



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF **LIVE STEAMERS**

AALS Web Site

www.aals.asn.au

Limited

ACN 107 882 404 - ABN 81 107 882 404

AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE BOILER SAFETY COMMITTEE

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MEETING held at the LAKE MACQUARIE LIVE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY, Edgeworth, on Friday 22nd April, 2011, at 5.00 pm.

The meeting opened at 5pm. Jeff Wakeham, President of LMLS, welcomed all and handed over to Barry Potter, Chairman of AMBSC.

The Chairman invited, firstly, Roger Kershaw, AALS President, and then John Wakefield, AMSRS and MVR, to address the meeting.

AALS President's address

Roger Kershaw explained the relationship between AALS and the AMBSC. Firstly, AALS is a non-profit company with nine Directors (Board members). Two of those Directors form the AMBSC sub-committee as its Chairman and Hon Secretary with the job of administering all matters relating to AMBSC. However, all Board members are equally responsible and are unable to use as a defence that they did not know what the other Directors are doing.

It was emphasized that those other Directors have no interest in micro-managing AMBSC; however, they are available, if requested, to assist the sub-committee of AMBSC in controversial matters that may arise from time to time.

The proposition by Diamond Valley Railway Inc that the AMBSC should be separated from AALS has caused a large expenditure in legal fees. The legal advice showed that the proposal was unconstitutional because the fathers of the AALS Constitution had merged the AMBSC with AALS.

The only time that the AALS Board had involved itself with AMBSC was due to the large uninformed outcry about Duplex; since there were no substantiated objections, but only hearsay and innuendo, the Board enlisted the services of a third independent metallurgist to review the Duplex Boiler Code. The result was a positive outcome. It is noteworthy that all technical advice was sourced from outside the hobby, since no-one within the hobby had the required expertise. NSW WorkCover, with only a couple of minor changes, was satisfied with the Duplex submission.

Barry Potter, the Chairman, has increased communication within the AALS Board from AMBSC and also with the boiler inspectors in clubs. Roger stressed that there was a need to stick to clarity and to the facts in any AMBSC matters. If any Boiler Inspector has a question, he should not hesitate to contact the AMBSC or AALS. Acclamation followed.

John Wakefield, AMSRS and MVR's address

John stated that, initially, he had been a detractor in regard to the introduction of Duplex; now that he is better informed and has the details of the practical testing carried out in New Zealand, he fully supports the introduction of the Duplex Boiler Code.

He made the point that a duplex boiler would not be as heavy as an equivalent-sized steel boiler and that this should be allowed for when designing an engine.

John was very impressed with Les Irwin's CV and wished Les all the best as the new AMBSC Secretary-elect. There was spontaneous acclamation.

The meeting

The Chairman called on Les Irwin, Hon Secretary-elect, to assist with the meeting.

1. An attendance list circulated. There were no apologies.
2. That the 2010 Minutes be accepted. Carried.
3. That the Correspondence be accepted. Carried.
4. That the Chairman's Report be accepted. Carried.
5. General Business

(a) Duplex Boilers

- i) Barry Potter explained that NSW WorkCover has granted an exemption from reporting for AMBSC duplex boilers, with the proviso that only AALS members over 18 operate them and testing procedures according to the AMBSC Duplex Code Part 4 are followed.
- ii) Barry also mentioned that an AMBSC boiler inspector may test a non AALS member's boiler but cannot issue a boiler certificate.
- iii) All states except Victoria and Queensland have allowed the Duplex code.
- iv) A vote was taken by the boiler inspectors present with the majority agreeing that the Duplex code should be released with a covering note indicating which states are on board.

(b) Carbon Steel Boilers

- i) The carbon steel boiler code is still in limbo – however, we will be looking into a total update.
- ii) Eric Evans, QSMEE, is in favor of simplifying the Steel code by removing syphon tubes, girder stays and removable inspection doors. The majority of boiler inspectors agreed.
- iii) The problem of steel flue tubes failing before the main boiler shell can, according to Les Irwin, be alleviated by fitting SAF2205 duplex steel flue tubes as the expansion coefficient of duplex is the same as carbon steel.
- iv) Peter Lawson, Evandale, requested that a list of suitable carbon steels be made available to boiler inspectors. It is intended that this matter will be addressed with the revision of the steel code.

(i) Copper Boiler Code

- i) Barry Potter circulated a drawing of a simplified staying method to eliminate cross stays above the fire box crown.
- ii) As there was no major objection, Barry proposed that an outside professional pressure vessel engineer be consulted prior to changes to the Copper code.

(d) Imported Boilers

- i) Barry Potter has had extensive discussions with Maxitrax UK and is now satisfied that these boilers now conform to the AMBSC Copper code and can be certified by AMBSC boiler inspectors.
- ii) Barry Glover, ILS, concurred, indicating he had experience with Maxitrax.

(a) Boiler Inspector's Guide

Barry Potter has produced a Boiler Inspector's Guide (circulated). It was agreed this is a work in progress and he would like input from any boiler inspectors to improve the guide.

(f) Boiler Treatment

- i) After some discussion it became apparent there is a need for more information on boiler treatment.
- ii) Les Irwin has undertaken to source technical information and produce a boiler treatment paper.

(a) Code Alignment

- i) It was proposed that the existing Steel and Copper codes be brought into line with the Duplex Code: this has the blessing of NSW WorkCover, ie, boiler certificates, sample boiler record sheets, boiler inspector qualifications and testing regime.
- ii) Dave Giles, Manakau LS, Auckland, was happy with quadrennial testing of copper and duplex boilers, but suggested a thorough inspection and test after thirteen years followed by tests for steel boilers thenceforth every two years.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.

Les Irwin,
Hon Secretary, AMBSC.