



Action Minutes and Officer Reports of the Western Locomotive Association Committee Meeting held face to face at Kidderminster Railway Museum and virtually via Zoom on 12th July 2025 starting at 13:30.

Actions and Matters Arising in progress from the meeting on 12th July 2025 and also outstanding and complete actions from previous meetings.

	Actions from the meeting on 120725
Roger Smith	RSS to send out updated Volunteer Guidance notes to all Working Members and Committee which will include updates based on the 3 Cs in his Half Yearly Report. It will also be put on the website. UPDATE 210725: action completed and closed.
WLA Board of Directors	A discussion took place regarding the current situation relating to our Charity Officer position. As previously communicated with Committee unfortunately Jon Aston handed in his resignation with immediate effect in March due to continuing ill health. It goes without saying that best wishes and support from all at the WLA have been passed on to Jon, his wife, and family at this difficult time. It does leave us in a rather precarious situation with our current outstanding Gift Aid claims, and in particular with our 2020-2021 submission deadline of 30 th September 2025. Directors have decided to take on the Charity Officer role with immediate effect and Ian Clayton has applied to HMRC for himself and Paul Finch to be Responsible Officers registered with HMRC (not Roger Smith was already registered with HMRC as a Responsible Officer). This will enable us to understand whether Jon Aston did submit the 2020-2021 submission as we did not receive confirmation, and if it wasn't submit ourselves along with 2021-2024. Ian Clayton is in contact with Jon's wife to locate both electronic information and paperwork relating to the Charity Officer role and HMRC. Overall Directors felt with no handover possible from Jon and this being time critical it was not fair to appoint someone new to the role at this stage. We have currently got three interested parties, two of which have registered an official application. We agreed to Propose from Committee the two official two registered parties at the AGM in November and review any others than come in before. The candidates will need a Seconder from wider Membership who are not on Committee.
Lyn Jones	An update from Lyn Jones was provided to Committee before the meeting regarding the facilities at Bridgnorth (see below agenda item 5). We need to get a new stove installed professionally and following SVR fire safety guidelines. We need to request through the SVR and get a quote from a company for the stove and flume before contacting them. ACTION: LJ to liaise with Bridgnorth Working Members to ask them to get a quote for a new multi-fuel stove and flume to bring to Committee. In matters regarding the water supply at Bridgnorth Working Members now have a manual process of filling a water butt which they are happy to continue. It is unlikely we will get the water supply reinstalled. It was also raised that we need to provide easier access for other Working Members to locked facilities at Bridgnorth. ACTION: LJ to liaise with Working Members on getting a secure lock box fitting at Bridgnorth.

All Management Committee	It was noted that two Western original nameplates are available to buy for Committee or close friends. This should not be made public. ACTION: anyone interested should contact David Postle at Kidderminster Railway Museum in the first instance.
	Actions from previous meetings
WLA Board of Directors	<p>A discussion took place regarding missing safety critical paperwork. There may be mitigations we can put in place but ultimately we have to adhere to signing off safety critical maintenance works. As it stands currently we cannot return D1062 to traffic without signoff on current and missing safety critical work. We need to make sure nothing like this happens again with good management processes put in place and adhered to by all. ACTION: This will be further discussed at Board Meeting on 19th February and Working Members Meeting on 15th March.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: whilst some paperwork has been found or replaced, there still remains outstanding safety critical paperwork to find or recomplete. This must be done before 62 travel dead in tow on the mainline. DS is half way through replacing the paperwork but has also discovered A end transmission is not creating oil pressure when the engine is off on one engine on the railway. Further investigations are needed which has meant 62 cannot travel to Rail 200 due to the risk.</p>
Peter Bamber, Marty Kent, Paul Tucker, Roger Smith, Paul Finch	<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> <p>UPDATE 120225: recommendation of card machines and a decision has been made to purchase one. Paul Finch to review and will make the purchase.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: this has been progressed and completed. Big thanks must be passed on to RSS for all his efforts in setting up, printing, and posting, with support from PF. I'm sure all will agree a massive professional improvement.</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 no 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> <p>UPDATE 120225: MTr has had correspondence from all the diesel groups at TMD regarding facilities. Collating and will send to RB and CB. No timescales currently but need to consider if the diesel groups will contribute to the building of the facilities. May get held up by the embankment failure and needing to prioritise fund the repairs.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: meeting this week but MTr didn't attend as Chris Bond was not attending and he and DS had a conversation with Roland Bull. Plans are progressing and being put forward to the working group. This will incorporate the existing building as those involved and making decisions seem keen to keep the original building as it is one of the few original buildings.</p>
Roger Smith, Lyn Jones.	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 50 th

