



Minutes and Actions of the Western Locomotive Association Committee Meeting held hybrid in Kidderminster Railway Museum and also via Zoom on 12th October 2024 starting at 13:30.

Actions and Matters Arising in progress from the meeting on 6th July 2024 and also outstanding and complete actions from previous meetings.

	Actions from the meeting on 121024
Ian Clayton	It was noted attendance has been problematic in a number of meetings recently. Today, for example, we were close to not making quorum at one point. IC to replay meeting dates, and word some flexible paragraph with JS in our Articles about meeting attendance for Committee Officers (e.g. must attend at least 50% of our Committee Meetings and AGMs per year, and absence will be logged against this requirement without good reason).
Roger Smith, Mike Targett	<p>It was proposed to the Committee by Directors for the WLA to set up a separate web page and bank account, specifically to raise funds for D1048, initially with a target of £15k to focus on the bodywork prior to anything that may be considered once the mechanical assessment is carried out. The main aim will be to preserve the locomotives which was our main undertaking when receiving the locomotive as a gift, albeit that the locomotive could officially be acquired as spares under our constitution (which, as you are aware will eventually be changed to include any Western locomotive).</p> <p>It should be mentioned that in no way do we want to see D1048 taking priority over the current work being undertaken on D1013 or the ongoing maintenance work for D1062. However, some positive steps with D1048's future preservation can only lead to good PR for the WLA in my view.and bank account for D1048 Western Lady.</p> <p>The resolution was put forward to those in attendance with a Proposer (Peter Bamber) and Seconder (Mark Perry). All seven Committee Members present voted 'for' this resolution so this will be progressed.</p>
Peter Bamber, Jonathan Sandiford	Replica full size metal nameplate and number plates are being proposed by the Sales Team. It is proposed that it will be managed through our website although we need to be careful regarding giving donations to others from funds raised due to being a Charity. We need to run this idea past JS from a legal perspective.
	Actions from previous meetings.
Roger Smith, Darren Shelmerdine, Ian Clayton, Mark Perry. All Management Committee	It was noted to Management Committee in attendance the matters around negative Facebook posts from a few individuals on Western Lady. Committee must all keep the narrative around we all (i.e. Board, Management Committee and key Working Members) accepted to take on ownership of Lady with not one of those consulted originally against taking on 48. This was with the full understanding that 62 takes operational priority, then the overhaul and return of 13 operational, and then look towards the full assessment of 48 and ultimately the decision of Membership as to whether they would ratify a decision as to whether as an Association we get the locomotive operational again based on our Engineering and Working Members Teams steer. If Committee or Working Members become aware of any inappropriate negative posts on Social Media then please make RS

	<p>aware. This is in particular reference to it being reported that a few Working Members were considering stepping back from duties due to the negative comments. IC to make all Committee aware of the Articles of Association code of conduct for Management Committee. Introducing Western Lady D10148 to our Articles of Association will be put to Working Members at the AGM in November 2024, if any Members have an issue with 48 they need to raise for the AGM. This will need a clear statement to Membership on latest update on full assessment and future plans. MP to reassure those Working Members who raised concern that this matter will be addressed by the Management Committee going forward and managed accordingly, including the removal of inappropriate and negative posts that could harm the objectives and reputation of the Association.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: not aware of any negative comments regarding Lady since this was last reported. Therefore action closed.</p>
Darren Shelmerdine, Mike Tromans	<p>A fundraising item was raised as an idea by MTr as to whether some of our regular and trusted suppliers would be willing to sponsor the WLA. DS to send MT a list of regular suppliers who we could ask if they would like to sponsor our locomotives. In return they will get advertising on web site and in magazine.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: progressing with DS and MTro. Will need to check with JS around legalities of sponsorship and advertising as a Charity.</p>
Mike Targett, Peter Bamber, Roger Smith	<p>It was noted to Committee that some individuals who purchase items from the online store, or wish to make donations, like to do so via BACS. We discussed making our BACS details available clearly on our website for those who wish to use this method of transferring funds and donations. We agreed to do this so MT and PB will progress by using our alternative bank account.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: Complete. Action closed.</p>
Roger Smith	<p>It was noted that our donation details are at the bottom of our website page. It was suggested that it would be better for this donation button on the website to be at the top of our pages, as well as a button next to the Join button. RS to progress this with SA.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: unfortunately it is not possible to put it at the top of the page. Therefore action closed.</p>
Peter Bamber	<p>A matter was raised regarding our Membership offering including a better Membership Card, as per our peers in other preservation groups. PB to look into permanent credit card style Membership Cards going forwards, particular with auto renewal now available. Discuss at next Sales Meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: progressing. It will be a credit card and cost £0.68 so £360 overall with 530 Members. It will include "Valid whilst paid". A draft will be circulated. Need to make sure those who have paid for their Western number are on. Announce at the AGM.</p>
Mike Tromans, Roger Smith	<p>MTr raised concerns that the facilities at TMD for Working Members are very substandard and unfit for purpose, and is contravening working directives on health, safety, and wellbeing. MTr to consult with other Working Members to write up the issue to send to RS and then forward on to Jonathan Dunster as General Manager for awareness and action.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: this was raised with the SVR and there is not money available. If we wanted it to progress we would have to organise contributions to design and put a proposal and bid into SVR Guarantee Company. MTro to progress some conversations and see if we want to lead on something.</p>
Paul Finch	<p>PF updated Committee regarding issues with sending out large size files and also to large distribution lists as part of the e-Newsletter. PF to look into better ways to send our Newsletter correspondence out including sowing the seed that the Newsletter is available to download on our Members Area Website. Also look into autoresponder software to support the workload of maintaining large distribution lists.</p>

