

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

OO Live Steam Club 2021 AGM – Notes of the meeting

Normally the OOLS annual AGM meeting is held during the weekend of the BRM Peterborough exhibition but this year that event has again been cancelled.

The holding of an annual AGM is a requirement of the club constitution so the committee agreed that once again we will take advantage of modern day technology and utilise online virtual meeting software.

As it meets our requirements again the free version of Microsoft Teams was used.

The meeting was held on Saturday 11th December 2021 at 3pm

Attending

- Committee
Adrian Campbell, Charles Leekham, Chris Oakes, Eric Fenwick, Maurice Rourke, Nick Beard
- Members
Daniel Turner, George Whitchurch, Dave Prentice, Denis Chick, Dion van Den Ordel

Apologies

- Committee
George James
Norman Woollons
- Members
Andrew John, Charles Tanswell, David Palmer, David & Val Price, Nigel Thompson

Item 1. Election of officials

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all indicated that they were willing to continue in position and were all unanimously re-elected

- Chairman – Maurice Rourke Proposed Adrian Campbell, Seconded Eric Fenwick
- Secretary – Chris Oakes Proposed George Whitworth, Seconded Maurice Rourke
- Treasurer – Eric Fenwick Proposed Charles Leekham, Seconded Nick Beard

No election is required for the positions of:

- President - Richard Hallam appointed for life.
- Working Committee members - currently 8 - Post held till the individual voluntarily retires or is asked to leave (by committee majority)
- Committee members – Currently 3 - Post held till the individual voluntarily retires or is asked to leave (by committee majority)
- Webmaster - Changes can be authorised at committee level.
-

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Item 2. Chairman's Report

Your club continues to be very sound financially, this can be noted in the various reports.

Our cash position is very strong at £18,700 and a retail stock value of £15,000

This improved performance is principally being driven a significant reduction in expenses due to Covid 19 and by shop and loco sales.

The second of batch of "Tutorials" have been available for some time, Chris and Nick are looking to film the next set, please put forward any suggestions you might have that you would like included.

We continue to introduce new parts to our range, details of these can be found in the other reports. This is something that we will be doing more of as Hornby parts run out.

Hornby have now ceased to offer servicing for live steam locos and at their request we have now taken that on. We are not able to match their prices as they offered it as part of their service. However as these locos continue to increase in value it becomes even more important to keep them running and running well, at the same time protecting the value of the loco.

Even with all the problems with Covid we were able to attend three exhibitions this year, it was great to be able to catch up with members after such a long absence. As you will see from Charles report we hope to be at more next year subject to any Covid related restrictions and organisers being prepared to take the financial risk.

Our next exhibition will be at Doncaster in February, we hope to see many of you there.

As some of you may know I have been battling a medical condition that will mean I will not be able to continue as chairman of your club, we will therefore be looking to appoint a replacement over the coming months.

Maurice Rourke
Chairman

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Item 3. Secretaries Report

Although the later part of 2021 has seen a sort of return to near normality as far as the club is concerned 2021 has seen continuous growth in several areas and generally we have continued to go from strength to strength.

- Club membership numbers have continued to increase at a steady rate.
- A number of essential spare parts/tools have been sourced and produced.
- The club Roadshow has been back in business, albeit to limited number of events.
- Hornby have reached a point where they are no longer prepared to maintain OO Live Steam locos and anyone who does contact them over OO Live Steam repairs are now given the OOLS Club contact details.
- The decision to implement a club service/repair scheme will have a major impact on the clubs standing in the OO Live Steam Community but as the club committee are still discussing the issues involved in administering the scheme to a degree events have overtaken us. I provide more details as part of the Webmasters report.
- At the Great British Railway Modellers Show club members brought along six locos for repair. Although we normally fix a few locos at a show this time the problems were all more severe and with the exception of one all have been distributed to Eric, Maurice or myself for repair.

The club shop continues to perform very well and when the proceeds are combined with loco sales income once again the club coffers have remained well topped up so for the club 2021 has been yet another successful year

Club Membership

2021 has again seen a continued steady increase in the number of people joining the club with the current membership numbers reaching 1385, a substantial increase of 405 from the 2020 figure of 980.

