



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 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025 starting at 13:30.

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

	<b>Actions from the meeting on 111025</b>
Paul Finch	PF updated Committee that he had encountered increasing issues when sending out the monthly E-Newsletter whereby his email provider would block sending out from very large distribution lists. Committee agreed that PF could set up an email application (with reimbursed costs) that would support sending out the E-Newsletter and any other correspondence the WLA needs to send via email. ACTION: PF to progress selecting an appropriate email management application.
Mike Tromans	A discussion took place around what fundraising ideas put forward by MTr should be looked into and ideally progressed. The following was agreed by Committee:  Crowdfunding may need further plugging on other websites. Lottery in January. Photo competition with different categories and a book with some of the favourites. WLA/Western day/weekend in the close season with loco's in the station, cab visits, meet the team, recruitment, evening event maybe with an invite to Francis Bourgeois (26 <sup>th</sup> February 2027). Railway memorabilia, model car boot sale in the SVR Kidderminster car park. Sponsorship.  ACTION: MTr to progress the above ideas.
Roger Smith	Committee discussed and agreed that the key items to progress on D1062 ASAP are the equalising beams investigation and transmission. All the other tasks need to be managed around these two items, whilst also progressing work on D1013s overhaul. We need to as a minimum have an engineering meeting ASAP to agree a plan and next steps to have the best chance of D1062 being ready operationally for the 2026 running season. ACTION: RSS to organise an engineering meeting with all key parties after the AGM but before the end of November.
Paul Finch, Mark Perry	As part of PB Sales Officer Report it was duly noted that there had been no interest shown in the Sales Officer role that will become vacant at the AGM in November 2027 when PB retires from Committee. ACTION: PF and MP to continue to publicise the role with emphasis around it will be a team effort with certain sales tasks like the online shop, calendar, and raffles to be progressed by members of the sales team and not the Sales Officer (who will sit on Committee as lead).
	<b>Actions from previous meetings</b>
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 but with a different picture on the front cover. <b>UPDATE 210725: action completed and closed.</b>

WLA Board of Directors	<p>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<sup>th</sup> 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.</p> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: two candidates are being put forward for the Charities Officer role at this year's AGM. IC has organised for our HMRC account to be transferred to himself in the meantime which has allowed Roger Smith (with the help of son James with the technology) to do some sterling work and submit all of our Gift Aid returns up to September 2025. We now have interacting spreadsheets that allow this process to take minutes instead of days for each year's submission. This has led to ~£16k from HMRC into our back account in the last couple of months, a significant amount of money. For an Association of our size we are probably one of the most advanced in being able to do our Gift Aid with efficiency. A vote of thanks to Roger and James Smith for all his efforts progressing this for us. We will invite James to Christmas meal. Vote of thanks also to Ian for sorting our HMRC account out which we now have full control of with the resilience of 3 Directors (Roger, Paul, and Ian) having access.</b></p>
Lyn Jones	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: stove was installed on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and we have a fire safety certificate. Working Members at Bridgnorth decided it was best to manage keys for the facilities here by organising between selves, there is usually someone around who</b></p>

	<p>can let other Working Members have access as long as advanced notice is provided. LJ is progressing the door locks for Bridgnorth Workshop and will contact a company who specialises in Multi Lock doors that she has found in Willenhall in the near future.</p>
All Management Committee	<p>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.</p> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: action completed and closed.</b></p>
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 19<sup>th</sup> February and Working Members Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>UPDATE 120725: whilst some paperwork and 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> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: DS is progressing this matter which is around 50% complete. RJ has offered to assist DS with updating all of the paperwork. DS has also put forward the idea of having some draws in TMD to keep our paperwork in so all have access.</b></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><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: complete and closed.</b></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</p>

	<p>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> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: progress has been made with 3 meetings since our last Committee Meeting in July earlier this year. There is funding available but it may be that groups have to partially fund. Plans have been drawn up. Chris Bond will be sorting out the excavation of the bank next to the foot bridge to make space for the new building.</b></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 50<sup>th</sup> 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> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: RSS has contacted Jonathan Dunster and Lesley Carr and Lesley has passed on RSS contact details to Francis Bourgeois. We have heard nothing back as yet. MP has progressed the whiteboards in the TMD which has been working well for basic maintenance tasks with completion date requirements for all Working Members. MK has progressed organising the SVR Junior Club to work on scrapping the bogie</b></p>