	UPDATE 121024: resolved and closed.
Darren Shelmerdine	<p>RJ raised the question as to whether the brake cylinders would be overhauled by a 3rd party as it is unlikely we would be able to do ourselves due to safety requirements. DS agreed this would need to be carried out by a 3rd party contractor and will progress.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: still needs to be progressed, particularly on 13. If they are not leaking the SVR have said if they are not broken don't fix it. 62 should be fine. If we need them doing then we'll do them. DS/RJ will progress when needed. Therefore action closed for Committee.</p>
Roger Smith, Lyn Jones.	<p>IC reported that a Member had come forward suggesting apprenticeships as a way of attracting newer younger working members. It was noted that the youngest attendee at the recent 50th Anniversary was mid 40s and we should do more to encourage younger generations to get involved to keep our locos going for future generations. Other ideas had been brought up at last year's AGM such as offering a one of younger membership for kids that lasts until they are 16 (82045 group have a one off £150 kids membership until 18 instead of yearly renewal, ties them in during their younger years). Also the idea of more short videos of interesting work going on and posting on social media including YouTube/TikTok. RS, DS to talk to RB and SVR Liaison Office about tapping into SVR Apprentices (Junior Club) or associating it with our own WLA Junior Club if we decided to set our own up.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: RS did some research and it is a lot of work to set up logistically. MT offered to look into this and some ideas. Need to attract youngsters when they are old enough to work on the locos post 16 years old. DS suggested having a word with the VLO and advertising the WLA are available for youngsters to work on locomotives in the future. Could give them a free Membership for a year. Ask LJ to make a word with the VLO and make us more visible for youngsters coming through the ranks. There are a lot of youngsters turning to the DTG for volunteering currently.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: offer Junior Membership (U18s) for £1 in 2025. Announce at the AGM. MTro progressing social media.</p>
Roger Smith, Peter Bamber	<p>It was also noted by IC that we need to be very careful sending Members personal data around by email, and storing on personal devices. As a minimum any spreadsheet or document holding Members personal details needs to be password protected. Ideally we would store all WLA documents, including those holding personal membership details on an encrypted secure server. Committee would then access this and not keep membership personal details on personal devices or send to each other by email. RS will liaise with Steve Ashdown about secure encrypted storage for all our documentation including secure storage for Members personal details.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: RS is progressing with SA regarding Google Drive but there are a few snagging issues to run through.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: storage is now set up. Those who have been given access have been sent an email to try accessing.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: RS has now completed the online membership database which means we have online secure storage and Committee access to the majority of our Memberships details if they have provided an email address. It should be noted there are around 30 Members who have not provided their email address and therefore we still have a manual offline spreadsheet that needs to be kept updated for WLA correspondence. PB to add this to secure storage on our website. A massive thanks to RS needs to go on record for progressing and completing this one as it was a massive job.</p>
Peter Bamber, Mike Tro	<p>An idea was discussed around rejuvenating something along the lines of the 1000 club whereby Members or supporters can pay a monthly subscription in return for some form of prize/rewards (e.g. first</p>