Once again although at first glance this appears impressive we should still not get carried away. A little analysis shows that since the beginning of June 2021 (a five month period like in previous years) then number of members who have logged in tops out at just under 400. Although this is nearly 100 more than last year's figures for the same period it is still relatively close to previous estimates of 300 to 350 'active' members.

Once again a comparison with the years since 2011 shows that in between 2011 and 2019 the 'active' numbers have remained fairly constant at around 45% of the overall membership at any given time. In 2020 however the increase in the total number of members actually had an overall negative impact reducing the number of active members to 31% of the membership. This year the even more substantial increase in membership numbers has a similar, but not quite as marked, effect with the active membership dropping to 29%

Although these numbers might initially seem disappointing a little bit more analysis reveals that

- In 2019 45% of a membership figure of 761 equals 343 active members
- In 2021 29% of a membership figure of 1385 equals 401 active members, an increase of 58.

So generally, from a membership point of view 2021 has been another very good year.

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

OO Live Steam Club Committee Decisions

Since the 2020 Virtual AGM there has been 5 committee decision that has been voted on.

2021 39 – Increased Google Drive Space

The club have been using the 15 gig of 'free' drive space provided by Google to manage the essential information needed by those who manage the different aspects of the club (Secretary, Shop Manager, Treasurer, Webmaster etc.). As it will also be beneficial to store the tutorial master files on the drive we need a substantial increase in space and reviewing the options available I recommend the following option. 200 Gig of storage capacity. This is either billed at £2.49 a month or an annual prepayment of £24.99 for the year. As this represents a 16% saving the annual payment is the most cost effective option.

Working Committee Vote result – 8 In Favour, 2 no vote

2021 40 – Club Equipment Risk after Shows

As the person responsible for transporting the Roadshow Chris Oakes requested agreement from the committee that for one night after a show we will take the risk should anything bad happen.

Working Committee Vote result –

Result - 6 agree, 2 no vote received.

2021 41 – Special Tools Donation

Following a recent successful loco purchase negotiation on behalf of Maurice I collected said loco from Birch services. On inspection one of extra items included was one of the club original club boxed special toolkits. This would be a useful item to add to the current tools (compressor, screwdrivers etc.) that travel with the Roadshow and as they were included with the deal would incur no real cost to the club

Working Committee Vote result - 5 agree, 3 no vote received

2021 42 – Legal Disclaimer

One of the things listed in the Service & Repair terms and conditions was the need for a legal disclaimer. Whilst reviewing the document for inclusion on the new the new Service & Repair pages the original suggestion is not specifically about the Service & Repair Scheme but is more generic and more suited to an entry for the whole site.

I have now added a 'pop-up' box that appears every time members access or refresh the home page.

Working Committee Vote result - 5 agree, 3 no vote received

2021 43 – Hotel Prices and Covid

For a set period of time the club fund the difference between the non-refundable room price and the flexible (free cancellation and full refund) price enabling the team to book rooms without being at risk of losing money.

