

- The EC's case for the merger is based on an expectation that there will be major job cuts in the rail industry and TfL in the coming months and years, with a disproportionate loss of TSSA members in these cuts. Other people have suggested that employment in our industries need not fall as much as feared and that campaigning could both reduce the level of cuts and, by showing the value of TSSA as a union, prevent the loss of membership. We have asked for more information about the basis for the EC's predictions.

- The IBB, its officers and all its subsidiary groups are bound by the IBB International Constitution. This can only be amended at the five-yearly International Convention, which took place in 2021 so the next one is not until 2026. Some clauses in the Constitution give the International President discretion to waive particular restrictions, but others do not allow this freedom. Some of the promises the EC has received contravene aspects of this Constitution so it is important that we understand the basis and legal standing of these promises.
- Examples are stringent restrictions on the part that retired members can play in the union, and some restrictions on the roles that managers can have; and prohibition of certain political opinions, which could include calls for public ownership of transport industry bodies.
- The powers and role of the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer are also a cause for concern.
- US law and Government guidance make clear that, as a subsidiary of a US organisation, we would be subject to restrictions on our support for international causes, particularly concerning Cuba and Palestine (note that the EC responses deny this, without offering any evidence to justify the denial).
- Because of these and other reasons, the TSSA Conference in Birmingham instructed the EC to continue to explore options involving the other UK and European unions while continuing talks with IBB. The appetite for this was clear from the comments and questions, as well as in the motion that was carried, which admittedly

could have been better worded. The EC has taken flaws in the wording of the motion as an excuse for making no attempt to have discussions with any unions other than IBB.

- In addition to the structural points above, there is concern about the position of IBB in several areas such as equalities and environmental issues. Many expressed the view that other possible partners might be more comfortably aligned with existing TSSA policies.

Please let us have any thoughts you have on these or other points, and suggest any amendments to the EC motion, by emailing [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) before 14 January. This will help us ensure a full discussion at the meeting on the 20th.

Luke Howard  
RMG Secretary [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk)

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### **Summary of RMG Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

We had a productive AGM by Zoom, with 28 members attending.

The Chair John Rees started the meeting off with his usual opening remarks and then progressed to a report from our RMG Officers and delegates. Steve Whitehead and Joel Kosminsky updated us on the latest news regarding NPC matters. Michael Maguire gave his report on the Annual Conference. The IBB merger was debated, and questions were listed during the afternoon session. Other items were discussed, and you can find more details in the minutes on MyTSSA on the RMG website.

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Keep in touch with TSSA and its activities by subscribing via the TSSA website ([www.tssa.org.uk](http://www.tssa.org.uk)) to the RMG My TSSA pages to see a wider range of information. In addition, if you contact Head Office you can arrange to receive TSSA News on the Go via email. However, if you do not have email access then there is very limited information from Head Office that you will be sent.

If you receive your RMG newsletter via post, we will continue to send it. So please make sure we have an up-to-date postal address.

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### **RMG General Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

The RMG meeting will be held via Zoom on 3<sup>rd</sup> February starting at 11 am and finishing no later than 15.00hrs.

The agenda includes

11:00 Welcome.  
11:05 Minutes of the last meeting.  
11:10 Officers and Delegate reports.  
11:50 2 committee members to be elected.  
12:00 Report from Luke Chester.

*12:30 to 13:30 Refreshment Break.*

13:30 TSSA Annual Conference 2022 Sheffield 7-10<sup>th</sup> May updates.  
14:00 Special Delegate Conference and Merger with IBB updates.  
14:45 Motions from members/AOB  
15:00 Close

More information will be circulated by email nearer the meeting date: If you get the newsletter by post and want to take part in the meeting, please email [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) before 11 November.

Full details including the agenda and on how to **join the Zoom meeting** are in the Appendix.

#### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID                      Passcode  
**536 628 7974**                      **636869**

Meeting link  
[Click here to join meeting.](#)

Smartphone link                      [Click here](#)

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Please let the Secretary know if you have any ideas for a visit to a future venue, bearing in mind we have an ongoing pandemic so cannot go on visits at this present time. However, let's take this opportunity to plan these events for the future. Note:-if you want to help arrange these visits, please drop a line to the RMG Secretary Luke Howard.