	<p>service train hauled by D1013 or D1048, the latter if feasible). PB to progress this idea and share plans accordingly with Committee.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: covered later in the agenda.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: will cover on the Sales Team Meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: progressing as a lottery with 50% of entry money goes to three winners. This will be a winter fundraising item with £25 entry.</p>
<p>Ian Clayton, Jonathan Sandiford.</p>	<p>The WLA Board Proposal to the SVR Board and WLA Committee regarding the WLA taking ownership of D1048.</p> <p>ACTION: IC and JS to produce wording of AGM proposal and proxy to amend our Memorandum of Association to include D1048 so it is ready to go out straight after the SVR Diesel Gala. We will also look to send by email to those who have a registered email address and only send postal copies out to those who we do not have a registered postal address.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: IC and JS progressing the logistics around what needs to be progressed to update our Memorandum of Associations by way of a resolution to our Membership. After further research and investigation it has been found we have to gain written agreement from the Charities Commission to amend our Articles of Association, which our Memorandum of Association is now part of as part of the Charities Act 2006. Once we have agreement we can then put the resolutions to our Membership through an EGM or AGM. We have agreed this is just not possible to put to our Membership at the AGM in November in the timescales available as we need to give 28 days' notice to our Membership let alone getting agreement from the Charities Commission. As we have also noted further changes to our Articles of Association may also be needed from a Membership perspective, we are going to put a resolution to Membership including the previous vote last year again and any new additions needed, and the resolution of adding D1048 to our Articles of Association as per D1013 and D1062. This will require 75% of the Membership vote for (those in attendance or voting by proxy) to be passed.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: ongoing. Will be progressed in spring with appropriate wording put forward to Membership vote for updating our Objects and Articles of Association. This will be in the form of a future working locomotive for paperwork purposes. Also need to incorporate other necessary changes identified previously and help on current draft Articles update, as well as changing our Membership year as flagged by PT at our last meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: ongoing. IC has sent JS all relevant paperwork (e.g. new type up of Articles and Memorandum by PF to add additions to, previously suggested changes put to our Membership in 2022). This will need ratifying by Board and Committee before advising the Charities Commission of our intentions for approval. We will then be able to send out to Membership for resolution at this years AGM in November. We agreed to keep to Western Class 52 locomotives. JS to finalise paperwork by the end of July for Directors and Committee to ratify.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: the updates to our Articles and Objected were complete during July. This included the introduction of D1048 and any other Western locomotive into our Objects. IC contacted the Charities Commission at the end of August to clarify how we notify them of significant changes to our Articles and Objects to be told that usually a couple of weeks turnaround was now taking on average 3 months. Directors and Committee were informed and we have agreed that IC will progress with the Charities Commission approval ASAP to be ready to progress putting the changes to our Membership at the 2025 AGM.</p>
<p>Jon Aston, Ian Clayton, Paul Tucker.</p>	<p>DP to look into how to chase HMRC and there are options for online chat. DP to check emails as usually get receipts. We need a receipt for MT and annual accounts submissions. We need confirmation they have got our returns.</p>

	<p>UPDATE 071023: MT has prepared gift aid assessment and passed on to JA. We still have not received the money for 2018, and we still have outstanding 2021, 2022 and now 2023. IC to ask for an update from DP and JA.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: unfortunately the 2018 Gift Aid Return that went missing on delivery to HMRC has had to be written off as our Accountants informed us we only have 4 years to complete and process with HMRC. Therefore our attentions and priority must turn to 2021 onwards now working with JA. Issue is with access to HMRC who need proof of JA being a fit and proper person. There is a questionnaire which IC will help JA with.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: JA has been working with DP to get our account transferred to JA so our Gift Aid Returns can be submitted. DP has got a change of responsible officer form to complete and send to HMRC before this can be finalised. JA to keep DP honest as this needs to be completed ASAP. JA to advise the Board if he needs any support to get this over the line, get paper Membership details from Paul Tucker, and Stripe details from logging in to access provided. Keep Directors copied in to emails to keep up-to-date with the latest and support where needed.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: JA is now progressing Gift Aid submissions having now been accepted by HMRC as the responsible officer for the WLA. The claim for 2021-2022 has been submitted. Action complete and therefore closed.</p>
Paul Finch, Peter Bamber	<p>Crowd funding, can we appeal through this? Covid impacts on us and our ability to work on the locos, and the opportunities to run on the railway may be limited for some time. PF to look into this through Railway Magazines.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: looked into options. Having something ready for the May Diesel Gala would be desirable. Need to identify a project and raise money from a large number of small investors. You can make it straight forward and donation based. The other option is you promote rewards based and offer something back (e.g. D1048 get to ride on its first passenger service). PB to also look into 1000 club but has to be rewarding for those who contribute.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: covered as part of the Sales Team fundraising agenda item.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: Mike Tromans has set up a Crowd Funding page which has now raised around £800 towards our 3 locomotives maintenance.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: this action is complete and therefore closed.</p>
Mark Perry	<p>MP to contact Masterpiece Models and invite to the SVR for a cab ride and tour of the depot.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: roll over into 2024.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: complete during this coming running season.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: progressing and with those who have cab rides to finalise dates.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: action complete and therefore closed.</p>
Darren Shelmerdine	<p>Agreed that due to an incredibly busy running season any opportunity to run bespoke OBBO trains will need to wait for the 2023 running season. However it may be possible to get an OBBO on a service train. Still planning for an OBBO to celebrate the lives and dedication to the WLA of Greg Heathcliffe and Henry Coates.</p> <p>UPDATE 071023: prioritise Henry and Greg OBBO for 2024. DS to liaise with the railway regarding an OBBO on a service train in memory of both. Then organise an OBBO only day either in 2024 or 2025.</p> <p>UPDATE 280224: DS planning for an OBBO charter for early July 2024.</p> <p>UPDATE 060724: Will now need to be planned in 2025.</p> <p>UPDATE 121024: Discuss at February 2025 meeting.</p>
	Closed actions from previous meetings
	Separate log kept for reference. Available on request.

