

Exhibition sub-committee, 23 October 2025

Present: James, Phil, Graham, Trevor, Mark

Apologies:

Didcot

The post-partum for the Didcot Show will be held on 24 Oct.

When to hold an exhibition in 2026 was discussed. The final decision to be made after Post Partum with the aim to book the venue as soon afterwards as possible. The 1st Sat in Oct preferred to avoid clashing with other large events. We didn't feel the Oct day caused too much loss, but getting the posters out for the right length of time would have helped.

Trevor – getting layouts – those which don't need much transport and can make it on the Sat.

Graham suggested contacting the local clubs who have suitable layouts – and offers ours (East Dock and Carlisle Canal) in return.

ABRAIL

Barriers & van hire – will be needed. We will need 2 vans – need volunteers to go. Thurs to collect, then return on Monday. CMRA or more local? Phil, James and Trevor only ones currently registered with TVR.

ACTION: James to make contact to ensure they are booked

ACTION: Trevor – ASAP to email Hannah @ AWC confirming dates (previously noted by email for a few years), and same rooms as previous, with confirmation that the rooms are available. Book walk around too. (need measurements of the lifts)

Trevor is already working towards getting layouts for 2027/28 booked. He is looking towards stepping back and finding someone else to be responsible for choosing/booking and corresponding with layouts, but may continue with the finding layouts and booking hotels. Trevor will help support them, but we will need to have someone replacing him.

Graham happy to continue with some of the promotional side – social media, model railway press. More to do with a local promotional piece.

Block advertising – different booking link used in 2025 showed not too many came that way. Do less for 2026. Phase out – reduce full to half pages, for example, but stick with 2 consecutive months. Magazines offer a social media package – will take up for 2026, if the numbers look good – Trevor will circulate the details of what are offered. Website needs to be updated with photos etc.

It would be good to have a better social media presence, including making our own video of the show.

Abrail.org.uk – need to bring up to date.

ACTION: Phil to revive

UK Model shops – probably more successful to get modellers booking.

Didcot ticket sales did show that many came from local.

ACTION: Phil to talk to Ticketebo about how we can better split out different advertising sources

Road posters – need to know number of both sizes and that'll define the number to get printed and assembled. This will be done by 26th Oct.

Trevor will get a quote for some Plastic versions as this would be more durable and easier to prepare each year. Some of the boards used for Didcot did not survive well.

Other things to consider – selling through the schools and offering them a %age of the sale (as per other local events).

Should approach local businesses and Libraries to advertise. Trevor will obtain 100 A4 posters for this purpose.

Get space in Abingdon Community Shop a few weeks ahead?

James has some A6 fliers – 500 more ordered.

Road postering – not inside Oxford ring road. Trevor didn't feel that we got the return from putting these out. Instead, take advert in Oxford Mail? Round & About wasn't considered economical. Other small towns and villages might have suitable publications to advertise in, but more strategic placement of boards might work well –

including using the boards which won't be put up in Oxford. Will aim not to put out so early.

Show guide advertising – stick with the current show guide style. Make it as big necessary. Get any adverts possible – as soon as possible.

Hotel bookings to start soon, aiming to finish before Christmas. Delays could be due to Premier Inn's dynamic pricing.

Traders

Mike has information about the Traders from 2025 so booking and contact can be confirmed for 2026. First shout to those who attended 2025. AGR have approached via admrc.org.uk – massive stand at GETS. TTC diecast is preferred and we need to be careful about the number of similar product sets on offer.

Graham will talk to Shaun on Friday to discuss where he'd got to.

Discussion around which traders to approach to bring number at Didcot up to 4.

Control

James has been working out details. Will send through a request for items for Control Team. Sorting out what needs to be done due to recent major incidents – plans are in place.

Rota

Mike will take care of the rota. Control team will be rostered separately.

To avoid:

Advanced booking taking too long to get in. Get the ticket desks manned from 09:45. Allow pre-booked to enter in any gate, using Ticketebo's scanning app – Phil to get details of the devices we can hire from Ticketebo.

Any more to involve?

Might be worth adding more to the committee on ad-hoc basis. Steve Usher on control team.

Finish: 21:55