This policy to be reviewed in April 2022

Working Committee Vote result – 7 agree, 1 no vote received

Chris Oakes

OO Live Steam Club Secretary

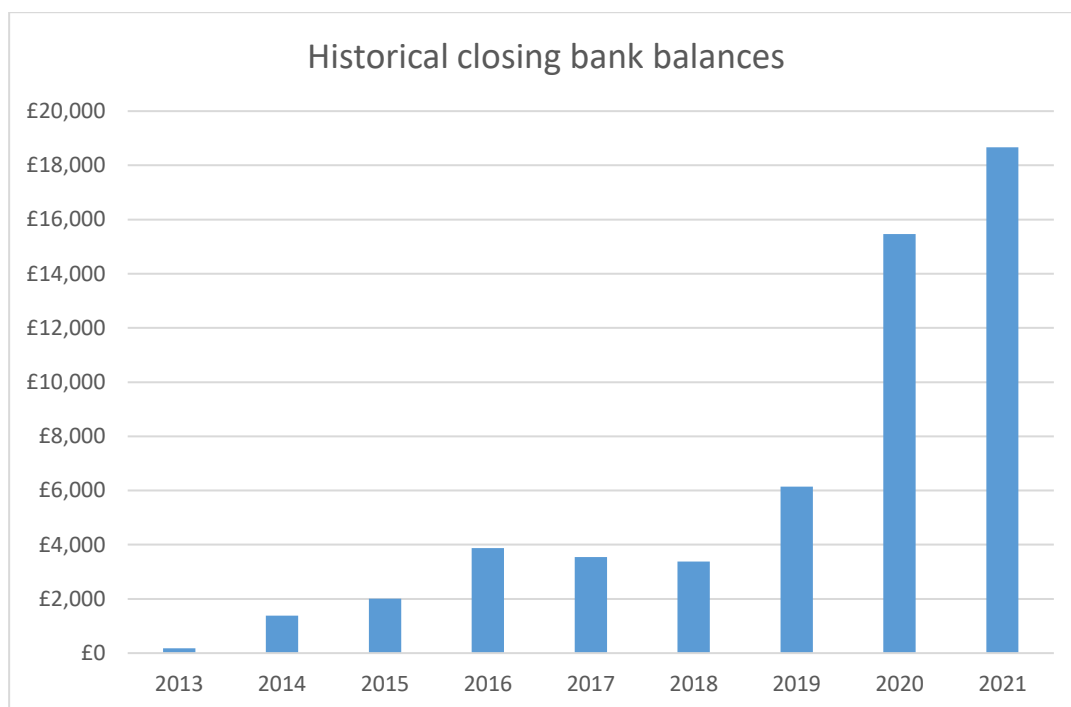
OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Item 4. Treasurers Report

Period: 1st October 2020 to 31st October 2021

Opening balance:	£15466.14
Closing balance:	£18669.07
Total income was:	£28599.99
Total outgoing was:	£25397.01



Eric Fenwick
OO Live Steam Club Treasurer

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Item 5. Shop Mangers Report

OOLS Club Shop Annual Report for 2021

Year 7

October 2020 to September 2021 (12 Months)

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>2019-2020</u>
On-line shop sales from 01/10/2020	8371.00	6318.00
Loco Sales (Maurice) Not added to shop income	(4338.00)	1824.00
Incoming Postage /donations/coffee	1207.00	1131.00
Total OOLS Club Shop Income	9578.00	7452.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Outgoing Royal Mail Postage	979.00	770.00
Commission (as known)	290.00	613.00
PayPal fees	324.00	263.00
Total OOLS Club Shop Expenditure	1593.00	1646.00
Net transfer to the OOLSC Bank	12476.00	7628.00
Net Profit/ Shop Sales	9049.00	6601.00

We had a closing Retail Stock Value of £11,134 on 30th September and the current Retail Stock Value as of November 25th is £11,997.30

We have a total of 123 Items now available in club shop range as of 30th September 2021. 17 Items are hidden from public due to short supply. Some items are out of stock in the short term currently.

The new items mentioned last year are now generally available. This year we have had produced, A4 rotary valve covers by CNC manufacture in Brass, along with more timing adjusters. Dave Frith is working on yet more new items for us with details to follow as they emerge.....!

As stated last year, certain Hornby sourced items are now almost extinct, nevertheless, we are endeavouring to obtain stock from AC Models, but this is proving difficult currently. One new development is a new A4 PCB board developed by David Palmer of DCP Micro. This is under further development.

18 Live Drive units 21 Tool Sets 16 bottles of Super 8 37 litres of Water
17 A3 front Steps 17 Rotary valve pads 12 Wow sticks 27 Clamp tools 20 Timing Adjusters
And sorry, no show coffee sales this year!!!!

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Historical shop figures

Year 1

November 2014 to October 2015 (12 Months)

Total Shop turnover **£1352.00**

Net to OOLS Club £783.00

Year 2

November 2015 to Sept 2016 (11 months)

Total Shop turnover **£6375.00**

Net to OOLS Club £5603.00

Year 3

October 2016 to September 2017 (12 Months)

Total Shop turnover **£5405.00**

Net to the OOLS Club £4072.20

Year 4

October 2017 to September 2018 (12 Months)

Total Shop turnover **£8317.00**

Net to the OOLS Club £7027.00

Year 5

October 2018 to September 2019 (12 months)

Total Shop turnover **£7452.00**

Net to the OOLS Club £5769.00

Year 6

October 2019 to September 2020 (12 months)

Total Shop turnover **£9274.00**

Net to the OOLS Club £7628.00

Nick Beard

OOLS Shop Manager

Item 6. Roadshow Managers Report

Roadshow Report 2021

Due to the pandemic we have had a very quiet year the first event was August where we had our summer meet at Kew, London. This was followed by two further events in October. They were:

2021

Summer Meet Kew	£544
Great Electric Train Show Milton Keynes	£102
Great Model Railway Show Gaydon	£110
Total	£756

The above costs are after exhibition organiser support.