1. Welcome

Present in person: Roger Smith (Chair and Director), Ian Clayton (Company Secretary and Director), Mark Perry (Editor), Mike Tromans (Fundraising Officer), and Peter Bamber (Sales Officer)

Present virtually: Paul Finch (Vice Chair, Publicity Officer and Director) and Mike Targett (Treasurer).

2. Apologies for absence

IC

Darren Shelmerdine (Engineering Project Coordinator), Marty Kent (Ordinary Members Officer), Robin Jones (Maintenance and Standards Engineer), Lyn Jones (Working Members Officer), Jon Aston (Charities Officer), Paul Tucker (Membership Officer), (Charity's Officer), Jonathan Sandiford (Legal Officer)

3. Actions from last meeting

IC

Provided above with ongoing actions from previous meetings as well as new actions from this meeting. Please continue to update Ian Clayton on any progress or completion of actions.

4. Chairman's Report

RSS

Following the recent Autumn Diesel Gala event, the recent bogie-lift for D1013 and other commitments, there has not been a Board Meeting since the 4th July 2024. However, I'm pleased to report that the WLA has done extremely well in terms of revenue, memberships and donations. The SVR has just been invoiced £10,885 for our locomotive mileage and maintenance allowance – D1062 clocked up just over 1,500 miles for the year, with a 98% availability record which is a testament to Darren and Working Members against some real maintenance challenges during the year.

Of course, this revenue has been supplemented by excellent sales from our online shop and sales stand, especially from the Autumn Diesel Gala, where merchandise and raffles totalled over £9.1k, so a very big thank you to Peter and all those who were manning the Sales Stand, plus additional revenue to come from the efforts of Paul and anyone else who was involved with the Depot tours, plus Marty and others with the cab visits for D1048, which raised some £300!

Memberships have been steadily increasing and we now have 512 active members according to the online data base, plus about 20 or so on the manual system. A considerable amount of time and effort was recently made to add around 270 members from the manual system to the online data base, which should ultimately make the administration a lot easier, including the ability to download csv files for the labels for magazines etc. A slight glitch was recently overcome where some Members had difficulty in placing online memberships – the fault being associated with the Date of Birth field.

Donations have been well received and we were extremely grateful to receive an exceptional one-off amount of £10k during September. The benefactor has since expressed a wish that £5k be allocated towards the preservation of D1048 where the Board is proposing that we set up a new web site early in the New Year, specifically to raise funds for D1048, initially with a target of £15k to focus on the bodywork prior to anything that may be considered once the mechanical assessment is carried out. The main aim will be to preserve the locomotives which was our main

undertaking when receiving the locomotive as a gift, albeit that the locomotive could officially be acquired as spares under our constitution (which, as you are aware will eventually be changed to include any Western locomotive).

It should be mentioned that in no way do we want to see D1048 taking priority over the current work being undertaken on D1013 or the ongoing maintenance work for D1062. However, some positive steps with D1048's future preservation can only lead to good PR for the WLA in my view.

Resolution from the WLA Board to set-up a D1048 Western Lady web page and separate fundraising bank account.

Propose: Peter Bamber

Second: Mark Perry

All Committee Officers present voted 'for' this resolution.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 5. Engineering Plans and Maintenance | DS/RJ |
| See Officer Reports below. | |
| 6. Fundraising and Sales Plan | MT/PB |
| See Officer Reports below. | |
| 7. Update to Memorandum and Articles of Association IC/JS | |
| See update above in Actions and Matters Arising. | |
| 8. Officer Reports | All |

Vice-Chairman and Publicity (PF)

Publicity Officer Report – October 2024

From a PR perspective, it has been a busy quarter with lots of operating days to report and culminating with the lifting of D1013 at the very end of August / start of September.

