



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF **LIVE STEAMERS**

AALS Web Site

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Limited

ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE BOILER SAFETY COMMITTEE

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AMBSC Chairman's Report, Easter Convention, 2011

The annual meeting of the Australian Miniature Boiler Safety Committee was held at the Lake Macquarie Convention on the 22nd April, 2011. Full details are in Les Irwin's Secretary's Report which is attached. I have some general remarks about the progress achieved.

The meeting was opened by Jeff Wakeham.

The AALS President, Roger Kershaw, then addressed the meeting and explained the working and legal requirements of the combined AALS, AMBSC and Safety Committee (ALSSC).

John Wakefield addressed the meeting before the incoming AMBSC Secretary was announced.

Les Irwin, as AMBSC Secretary-elect, took up his position immediately.

Upon completion of the usual formalities, apologies, minutes, correspondence etc, the first item on discussion was the Duplex Code. It was announced that it had been accepted by NSW WorkCover and that several other states with the exception of Victoria and Queensland had voiced no objection to its implementation. It is expected that it will have universal acceptance in the near future.

Discussions with NSW WorkCover have resulted in the testing regime of Duplex boilers to be held one year after the granting of the first AMBSC ticket and then every four years thereafter. NSW WorkCover also requested that only members of an AALS affiliated society be allowed to hold an AMBSC boiler certificate.

The Carbon Steel Code was then discussed and the meeting was advised that it was intended to remove from the code some of the sections that were rarely if ever used. The sections on elliptical openings and thermic siphons were mentioned. Eric Evans addressed the meeting on these matters and was in support of the changes. Since the meeting date, the Draft copy of the proposed document has been finished, thanks to the effort of Andrew Mathews and should be available in the not too distant future.

A drawing of the proposed changes to the cross stays in copper boilers was shown to the meeting and it was suggested that in future any changes such as this to any of the codes be referred to a professional engineer for evaluation and to have any required stress calculations carried out. The meeting was generally in favour of this proposal.

It was asked from the floor that as some of the Copper Code sections are difficult to understand, an explanation sheet of some kind be compiled and circulated to explain these grey areas. The committee will see what can be done with this.

It was suggested by the committee that all of the code testing periods be altered to come in line with the new Duplex Code. The meeting was generally in favour of this; however, Dave Giles from NZ who is very experienced with Carbon Steel boilers spoke on the subject and stated that in his NZ experience, it should be fine for the first twelve to fourteen years, but then be reduced to two yearly periods from then on.

There was very little comment from the floor on the circulated proposed guide for boiler inspectors. The committee intends to broaden the document as time allows and it was requested that items such as the various boiler treatments be included. There have only been a few requests for alterations to the guide presented to the committee and we ask that if you have any suggestions to please let us know. It was reported by two boiler inspectors that the proposed guide has not been passed on to them – club secretaries please take note.

Ongoing consultations have been taking place with the UK suppliers “Polly” and Maxitrak of finished and kit built locomotives. All of the boilers and drawings that have been supplied to us are of a satisfactory standard and are supplied with test certificates and are CE stamped. Inspectors should inspect and test these boilers to at least 1 ¼ times working pressure and have a good look at water and pressure gauges to ensure their proper operation.

Sincerely,

Barry Potter,
Chairman, AMBSC.