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Proposed OO Live Steam Road Show Events 2022

The OOLSC Road Show relies on a core team of between six to seven members to provide continuous Live Steam running on the two inner tracks and the single outer track. Together with the Repair table which requires a minimum of one person in permanent attendance.

An essential element within that core team is Transportation of the Road Show Layout to and from the various Events.

Owing to the uncertainties in respect of the ever changing Pandemic situation 2021 into 2022 the projected estimates will include the agreed additional supplement in addition to the existing £40 (per night per person) for each member of the road show team, up until April 2022. (see the Club Management, Decisions Log, Record 2021 43 – Hotel Prices and Covid)

The policy will be re-viewed by the Committee in April 2022.

1) Festival of Railway Modelling. 11th/13th Feb 2022
(Flex rate) 7 x 103 = £721.00

2) London Festival of Railway Modelling 19th/20th March 2022
(Flex rate) 7 x 115 = £805.00

3) Assume additional 8 further Road Show Events from April 2022
7 x 80 = 560 x 8 = total £4480.00

Add projected fuel costs for Layout transportation = £480.00

Estimated Total Net outgoing expenditure = **£6,487.00**

Note.

In the absence of available firmed up commitments by Show Organisers for proposed payment of Exhibition Fees:

Expected minimum show fee income as 8 x £300 = **£2400.00**

Looking to the future - Charles Leekham, OOLS Roadshow Manager

Dear Members

We are living in unprecedented times. Given the past (almost) two years of the Covid Pandemic, lockdowns and all round uncertainty effecting every one of us in a different way, the world generally seems a somewhat challenging place.

For Model Railway and Railwayana enthusiasts and collectors it's been a tough call with the country's most popular and productive Events put on what seems to be indefinite hold. Not surprisingly, this is having quite an effect on any attempts to forward plan for the OOLSC Road Show Events Calendar for the coming New Year 2022.

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

However "Challenge" per se has been very much at the core of our wonderful and extremely successful Club ever since it was inaugurated. Our first AGM was held at the East of England Show ground on Saturday 15th October 2011. 10years on down the road and a brief reflection on the "Editorial" of our very first Club Mag, it is apparent that the founding principles and ambitions set out in the OOLSC Club Manifesto have today, been largely achieved through the unstinting energy, enthusiasm and hugely varied talents and insight of, to quote: " that unique gathering of like-minded individuals whom have discovered and appreciate such a brilliantly inventive and entirely charming addition to model railway locomotive engineering".

Let us raise our festive glasses to drink a toast or two to our life long President Richard Hallam who's engineering and technical brilliance brought us to the Promised Land, the "Holy Grail" of OO Gauge model engineering.

Today, our very special Club remains committed to promoting our very "niche" and wonderfully endearing hobby to as wider audience the current exhibition circuit will permit us. Thus far we have been tremendously successful in engaging upon an ever widening circle of Model Rail enthusiasts throughout the land.

We are very fortunate some ten years on down that winding road, that the OOLSC has gathered an expanding body of support from Event Organisers throughout the UK who have been suitably impressed by the positive impact our Road Show has upon the visiting public and the contribution we create to the overall success of the respective Model Rail Exhibitions we attend.

We owe a very great deal of thanks to our Chairman and friend, Maurice Rourke who is reluctantly stepping down from the complimentary role as exhibition manager he has held for the past several years. A vital role that has undoubtedly contributed toward the strength of the club finances as well as high esteem the OOLSC Club rightfully enjoys throughout the wider Model Railway community. It is therefore both a surprise and privilege to be asked to take on the role.

As you will appreciate, we are faced with particularly challenging times ahead. Amongst the most important preliminary tasks I have undertaken over the past several weeks (whilst bedding into the job) has been to consolidate upon all the work that Maurice had achieved securing OOLSC Events both immediately prior to the Covid Pandemic National Lockdown in 2019 and following on into 2020/21.