Coverage in the railway press continues - editors continue to receive every month a copy of our e-Newsletter and continue to support us – this continues to prove beneficial as they are picking out items that are of interest to them and keeping us very much in the public eye.

July

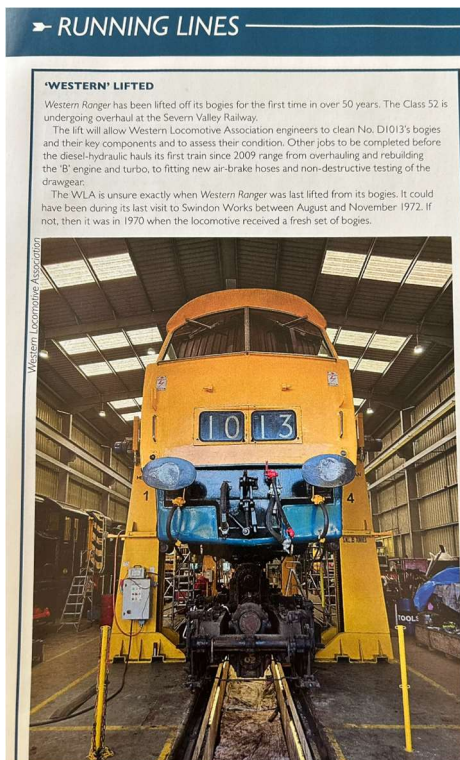
- Western Courier featured in two pictures in Heritage Railway's coverage of SVR's Mixed Traction Event in June – in fact was the only diesel featured and the scores were Western Courier 2 – Steam 1!
- Our Crowd Funding initiative to raise £10,000 was highlighted in Trackside – publishing the url for the site.
- We were also featured in Heritage Railways in their article regarding the lifting of D1010, a great shot of Courier crossing Oldbury Viaduct, promoting the SVRS 1940's weekend in which we featured.

August

- The Railway Magazine published a full-page picture of Courier, again crossing Oldbury Viaduct, as the intro to their Track Record Report.
- Heritage Railways again featured Courier as part of their coverage of the Kidderminster 40th Anniversary celebrations.

September

- **A press release was produced in September following the lifting of D1013 for the first time in 50 years and widely distributed.**
- Surprisingly, the best coverage following this Press Release was in Rail who gave us a ¼ page coverage and a picture of D101e in the air.
- Further coverage was seen in Railways Illustrated who really have studied the Press Release and the information contained in the e-Newsletters, but alas no photographic coverage.
- **HOT OFF THE PRESS** – in the latest Trackside Magazine – the lifting of D1013 is featured – this will be shared in the next e-Newsletter.
See over....



Whizzo Woods

The number of trees in Whizzo Woods continues to grow and stands at 405, an increase of 24 since the last report, so steady growth – of average 8 trees per month.

Pop Up Banners.

A new Pop-Up Banner has been produced to promote Whizzo Woods and to continue to bring attention to the WLA in general.

Both of the latest banners were on display at The Autumn Diesel Bash.



A Pop-Up Banner to keep D1048 very much in the public eye will be produced for next year.

e-Newsletters

The monthly e-Newsletters continue to be well received and contributions from Working Members and WLA Members continue to be received. However, please keep them coming and thank you for your support in keeping the e-Newsletter interesting and informative.

The Western Locomotive Association ON TOUR (Finch, Bamber and Kite Productions)

The next event – Thursday 21st November at RCTS Cheltenham, this time deviating from our normal presentation – **“The HIGHS and LOWS of Preserving, Maintaining and Operating TWO THREE Western Class 52 Diesel Locomotives.”**

This time we will be going back to Henry’s Presentations and going with “Preservation Western Style – The Story of the iconic Class 52 Western Diesel Hydraulic Locomotives and the efforts of the WLA in keeping the legend alive.”

Members are welcome to join us.

Treasurer (MT)

Following a flurry of financial activity in the week I feel it best to provide an updated financial report for tomorrow's committee meeting:

As of 11.10.24

Bank:	£173,429
Budget:	(£70,250)
Contingency:	(£30,000)
16x Spring Hanger Creditor:	(£15,484)
SVR Debtor:	£10,885
Available Funds:	£68,580

Made up of:

Restricted D1013 Bogie Project:	£14,456
Restricted D1048 Preservation:	£5,286
Unrestricted:	£48,838

My apologies for my non-attendance tomorrow. I may join via Zoom but cannot guarantee.

Engineering Project Coordinator (DS)

Sorry I can't attend the committee meeting today. Unfortunately, this will be a shorter report than normal, due to having a rough week at work.

The operational year has been marred with issues with the preheaters and other niggly faults. Despite this up to the end of September, D1062 covered 1641.5 Miles. Not a record breaker, but not bad at all. Again, with over 98% reliability, all involved should be very proud. Especially those who gave up their time at very short notice to ensure Courier's operation.