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### **Meetings in 2022**

The dates of future meetings are shown below. Details of the agenda for each will be given in the relevant newsletter.

Due to the current stage of the pandemic, we are looking to have RMG future meetings in 2022 as face-to-face/Hybrid meetings. Please note the following planned dates.

#### **General Meeting Dates 2022**

3<sup>rd</sup> February  
28<sup>th</sup> April  
22<sup>nd</sup> September  
17<sup>th</sup> November (AGM)



### **Other Meeting dates 2022**

Special Delegates Conference 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Annual Conference 7 – 10 May  
TSSA 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
9<sup>th</sup> May

### **Committee Meeting Dates 2022**

24<sup>th</sup> March  
11<sup>th</sup> August  
6<sup>th</sup> October  
8<sup>th</sup> December

If you have any information for the officers to consider or required to be included in upcoming general meetings it would be helpful to submit it to the secretary before the Committee meetings.

Note: - 2022 dates were confirmed at the AGM but may still be subject to changes later. Any changes to these will be published in the Newsletter if possible and will also be placed on our website which you can access through "MyTSSA" on the TSSA website.

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The RMG Secretary is Luke Howard, please contact via email at [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) or via text on mobile 07989 393210.

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### **National Pensioner Convention (NPC) News.**

After a considerable period of meeting via zoom and the restart of a limited number of face-to-face meetings, the emergence of the Omicron covid-19 variant may mean those zoom meetings could become the norm for the coming months. The NPC Executive Committee and Finance Working Party both continue to meet via zoom. A replacement for the Annual Convention

by a small number of regionally based hybrid events instead of an in-person event in Southport is under active consideration.

The November 2021 NPC EC meeting focussed on a range of NHS matters including the Health and Social Care Bill and government plans for NHS digital data. There were discussions on the Pensions Triple Lock debate in Parliament, the report from the NPC Structure Review and the Webinar on Digital Exclusion. Reports from working parties included Digital, Finance, Health and Social Care, Pensions and Income, Housing, Women's, LBGT, Transport, and Minority Elders (BAME). Much of the policy work of the NPC is undertaken by Working Parties and despite all the problems with Covid and face-to-face meetings, a majority of them can meet.

The Finance Working Party (FWP) met in December and has continued to keep a very close eye on both NPC spending and income. The 2021 budget forecast a deficit of about £28,000 but due to careful management, the projected year-end deficit is estimated at about £5,000. The meeting also adopted a draft budget for 2022 which again showed an anticipated deficit of a similar size to that in 2021 and agreed to produce an annual review. The FWP is determined that their 2022 focus will remain on measures to boost income and reduce costs so the final deficit will be less than forecast and members have approved a sponsorship proposal drawn up by Vantage Fundraisers.

Considerable progress has been made on establishing a new NPC-associated Fundraising Charity- Age Positive Foundation (APF). A Board of Trustees has been appointed with Steve Whitehead as Secretary and Mike

Sparham of CSPA as Chair. An application for registration is being submitted to the Charity Commission, a bank account will be opened, and a range of administrative items are being progressed. Initial discussions with Vantage Fundraising have indicated that there may be scope for obtaining charitable grants towards the costs of APF incurred with its work supporting NPC activities.

In December the NPC issued a further report on plans for the Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) in March 2022 at Yarnfield Conference Centre in Staffordshire. RMG submitted two motions for the BDC Agenda as well as nominations for the elections of National Officers. The NPC Standing Orders Committee chaired by Joel Kosminsky has approved a total of 14 policy motions and 2 rule changes to go forward for the BDC agenda and there are 16 candidates for election to the 8 National Officer Posts available. I have been nominated as Treasurer, and as I am unopposed will be elected in March 2022.