	<b>frames and they will be monitored constantly by MK (who has a SVR DBS) for both safety and also what can be worked on engineering wise.</b>
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> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: PB and MTr have progressing this matter and now the Membership spreadsheet for those with no email addresses is now safely stored on our Google Account within the Sales folder. If anyone wants access to the Google drive for Committee Members and Directors we will need to request access through Steve Ashdown. Committee and Directors are advised to not send any personal and confidential information now via email. Any personal or confidential information should where possible be stored on a Google drive and accessed by Committee and Directors. RSS has organised a Fraud Prevention solution with SA to mitigate cyber attacks on our Sales site.</b></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</p>

	<p>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 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> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: IC and JS working on the paperwork for the AGM which is almost complete and includes a Notice of AGM with included wording of Special Resolutions to change our Objects without our Articles of Association to include D1048 Western Lady and any other Western locomotive we wish to include in the future. It is nearly all complete and the final documentation will be circulated early week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October. MP offered to print and send out to the 30 Members who have not provided their email addresses.</b></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 19<sup>th</sup> February. Was discussed at the Diesel Committee and a heavy discount was provisionally agreed at around £2000.</p> <p><b>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).</b></p> <p><b>UPDATE 111025: progress this one in February 2026.</b></p>
	<b>Closed actions from previous meetings</b>
	Separate log kept for reference. Available on request.

## 1. Welcome

Present: Roger Smith (Chair and Director), Paul Finch (Vice Chair, Publicity Officer and Director), Ian Clayton (Company Secretary and Director), Marty Kent (Ordinary Members Officer), Paul Tucker (Membership Officer), Robin Jones (Maintenance and Standards Engineer), Mark Perry (Editor), Mike Tromans (Fundraising Officer), and Peter Bamber (Sales Officer).

## 2. Apologies for absence

**IC**

Darren Shelmerdine (Engineering Project Coordinator), Lyn Jones (Working Members Officer), Jonathan Sandiford (Legal Officer), and Mike Targett (Treasurer).

## 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 120725

Proposer: Paul Finch

Seconder: Mark Perry

All Committee Members present at the meeting approved the minutes.

## 4. Chairman's Report

**RSS**

### Opening Remarks

Some good news all round really! First of all, we have just finished the operating season with D1062 clocking up 2.2k miles earning over £15k of revenue with 100% availability throughout the year. A great tribute to the Working Members under the guidance of Darren and Robin and a testament to all the hard work that was done at the beginning of the season in preparing the locomotive for traffic. Secondly, we have managed to crack the back log of Gift Aid, where we have managed to make submissions for the year ended September 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, which generated £15.6k with a further £1.3k received for 2025, so we are now right up to date!

In addition to the above, we received a very creditable £7k from the Autumn Diesel Gala made up of sales from stand, raffle tickets and depot tours, so a big thank you to all those involved and who gave a hand. And then we received a further £1k back from HMRC with the last VAT return, so we can't complain too much!

### Board Meeting held on 8th October 2025

The last Board meeting was held on Wednesday, 8th October where we reviewed our ongoing budget which is outlined below:

PROPOSED COMMITTED WLA EXPENDITURE (SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL IF NOT ON ORDER) AS AT 8th October 2025

Brake Gauges:	£1,400
Batteries for D1013:	£7,100
Brake System D1013:	£10,000
Brake Cylinders D1062:	£1,500
Engine Parts D1013:	£6,000
1 x short cardan shaft for D1013:	£4,850
Turbo Rebuild for D1013 "B" end	£7,000
Turbo for D1013 "A" end	£7,000
Repaint D1062:	£1,000
Kidderminster Tools:	£1,000
Additional Container	£5,000
Oil Sampling:	£500
Spare Bogie Lift:	£6,000
Transmission Project:	£8,000
Contingency:	£5,000
TOTAL	£71,300

During the meeting, we reviewed the winter work required on D1062, which is as follows, in no particular order:

- Fuel Valves to be replaced
- Pump to be replaced in A end transmission
- Oil to be changed in A end transmission
- A end transmission to be unlocked from 1st converter, if possible
- New batteries to be fitted
- Receivers to be checked and recertified for 10 years
- Equalising Beam to be examined on pit
- A end bogie lift to rectify equalising beam, if necessary

For the time being, the main focus would be continuing with the overhaul of B end bogie, where access had been granted to the pit and where the bogie had now been positioned, ready for scraping, cleaning and NDT testing, which is due to be carried out on the 31st October 2025. In addition, the opportunity will be taken to replace the torque reaction arm rubbers, which in itself will be a major operation. The importance of communication and cross-checking availabilities with key members will be essential, due to the limited amount of time to complete the tasks.