	<p>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> <p>UPDATE 120225: it was noted we now have 16 Junior Members since the AGM which is up from a couple. From 2020 our Membership has gone up by 129%, most of which will have been in the last couple of years. MTr is progressing social media channels.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: some marginal success as we now have 22 Junior Members up from 16. A discussion took place as to whether we could offer engineering placements with students or Universities say 1 day a week for 6 weeks. MTr offered to support with his education background. MK offered to talk to the SVR Junior Club at Bewdley whether there are any individuals who would welcome experience working on our locos. We need to manage tasks for all Working Members including Juniors as we've had people turning up and not having anything to do or not knowing what to do. We need to have whiteboards and a spreadsheet of managing tasks and work with DS to support him. RSS to reach out to Jonathan Dunster regarding sending an invite to Francis Bourgeois to further enhance our publicity on social media.</p>
Roger Smith, Peter Bamber	<p>It was 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>

	<p>UPDATE 120225: progressing. IC to check with PB as to whether he has been able to upload the postal only Members onto our WLA Google Drive.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: PB has had a go a few times to upload the Membership spreadsheet but can only get them on his own drive. MTr to talk to his wife who understands the technology to support PB.</p>
Ian Clayton, Jonathan Sandiford.	<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>UPDATE 120225: progressing. Charities Commission have been updated online as to the updated wording we are proposing to our Membership. We also need to consider whether we change the</p>

	<p>wording in our Articles around Quorum for meeting attendance and proxy voting.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: separate agenda item to discuss later in the meeting. See agenda item 6 below. ACTION: JS to update the proposed changes both in the full document and the changes only document to be ready for review in the next few weeks.</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> <p>UPDATE 120225: discuss at the February Board Meeting on 19th February. Was discussed at the Diesel Committee and a heavy discount was provisionally agreed at around £2000.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: due to many competing factors such as competing priorities with loco operations and maintenance, and also Hampton Loade to Bridgnorth being closed (at the time of our last Board Meeting we did not know when the line would open again), the Board decided to postpone until 2026. The idea of Western Memorial was put forward to remember those Committee Members and volunteers who had sadly passed away over recent years (Chris Shields, Henry Coates, and Greg Heathcliffe).</p>
	Closed actions from previous meetings
	Separate log kept for reference. Available on request.

1. Welcome

Present: Roger Smith (Chair and Director), Ian Clayton (Company Secretary and Director), Mark Perry (Editor), Mike Tromans (Fundraising Officer), Mike Targett (Treasurer), Marty Kent (Ordinary Members Officer), Paul Tucker (Membership Officer), Peter Bamber (Sales Officer), and Jonathan Sandiford (Legal Officer).

2. Apologies for absence

IC

Paul Finch (Vice Chair, Publicity Officer and Director), Darren Shelmerdine (Engineering Project Coordinator), Robin Jones (Maintenance and Standards Engineer), Lyn Jones (Working Members 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.

Approved Committee Meeting Minutes 120225

Proposer: Mark Perry

Seconder: Marty Kent

All Committee Members present at the meeting approved the minutes.

4. Chairman's Report

RSS

First of all, I would like to say how well D1062 has been performing of late, probably the best the locomotive has ever been and a testament to those who look after her!

Secondly, we can congratulate ourselves on increasing our Membership level to 600, a target we set for next year (this year was 570!) so quite a remarkable achievement considering only 5 years ago we were struggling with 243, almost 150% increase! And then thirdly, thanks to sales, donations and the recent legacy payment from Chris Shields, we are currently in the strongest financial position of all time (see Treasurer Report for a full breakdown on our financial position).

But, and it's a big BUT, on the Administration and Management side of our business, we have problem with two main things: COMPLACENCY and COMMUNICATION!

In a way, the two issues are interlinked but we all need to be aware of the traps that we can easily fall into when things seem to be going well, which if left unresolved, could easily lead to the downfall of our Group, Organisation or Business, whichever way you wish to describe it.

