

BDCR AGM 3rd June 2017

Chair's Report

2016 was a difficult year for BDCR. In the early part of the year, work on refurbishing the V17 continued, and we were close to recommissioning, when in June a major problem arose with the gearbox of the Nordtank, which necessitated its replacement. Although this was somewhat unexpected, we were aware that there was a likelihood of such an event, given the age of the gearbox, and had made financial provision for such an event. Procuring a suitable reconditioned replacement proved to be difficult, and it wasn't until September that we finally purchased a new unit. Fortunately, Tim Brewer was available, and he masterminded the installation, and despite some major setbacks, the turbine was back in service in early December. Our thanks to Tim, and to John Williams for his support, for all the hard work.

Because of problems that arose during the installation, the whole operation cost more than we had originally anticipated, and this, with the loss of generation resulted in a loss of £100,000 for the year. Another unfortunate result was that we were unable to complete the work on the V17, as we had to focus all our resources on getting the Nordtank back into service.

Sadly, Conrad Trevelyan, who had been on the Committee for some years, passed away in July. He had been ill for some time, and resigned from the Committee in May, and is missed by all of us.

There were also a number of changes in the Committee during 2016. Jacinta Macdermot responded to our request for a new Treasurer, joining the Committee shortly after the AGM, and taking over as Treasurer at the end of the financial year. She had a bit of a baptism of fire, as the former Treasurer was away for 3 months at the end of the year – which coincided with the financial activity associated with the replacement of the Nordtank gearbox. Our thanks to Jacinta for keeping a cool head – and we have to assure her that it is not always like this!

At the end of the year, Mike Phillips resigned as Chair after several years' service, and we thank him for his valuable contribution. Having shed the role of Treasurer, I somewhat foolishly put myself forward as Chair of the Committee at the beginning of 2017.

Andy Cook, our Administrator, resigned for personal reasons, and was replaced by Annika Faircloth, who settled in quickly to the role.

Looking forward to 2016, we still face a few challenges. Sonia Kuznetsov has indicated she would like to stand down as Society Secretary in the autumn. We would like to thank Sonia for the invaluable contribution she has made to the smooth running of BDCR over the years, particularly in leading the response to the FCA's challenge to our status as a *bona fide* Cooperative Society. An existing member of the Committee has expressed interest in taking over the role, but we would welcome any other expressions of interest.

Annika, having taken over the post of Administrator, has decided to move back to Sweden with her family in the autumn, so we are looking for a replacement. This is a paid position, and again, we would welcome any expressions of interest.

On the positive side, following some initial teething issues, the Nordtank is now performing well. All we need is some better wind – so far 2017 windspeeds have been exceptionally low. The spare parts required for the V17 have been ordered, and Tim is hoping to get the turbine back into service shortly.

As was discussed at the last AGM, the Committee have started on looking at the options for the future of BDCR, and would hope to consult with Members later in the summer over some of our ideas.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the sentiments of the outgoing Chair, in respect of the Management Committee. Many of the members have served on the Committee for a number of years, and would really like to take a back seat in BDCR. Fresh enthusiasm and ideas are vital to take BDCR forward over the next few years, and new volunteers would be very welcome.