



ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Charity number: 1176029

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Friday 19th June, 20:00

All Saints Methodist Church Hall,
Appleford Drive, Abingdon. OX14 2AQ

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of AGM, 27th June 2025
4. Matters arising
5. Election of Officers & Committee Members
6. Chairman and Secretary's reports
7. Financial report
8. Layout Coordinators' reports
9. Exhibition updates
 - a. DIDCOT 2025
 - b. ABRAIL 2026
 - c. DIDCOT 2026
 - d. ABRAIL 2027
10. Committee Proposals
 - a. Membership types and rates
 - b. Spirit of Didcot – new Finescale N Gauge Layout
11. AOB

Reports

Chairman's Report – Graham Hadingham

Reflecting on my first year as Chairman, I have to say that whilst most things have gone very well, the year has not been without its challenges.

Membership numbers are steady. We have lost a couple of members in the last 12 months but have also gained replacements for those who have departed. Special mention should be made of James who following his marriage in May is now living in Preston but I'm sure is with us in spirit.

We continue to move layouts around in the club rooms to create space for future projects. Thus far, Carlisle Canal has moved to the bunker room, where the remains of Pentre Rd await disposal. This has allowed us to move East Dock into the center room with Bishop's Hill. We also aim to move the junior layouts from their current home to the rear cabin currently home to Didcot. The old Pentre Road cabin will then be available for new projects.

Several new layout projects are up for discussion. First among these is the Spirit of Didcot N gauge layout. We also have a number of potential junior layouts under consideration. These include an 009 layout, a quick N gauge layout and a modular layout.

We have held several workshops and talks in the library which have been organised by Steve. We hope to continue these going forward. We're pleased that the introduction of the audiovisual capability has been put to good use thus far.

The club has participated in community events throughout the year. Visits to Millets Farm, Carterton Library and participation in the Abingdon Clubs & Societies Day have all helped to advertise our presence.

There have not been any official workdays in 2026. This is primarily due to a lack of organization. We recently weeded the paving area outside the main doors on a Friday evening and felt that this was a good use of time, particularly during the summer when working outdoors is a pleasant evening activity. We may look to do more of this going forward. This means Saturday workdays will be reserved for

major works, a list of which is to be created. A new boiler has recently been installed at the club, which should be good for many years to come.

ABRAIL 2026 was a success from the point of view that we once again had a good number of very high-quality layouts and very enthusiastic trade support. All our traders reported a very successful show in terms of sales. As you know from our ABRAIL postpartum meeting, attendance was slightly down on 2025 and expenses were up. We just about broke even but we are putting in a few measures to try and ensure that ABRAIL 2027 gives a more satisfactory financial outcome.

Didcot 2025 was also a very successful show, and we hope to repeat that in 2026. Dominic has now stepped back from involvement in the Didcot show, so it is being organized by the Exhibitions Committee alongside ABRAIL. The committee would like to place on record their thanks to Dominic for organising this show over the last few years.

All in all it feels like a 7 out of 10 with room for improvement.

Secretary's Report – Phil Cole

The last year has raced by with much going on at the Club, and in my, and all of our, personal lives. I'm pleased we are returning to All Saints Methodist Church in Abingdon for our AGM again this June – it's a venue I have a connection to as a volunteer in the Scout Group here.

My role involves keeping minutes for Club meetings, responding to external communications and trying to keep the Club membership up to date on what's going on – fortunately Graham and Steve have been a great help here too.

This year, the ADMRC committee has met 5 times and the exhibition sub-committee a further 3 times. A further meeting was held to discuss the Didcot show when concern over progress was expressed last summer. Minutes for all meetings are uploaded to the Club website in the members' area – I can help any with access to this as required.

The website has generated a steady stream of contact requests – some have generated new members, others with offers of layouts or other railway related paraphernalia. My thanks to James for responding to so many of these relating to new members – and it is great to see several have gone on to join the club too – Welcome.