Being a Director and/or Committee Member brings about a reasonable amount of responsibility and whilst some do more than others, it is not fair or acceptable to let a small minority of members to do all the work, or to not contribute, even when opinions are being sought. The following points give some idea of what I'm not happy with, in no particular order:

- Not honouring commitments and letting down fellow colleagues
- Not replying to emails or other correspondence
- Not acknowledging receipt of emails
- Not giving thanks or acknowledging others who have helped you
- Not confirming when action requested has been taken
- Not being clear and concise about action needed
- Not offering solutions to problems, hoping someone else will
- Not using email and relying too much on WhatsApp for important tasks
- Not submitting written reports by email in a proper and timely manor

I could go on but I'm sure you'll agree that this is no way to run a successful business and that includes our organisation! It is worthwhile remembering that "The most important communication is to hear what isn't being said!"

With our Committee Meeting due on the 12th July, it has become apparent that there are going to be only 3 or 4 people present in person, with a big question mark on whether we can do Zoom or Teams. My suggestion is that unless anything changes by Monday, 31st July, that we cancel the meeting and find an alternative date mid-week and hold the meeting by Zoom.

Whatever is decided, I would like each Committee Member to reflect on what's been said above and put forward at least one or more ideas on how we can improve upon the current situation. During a recent telephone call with one of long-standing Committee Members, it was mentioned that our overall management is at best "disjointed" and I cannot disagree.

As with most things, I'm sure we can do better, so let's get rid of the Complacency and improve our Communication.

We've achieved so much over the last few years, effective communication will determine the level of our future success.

Discussion: RSS to send out updated Volunteer Guidance notes to all Working Members and Committee which will include updates based on the 3 Cs in his Half

Yearly Report. It will also be put on the website but with a different picture on the front cover.

Discussion: regarding the current situation relating to our Charity Officer position. As previously communicated with Committee unfortunately Jon Aston handed in his resignation with immediate effect in March due to continuing ill health. It goes without saying that best wishes and support from all at the WLA have been passed on to Jon, his wife, and family at this difficult time. It does leave us in a rather precarious situation with our current outstanding Gift Aid claims, and in particular with our 2020-2021 submission deadline of 30th September 2025. Directors have decided to take on the Charity Officer role with immediate effect and Ian Clayton has applied to HMRC for himself and Paul Finch to be Responsible Officers registered with HMRC (not Roger Smith was already registered with HMRC as a Responsible Officer). This will enable us to understand whether Jon Aston did submit the 2020-2021 submission as we did not receive confirmation, and if it wasn't submit ourselves along with 2021-2024. Ian Clayton is in contact with Jon's wife to locate both electronic information and paperwork relating to the Charity Officer role and HMRC. Overall Directors felt with no handover possible from Jon and this being time critical it was not fair to appoint someone new to the role at this stage. We have currently got three interested parties, two of which have registered an official application. We agreed to Propose from Committee the two official two registered parties at the AGM in November and review any others than come in before. The candidates will need a Secunder from wider Membership who are not on Committee.

5. Bridgnorth facilities

RSS/LJ/All

Update provided by Lyn Jones before the meeting:

Mark and I popped into Bridgnorth on our way back from The Lakes in at the beginning of May. We stayed and chatted to Roger Fry and Paul Medley for a while. If you remember outside the hut, there was a standing water pipe, this had started leaking I think quite a while ago or the pipe had burst, I can't remember exactly what had happened, but a hole was dug and the water cut off. Chris Bond came to inspect the old pipe and it was assumed that this would be fixed and the water source restored until just over a week ago when they turned up to find the hole filled in and the tap gone.

Now the testing of watchman's, radio elements etc is going to be difficult there. The closest water tap is in the Boiler shop which is closed on a Saturday. The only way to get water close to the hut is to fill one of the IBC's or barrels and then have them moved with the Sambron or whatever the modern version is.

This has left us as well as the P-Way hut without a water source. Is there any way we can push to have this outside tap re-instated as it isn't just us that is affected? Roger has since emailed Chris Bond, and I 'm not sure of the outcome of this yet.

Roger is also aware of this issue which arose just a couple of weeks ago, unfortunately, the pot-bellied stove and flue in the hut at Bridgnorth have been condemned by the SVR Fire officer. With this there is a good chance that work at Bridgnorth during the winter months will cease.

Could the Committee discuss this and look at the possibility of installing a wood/coal burning stove with flue so that work can continue this winter and into the future.

I have sent my apologies to Roger for the forthcoming meeting; it is my Grandsons 3rd Birthday. Hopefully catch up with everyone soon.