The financial figures to the WLA's year-end are also listed below.

	£2,400
<u>Income - DFE's</u>	
<u>Income - Running</u>	£5,440
<u>Days</u>	
<u>Income</u> -	£0
<u>Additional</u>	
	£195
<u>Income - Traffic</u>	
<u>Income</u> -	
<u>Additional, Vice</u>	£0
<u>Steam</u>	
	£2,850
<u>Allowance</u>	
	£10,885
<u>Total</u>	

I was not happy when the SVR withdraw 62 from traffic due to over-braking of the loco without prior notice or consultation. The first I knew of this was when i received an E-Mail from an SVR Inspector notifying all Class 52 Driver that Courier had been withdrawn. I did take this up with the inspector concerned. Following this Robin spent a great deal of time trimming the brakes. Following this, a Full Brake Test was carried out by the SVR, which was successful and Courier was accepted back to traffic.

Over the winter, the Preheater at "A" End will be changed and the Air Receivers are due their 10-year inspection.

D1013's "B" Bogie has been removed and we're finally getting well into that project. I would like to think that by the end, Ranger's Bogies will be better than 62's. Other work, including some welding will be carried out on Ranger over the winter.

Assessment work has continued on Lady continues, though not as far along as I'd hoped from my perspective as there are items on 48 I've not yet had time to assess.

To keep 62 serviceable next year, I'd like to have a quantity of spares on the shelf at Kidderminster ready to use. Storage will be more of the issue as they need to be close at hand for Working Members and Crews, but secure to prevent them going missing.

I close by thanking all the Working Members, Committee and my fellow Directors for their support over the last year.

Maintenance and Standards Engineer (RJ)

The brake system appears to have settled after further adjustment to the driver's M8 brake valves and brake proportionality has been restored (i.e. slightly reduced level of loco braking compared to coaching stock).

An 'A' exam was carried out on 10th August which included attention to both engine pre-heaters. 'A' end pre-heater has subsequently been changed for a second-hand item but another overhauled heater is planned to be fitted during the winter maintenance period.

New brake blocks have been fitted to the intermediate wheelsets on both bogies with the aim of ensuring that all of the blocks are now at a similar thickness and the brake stretcher bars are aligned correctly.

During the diesel gala, the main air reservoir pressure failed to regulate due to a sticking compressor governor and defective Safety Valve. After manually 'toggling' the governor electrical contacts, 1062 was able to complete its diagram but is now out of service pending rectification.

Membership Secretary (PT)

My apologies for being unable to attend in person.

Our membership currently stands at around 530.

Due to a lot of work by Roger, every member with an email address is now registered on the online database, allowing this information to be accessed by those requiring mailing lists, etc. Thanks, Roger!

This accounts for around 95% of the membership. Until we find a way to create online records for the rest, a list of non-computer-owning member's addresses will be available from me whenever needed.

Teething troubles with the online system have caused a fair number of headaches during the year, but most of these have now been resolved. Roger and Steve are working on eliminating a few glitches that still occur.

I will continue to send out membership cards to new members. I have been enclosing a sample back-issue of the magazine, but ran out during the week – another supply would be appreciated. I still have a stock of the existing membership cards, though I feel these are becoming a bit dated, and could eventually do with a redesign. At present, for new online members who sign up to auto-renew, I'm writing 'valid whilst paid' in the expiry space of the card.

I'll see you all at the AGM.

Sales (PB)

1. Events
 - a. The overall result for the Autumn Gala was over £9,000 which is an excellent result. Donations of books, models and memorabilia have continued to be received and made up a significant proportion of the sales result and, of course, are 100% profit. The first and second prizes in the raffle were donated keeping costs low and profit high. The Sales Team played a blinder and also conducted eleven depot tours with our fee tbc.

2. Publications

a. Final proofs have been approved for "A Journey in Preservation" authored by Julian Ogle and charting 50 years of the WLA. The book will be published in mid-November in time for Christmas and WLA members will receive a £10 discount.

3. Merchandise

a. New car stickers with the 3 Westerns logo are now available as always, all ideas for new merchandise are welcome.

b. We will shortly be launching full size replica name and number plates fabricated in the same way as the originals and costing £600 to £800 depending on the name. A sample Western Lady plate was snapped up at the Gala.

4. 2025 Raffles

a. Our intention is to repeat the cash prize raffle in Spring which has been very successful and to offer a DFE as first prize in the Autumn raffle. With a DFE costing £650 this year this is a very desirable first prize and we'll even let the winner choose any locomotive to widen the appeal.