*Steve Whitehead*

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*Editors Note:- This next article contains a personal account of a medical condition that may upset some people. I have chosen to include it as it may help someone in the future but please feel free to skip this article if you so desire*

**There's no easy way to tell you this...**

Those words began an ominous sentence the surgeon said to me on Friday 04 June. Everyone in the UK with a National Health number receives every two years (*close to their birthday,*

*officially!*) a sampling kit to test for bowel cancer. Mine should have been in January, when this year I turned seventy (*or as I prefer to call it, sixty-ten*), but was delayed through Covid and staffing issues until early May. That probably saved my life.

I completed the uncomfortable but now proven very necessary test as soon as I received the kit and sent it back in the supplied envelope. Usually, it's a negative result that takes several weeks to come back. The lab reply was back in a week; the test kit had found something suspicious, and I had been booked for a colonoscopy at my local hospital (*a short walk away*) for a few weeks hence. So far, so dodgy...

Preparing for the invasive procedure was possibly one of my most uncomfortable but necessary experiences in decades. Not only because of Covid was I to self-isolate at home for three full days before the process, but I also had to go on a restricted diet. I'll phrase the next bit diplomatically - the afternoon and evening before the test I was not to eat anything and had to take very powerful medicines twice to ensure my colon was clear the next morning. My new best friend became the bathroom, giving it my most intimate attention, and mostly worried about when it would be safe to go to bed.

That last part was solved by applying decades of admin' experience - the laxative had to be taken in two sessions at regular intervals, first in the late afternoon then again in mid-evening. By noting the 'entry' times and 'exit' times, and the lapse between them, I could safely go to bed around 11 pm, confident nothing unfortunate would happen overnight. Something definitely

useful in having spent years in offices and pushing paper.

The colonoscopy team was six women, and I was semi-sedated and given painkillers. It is not an everyday experience to have to bare my behind to half a dozen females but they made me mentally comfortable - the other end was less so. The woman leading the process was the Team Head - she introduced herself to me and explained she liked to "keep her hand in..." Even under mild sedation, I was tempted to ask for an assurance that it would not be her hand going in, but that could have been a joke too far.

The process began: one of the nurses sat facing me while the rest were on the other side, or carrying out duties I could not see at a bench on the far side of the room - this delightful woman asked me how I was, what I did for a living and other things to keep my spirits up, also repeating the team leader's requests in case I hadn't heard, to move this way or that. I was invited to watch the CCTV of the examination as the probe went inside me - not something I wanted to take up...

The process took about half an hour (I lost track of time) and after I had dressed was led gently as I was still a bit wobbly to the reception room. Then the real news about half an hour later - they had found and removed ten polyps (growths) inside my colon - seven were "benign" (harmless). Two merited lab analyses but were probably ok, and one whopper (2cm across) was of concern - I may have cancer, was the slow and careful message. The only caution here, lab tests would confirm the condition - and it was NOT, NOT, NOT fatal. But - they knew as I did, that my age meant I knew 'cancer' had previously been a 'death sentence' - no

matter what type, if you had it, you were leaving the planet.

Not allowed to walk, I was wheeled across to the CT scan unit and jumped the queue for a whole-body scan - that would be passed to the surgeon along with the lab results from the examined polyps. "Do not be concerned" (*what?*) and they would be in touch very, very soon.

They called me in a week later for a Multi-Disciplinary Team review, led by my surgeon with others present from the colon-rectal team, and the care nurses from that unit. My surgeon (*I didn't yet know this - a friend looked up his track record as I had no idea that could be done*) was a world-class bowel cancer specialist, very open and friendly. As they could see I was taking notes (*years of minute-taking at meetings coming in useful - I have almost verbatim notes*) they all spoke slower to let me write it all down - the only surprise was they didn't ask for a copy!

**"There's no easy way to tell you this, Joel - you have cancer..."** As I was writing that down, my reaction was muted. Then after a short pause of maybe ten seconds, during which time every worst thought of my life flashed through my mind, he said, allowing me to write this down verbatim too - **"it's operable, it's curable..."** Then the emotion hit. From the very worst to the very best in a minute.