Discussion: We need to get a new stove installed professionally and following SVR fire safety guidelines. We need to request through the SVR and get a quote from a company for the stove and flume before contacting them. ACTION: LJ to liaise with Bridgnorth Working Members to ask them to get a quote for a new multi-fuel stove and flume to bring to Committee.

In matters regarding the water supply at Bridgnorth Working Members now have a manual process of filling a water butt which they are happy to continue. It is unlikely we will get the water supply reinstalled.

It was also raised that we need to provide easier access for other Working Members to locked facilities at Bridgnorth. ACTION: LJ to liaise with Working Members on getting a secure lock box fitting at Bridgnorth.

6. Updates to our AoA

IC/JS

Update provided in Jonathan Sandiford's Legal Officer Report before the meeting and provided below.

When the WLA was formed the law required companies have two separate documents – the MoA and the AoA (please don't ask me why that was!).

Section 28 of the Companies Act 2006 deems the MoA to be part of the AoA and so they are to be regarded as one document (the AoA).

Amendments to the AoA / MoA:

Proposed amendments have been tabled since 2022 and required further thought in 2023 with the possible acquisition of Western Lady.

Difficulties were encountered with the practicalities of obtaining the consent of the Charities Commission to amend the objects to include the preservation, maintenance and operation of Western Lady.

As Ian reported in February, the Charities Commission have now given consent and we can put the proposed amendments to the objects to the members at the AGM (and the other amendments proposed that do not require the consent of the CC).

Proposed Amendments to Categories of Membership:

Roger has pointed out that the categories of membership advertised on the website do not match those in Clause 3.2 of the AoA as is or as is proposed to be amended. Essentially Roger proposes that the AoA should be amended to match the website, namely:

- a) Senior membership (sounds much better than senior citizen membership!) should be open to persons who are aged 60 years and over and retired.
- b) Junior membership should be open to those under the age of 18 years.
- c) Family membership should be open to two adult partners + any of their children under the age of 18 years.

Comment / Thoughts:

- 1) Clearly the membership categories on the website should and must match those in the AoA and this needs to be rectified as soon as possible.
- (2) Whilst no member has been disadvantaged by the categories advertised on the website, technically, a 17 year old paying junior rates or a 60 year

old retiree paying senior rates is not permitted by the AoAs.

One possibility to consider going forward would be to add a clause to the AoA to give discretion to the membership secretary and / or chairman and / or management committee to vary or waive the membership fee in appropriate cases or circumstances. This would allow individual cases to be considered and accommodated (for example: hardship on the grounds of ill-health or redundancy).

(3) Juniors: There is no apparent difficulty with extending junior membership to those under the age of 18 years, that being the recognized legal age of majority. However, might we wish to consider extending the junior category of membership to include those who are in full-time education or training?

To encourage younger members to stay with us during the transition into adulthood and work?

(4) Juniors and Voting: One issue to consider and resolve is that Clause 3.10 of the AoA provides that junior members do not have the right to vote at the AGM / EGM. If we extend junior membership to include under 18s, we would need to amend Clause 3.10 so as to not take the vote away from members aged 16-17 years who are presently entitled to vote.

(5) Senior Membership and Retirement: I have slight misgivings about setting the criteria for senior membership at 60 years which is now (sadly) a number of years short of the statutory retirement age. We need to avoid any possible suggestion of age discrimination. Given our real concern is that persons may now retire well before the statutory age of retirement and may have less income, is there any reason why we cannot make senior membership open to anybody who has retired from full time employment without specifying an age?

I suspect the number of people lucky enough to have retired earlier than 60 years is shrinking rather than expanding.

Further, we may wish to encourage membership and participation by any spritely retirees with time on their hands!

Discussion: Committee talked through the above points raised.

Committee agreed on Senior Member from 60.

Committee agreed to allow 16-18 year olds to vote.

ACTION: JS to update the proposed changes both in the full document and the changes only document to be ready for review in the next few weeks.

Proposer: Peter Bamber

Seconder: Mark Perry

All Committee Members present at the meeting approved the changes to the Articles of Association and Objects, as detailed in the pre-meeting information sent out by email on 2nd July, and changes discussed and agreed above, to put forward to our Membership at the November AGM.

7. Fundraising and Sales Plan

MT/PB

See Officer Reports below.

Discussion: It was noted that two Western original nameplates are available to buy for Committee or close friends. This should not be made public. ACTION: anyone interested should contact David Postle at Kidderminster Railway Museum in the first instance.

