

Chairmans Report – AGM 2024

The highlight of the past year was our very successful ABrail24. This was the Club's first 2 day show and was staged to mark the 50th Anniversary of ADMRC. Trevor, as Exhibition Manager, worked very hard to book 40 outstanding layouts and Peter did his usual sterling job of booking traders. The show was a great success and this success was in no small measure due to Trevor's efforts. However, I must pay tribute to the support and hard work of all Club Members in putting on ABrail24. It was expensive to put on the show with overnight accommodation and travel expenses of the exhibitors making a significant element of our outgoings. We made a small profit but many lessons have been learned as we prepare for ABrail25. It was pleasing to have a unanimous vote at the post partem for a 2 day show in 2025. For my part, I do not mind admitting that at times during the run up to the show and as expenses mounted, I was concerned that the Club might suffer an ill afforded loss. How wrong I was! My sincere thanks to all Members.

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations we held a Families Day to which all Members' families were invited to see where we spend our Friday evenings, other days and evenings pursuing our hobby. It was very well attended with a BBQ and refreshments for all. As always, the ladies did a great job supporting the event. And a good time was had by all. We have started our monthly "Modelling Evenings" and they have been very well received. It is an opportunity for Members to learn modelling techniques from more experienced Members.

I am sorry to be losing Peter as Club Secretary. It has been a pleasure working with him and I have relied many times on his expertise and wisdom regarding Club affairs. I am very pleased that he is continuing as a Club Member and I know that whoever succeeds him as Secretary can rely on Peter's enthusiastic support.

In spite of the number of buildings on our site we are short of storage space! We have acquired 2 layouts in the past year, N gauge and Z gauge both bequeathed to the Club. The N gauge layout is partly built and probably beyond salvaging unless some member wants to take it on or take up the track. Quite a lot of stock came with the N gauge layout and can perhaps be used on Didcot or Three Bridges and if not offered to members to purchase. The Z gauge layout is operational and can be developed if a suitable band of volunteers can be found. We also have Millanford which belongs to a former member and Chairman of the Club who, sadly, has developed dementia. This layout is currently dismantled. We really do need to review our storage and what we want to keep and what to discard. It has been suggested we might investigate obtaining a shipping container. You will recall we did have one which was in poor repair which was dismantled by James and Steve and disposed of. The monthly Working Day is well established and is held on the last Saturday of every month even if the last Saturday falls on a Bank Holiday Weekend. The Work Programme is expertly overseen by Chris Maycock.

Our next Exhibition is in Didcot on 31 August. Plans are well in hand and Dominic is booking layouts whilst Peter is organising Traders. In addition, we expect to have a day at Millets Farm entertaining the public and hopefully recruiting new members.

Overall, a good year and I am pleased to say the Club is thriving. But we cannot relax in our efforts to recruit new members and to organise activities to help new, and current, members develop their modelling skills and of course to run trains.

Bill Marnane Chairman ADMRC

What a contrast from last year!

2024 is the club's 'Diamond Jubilee year' 50 years of Railway modelling in Abingdon.

Our premises are looking better than ever thanks to regular work weekends guided by the competent hand of Chris Maycock. Thank you, Chris.

But the outstanding success has to be the brilliant two - day show held in March at the Abingdon and Witney college. We all gave a vote of confidence to Trevor Slaughter, our Treasurer, who pushed extremely hard to make it happen – Forty layouts, excellent publicity and a very positive response from the public with some who said, 'it's so good I'm coming back tomorrow', giving us the ultimate compliment! It would be untrue to say we didn't have doubts, but Trevor's guts and determination, with many weekends spent harassing outstanding layout owners to attend along with a very determined *Abrail* subcommittee, gave us a 50th celebration to remember.

Our remit of making everyone welcome, 'Bringing Railway modelling to all' is paying off with a number of new members, particularly younger members joining the club. They have brought with them some very competent and enthusiastic parents and on a personal note, it is really great to be caught up with their enthusiasm for 'All things railway related' and hopefully we can give them encouragement and opportunity to learn more and interact as operators for our club layouts.

Continuing on the personal note my own situation has changed over this year. Many will have noted that I am absent more than present for the Friday roll call. This is due in no small measure to the success of my other hobby "Sea Shanty" singing and some of you attended and appeared to enjoy the concert we gave in the Wallingford Corn exchange a few months ago. The group I sing with has become extremely popular and we are spending more and more time at festivals and gigs across the country. When you read this, I will have been to. Leigh-on-sea, Gloucester and Barry Island. With Falmouth next weekend, followed by Weston-Super-Mare and locally the Bunkfest, as well as a number of gigs closer to home.