Charities Officer (JA)

Apologies for being so quiet recently. I am currently spending a few days a week in hospital receiving treatment and investigations. As a result I give my apologies for the upcoming committee meeting.

After months and months of trying to get access to the HMRC gift aid portal I was recently granted it. Thank you to everyone who assisted and supported me with this. I have so far submitted one claim for the year 2021/22. HMRC have asked me to send them copies of about a dozen signed gift aid declarations.

I am in the process of preparing the subsequent year's claims for submission, which should be completed by the AGM.

I apologise for the time it has taken me to get to this point. My health and the difficulty affecting the changes to with HMRC have not helped.

Hopefully the treatment I am receiving will be effective and I will soon be able to participate fully again.

Editor (MP)

As with the spring magazine the print run was 575 copies and 524 were sent out to the members from the latest updated membership list. The issue with weight of the magazine was resolved by Paragon printing and this meant that standard second class post of 85p could be used to send them out.

Mike Woodhouse has sent me another 14 stories, so will be looking to produce 'From the Workshop Floor volume 2. Mike has a massive amount of information on the life of the Westerns in service, he has suggested a book called 'Rails to Nails' which tells the story of each locomotive from construction to scrap or preservation. Something similar may have been done by Adrian Curtis but I think this would be well received. I will start to work on both of these in the New Year and look to publish towards the end of 2025 so as not to clash with the 50 year book.

Secretary (IC)

No further updates other than those provided for the Articles of Association and Gift Aid above. It was noted that the AGM Proxy Voting Forms sent out earlier in the week had last year's dates on them and also did not include D1048 Western Lady owned by the WLA in the footer. Paul Finch rectified this and sent out again to all Members via email. Ian Clayton worked with Jonathan Sandiford on any legalities around this. It was decided to email back all those who had already submitted their proxy forms asking them to confirm they are happy for them to be used in 2024 AGM even though they state 2023.

Fundraising Officer (MT)

1. Crowd Funding.

WLA crowd funding account, £1029 raised so far with ongoing monthly pledges coming from 21 supporters, I have spoken with Mike Targett to discuss claiming the gift aid proportion of this that currently stands at £212 est. and when will funds become transferrable to our main account.

Information from Crowdfunder site.

When will I receive the money pledged on my project?

I want to withdraw my funds

You will receive your pledge payments once your project has closed successfully. With 'all or nothing' funding, a project is only successful if it has hit its target at the time of closing. With 'keep what you raise', all projects that raise **any** funds are considered successful.

Project supporters will be charged at the time of making their pledge and the funds will then be transferred to the bank account associated with the project once the project closes successfully. Payments will be transferred into your bank account within **7 working days** after the project has closed.

Next steps;

- Decide target amount before funds are accessed.
- How to reach out to more people to donate a regular monthly amount, the potential money to be raised could be dramatic
- Join the £4 per month club with a mention in the magazine and on the website with a thank you gift (to be discussed)
- Individual fund raising through Crowd Funding.
- How far do we go with this and should we focus on funding specific projects as opposed to general donations. (See **3.** Below)

2. Sponsorship.

I have spoken with Darren about a list of companies we currently use for supplies and services and potential others beyond this, I will be contacting these about sponsorship shortly.

Next steps;

- Contact to gauge level of interest with proposal.
- Discuss with committee how we would sponsor. (website, magazine, correspondence, stationary etc?)

3. Projects.

Costings out for various up and coming essential maintenance and repair projects once assessments have been carried out. It is important that those who contribute see where their money is going and not just becoming part of a bank balance.

Knowing that they have played a part in the future operation of our locomotives.

Next Steps;

- Notify members of first project, this might be the welding of D1013's cooler group, as an example.
- Reporting back to members when projects have been completed with thank you mentions of donators who helped make it happen.
- Getting expertise outside of the association from those with a specific skill set who might be willing to carry out specialist tasks either as a donation or at reduced cost and offering sponsorship for companies or individuals that do such work. The importance of utilising the combined knowledge and skill base of all members, for advice and support at all times.

4. Further social media coverage of WLA and our work.

Setting up an X account and TIK TOK page to develop clear lines of communication to build and maintain positive relationships, most importantly catch the attention of younger potential members and wider public interest. Thought of maybe a younger member overseeing TIK TOK, posting videos of work and other WLA activities e.g. sales, train journeys, general banter and life as a working member etc. etc.

Next steps;

- Look at logistics of set up
- Investigate other potential outlets, YouTube channel???? I've noticed one was started a while back by Lyn, maybe we can look at this.

5. WLA lottery.

This was discussed at the sales meeting in August.

Have a bi-annual prize lottery open to all WLA members

£25 entry. 50% of entry money total going to 3 winners, with the rest into our funds.

