

Exhibition Committee meeting – 12th Feb 2026

Present: Phil, James, Mike, Trevor, Graham, Mark

Apologies: Timothy

Welcome

Trevor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Trevor also noted that he was a little distracted at the current time as his mother was in hospital with an infection. We all sent our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

AA Roadsigns

These have been ordered as per emailed discussion - 29 signs at a cost of £1479 plus VAT.

Best Layout / Most appealing layout

We discussed whether to have a vote similar to how the Manchester show had done for the most appealing layout at the show. Concern was raised over the time it might take to count the votes and whether we would be able to count them before the end of ABRAIL. It might be possible to do it as an online survey, with a QR code displayed next to exits.

ACTION: Phil to set up a voting form

There will be a presentation to the Best Layout – this will be presented by the Leader of the Vale of White Horse Council, Oliver Forder. The presentation will be made around 12pm on the Saturday. The trophy will need to be polished

Plaques

Chris Maycock has been asked about producing enough ABRAIL 2026 plaques.

Step Stands



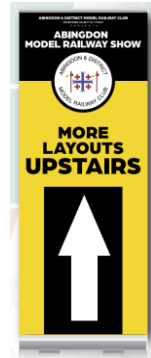
James reported that the liability was a grey area. If they are purchased and taken away, then liability lies clearly with the purchaser. If they are borrowed, it's less clear. James will produce a waiver to go with each saying that the club is not liable for injury in the same way we have no liability for damage to cars in the car park.

We agreed to go ahead and purchase 30 step stands for the show and distribute them around the different cash desks.

Internal signs

We discussed the merits of the better quality compared to the cheapest option, and agreed to go ahead with Minuteman Press's quoted specification. It is hoped that more signs will reduce the need for volunteers directing visitors. Initially we're looking at 3 pointing up arrows.

There was no concern over the choice of colour and felt that they would be just as useful at the Didcot show.



Show guide

3 quotes for printing have been obtained for 2000 copies of a 44 page colour booklet. Initially, Minuteman Press and Printique (used for printing in 2024 and 2025) were the same price, but MMP has been able to reduce theirs by £100 and will deliver. A third online supplier was a little cheaper, but we were not sure about taking the risk.

The printed copies will be distributed more equally between Saturday and Sunday and we will have boxes at the exits for anyone who doesn't wish to take theirs home.

Raffle

Phil has made a number of enquiries and we have about 20 prizes for the raffle. While there had been a question asked at the Club Committee whether to make a big purchase as the raffle prize, this isn't felt now to be needed.

Lecture Theatre

It was wondered whether it was worth adding the Lecture Theatre to the room hire as a visitor break out area.

ACTION: Trevor to enquire with the College about hiring and whether it would be permissible to consume food and drink in there.

Barrier Run

Trever and Phil are lined up to drive. A further up to 4 more volunteers are required to go to Welwyn, and others will be needed at the club to help unload. Members will be asked.

James and Mark have some cargo straps which will be needed.

In addition to the barriers, we will need to collect any power cables that we can.

Hotel bookings

Trevor had booked most, but had held back in case of drop outs and changes. He's working on finishing off the remaining. Confirmation will be sent to the layout owners including the Health and Safety briefing so that everyone knows where they will be.

H&S Briefing

James has prepared a briefing pack and intends to present this to the Club at 19:45 on 27th Feb.

Volunteers

Unfortunately the Explorer Scouts have said no. Individuals are being approached and Mark has made enquiries with the Buckinghamshire Jamboree Contingent who sounded interested. There is much concern about the level of marshalling available for the car parks. 20 high vis jackets will soon be ready for collection for use by car park marshalls.

Graham has sent a request to all Club Members and is starting to get replies. Just not many at this stage.

Priority will be given to internal safety roles.

In addition to the support from the Oxford Club (4 members), we also feel it would be worth asking the Newbury Club if they could help.

Second hand stall

Chris Maycock and Brian Denton have sorted through David Willis' collection and were wondering about whether there would be a second hand stall. We felt that there may not be enough members to effectively man the stall, so on this occasion we felt it best to not have one.

Floor plan

Mike and Trevor have been working on fine tuning the floor plan. The ASC, Sports Hall, Reception and Canteen areas are largely done; D-Block was in progress.

Layouts and Societies

2 layouts have dropped out so far. It is expected that a few more might yet before the show.

The N Gauge Society have confirmed that they are attending.

Exhibition Packs

James is happy to help do the stuffing. Phil will prepare labels. The packs will contain a show guide, tokens and lanyards.

Timings

Traders are being asked to arrive after 5pm on the Friday; we don't have access to the College until 4.30pm. On the Saturday, we will aim to have members on site from 7:30am, and layouts from 8:00am. We will be there for 9:00am on Sunday.

Other bits

We wondered about borrowing urns from the College – they apparently have some available. It is important that we get these on ASAP on the Friday and each morning so that the layout operators can obtain refreshments as they arrive.

COSME – Risk Assessment is still due. They will have a stand in the reception area, and tickets to ride will be available from the cash desk inside.