With regard to the ongoing assessment of D1048, the new set of batteries delivered for D1062 has temporarily been fitted, which enabled the dynostarter to turn B end for the first time in many years. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to charge the batteries using the shore supply to date, possibly due to a faulty ammeter gauge, which may need replacing, along with other investigative work.

A discussion took place on changing the batteries over with D1062's present set and Mike Targett offered to manage this with a proposed working party, possibly over 3 days in February 2026.

Darren Shelmerdine confirmed that a more in-depth report on D1048 would be provided at the AGM.

Also considered was the potential purchase of 2 x 655 crankshafts, 2 x 538 turbos and 2 x 538 engines. However, further investigation is necessary to ascertain the exact



specifications and conditions of the items, before considering any further, before deciding if one or more items should be purchased.

### **Annual General Meeting, 15th November 2025a**

Finally, as you are all aware, we have the AGM coming up for the 15th November 2025 and you should have received a comprehensive Members Pack from Ian Clayton, to be checked before issuing out to the Members. This included Notice of the AGM, Proposed changes to the Articles of Association, Members Proxy Form, Election of Management Committee notes and details of the candidates for the Election of the Charities Officer. So far, only a couple of very minor changes and so a big thank you to Ian Clayton and Jonathan Sandiford for all their hard work on this. Just so that you are aware, the Notice and Proposed changes to the AofA have already been placed on the web site. Obviously, with such changes for the Association, we have to be well prepared for this meeting and I would ask everyone to read everything thoroughly, so that we can answer any questions that may be asked of us.

Thank you!

## **5. Updates to our AoA and AGM plans** **IC**

AoA updates have been covered earlier in the meeting under previous actions.

As part of the engineering agenda item we'll show some photos and videos to our membership on engineering assessment of D1048, particularly of the electrics and dynostarter progress.

Plans are finalised for the AGM with the Hellfire TV premier being a 30 minute preview of the full DVD and Blu-Ray that we'll have available to sell. This charts a day in the life of the WLA running D1062 on the SVR.

## **6. Fundraising and Sales Plan** **MTr/PB**

A discussion took place around what fundraising ideas put forward by MTr should be looked into and ideally progressed. The following was agreed by Committee.

Crowdfunding may need further plugging on other websites.

Lottery in January.

Photo competition with different categories and a book with some of the favourites.

WLA/Western day/weekend in the close season with loco's in the station, cab visits, meet the team, recruitment, evening event maybe with an invite to Francis

Bourgeois (26<sup>th</sup> February 2027).

Railway memorabilia, model car boot sale in the SVR Kidderminster car park.

Sponsorship.

ACTION: MTr to progress the above ideas.

## **7. Officer Reports** **All**

### **Vice-Chairman and Publicity (PF)**

Another busy since the last PR update in July 2025.

D1062 has certainly been working hard at the SVR over the summer, and I am delighted to share that since the start of the season, the locomotive has operated on 50 days and covered 2,200 miles, and most impressively, delivered 100% availability over this 5-month season.

Another fact, that's an average of 10 days operating each month so a massive thank you to all the Working Members for their support and work in keeping the locomotive in service.

Throughout the summer, our operating has been shared on our various social media platforms and of course everything has been fully reported in your monthly e-Newsletters.

Work has also progressed on D1013's bogie overhaul and only this week, "B" end bogie has been moved over the pit for final focus and hopefully very soon we can make a start on "A" end.

Progress has also been made with the ongoing evaluation of D1048 which will be reported on at the AGM in November.

It was disappointing that at the last minute, D1062 was not able to attend Greatest Gathering in Derby at the start of August, but the WLA Sales Team were in attendance and did a great job waving the WLA flag.

Hopefully next year we can get D1062 out to visit some other heritage railways and get us in front of some new audiences, and of course, with a good wind, perhaps we can make a great deal of noise next year about D1013.

### **Press Coverage**

Coverage in the railway press continues - editors continue to receive every month a copy of our e-Newsletter and continue to support us – we are still considered to be the most open and communicative preservation group in the industry – and will continue to try and do better.