He consulted his computer screen while talking to me about things which out of sheer relief (*the others present were also joining in*) I did not write down - "We can operate on you in three weeks - is that ok?" I was expecting a wait of possibly a year.



"Yes - I'm happy to be done right now..." My surgeon smiled and said he was a bit busy and couldn't agree to that, so was three weeks ok (*again*)? favourite

"Yes, because that means I can go to an air fair..." The change in him was incredible - he too was an aviation enthusiast and we immediately side-tracked into what our favourite planes were - his is the Comet, and mine are the VC10 and the Lockheed TriStar. This humanized him - he was more than just the next medical professional I had met, and I felt confident he could cure me.

The other staff present talked me through processes, and I was taking notes again. My lights were on-again, not that they were ever going out, but emotions play strange tricks with your mind. I met the MacMillan Nurse and was given a wad of literature about my operation and the post-operative care plan.

The operation was the easiest part - I was out cold for four hours, my hard work began with recovery. In those three weeks between the diagnosis and the operation, I took a conscious decision, to tell everyone about my condition. Not because I sought sympathy but because I have seen the damage keeping this to yourself does, mentally and physically. It also brought out the better sides of humanity in many, many people, and I have felt supported by family, friends, neighbours, and union / other colleagues throughout my recovery, which will take to the end of this year, as stitches inside me as massive and take that long to heal.

Oh yes - for the operation, same as for the colonoscopy - isolation, 'horrible' diet and laxatives. The pre-op

assessment gave me a "98.5%" chance of surviving the operation because of my 'good health' - the first time I'd ever been told I had 'good health'...

Three weeks after the Op' I was called back into the hospital - the good news was that the op was completely successful. The cancer had been an even younger single cell (stage 'T2') than they thought, and the part of me removed has no sign of spread through the bowel wall. I was re-joined up successfully and everything is now back to normal. That was one of the most emotional moments of my life - effectively at last being given my life back, as a part of me didn't really believe the condition was survivable. They DO tell the truth.

I expected to spend a week in hospital before being well enough to go home, but they kept saying how good my health was (all the vital signs of pulse, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, and heartbeat were "very good", even at 3 am when they woke me up to take the regular four or six hourly test) - that was because due to Covid, I was out for a walk most days, either around the huge local park or on foot to the shops, coming home by bus. Most colorectal patients don't leave their hospital bed for several days, but I was walking (only a few yards at first, carrying around an intravenous drip, still on nil-by-mouth for a while) on the next day without any discomfort at all. The Covid walks had paid off!

Side-track... The surgeon visited me on his Monday ward round - he spent about two minutes telling me the op' had been a success and I would be going home very soon. Then about fifteen minutes talking about planes! That did me as much good as any other care the excellent nurses and

physiotherapist was offering. I could see the staff were struggling at times - the talk was of lots of overtime on offer because of staff shortages - their normal nursing shifts are twelve hours, so not everyone took the extra work...

They chucked me out after four days saying there was no need for me to stay, as I was already off the painkillers routinely given for post-operative recovery. They did not need the bed, but I would be more comfortable at home. A friend collected me, as I was not allowed to go home by myself (but allowed to be at home by myself, and when I felt fit enough, to go for slow, gentle walks!), and home help via Age UK had been booked for me for as long as I needed it.

My recovery program is a five-year "surveillance" plan, of tests, interviews, more CT scans, and (oh yippee - not) more colonoscopies. I also have a phone number to call "any time" which in practice is Mon-Fri office hours, for "any reason". This is normal - I have also been assured that if any recurrence happens, I will be taken into hospital instantly and operated on ditto.

So:

**One - do the 'bum scrape' test** when it arrives, as it may save your life. The four-month delay probably saved mine - had it arrived on time in January, the cancer was so young when it was found that it could not have been there in January but was found in May.

**Two - take notes** because they will be almost your only record in plain language.

**Three - talk about it** - cancer is no longer an automatic threat to life. Talking not only reduces your own fears by sharing the situation but helps others deal with it too - **I am a cancer survivor, it can be beaten.**

**Four - ask questions!** If this raises any issues, please contact me via RMG - I'm happy to share and explain my experience, especially if it will help someone in a similar condition.