I have always been of the opinion that if you're going to do a job, you have to do it properly and sadly, I do not feel that I am, at this time, able to commit to carry out my role as secretary as well as I should be doing. So, I have decided to step down. I have really enjoyed my time as Secretary It has been a real pleasure to do it for the last eight years and work with – three Chairmen, two Treasurers and committee members, both the full committee and the *Abrail* committee, thank you for your support.

My particular thanks must go to Bill, our current Chairman for his support, he works tirelessly and has demonstrated a particular talent as a diplomat. Perhaps he should have chosen that as a career rather than the one he had in the RAF.

I am not leaving the club, and I am happy to continue as a trustee if the membership so wants me to do, and I assure the person who takes over from me, I will give them as much support and advice as I can. As we move into our fifty first year, I foresee a very positive future for *Abingdon & District Model Railway Club*, but this can only be achieved if we continue to support Trevor as our exhibition manager and Chris as our works supervisor along with the committee working on your behalf.

Peter Hunt – Secretary 2023/2024

Membership Secretary's Report

When I took over this position last year I took a step into the unknown, yes, granted I assisted Dominic when he was in post, but I only supported him by showing people around when he wasn't available, however, with the assistance of Peter and Bill, I found my footing and started bringing in new faces. My aim was to bring in more members and we have welcomed seven new members and their families into the club over the past year.

I wouldn't have been able to do this without the support and friendliness of existing members who have welcomed them into the club.

I am in the process of updating the club stand to assist us with bringing in more prospective members, this is in the form of a *PowerPoint* presentation highlighting the club and its layouts that can be shown at our shows and at events like the one I am holding at Carterton library in October.

As membership secretary I am here to help with your membership needs.

If you have any suggestions on how or what you like to see in the club, please contact me and I will present these ideas as your own to the rest of the committee.

James Barclay - Membership Secretary. 2023/2024

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	31/03/2024		31/03/2023	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Exhibition equipment		326		-
Current Assets				
Stock	593		613	
Debtors	1,450		-	
Prepayments	240		-	
Bank current account	6,114		4,075	
Bank deposit account	9,829		14,637	
Petty cash	-		2	
		<u>18,226</u>		<u>19,327</u>
Current Liabilities				
Creditors & accruals	<u>513</u>		<u>379</u>	
		<u>513</u>		<u>379</u>
		<u>18,039</u>		<u>18,948</u>
Represented by				
Income & expenditure Account - B/Fwd		18,948		18,353
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>-909</u>		<u>595</u>
		<u>18,039</u>		<u>18,948</u>

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscription income				
Subscriptions	8,550		8,232	
Discounts allowed	-320		-327	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		8,230		7,905
Fund raising activities				
Exhibition surplus/(deficit) - Abingdon	1,011		1,323	
Exhibition surplus/(deficit) - Didcot	-		-	
Exhibition surplus/(deficit) - 200 Club	980		805	
Private owner wagons	16		318	
Club merchandise	-		65	
2nd hand stall (open day)	-		8	
Tea & coffee	-		-	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		2,007		2,519
Other income				
Grants	-		-	
Gift aid	1,450		1,333	
Amazon smile	-		13	
Donations	254		140	
Interest received	120		25	
Rent received	408		408	
Scrap metal sales	41		15	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		2,273		1,934
Total Income	<hr/> 12,509 <hr/>		<hr/> 12,358 <hr/>	
EXPENDITURE				
Premises expenses				
Rent	7,401		7,404	
Property repairs - general	1,360		1,814	
Property repairs - electrical upgrade	1,974		-	
Light & heat	1,250		794	
Insurance	1,275		984	
Publicity & promotion	-		64	
Website	113		113	
Other property expenditure	-		1	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Subtotals C/Fwd		13,373		11,173

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
Subtotals B/Fwd		13,373		11,173
Layout expenses				
Donations	-		-	
Expenditure	-		-	
		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Other expenses				
Subscriptions	-		40	
Audit & accountancy	-		32	
Equipment repairs & replacement	-		414	
First aid supplies	-		45	
Non ADMRC exhibition expenses	-		59	
Depreciation - Exhibition equipment	109			
Sundries	-62			
		<u>46</u>		<u>590</u>
Total Expenditure		13,419		11,763
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		-909		595

