

MIKE JOSE (1937 – 2021)

London Area members were saddened to hear of the unexpected death on 9 February 2021 of our late Chairman, Mike Jose, after a short illness. His death was marked by a moment of silence at the London Area meeting a week later on 18th February.

Mike first visited Ireland in his teens just in time to photograph the Armagh to Keady goods before that line closed in 1957, and retained a keen interest in Irish railways ever since, becoming a member and stalwart supporter of the IRRS.

Mike was on the London Area committee for some 30 years and brought his professional accountancy skills to bear as he acted as Treasurer for most of that time, combining the roles of Treasurer and Chairman over the period 1996-2003. During his stewardship, the Area was in safe hands and Mike managed our activities with a light but effective touch.

His practical approach was well exemplified by his standing in as the manager of our annual Transport Collectors' Market one year at short notice. Thus the Society's place in the London enthusiasts' market calendar was not lost. When, after 40 years of meetings in the Fred Tallant Hall in Drummond Street near Euston we had to seek a new venue, it was Mike who suggested and successfully executed a move to the nearby Exmouth Arms.

Mike was also a longstanding member of an informal, active, well-travelled and close knit group of contemporary enthusiasts known to all as the GLO (the writers have been unable to establish quite why). When Mike got married, his wife, Janice, discovered that Mike had come to the wedding complete with twenty members of the GLO! Mike's membership of the GLO also proved very useful to the London Area in terms of attracting both speakers and audience to our meetings.



During Mike's chairmanship members enjoyed a flow of fascinating talks based on the travels of his fellow GLO members - they were notable for searching out the byways of many railways, but *especially* in Ireland. Mike often regaled us with tales of accommodation in rural Ireland more than half a century ago and spoke with affection and gratitude of landladies setting enthusiasts on the road (rails?) at unearthly hours with hearty breakfasts.

After he resigned from the London Area Committee, he continued to be a regular attender at Area meetings and continued to give assistance in many aspects of the Society's activities. Michael Walsh gratefully recalls getting substantial assistance and advice from Mike as he got to grips with his new role as Editor of the Journal in 2006.

Mike was noted for generously sharing his knowledge and experiences of Irish railways and will be fondly remembered for his service to the Society in general, and to the London Area in particular. We have lost a loyal and dedicated member and a very good friend. Most of all, we will miss his ready smile, evident patience and good humour.

We pass on our condolences to his wife Janice, his sons Simon and Andrew and the family circle.

Tim Morton and Leslie McAllister