With the undoubted success of the Great Electric Train Show at MK, along with the Great Model Railway Show, Gaydon during October we have been very fortunate to end the year on something of a high. However the extreme unpredictability of this seemingly ongoing Pandemic, has understandably resulted in the majority of our established show organisers proving extremely wary of committing to any proposed event over the course of 2022.

We generally have a firm commitment from around an average run of eight to ten regional and national Model Rail and Model Engineering show events throughout the year.

For 2022 we have already committed to two old favourites

1. The Festival of Railway Modelling, Doncaster, 12th to 13th February.
2. The Festival of Railway Modelling, Alexandra Palace 19th to 20th March.

At the other end of our event season we have received a text confirmation for

3. Warley Model Rail at the NEC. for a date yet to be confirmed during November 2022.

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

My concentrations have focused (primarily) on firming up with old favourites most of whom contribute toward or cover our expenses and whom have expressed or registered an intention to include us on their Events Listings over the past two years of cancelled model rail shows

These include the following:

4. The Heart of the Midlands Model Rail Event (QUORN Model Rail Club) Loughborough Grammar School. Scheduled as 20th/21st August but might be September?
5. Bristol Model Rail Friday 29th April to Sunday 1st May - awaiting reply
6. Railex Fareham. (No date as yet firmed up - awaiting reply)
7. The Festival of Steam Event, Shildon - awaiting reply
8. MRX Manchester - awaiting reply

For now we need to wait to see how the picture firms up across the various proposed events for 2022, against the continuing backdrop of uncertainty.

I shall also be exploring the potential for the OOLSC to exhibit the Road Show along wider avenues. For example, how keen would members be to take up an opportunity to display the layout at a well situated and popular Holiday Camp with perhaps accommodation and food thrown in for the proposed duration of a long weekend. I think it would prove a very popular form of entertainment among families perhaps not normally acquainted with model railways. After all Billy Butlin saved and displayed a couple of our now preserved Steam Locos.

All ideas toward promoting (practical) avenues for the promotion of the OOLSC Road Show, bearing in mind Logistics, Economics etc. will be seriously considered.

Charles Leekam.
OOLS Roadshow Manager

Item 8. Loco Sales Report

A quieter year for loco sales, not because of demand but one of supply it has been quite a challenge acquiring locos where your club can take a modest contribution. The lining issues we had with the apple green loco are now resolved and I have therefore shown the profit on all sales

Loco sales of 25 (31 in 2020) with a profit contribution of	£2728	(£4169.06 in 2020)
E purple limited edition sales 6 (2 in 2020) with a profit contribution of	£720	(£314 in 2020)
A Green limited edition sales 6 (15 in 2020)	£2100	(£0 in 2020)
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	£5548	(£4483.06 in 2020)

Maurice Rourke

Item 8. Webmaster Report

During 2021 overall the site has had few problems and been pretty reliable.

Following the 2020 major overhaul of the ools (members) website 2021 has mainly been about correction and consolidation of the databases that generate the content seen on the front end webpages.

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

This means that so far (but watch this space . . .) this year there have no further major changes to the front end of the site and my time has been focused on checking and validating last year's changes.

However on and off for quite a while the club have been working in the background on putting together a Service & Repair Scheme ready for the day when Hornby decided that they no longer want to look after OO Live Steam Locos. Well that day has arrived, and it has definitely arrived faster than we expected . . . or were ready for.

We will need several new webpages to manage the scheme covering

- Details on what the scheme is about
- What are the standards we will we work to?
- What will be the terms and conditions?

- How much will we charge?
- How will people register their locos for repair?

Before being signed off we need the mechanics of how it will all work to be in place

- Insurance cover
- Shipping to the club
- Who will do the work
- Spares
- Shipping back to the customer
- Reports
- Invoices

The above are not exhaustive lists but they do cover many of the most salient issues. Fortunately as we have already done much of the groundwork we already have answers to many of the questions but some of the ideas we have still need proving and each of the sections of the scheme will need to achieve committee consensus and sign off.

It's a work in progress but hopefully before too long the new Service & Repair Scheme will be in a position to be launched on the site.