Coverage has however dropped off a little – we need something new and big to start to shout about – so come on D1013 and D1048 ☺

### **August**

**Railways Illustrated** – 3 columns of coverage on D1013 and progress being made in the magazine's NEWS / Heritage section.

## **September**

**Railways Illustrated** – Front cover coverage – “The Assessment of D1048’s condition: It is positive news” – followed by a near full page article – “Western Lady: condition not as bad as first feared.

**Heritage Railway** - D1062 was featured in an article on the Severn Valley Railway’s Trains Through the Ages event.

## **October**

**Trackside** – D1062 was used in a feature to promote subscriptions to Trackside magazine, a photograph being used of the locomotive working during the long dry summer at Bridgnorth alongside 46 045.

**Rail Express** – A brief mention of D1013 in an article “Western Prince revival progress” – specifically drawing attention to that the fact that both D1041 and D1013 being the final stages of extensive overhauls and the hope that in the next year or two, we will see the return of two more operational Westerns.

**Railway Herald** – An article has been published “Good news for the WLA owned Western Lady” updating readers on the progress that we have shared to date.

## **Whizzo Woods**

### **BIG NEWS – we now have over 500 trees**

The number of trees in Whizzo Woods has now passed the 500 point.

Next target – D1000!

## **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 your contributions coming as your support is needed in order to keep the e-Newsletter interesting and informative.

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

Just one presentation this quarter, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September to The Oxfordshire Railway Society when we presented “**The HIGHS and LOWS of Preserving, Maintaining and Operating TWO THREE Western Class 52 Diesel Locomotives**”

The presentation was very well received and an audience of over 30.

Our next presentation is currently being scheduled for November to the Reading Transport Group. We have also received a potential request to present to a Masonic Lodge in Bristol – is this a potential new target audience.

Then in 2026, we already have bookings for The LCGB Dorking Branch on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and The Wells Railway Fraternity on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

## **Heritage Railway Association**

Follow up from the Heritage Railway Association has been disappointing as we were due to feature on their next publication, but nothing has been seen yet. Follow up will be actioned.

## **Diesel Footplate Experiences**

Support was given to a number of DFEs in July, August & September as this is another good opportunity to meet with existing and potential new members.

## **Pop Up Banners**

The banner produced earlier this year for D1048 Western Lady has been very well received and attracts a lot of attention – so over the winter, new banners will be produced for D1013 and D1062.

And Mr Bamber has requested a big WLA flag banner for 2026!

**Treasurer (MT)**

Bank: £265,941

SVR debtor: £16,102

Budget: (£71,300)

Contingency: (£30,000)

Stove creditor: (£1,499)

Available: £179,244

Restricted D1013 bogie project: £14,565

Restricted D1048 preservation: £7,607

Unrestricted: £157,072

I have also drafted our annual accounts for the year ended 30.09.25.

This past year is looking to be a record for turnover and profit! The draft accounts as they stand are showing income of £190,976, expenditure of £73,574 giving a profit of £117,402. Please note these figures include Chris Shields' bequest.

Discussion: PF updated Committee that he had encountered increasing issues when sending out the monthly E-Newsletter whereby his email provider would block sending out from very large distribution lists. Committee agreed that PF could set up an email application (with reimbursed costs) that would support sending out the E-Newsletter and any other correspondence the WLA needs to send via email. ACTION: PF to progress selecting an appropriate email management application.

**Engineering Project Coordinator (DS)**

I'm very happy to report that D1062 Western Courier completed the running season with 100% reliability. Covering about 2,200 miles on 50 days of running over 5 months, earning just over £15,000. With an average of 10 days running a month keeping on top of Maintenance and Exams was not easy and I thank the Working Members particularly Mark, Marty, Sally and Robin in assisting with these tasks. All the Working Members played their role in achieving this.

The season wasn't without its issues though with investigations on-going with the A End Transmission Auxiliary Lubrication Pressure. Also an Equalising Beam on A Bogie has moved and is being monitored.

Going on to winter maintenance, the Oil is to be changed in A End Transmission. This requires us to mix two Oils together and use in the Transmissions as a trial. If successful this mix will be used in all the Transmissions. Equipment to carry out the mixing will be required as previously requested and agreed.

Depending upon what is found with the Equalising Beam, Courier maybe required to be lifted to have the beam replaced. At the moment we do not have a spare to hand. 62's Air Receivers are also due their inspection this winter.