Vice-Chairman and Publicity (PF)

A busy second quarter since the last PR update in February 2025.

D1062 has certainly been working hard at the SVR since the start of the season, its first run being over the weekend of Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th May, followed by a busy Spring Diesel Gala from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th May and then a mega 9-day operating stint from Saturday 24th May to Sunday 1st June. Operating continued on Friday 20th for 3 days and culminated in our 1st DFE of the year on Friday 4th July, followed by another 2 days of operating over the weekend. That's 21 days of operating in just over 2 months! And even as I type, D1062 is out again today – Thursday 10th July and again for 2 days this coming weekend of Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th.

Unfortunately, our DFE scheduled for Friday 25th July has been postponed (rescheduled for August) but in total our locomotive will have operated for 24 days over the three-month period.

All of the above has been promoted on social media and fully reported in the monthly e-Newsletter.

During this period, D1013 has remained over the pit and work has progressed on the bogie overhaul, plus additional work has taken place – cooler group repaired, pre-heaters removed for overhaul....

Unfortunately, “B” end bogie not moved over pit as planned.

It was also good to see D1048 have some time over pit for ongoing inspection and assessment.

As July comes to a close, it is a shame to have to report that it is unlikely that D1062 will be attending The Greatest Gathering Rail 200 event at Derby on Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd August, although the WLA Sales Stand will be in attendance. This would have been a major PR opportunity and D1062's first trip away from the SVR for many years, but the safety of the locomotive must come first and this is the right decision.

Press Coverage

Coverage in the railway press continues - editors continue to receive every month a copy of our e-Newsletter and many continue to support us – some have even commented that they love receiving the WLA e-Newsletter and we communicate better than all other heritage preservation organisations.

March

Trackside – General Update.

April

Today's Railway's - Front cover highlighting "Western Locomotive Association in profile."

Detailed feature included – "50+ years of the Western Locomotive Association."

Railway's Illustrated – D1013 Update and D1062 Update.

May

Trackside – General Update.

Rail Express – WLA launches D1048 loco appeal.

June

Railway Magazine – Coverage of D1062 attending The Greatest Gathering

Rail Express – D1062 used as photo for article "Rising to the challenges".

Rail Express – more coverage with feature photograph showing all of our locomotives.

July

Railways Illustrated – Coverage featuring D1062 in "Crowds flock to May big diesel events" article.

Heritage Railways – As above on article "Rare mix success for SVR big spring diesel gala."

Rail Express – Western Ranger Progress.

As mentioned previously, earlier this year we published "**A Journey in Preservation – 50 Years of the Western Locomotive Association.**" Written by Julian Ogle and published by Platform 5.

Platform 5 were are also keen to further promote sales and so the editor of **Today's Railways** Robert Pritchard visited Kidderminster and the TMD on Saturday 8th February and spent 3 hours with us, seeing the work completed to date on D1013's bogie, a tour of D1062 was undertaken and an overview of the winter maintenance work carried out was explained, and a tour of D1013 was also carried out. Following this, a 3-page article was published in **Today's Railways** – mentioned above – 50+ Years of the Western Locomotive Association.

Whizzo Woods

The number of trees in Whizzo Woods continues to grow and stands at 472, that's an increase of 43 since the last report – we will soon be reaching an incredible 500 trees!

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. **I especially need this support over the next 2 months when I will be not able to attend the TMD and the SVR.**

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

On Tuesday 18th March, we presented to the RCTS Thames Valley Branch at Didcot – **"The HIGHS and LOWS of Preserving, Maintaining and Operating TWO THREE Western Class 52 Diesel Locomotives"**

The presentation was well received.

Them just 3 days later we presented the same to The Locomotive Club of Great Britain (LCGB) London on Friday 21st March.

And finally on Tuesday 8th April we were back at GWS Bristol, having presented to them just 12 months ago, and again presented the PPT once given by Henry Coates - **"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."**

On Wednesday 11th June, we gave a dozen members of The Bath Railway Society a private tour of the TMD which was very well received.

Our next presentation is scheduled for Monday 8th September to The Oxford Railway Society. Then in 2026, we already have bookings for The LCGB Dorking Branch on 10th February 2026 and The Wells Railway Fraternity on 8th September 2026.

Heritage Railway Association

We have been accepted as members of the Heritage Railway Association – we should feature in their next magazine as a new member, and from then on we can engage further with the association.