Chris Oakes

OO Live Steam Club Webmaster

Item 9. OOLS Facebook Group Report

The group membership now stands at 105. I have accepted 25 new members in 2021.

Almost all are already owners with perhaps five giving their reason for joining as research before buying. I accepted membership from a couple of people who have other live steam locos, for example the Hornby Rocket. Several members have multiple OOLS Locomotives.

The group is well mannered and we have no Facebook violations recorded against us or any members. All posts follow the "Triple P" test as defined in the OOLS Social Media policy.

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

I have declined applications from probably another 25 for failing to answer the membership questions. For example Sally Adebmembo from Nigeria, who has only been a Facebook member a month and has no friends and no history, is unlikely to be a legitimate OOLS Owner.

I give reasons for membership being declined and no-one has come back with a second request.

A number of members have posted videos of their fully landscaped OOLS layouts and they are very impressive. Some with four tracks are able to run two or more LS locos simultaneously. During the year I have posted links on the WiX committee website of some outstanding examples.

One members posted his experimentation with WiFi and DCC control so there are some skilled people in the group.

I am most grateful to Nick for his support, almost unlimited spares & supplies and always answering questions very promptly.

I was disappointed the no-one from the committee felt able to support the concept of a virtual exhibition. There were eight expressions of interest in participation from the FB group members, but without the support of the committee the project was a non-starter.

Norman Woollons
OOLS Social Media Editor

Item 10. Virtual Exhibitions

The club Chairman Maurice Rourke expressed the concern that in his Facebook Group report Norman indicated that he was disappointed by the lack of active support from committee. From the discussion that followed it is clear that with the exception of Nick and George James generally the remaining committee members are not regular Facebook users. In addition Charles, Chris, Eric and Maurice are all heavily committed to existing roles with in the club and do not feel that they have the capacity to become actively involved. The club members present in the meeting could offer no alternative suggestions and as for technical reasons Norman was unable to contribute to the discussion outcome suggested the following actions were agreed:

- Once Norman's internet connection is restored Chris Oakes to contact and update Norman
- Open a Virtual Exhibition discussion on the club forum
- Try to encourage any website Facebook users to become involved
- Explore ways to provide links between the main website and the Facebook Group
- Provide Norman more autonomy to develop this concept

Item 11. Facebook Open Hour/Day

It was agreed unanimously that this item should be integrated with Item 10

OO Live Steam Club

Supporting OO Live Steam and its community

Item 12. Small Event (one or more persons) layout design and attendance under OOLS branding

On the weekend before the AGM Adrian Campbell approached the committee with a request for an urgent decision on using the OOLS event insurance cover for a joint enterprise between Adrian and Burnham Model Railway club to hold a small exhibition in a Weston Super Mare shopping centre. As the request was for the week starting on the 11th December (same day as the AGM) time was an important factor. We confirmed with our insurers the cover includes individual member activity and on this occasion the committee agreed and added the item to the AGM agenda for further discussion.

The idea of a smaller OOLS club layout was originally discussed and voted on at the 2019 AGM (see 2019 meeting notes). At the time it was agreed that there is neither an identified need nor any staffing support for this proposal. - **One in favour – ten against – one abstention**

Adrian has again made a strong case to the committee for this project but once again there seems to be little appetite from either other committee members or those members present in the meeting. As a result we agreed.

- Start a discussion on the club forum with the aim of:
- Asking the membership if there is any support for this project.
- Identifying the design and build quality required for the project (expected to run to four figures)
- Identifying a minimum team of three people who would be willing to accept the responsibility for managing the project (e.g. arrangements for maintenance and controlling/tracking transport and storage requirements)

Any Other Business (From the floor)

As part of the club's ongoing plans to source replacement essential spare parts Nick indicated he was expecting a delivery of some of the special shouldered screws used in these locos. These are used to fix the brass regulator gear wheel to the motor sub frame but there are also several other different sizes of shouldered screw used in the construction of the OOLS locos:

- To mount the brass regulator gear wheel to the sub frame
- Front and rear loco bogies
- Chassis to body
- A4 valve gear to piston rod

None of these screws have ever been available as spare parts and we are looking at sourcing a supply of each.

There being no other business the meeting closed a 4:26 pm.