Despite Courier having 100% availability during the season, really it needs the pressure taking off due to additional running over recent years. I can't stress enough that we need to get Ranger back into traffic to give 62 a break or at least take the pressure off.

Regarding Ranger, the Bogie is to be moved today to progress work underneath. Hopefully Ranger will be moved back into the TMD in November. Not having 13 in the TMD has been frustrating at times as we need it undercover with the TMD facilities to

progress many tasks. A New set of Batteries will be required early next year for Ranger, once the new Battery Boxes are completed. These are being made in house.

Regarding Lady, the No2 Final Drive doesn't seem to be in as bad shape as feared. There's still more investigation work to carry out, but the first steps are promising. Electrical testing continues using the Batteries destined for 62.

A more in-depth report will be given to the Membership at the AGM, however, the investigation work carried out so far indicates that Lady is a viable loco to restore to working order in the future on at least one Engine. There is still much to do and we can't afford to get too carried away.

Over the last couple of days the WLA has been off, via Ian Jackson's contacts, 2 new Crankshafts, 2 Turbo (condition and type to be established) and 2 538 V12 Engines. All these are in different parts of the world by different suppliers.

The Crankshaft are a nice to have at the right price. With the potential of building up a Zero Hours Engine in the future. Note, we do have 2 Crankshafts at Bridgnorth. Condition unknown. Been in the Blue Container for many years.

The Turbos (in Turkey), I'm very interested in if the parts are usable, particularly the rotors and internals. I am wary, due to the issues with the current Turbo at overhaul. The Engines are in India. I'm interested in the Heads and below. This would potentially give the WLA 3 x 538 blocks. One for each loco in the future. One is destined for Ranger, another for A End of Lady. Then the last as a spare for 62, probably A End again as that is the oldest Engine in use on it. If a deal can be struck prior, the DTG could be offered the Turbos, Induction and Cam Boxes as they have gone in a different direction regarding conversions. My thoughts on costs would be 4k per Crankshaft, 4 to 5k per Turbo (depending on type) and 15 to 20k per engine. Shipping and Taxes would be extra. We'd probably need an Agent to act on our behalf. We'd probably need an additional Container to store these items should be go-ahead with anything. Plenty to think about there.

At the moment I'm struggling to keep up with the Paperwork Side of my Duties, mainly due to time and I have informed Robin. I'm thinking of ways to assist both of us with this and I'd like to purchase some drawers to store paperwork in the TMD and have it on hand for everyone to use.

Thanks once again for your support over the last year.

### **Maintenance and Standards Engineer (RJ)**

Please see my officer report for 1062:

It's fair to say that 1062 has once again completed a commendable operating season both in performance and reliability, despite a couple of ongoing engineering issues which will require attention during winter layover.

The locomotive received its full allocation of routine maintenance starting with B4 balanced exam in May followed by two intermediate A exams after each fifteen operating day period, ensuring that all Safety Critical systems were compliant with the WLA's maintenance schedule.

Thanks to Darren for persevering with much of the exam programme this year which should be made a bit easier next year, once Graham & I have completed the SVR competency course.

I'm sure Darren will expand on work which will need to be carried out on 1062 this winter around the main task of re-certificating the air receivers. The loco will undergo a B1 balanced exam before entering service which will entail re-commissioning of the air & brake system and measurement of wheel tread wear.

Discussion: on D1062 Committee discussed key items to progress are the equalising beams investigation and transmission. All the other tasks need to be managed around these two items, whilst also progressing work on D1013s overhaul. We need to as a minimum have an engineering meeting to agree a plan and next steps. ACTION: RSS to organise an engineering meeting with all key parties after the AGM but before the end of November.

### **Membership Secretary (PT)**

A very short report:

Our total membership is around 633.

Made up of:

303 Adult (roughly 48%)

246 Senior (roughly 39%)

27 Family

31 Life

26 Junior

This is the highest total since the early days, and the highest number of Junior Members since most of us were included in it!

I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work in achieving this.