Treasurer (MT)

I detail our financial position at 08.07.25

Bank: £246,216

Budget: (£71,300)

Contingency: (£30,000)

Available: £144,916

Restricted D1013 bogie appeal: £14,220

Restricted D1048 appeal: £6,147

Unrestricted: £124,549

Engineering Project Coordinator (DS)

Firstly I'd like to thank everyone for their assistance in getting 62 ready for traffic, the continuing work on Ranger and the assessment on Lady.

D1013

The B Bogie's still out and awaiting materials to complete. The main job is the welding of the Beams and Thrust Pads. With Ian Williams busy on various job on stock attending the Rail 200 event, he's not been available. Another company, Applied, has been approached and they can carry out the welding at their workshop in Burton on Trent. A date for the work is yet to be set.

Due to access issues, the Bogie missed its slot on the Pit for the Torque Reaction Rubbers to be attended too. This work will be carried out later in the year.

The Bolts for the B End Thrust Brackets have been completed by the SVR with the blanks made up for A End.

With the Hydro Shunter due to move out of the TMD next week, there's going to be a reorganisation. Following this Ranger will be shunted back inside for work to continue.

The Turbo for Ranger B Engine, is work in progress for its overhaul in Lincolnshire.

Going forward a new set of Batteries will be ordered once the Battery Boxes have been made.

D1062

In traffic and as Robin noted, an A Exam has been carried out recently. Unfortunately due to a lubrication issue with the A End Transmission, Courier will not be able attend the Rail 200 Event. Investigations are ongoing, however a theory has been put forward and which will require the Transmission to be drained of oil.

62 has been in traffic since 2008 and many of the issue that we've come across since has been the basis for the additional work on Ranger. Any lessons learnt from the current issues will form a mitigation plan on Ranger and onward to Lady.

A new set of Batteries are now ready for fitting to Courier.

62's old Batteries will be shared between Ranger and Lady for testing until Ranger Batteries have arrived.

D1048

The assessment continues and finally an inspection of the No2 Final Drive has been carried out. There was a large amount of emulsified oil on the Pump Plate, which was not surprising. After it was cleaned it was determined that the pump was working in both directions. The inside of the Drive was inspected and cleaned as much as possible. From what could be seen, there was no Blueing on the gears and the bearings seem ok. However there will have to be further assessments carried out.

Inspections were also carried out on No1 and No3 Final Drive. Both look in very good condition. All 3 Final Drives were topped up with fresh oil. This will preserve what we have and help clean the insides.

All in all, this is quite encouraging and I don't think that the Loco's is as bad condition as people thought. I hope that an initial report can be jointly presented at the AGM.

In general, with the additional running and issues manifesting themselves on Courier, it is becoming much more difficult to keep on top of things. The WLA takes great pride in its availability and its achievements. I'm sure that working together we can overcome the issues at hand. Saying that to relieve the work all on one loco, I feel that we need to try everything possible to get Ranger back into traffic. To have Ranger back will work in the WLA's favour in many different aspects.

Thanks to all involved.

Maintenance and Standards Engineer (RJ)

Prior to the loco entering service, we carried out a B4 balanced exam which included testing of the overhauled brake system governors and new Safety Valve. This year and going forward, we're also using our new digital test equipment for brake testing which will considerably improve the accuracy of how we record brake gauge readings and will ensure that the brake system remains compliant.

It's fair to say that 1062 has provided very reliable service since entering traffic in May, which is a credit to everyone who has supported the winter maintenance program and assisted with completing the WLA routine exam schedule, which is now into its ninth year of implementation. It is worth reminding everyone that our exam schedule was introduced in order to demonstrate that we are maintaining our locomotives to industry standards with Safety & Reliability being key benefits of such a programme.

The first intermediate exam (A1) was carried out on 24th June after the loco had completed fifteen service days. It's anticipated that a further exam (A2) will be arranged to be done just before the autumn diesel gala.

There are a few challenges to overcome this year regarding the resurrection of heavy maintenance paperwork for 1062's last bogie overhaul. The benefits of the exercise will ensure that we are able to provide evidence of the work we carried out whilst the loco was on the lifting jacks in 2020 as well as weighing the locomotive in order to confirm that the axle loadings and ride heights are within specification. Another challenge will be to identify the cause of reduced oil pressure within the 'A' transmission auxiliary oil pump circuit as if not remedied, may result in damaging internal components when the loco is being moved with the engine shut down.