**Cancer can be beaten - and a positive attitude (plus a sense of humour) helps!**

*Joel Kosminsky*

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### Members Comments

Thanks for the newsletter which I have just read and would like to comment on the item regarding state pensions on page 4 which says because of the suspension of the triple lock next year's rise will be 2.5%, however, the government pensions website says it will be 3.1%. This September's CPI figure is also 3.1% so railway pensions will also increase by this figure next year.

*Trevor Watson*

Editor's note:- Thanks for that update.

It was brought up at the meeting regarding free travelling companions when using our free passes on the train. In this case, someone who is 90 years old.

Editor's note:- I have heard that if you get a doctor's note and you contact the Railway pension people at Darlington they will advise on how to arrange it. If any of you have had experience with this, please let us know via the RMG secretary.

**All to Note: - If you want to comment on the Newsletter drop a line to RMG Secretary stating Comment for Newsletter.**

## **Your RMG committee 2022.**

### **Post**

Chair  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee Member – (Minutes)  
Committee Member –  
Committee Member –  
Committee Member – (Newsletter Editor)

### **Postholder**

John Rees  
Cheryl O'Brien  
Luke Howard  
Dave Porter  
Tim Young  
*Vacant*  
*Vacant*  
Bob Bayley

Note 1: - Committee members can be contacted via RMG secretary Luke Howard on [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) or by text via 07989 393210.

### **Other Roles.**

Auditors: - Tim Bartlett and Neil Baker

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*Please note that the views being expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the RMG or TSSA. Unsigned articles or reports are the responsibility of the editor.*

*If you have comments on our newsletter, you have news or other items for inclusion in later issues, or you have comments on readability please contact the RMG Secretary.*

*Any changes or additions to the mailing list can be notified via the Secretary*

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## RMG Special Meeting

**11:00 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
**By Zoom**

### Appendix (i) – Agenda Details (SDC).

#### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID	<b>536 628 7974</b>	Passcode	<b>636869</b>
Meeting link	<a href="#">Click here to join meeting.</a>	Smartphone link	<a href="#">Click here</a>
Dial in on	44 20 3901 7895	or	44 131 460 1196

1. Welcome and apologies John Rees, Chair 11:00
2. Introduction to the issue 11:10
3. Review and discussion of EC responses to questions put by RMG and others 11:30  

The spreadsheet of issues and EC responses, with other relevant information, can be downloaded at [www.tssa.org.uk/about-tssa/our-union/tssa-talks-with-ibb](http://www.tssa.org.uk/about-tssa/our-union/tssa-talks-with-ibb).

Note that the EC did not address the second set of issues raised by RMG: these are circulated with the email version of the Newsletter and will be sent to other members on request.
- Refreshment break 12:30
3. Discussion (continued) 13:15
4. Proposed amendment to motion at Special Delegate Conference 14:00  

The motion and EC Report are available at [www.tssa.org.uk/news-and-events/events/tssa-special-delegate-conference](http://www.tssa.org.uk/news-and-events/events/tssa-special-delegate-conference).  
Please email any suggested amendments to [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) by 14 January
5. Questions on the EC Report and Accounts for 2020 14:30  

Please email any suggested questions to [retired@tssa.org.uk](mailto:retired@tssa.org.uk) by 14 January

The Report and Accounts have been circulated with the email version of the Newsletter and will be sent to other members on request.
6. Next General Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 11:00

## RMG General Meeting

**11:00 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**  
**By Zoom**

### Appendix (ii) – Agenda Details (General).

#### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID	<b>536 628 7974</b>	Passcode	<b>636869</b>
Meeting link	<a href="#"><u>Click here to join meeting.</u></a>	Smartphone link	<a href="#"><u>Click here</u></a>
Dial in on	44 20 3901 7895	or	44 131 460 1196