The club website hasn't received the attention it deserves and we now feel it needs replacing. I am happy to continue tinkering, but very happy to guide others who might be able to and willing to take on more – please reach out to me for more info.

At the end of April, it was great to take East Dock to the Abingdon Clubs and Societies day in St Nicholas' Church. Thank you to the members who were able to help – there was a steady stream of visitors and interest in the layout and Club, including from our local MP.

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of visiting the High Wycombe & District Model Railway Club with Catherine primarily to discuss their successful Young Members and how we could develop something similar in ADMRC. We have a good number of young people who are regularly attending on a Friday night – we are looking for ways to develop their skills and get them more involved throughout the Club.

The year ahead is looking full – plans are underway for the Didcot show in October and ABRAIL in March; we are hoping to take layouts on tour locally to Millets Farm and Carterton Library and hopefully the Clubs & Societies day again next year. Hopefully access to the Club will get easier once the current roadworks finish – how much do we all enjoy that new bit of tarmac at the top of the lane? Maybe there may even be time for me to start modelling...

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement – Trevor Slaughter

See previously circulated

Layout Reports

Bishop's Hill

Currently, the most positive element of the Bishops Hill Layout is that "trains are running"! Members can enjoy the sight of their trains running and much pleasure is derived from using the excellently laid track and electrics.

But, development progress has been slow. Both Martin and Colin have been busy on Monday evenings progressing the Goods Yard and adding stairways from the Station Building to the platforms. Graham has provided the Station Building, John is progressing his "Corner Village", Stephen has provided a set of Nissan Huts, produced on his 3D Printer and some progress has been made on the "Bridge Corner".

But much remains to be done. For some reason the regular Friday Club night sees little modelling done. The retaining walls for the "High Street" have been built and need to be put in place. Catherine, and others, are busy building the low relief building for the High Street but as yet there is nowhere to place them. A priority must be fixing the retaining walls and placing the street so the buildings can be put in place. In addition, the platforms need to be completed. Catherine has painted a whole crowd of passengers who are just waiting to rush onto the platform.

Much of the development undertaken by Colin and Martin took place on Monday evenings and they were sometimes joined by other members. There is a suggestion that Monday "Bishops Hill" evenings could be reinstated. Tuesday mornings are regular Club Days and are proving popular with Members. That is another day to be considered for making progress. All that is needed is for a member to take the lead.

Bill Marnane

Carlisle Canal Shed

No report received.

Didcot Power Station

No report received.

East Dock

No report received.

East St Wharf

The decision was made during the year to retire East Street Wharf and it has been removed from the Club to storage with a Club Member.

Edgeholme Quarry

The layout has not been used since before COVID. 'Edgeholme Quarry', the Club's O16.5 layout, was last exhibited in 2020 at Risborough & District MRC's exhibition in Princes Risborough.

Over the last year minor repairs have been made to the trackwork and some minor scenic repairs embellishments are needed to make the layout 'exhibition ready'.

Brian Denton

Leicester Belgrave Road

No report received

Pentre Road

The difficult decision was made during the year to dispose of the Pentre Road layout due to the lack of progress being made. The boards are now being disassembled. New homes have been identified for the legs, and the electronics are likely to be sold on where possible.

Three Points

THREE POINTS ---- 7mm O gauge and 16.5mm narrow gauge (On30).

With the demise of 'Three Bridges' (2mm FS), work has restarted on this layout.

Fault finding and an overhaul of the electrics have been completed so that the layout is operational.

Previously part constructed buildings are now being taken to the next level of detailing ie. cladding and finishes, roofing and gutters.

Inspiration for this layout is taken from the " Little London" area of Newport I.O.W. but as far as running rights are concerned, anything goes! All the buildings are representations of real buildings ,but not necessarily in the right order!

Currently there are three (naturally!) New building in the pipeline vis. An extension to the Northlight factory; A Boilerhouse and small Chimney also for the Northlight factory and the 'Electric Power Station', for which new photographic evidence continues to surface and cause amendments to be made to the current proposed version of this building.