Membership Secretary (PT)

First of all, it is nice to be here in person – unless, of course, someone else is reading this out because I'm stuck somewhere on the M5...

Our total membership is around 612, just over twice our total membership at this time two years ago, and tribute to the hard work of the Committee.

Made up of:

299 Adult (roughly 49%)

233 Senior (roughly 38%)

27 Family

31 Life

22 Junior

I would like to thank everyone who made this possible by creating our strong online presence, and Roger for printing and mailing out all the new membership cards, which seem to have been well received by the members

Sales (PB)

1. Events

- a) The Spring Diesel Gala was a great success with receipts of £5,533.
- b) We are taking the Sales Stand to Toddington for the GWSR Diesel Gala on Saturday 26th July and bravely having an outdoor pitch hoping to have more success than inside the diesel shed. Just in case we are taking a folding pergola which also has sides if required.
- c) I am delighted to confirm that the WLA Sales Stand will be at the Greatest Gathering, the Rail 200 event at Derby Litchurch Lane from Friday 1st August to Sunday 3rd August. With 37,500 tickets sold this is going to be a very big event and we will be indoors along with lots of other stands and exhibitors.
- d) The SVR Autumn Diesel Bash on 2nd to 5th October is going to be a 37 fest, although the first day will feature the home fleet too. We will be there all four days flying the flag for the best-looking classic diesels ever produced.

2. Publications

- a) Our 2026 Calendar theme is "Westerns off the beaten track" and the superb collection of photos put together by John Kite will need to be whittled down. With the passing of Steve Hampton, the DTG will no longer produce a calendar so we will order more than usual in anticipation of greater demand.

- b) If you haven't seen a copy of "Absolutely Westerns" authored by Roger Geach you should. It is a superb evocation of our favourite locos primarily on the West of England main line in the late sixties to the mid-seventies. One of our Worcestershire members described it as a Bostin Book.
- c) Steve Marshall is publishing a new book "Demise of the Hydraulics" hopefully in time for the Autumn Gala and is donating the proceeds to D1048.

3. Merchandise

- a) We now have a range of merchandise featuring our WLA 3 Westerns logo available from the online store and smaller items will be on the Sales Stand at events.
- b) Name and Number plate fridge magnets for any Western in any livery are now available at just £5 a set.
- c) New tee-shirts with a large printed $\frac{3}{4}$ line drawing of a Western, Warship or Hymek have been added to our range with the ability to choose loco number and headcode.
- d) Polos with an embroidered Warship or Hymek are now available with your choice of loco number and livery in addition to the popular Western clothing which is still selling well.

4. Fundraising

- a) The Spring Raffle was successful with receipts of £2,917 and a profit of £1,468.
- b) Our first WLA Lottery was also well supported with receipts of £2,625 and a profit of £1,312.
- c) The WLA Autumn 2025 Raffle will have a DFE as first prize, second prize a SVR Dining Experience and third prize an A2 Bufferstop Wizzos print. Dining experiences include train fare so intending to give a voucher and let the winner choose which one?

5. Succession Planning

I have decided that I will not stand for re-election as Sales Officer at the 2027 AGM as I reach the ripe old age of seventy the following year. I will still be a member of the Sales Team but after nine years it is time for a new Sales Officer. I have suggested to the board that we should appoint a Sales Officer designate to work alongside me and gradually learn how the Sales function operates.

Charities Officer (vacant)

No report.

Editor (MP)

The Autumn 2025 magazine is well advanced with a couple of good articles received. I plan to send out in mid-September.

With the membership now at 600 and second class mail having gone up to 87p, I have looked again at using a mail house to send out the magazine. While the costs are a lot more favourable than when I last looked it would still cost us more than if I do it myself. The point where it would be viable to use this method would be around 650 members, so something to aim for!

I am continuing to work through the second edition of the Mike Woodhouse book, progress has been slower than I hoped but now working with Colin Marsden trying to source the photographs to support the text. I met with Colin on 9th July and the photographs are not going to be as easy to source as for the first edition. Also we want to include a section on the refurbishment of D1013's bogie. All of this will mean that publication will be more likely to be the Spring 2026 Gala.

I have also run past Colin Mike Woodhouses idea for a book called 'Rails to Nails' this would give the details for each Western with photographs of them new, in the liveries they carried and finally either on the scrap line or preservation. I already have the content from Mike and Colin is of the opinion that it would be a great project. Book is envisaged to be a hardback as it would be 150 plus pages.