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
EXHIBITIONS				
Abingdon				
Income		35,287		8,931
Expenditure		34,276		-7,608
		<hr/>		<hr/>
			1,011	1,323
Didcot				
Income		-		-
Expenditure		-		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
			-	-
Exhibitions surplus/(deficit)		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,011		1,323
200 Club				
Income		1,080		1,125
Expenditure		-100		-320
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Surplus			980	805
Private Owner Wagons				
Sales		36		792
Cost of Sales				
Opening stock	613		-	
Purchases	-		1,087	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	613		1,087	
Closing stock	-593		-613	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		20		474
Surplus			16	318
Club Merchandise				
Income		-		65
Expenditure		-		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
			-	65
Club Open Day (2nd Hand Stall)				
Income		-		8
Expenditure		-		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
			-	8
Fund raising surplus		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,007		2,519

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

FIXED ASSETS SCHEDULE - EXHIBITION EQUIPMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Barriers	Radio Equipment	PDQ Equipment	Total
COST				
As at 1 April 2023	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	435	435
Disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	-	-	435	435
DEPRECIATION				
As at 1 April 2023	-	-	-	-
Charge for year	-	-	109	109
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	-	-	109	109
NET BOOK VALUES				
As at 31 March 2024	-	-	326	326
As at 31 March 2023	-	-	-	-

Reports 2024

Attachment 'E'

Layout Report – Bishop's Hill

The development of Bishop's Hill continues but more slowly than we would like. Track circuits are in place and point work is fully functional. It is pleasing to see trains running and giving enjoyment to Members.

Some Members come to the Club on Monday evenings to continue development work. In particular, Martin Hill and Colin Bishop are developing the Goods Shed Area. Chris Nutman has been painting the baseboards a base colour prior to scenic elements being added.

The "Village Corner" is at an advanced stage thanks to John Winchester and the "Industrial Site" is being developed by Stephen Usher. The Station Building is almost ready to be placed in position thanks to Graham Hadingham.

But there is much work to be done:

- Platforms to be Covered in
- Platform Canopies to be constructed
- Scenery to be developed
- The area around the Engine Shed with Coaling Tower, Ash Plant and Turntable to be finished.
- Controls for points on the station side of the layout to be placed in final positions
- Controls for Turntable to be boxed and mounted
- Area at viaduct and bridges to be developed.
- Low relief buildings to be made up

The above is not an exhaustive list but indicates where our efforts should perhaps be concentrated for now..

In the meantime the ability to run trains can be a satisfying diversion.

Bill Marnane

Carlisle Canal Shed

Work has progressed slowly with the internal detailing of the workshop inside the shed coming along. Trains can, and have run, and it went to it's first exhibition in March at Abral where it achieved much admiration, However, a lot of work will have to be done to get the turntable working correctly and this hasn't been helped by the departure from the area of Harry Fielding who masterminded the layout electrics. We really need an electronics guru to step in. Volunteer please!!

Peter Hunt 2024

Didcot 'A' Power Station

Since the last AGM we have overrun with the overhaul of Didcot "A" but we are now close to completion. It was decided to convert the layout from DC to DCC and this has been greatly helped by the donation from a previous member who passed away. His family donated locos, chips, controllers, and the incomplete layout that is currently in the Didcot area. Thanks must go to Mark G who joined the team in the last year, who, using his skills with electrics has made outstanding progress, and we have had locos running on the layout. We still have some jobs outstanding, but these will not hamper our aim to get it ready for displaying soon. We are hoping to display at Bracknell in November, but we are awaiting confirmation. I wish to thank all of the Didcot A team for their help and support.

James Barclay 2024

2024 Report on Edgeholme Quarry, the Club's O16.5 layout.

'Edgeholme Quarry', the Club's O16.5 layout, was last exhibited in 2020 at Risborough & District MRC's exhibition in Princes Risborough.

Since then repairs have been made to the trackwork and planned modifications to the wiring, to allow separate throttles to control two locos simultaneously, have been completed.

Some minor scenic embellishments are still needed to make the layout 'exhibition ready'.

Brian Denton 2024

East Street Wharf

Early BR, EM Gauge, DCC shunting layout originally built by club member Margaret Evans and featured in BRM in 2006 is in good shape and welcomes people to operate and further develop it, including making and detailing wagons. With the addition of extra stock it can also be taken to exhibitions (it fits easily in the back of an estate car).