Chris

“Wasserschloss”

Wasserschloss (‘water castle’ or ‘moated castle’) is a new Z gauge, Continental layout that is being created following the generous donation of some Z gauge track, buildings and stock. Being Z gauge it fits on a 4’x2’ board, which will make it handy for smaller exhibitions and visits to local community events etc. In theory it could be battery operated, but this hasn’t been explored yet.

The layout was initially used as a teaching layout - in Autumn 2025 a number of members (including younger members) became involved in baseboard building, landscaping, track laying, soldering and so on. However, circuit testing identified that there were significant electrical faults, and the layout was taken home for upgrades, which have unfortunately taken far longer than anticipated.

The layout is scenically advanced and looking really good. Track has been replaced with new Rokuhan track (similar to Kato) which works really well and will be configured and tested over the summer. It will then return to the club in the Autumn for further detailing before entering operation. There remain some surplus track and scenic items if anyone then wants to have a go at building their own Z Gauge micro layout. There are also a couple of nice locos that need servicing and/or repair if anyone wants to offer their skills in that area - a magnifying glass will be provided!

Dominic Hardisty

200 Club

A most useful contributor to Club Funds, with an opportunity to win cash, is the “200 Club”. Last year the “200 Club” contributed £665 net to Club Funds.

Tickets cost £5 per month and currently prizes are £20 per month with £50 in December and June. Club members are encouraged to join. We currently have 16 Members signed up and of course the more tickets we sell the more prize money we can allocate. Members can contribute to more than one ticket!

Mandate forms are available in the Club.

Bill Marnane

Young Modellers at ADMRC

This is a work in progress

We recently visited the High Wycombe club to see how they involve their young modellers. There, the young members are fully integrated into club, welcome to discuss modelling with older members and they are encouraged to learn about all the Club layouts and attend exhibitions with them.

We are developing a vision supporting young modellers (approx. ages 12-25) to develop their skills enabling them build models both within the club setting and to take and use their skills home for home-based layouts.

We hope that bringing young modellers into the physical heart of the club community will promote the sharing of skills and ideas and foster the confidence that young modellers need to approach senior members for support and assistance as required.

We want to develop a rolling programme of building layouts, possibly through a modular system. Smaller scale modules will enable experimentation and development of skills and ideas in a way that can be used for running sessions, but also at a more moderate investment of time and resources.

By being in the same space as the ‘senior’ layouts, it is hoped that senior members will support juniors to be involved in learning how to run club layouts in a supportive and apprenticeship-style environment.

It is envisaged that young modellers will be involved with exhibitions by displaying and demonstrating their own models, possibly at the club stand, but also being more actively involved in the running of layouts as well as other roles at exhibitions.

Catherine McNeill & Phil Cole

Committee Proposals

Membership Types and Rates

The constitution of the Abingdon & District Model Railway Club (ADMRC) as adopted in November 2017 allows for 2 types of members:

- Full members
- Informal or Associate (non-voting) members

The rates of membership are not defined in the Constitution and are to be set at the Annual General Meeting of the Club each year.

The committee are proposing formalising the membership types as:

1. Full members
Adults who have full access to attend the club.
2. Associate members
Adults who live away from Abingdon but wish to maintain a link to the Club
3. Young Adult members
18-25 year olds with the same access rights as full members
4. Student members
Members who are at an educational establishment away from Oxfordshire

The committee further proposes that Associate and young adult members would pay a subscription of half that of a full member; and Student members would pay one half of the rate they would pay as a non-student.

For example

At current (June 2026) rates

- A full member pays £20/month
- An Associate member would pay £10/month
- A Young Adult member would pay £10/month
- A Student over 25 would pay £10/month
- A Student 18-25 would pay £5 /month

Spirit of Didcot – a new Finescale N Gauge Layout

The committee proposes progressing with phase 1 of the Spirit of Didcot layout proposal attached.

The Club membership are asked to approve progression and to give the Committee authority to progress phase 2 on successful completion.