Items for Noting

1. I need any items for the Autumn magazine by 8th August 2025 at the latest, this will allow stories from the Greatest Gathering to be included.

As usual I will definitely require:

Chairman's Report
Notice of the 51st AGM

2. I could do with someone with the Technical knowledge to write the piece on 13's bogie - possibly Graham but suggestions welcome.

Secretary (IC)

No further updates other than the actions progressing above.

Fundraising Officer (MT)

1. Crowd Funding.

WLA crowd funding account has increased from £1508 in February 2025 to **£2180** raised so far with ongoing monthly pledges up from 22 supporters to **25**, the gift aid proportion of this that currently stands at **£520.00** an increase up from February at £286.25.

Information from Crowdfunded 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;

- Give this another push once our first lottery has concluded. **Pushed last week, 1 new pledge, 1 ceased.**
- How to reach out to more people to donate a regular monthly amount, the potential money to be raised could be dramatic. **It still seems hard to get more of our Facebook membership to sign up to this???**
- Join the £4 per month club with a mention in the magazine and on the website with a thank you gift (to be discussed) **Change this to £1 per month club with some form of gift or card for an incentive.**
- Individual fund raising through Crowd Funding. **Put this out on Facebook this month.**

2. Sponsorship.

I have spoken with Darren about a list of companies we currently use for supplies and services and potential others beyond this. **Currently being actioned.**

Next steps;

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

3. Projects.

I think it would be a good idea to notify members where their money is going, perhaps with a quarterly overview of items we have purchased (not the costs.)

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 thankyou 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.

I have looked into a TIK TOK account and to be honest it doesn't lend very well to what we want, I will look at an X account shortly.

5. WLA lottery.

Very successful.

£2650 raised

£1325 to the Locomotives.

More Publicity after the draw. Give this a big push in January 2026.

It was decided at the last sales meeting to leave our next lottery until same time next year due to the amount of money we are asking supporters for from other avenues.

6. Consideration for activities during the non-running season and Spring Gala.

Can we get Lady in the Station again as per the Autumn event or in the TMD??

This happened and we were able to raise further funds for the loco.

7. Artwork.

The 3 Amigos painting is progressing very well and will be ready for the Spring gala. **Autumn Gala now!**

8. Photo albums produced of our own photos of behind the scenes work and loco pictures.

Online photo album companies to supply these to sell online. Combination or individual loco albums, not pictures already on FB, website, newsletter or magazine. We have some great photographers in our midst, let's utilise them.

Do we want to auction the original or have it as raffle prize? Discuss logistics of getting framed prints for sale in limited numbers and then selling prints on the website. Will discuss with sales team.

We have other art for sale as well as a large amount of my own work that I am happy to donate for printing.

9. Western Lady website.

Fundraising opportunities, with targets etc. **Actioned with separate fund raiser set up by Roger.**

£1048 kindly donated by Pete and David Simpson and Marc Koch, as if a whole class 52 wasn't enough!

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 **Ongoing.**
- Inspire new supporters to raise money, while maintaining and developing relationships with existing supporters
- organise a range of activities and events **Still would like committee to consider something during the non-running season.**
- Encourage donations of unwanted items to be re sold. **To be actioned.**
- 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. **See Peter and Paul.**
- Seeking photo opportunities with the media. **National railway publications.**
- Develop educational arm of the association
- Develop and coordinate web-based fundraising, online auctions **what parts do we have that realistically won't be used.**
- 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 **begin to look at this between now and January 2026.**
- 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

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)

Without wishing to tempt Providence. - no new legal matters of note have

required my attention since February above and beyond those already in progress and discussed above.

Working Members Officer (LJ)

No new matters arising above and beyond agenda item five above.

Ordinary Members Officer (MK)

No new matters arising.

9. AOB/dates of next meeting

IC/All

Discussion: it was noted by Ian Clayton that after multiple attempts at returning Ian Tinsley's art works both last year and previous years he has been unable to get a response from Ian on this matter. After previous correspondence from Ian Tinsley over social media channels it should be noted that the artworks are available for Ian at any time and have been offered for return on multiple occasions.

Committee Meeting 12th July 2025 (KRM – room booked)

Committee Meeting 11th October 2025 (KRM – room booked)

AGM 15th November 2025 (KRM – Royal Star Room booked)

Committee Meeting 7th February 2026 (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