- |                                       |                                 |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Welcome and apologies              | John Rees, Chair                | 11:00 |
| 2. Remembrance of deceased colleagues |                                 |       |
| 3. Minutes of last meeting            | Luke Howard                     | 11:05 |
| 4. Officers' and Delegates' reports   |                                 | 11:10 |
| a. Secretary                          | Luke Howard                     |       |
| b. Newsletter Editor                  | Bob Bayley                      |       |
| c. Treasurer                          | Dave Porter                     |       |
| d. Pensions matters                   |                                 |       |
| e. National Pensioners' Convention    | Joel Kosminsky, Steve Whitehead |       |
| f. Pre-retirement Seminars            | John Rees, Cheryl O'Brien       |       |
| g. Group outings                      | nothing to report               |       |
| 5. Election of two Committee members  | Luke Howard                     | 11:50 |
| 6. Luke Chester, TSSA Organiser       |                                 | 12:00 |

#### **Refreshment break**

12:30

- |                                                                        |                               |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 7. Proposed Merger and Special Conference                              |                               | 13:20    |
| a. Report on the Special RMG meeting on 20 January                     |                               |          |
| b. EC motion and amendments proposed for debate at SDC                 |                               |          |
| 8. TSSA Annual Conference 2022, Sheffield, 7-10 May                    |                               | 14:15    |
| a) Update                                                              |                               |          |
| b) Amendments to Preliminary Agenda                                    |                               |          |
| c) Voting for Conference elections                                     |                               |          |
| d) Arrangements for a celebration of the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary |                               |          |
| 9. Motions from members/Any other business                             |                               | by 14:45 |
| 10. Future Meetings                                                    |                               |          |
| Next Committee Meeting (Zoom)                                          | 24 <sup>th</sup> March, 14:00 |          |
| Next General Meeting                                                   | 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 11:00 |          |



## Appendix (iii) – Using Zoom.

If you have not used Zoom yet, we suggest you install it and try it out before joining the meeting. There are useful tutorials on the Zoom website [zoom.us](https://zoom.us).

Zoom can be used on any computer with a web browser, iPad or Android tablets, iPhones and most other smartphones, or an old-fashioned non-smartphone. Apps can be downloaded for Windows and Apple computers, Apple and Android tablets and phones, and some other systems.

A camera allows other participants to see you: speakers or an earphone are needed to hear the discussions; you need a microphone or an earphone/microphone combination to speak.

### **Zoom Joining Details**

Zoom meeting ID	<b>536 628 7974</b>	Passcode	<b>636869</b>
Meeting link	<a href="#">Click here to join meeting.</a>		Smartphone link <a href="#">Click here</a>
Dial-in on	<b>+44 20 3901 7895</b>	or	<b>+44 131 460 1196</b>

### **If you have Zoom installed**

- click on one of the links above which will open the Zoom app and go straight into the meeting, or
- open Zoom: click 'Join meeting' and enter the meeting ID and your name, then you will be asked for the meeting passcode.

### **If you are new to using Zoom**

- click on the link above which will download and install the Zoom app before going into the meeting, or
- go to the Zoom website ([zoom.us](https://zoom.us)): you can either download and install the app or use the menu option to join the meeting in your web browser

### **If you do not have a computer or smart device or have limited Wi-Fi etc**

- you can use any phone by dialling one of the numbers below and entering the meeting ID and password (followed by the # key) to get a voice link into the meeting
- you can press \*6 to turn 'mute' on and off, and \*9 to 'raise your hand' and attract the meeting Chair's attention
- unfortunately, the 'polling' arrangement for votes will not work using a non-smartphone, we will ask you to raise your hand (\*9) at the appropriate point when we are voting
- Dial-in on **+44 203 901 7895** or **+44 131 460 1196**

### **If your computer does not have a camera, speakers and/or microphone**

- join the meeting on the computer using one of the methods above, then
- click on the 'i' button at the top left and make a note of your participant ID
- using a phone, dial one of the phone numbers above, and enter the meeting ID and your participant ID when prompted. This will link your dial-in to your computer connection so other participants can see your name when you speak, and you will be able to vote using the computer screen.

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