Dominic Hardisty 2024

Leicester Belgrave Road

LBR has been in operation every Friday as a club running layout throughout the year, and it continues to be a draw for new members to try and for existing members to enjoy.

A few repairs and upgrades have been carried out throughout the year and it was last exhibited at Folkstone in October last year 2023. We will be exhibiting it again at the Farnham and District exhibition this October, but prior to this we will be giving new operators the opportunity to learn it's complexities.

Eric Young 2024

N00G reports

3 Bridges –

Work is progressing on the contouring the layout and work is at 80% complete on the first cut and is progressing at a steady pace. Track base for the power station extension is complete. Anyone wanting to assist with the scenic work is more than welcome.

3 Points

Work is still carrying on at a very slow rate. Team were occupied for the bulk of last year getting Abingdon O Gauge rewired ready for Abrail 2024. It is hoped that work can pick up on getting the last of the buildings on the back scene completed, such that the layout can join the rota of exhibitible layouts the club has to offer.

Mike Taylor

Thomas

The "Thomas layout", more correctly known as Sodor Island, continues to be a hit with younger members of the public at our shows and at the Club. It is currently erected and functioning in the Pentre Road cabin. It is used most Fridays and indeed, in the absence of our test track has been used as a test track.

The layout is designed to be run by junior members of the public using the 2 controls at the corners. Thanks to Dominic and other Club Members, over the past year the layout has been rewired and is now operating efficiently.

The next planned outings for “Thomas” are at Millets Farm in July, with a date yet to be confirmed, and at our resurrected Didcot Show on 31st August. Some cleaning work has been carried out on the locomotives and they are now operating better, but essential maintenance is required for some of the other rolling stock and buildings.

Bill Marnane

The 200 Club

The 200 Club continues to add to Club Funds as well, for £5.00 per month, as giving Members the opportunity to win £20 each month with a bonus of £50 in June and December.

Currently the 200 Club has 19 subscriptions but of course we could do with more Members subscribing. If we can increase the number of subscriptions we can consider increasing the prize money.

Why not join today? Standing Order Mandates are available at the club or from Bill Marnane.

Bill Marnane – 200 Club

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

ABRAIL 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

	Abraile 2024	Abraile 2025	Variance
INCOME			
Ticket Sales	30,965	39,614	8,649
Trade Stand Fees	2,342	4,712	2,370
Tombola	734	734	-
Raffle	426	426	-
Second Hand Sales	353	353	-
Show Guide Advertising	378	378	-
Catering Contributions - ADMRC Members	84	84	-
Donations	5	5	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	35,287	46,306	11,019
OVERHEADS			
Commission - Sum Up	247	309	-62
Stewarding Assistance	200	600	-400
Second Hand Purchases	134	134	-
Show Guide Printing	878	878	-
Hotel Accommodation	6,797	5,947	850
Layout Expenses (Van Hire & Fuel)	8,086	7,075	1,011
Catering	2,976	2,726	250
Insurance	1,927	1,686	241
Hall Hire - Rooms	5,780	6,764	-984
Hall Hire - Caretaking	1,147	1,147	-
Van Hire	1,226	583	643
Van Fuel	201	100	101
ADMRC Barriers - Materials	-	750	-750
Lunch Tokens	45	45	-
Display Signs	116	-	116
AA Signage	1,204	1,204	-
Internal Signage	-	300	-300
Advertising - Model Railway Press	1,965	2,325	-360
Advertising - Road Posters	1,174	2,209	-1,035
Advertising - Flyers	-	120	-120
Wristbands	76	76	-
Lanyards	60	60	-
Stationery	28	-	28
Raffle Tickets (Speakers)	8	-	8
Misc Expenditure	1	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	34,276	35,039	-763
SURPLUS			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	1,011	11,267	10,256

24.33%

ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

ABRAIL 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

ADVANCED COSTS

Hotel Accommodation	7,075
Insurance	1,686
Hall Hire - Rooms (50%)	3,382
Hall Hire - Caretaking (50%)	574
Van Fuel	100
ADMRC Barriers - Materials	750
Lunch Tokens	45
AA Signage	1,204
Internal Signage	300
Advertising - Model Railway Press (Hornby Magazine)	340
Advertising - Road Posters	2,209
Advertising - Flyers	120
Wristbands	76
Lanyards	60
	<hr/> 17,921 <hr/>
ADMRC Bank Balance, say	16,000
Credit Card Facility	3,000
	<hr/> 19,000 <hr/>
Cushion	1,080