### **Sales (PB)**

#### **1. Events**

- a) The Sales Stand was at Toddington for one day of the GWSR Diesel Gala on Saturday 26th July which was a good day out and raised £650.
- b) The Greatest Gathering, the Rail 200 event was a once in a lifetime event and members of the Sales Team had a great time with access each day before and after the general public. With lots of normals and steam buffs around we still managed to raise £1,760 for the WLA coffers.
- c) The SVR Autumn Diesel Bash was an unknown quantity as a total 37 Fest, but proved successful with Sales, Raffle and the WLA share of TMD tour receipts totalling £7,200

#### **2. Publications**

- a) Our 2026 Calendars are selling well with the theme of "Westerns off the beaten track" With the passing of Steve Hampton, the DTG will no longer produce a calendar so we have ordered extra copies and have obtained permission to sell them on board Pathfinder's last main line tour hauled by Champion.
- b) I'm sorry to report that Steve Marshall passed away a couple of weeks ago but we anticipate that Roger Geach will publish Steve's last book "Demise of the

Hydraulics". It was Steve's wish that the proceeds from the book be donated to D1048.

### **3. Merchandise**

- a) Name and Number plate fridge magnets for any Western in any livery are now available at just £5 a set.
- b) We produced Class 37 and Class 99 tee-shirts for the Autumn Gala to show willing and that WLA is bang up to date.

### **4. Fundraising**

- a) The Autumn Raffle generated receipts of £3,245 and a profit of £1,773. SVR donated four-day rover tickets and one family day rover tickets in recognition of our DFE and Dining Experience prizes making money for our train set. These will be used as prizes in future fundraising activities.
- b) We will hold our second WLA Lottery early in the New Year.

### **5. Succession Planning**

No volunteers thus far to take over as Sales Officer in two years' time. Not really a surprise but in my opinion, this shows that the job needs to be broken down into smaller chunks. My first thoughts are along these lines but your critique is welcome.

- **Sales Officer** – is a member of the WLA Management Committee and manages the Sales Team. Leads Sales Meetings as required and makes arrangements for SVR Diesel Galas and visits to other venues. Maintains merchandise stocks and develops new ideas. Two thirds of the stock is now located in Container 5 at Kidderminster which takes away the need for a big garage and a big car. The remaining stock and admin material is contained in four storage boxes.
- **WLA Shop** – manages the online store, responding to orders, most of which are done through the GDMK portal, with books and smaller items posted directly. The second part of this job is to edit the shop section of the website as required.
- **WLA Raffles** – there is enough work here for another person and it is something I would be willing to do going forwards
- **WLA Calendars** – John Kite has just produced our calendars for the fifteenth time and is keen to carry on. Like Raffles this is quite a task with sourcing and selection of pictures, liaison with our printers and dispatch of 250 calendars this year.

I hope we are able to appoint a Sales Officer designate within six months who can work alongside me and gradually learn how the Sales function operates.

### **6. Events**

- d) The Spring Diesel Gala was a great success with receipts of £5,533.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

- g) 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.

## **7. Publications**

- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

## **8. Merchandise**

- c) 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.
- d) Name and Number plate fridge magnets for any Western in any livery are now available at just £5 a set.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

## **9. Fundraising**

- c) The Spring Raffle was successful with receipts of £2,917 and a profit of £1,468.
- d) Our first WLA Lottery was also well supported with receipts of £2,625 and a profit of £1,312.
- e) 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?

## **10. 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 Courier magazine saw a record 621 copies sent out. The cost per magazine was:

Printing £1.65



Postage £0.85  
Envelope £0.06  
Total - £2.56

In addition the postage for our non UK members was £3.50 each.

In general this is an increase of £0.11 per magazine over the Spring issue. It is key to keep the weight below 100g to stay in the Royal Mails normal second class letter category.

Production of the Spring 2026 issue is well underway, with articles already received from the Langley family following their DFE in September and from Julian Saunders about his early days with the WLA

### **Secretary (IC)**

No further updates other than the actions progressing above.

### **Fundraising Officer (MT)**

#### **1. Crowd Funding.**

WLA crowd funding account has increased from **£2180** in July 2025 to **£2667** raised so far with ongoing monthly pledges up from **25** supporters to **27**, the gift aid proportion of this that currently stands at **£600.25** an increase up from February at **£286.25**.

#### **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;

- Give this another push once our first lottery has concluded. **Pushed last week, 1 new pledge, 1 ceased. Pushed twice since with 1 new pledge.**
- 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.**  
**Next action. Discuss at meeting.**
- Individual fund raising through Crowd Funding. **Put out on Facebook.**
- **WLA weekend event**, I am going to speak to Mr. Dunster in relation to running this during the non-running season, probably early March time. Locos in the station, cab visits, sales stand, film, slide and talk shows. Price to include sandwich lunch. Possible cab rides down to TMD and back (dependent on availability of 62 at the time.) Saturday evening event with live entertainment at a suitable venue TBD.