1st prize, 2nd prize, 3rd prize

6. Consideration for activities during the non-running season.

Considering we raised about £300 just by opening LADY up there may be some room for arranging similar things over winter/early autumn. E.g. our locos lined up in the station for visits, 62 start up, sales stand, photo session, loco tours, and drive 62 down the platform even include a packed lunch all for one fixed price. This would also be a great way to attract membership, there is nothing better than like-minded people getting together face to face. Speaking to lots of people on 48 we generated much interest in membership and new working members. Food for thought!

Again, to conclude this report, I have included below future fund-raising information from my list as a reminder and for your further consideration.

Some responsibilities and opportunities moving forwards:

Many of these will require much further in-depth research.

- Motivate and facilitate supporters to maximise the funds they raise
- Inspire new supporters to raise money, while maintaining and developing relationships with existing supporters
- organise a range of activities and events
- Encourage donations of unwanted items to be re sold.
- Develop new and imaginative fundraising activities, many of which involve organising events
- Raise awareness of the charity and its work at local and national levels, incorporate fund raising into future talks to group.
- Seeking photo opportunities with the media
- Develop educational arm of the association
- Develop and coordinate web-based fundraising, online auctions

- Increase funds by researching and targeting charitable trusts whose criteria match the charity's aims and activities
- Develop and implement a strategy for individual and corporate supporter sponsorship
- Recruit, organise and manage non-working members as volunteers to carry out various functions within the fund raising i.e. regional activities enabling involvement of those unable to get to SVR
- Investigate matched funding opportunities
- Develop, manage and update database to record donor contacts and information
- Write applications to reach a range of potential and current financial donors

Some roles, responsibilities and important considerations.

To increase the provision of further funding streams for the WLA;

- To carry out its objects and increase opportunities for developing new and existing streams for raising fundraising, grants/trusts and developing other key income streams: major donors, regular giving and corporate.
- Hold a strategic over view of the WLA's fundraising needs and be a key player in association's communications and marketing.
- Manage, support and develop imaginative fundraising activities, some of which will be events-based
- Contribute to bid writing for grant/trust applications
- Inspire new supporters to raise money, while maintaining and developing relationships with existing supporters
- Support presentation delivery to interested groups and to attend events
- Develop and broaden corporate support
- Develop and coordinate web-based fundraising including social media Strategic Direction
- Maintain and update the fundraising and communications budgets, with the Finance Officer
- Develop and update a strategic plan to guide fundraising activities and revenue generation
- Preparation of fundraising report for committee meetings
- Maintaining a fundraising database and documents
- Write and design organisational materials
- Contribute updates of fundraising events and activities for quarterly Newsletters
- Write appeals and direct mail in collaboration with other team members
- Stay abreast of fundraising good practice and legislation, ensuring compliance with the Charities Act and the Institute of Fundraising and FRSB codes of practice
- Adhere to WLA organisational policies, including health and safety.
- Abide by Confidentiality Policy at all times.
- Safe Guarding Children & vulnerable adults where necessary.

Some other thoughts for future activities and opportunities.

Depot tours

Photo opportunities

Train and loco hire for special events

Loco visits and talks

Loco prep and start up events

Donation of reusable unwanted items and set up WLA sales page

Donation plaques on locomotives

Education arm of WLA, school and college visits

Regional talks and film show, etc.

Social events with fund raising activities with offers of free entertainment/performances

Further opportunities for donators with cab rides
Media coverage (I have a close friend at ITV central)
Articles for the railway press
Promote individual Incentives e.g. raise £1K to drive a western light engine (out of season from shed to station and back/ Bewdley and back etc.)
Smaller scale lottery grants that have a wider community angle (the more people who are impacted by this the better.)

Legal Officer (JS)

No new matters arising to report above and beyond those already in progress and discussed above.

Working Members Officer (LJ)

No new matters arising.

Ordinary Members Officer (MK)

No new matters arising.

9. AOB/dates of next meeting

IC/All

AGM 2nd November 2024 (Royal Star Room - KRM)
Committee Meeting 8th February 2024 (KRM – TBC)
Committee Meeting 12th July 2025 (KRM - TBC)
Committee Meeting 11th October 2025 (KRM - TBC)
AGM 8th November 2025 (KRM – TBC)

10. Close

www.westernloco.com

The Western Locomotive Association Limited is the owner of D1013 Western Ranger, D1048 Western Lady, and D1062 Western Courier on the Severn Valley Railway, Bridgnorth, Shropshire and is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered number 3873466
Registered office: 5 Prospect Place, Millennium Way, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HG
The WLA is registered as a charity under number 1115058