Great opportunity for networking and socialising with new members.

**2. Sponsorship.**

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

If members would kindly email me details of companies we use, I can get cracking on this.

**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 identified that Mr. Finch opened an Instagram WLA page, a fact he seemed unaware of. We will be chatting soon about developing this.**

**I will look at an X account shortly.**

**5. WLA lottery.**

**Next lottery to be opened in January 2026.**

**A reminder of last year's very successful lottery results.**

**£2650 raised**

**£1325 to the Locomotives.**

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

**6. Artwork.**

The 3 Amigos painting will be ready for the Annual General Meeting and on display at the meeting.

There will also be other artwork on display pending possible print runs for sales.

**7. Photographic competition 2026.**

**Competition for photographers of our 3 locos either in service or in preservation with an entry fee to be discussed.**

6 prizes. Best photo of each of our 3 in preservation and in service.

These and others could be used for future calendar or a book.

#### **8. Car boot sale at Kidderminster car park**

With a **TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOMOBILES FOCUS.**

**£25 PER CAR ENTRY FEE ALL GOING TO THE WLA.**

Again, logistics to be discussed with the railway and appropriate members.

#### **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.)

Best regards.

**Mike Tromans. October 2025.**

#### **9. 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.**

#### **10. 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?)

#### **11. 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 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.

#### **12. 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.**

#### **13. 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.

#### **14. 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.**

#### **15. Artwork.**

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

#### **16. 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.

#### **17. 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)**

#### **AoA / MoA**

Ian and I have now prepared two special resolutions to amend the AoA and MoA, giving effect to the discussions we have had over what has been a long period of time.

After much reflection I took the view that it was better to keep the AoA and MoA as two separate documents (though legally the MoA is now deemed to be part of the AoA) and draft a separate special resolution to amend each document.

For the AoA the proposed special resolution effectively substitutes a whole new version which contains the amendments we have discussed and proposed for the members to approve.

For the MoA the two amendments are self-contained in the wording of the second special resolution and include the all-important amendment to the objects to accommodate Western Lady and any other Western we might be fortunate enough to acquire in the future.

Having two separate special resolutions should mean that, even if the amendments to the AoA were to prove controversial, the members can still vote through the amended objects (the other amendment to the MoA is a technical matter to reflect the change in the applicable Act of Parliament).

#### **Licensing**

I have just this evening provided advice to Pete Bamber about the possibility of selling cider on our sales stands.

This might be possible via a Temporary Events Notice under the Licensing Act 2003 – were it to be economically and practically viable.

Alternatively, we will be changing our name to the Bootleggers Association.

Best Wishes to you all

### **Working Members Officer (LJ)**

My apologies to the committee for my absence at the Committee Meeting which is due to a holiday being booked prior to the dates for 2025 being published.

Plenty of work has been carried out from Working Members at both Bridgnorth and Kidderminster. Work includes the following projects:

- Brake Cylinders have been refurbished for D1013
- The equalising beams have been to Burton-on-Trent for bushes to be welded.
- The pedestal brackets, the equalising beams and the Spring Hangars are being put together, to be fitted onto the bogie.

- Routine Maintenance on D1062
- Windscreen wiper motors are being overhauled
- Ongoing D1013 Bogie Work
- The leaf springs from D1013's bogie have been cleaned up ready for assessment.
- Investigation work has been carried out on D1062's Transmission, with the oil pump removed, cleaned and refitted. Investigations continue.

We have had quite a few new working members over the last year join us, the two most recent being Krystian Rekowski and Jack Richards, who already volunteers at the TMD.

The new multi-fuel heating stove was installed in the Bridgnorth workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, this has come with a fire safety certificate, Carbon Monoxide Alarm and complies with current Fire Safety Standards. Information has been passed on to Ian Smith (SVR Fire Safety Officer).

The door locks for Bridgnorth Workshop is ongoing and I will contact a company who specialises in Multi Lock doors that I have found in Willenhall in the near future.

#### **Ordinary Members Officer (MK)**

No new matters arising.

#### **8. AOB/dates of next meeting**

**IC/All**

AGM 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (KRM – Royal Star Room booked)  
 Committee Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (KRM – TBC)  
 Committee Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (KRM – TBC)  
 Committee Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026 (KRM – TBC)  
 AGM 14<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (KRM – TBC)

#### **9. Close**

**[www.westernloco.com](http://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