



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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MEETING held at the TULLAMARINE LIVE STEAM SOCIETY on Friday 18th April, 2014, at 7.40 pm.

1. Barry Potter, the Chairman, opened the meeting for business.
2. The Minutes were recorded by Hugh Elsol.
3. APOLOGIES: Greg Loseby, Grandchester; R Vaughn, Evandale; Andrew Matthews, Roseworthy; Jim Auty, Euroa;
An attendance list circulated.
4. 2013 MINUTES: no comments.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: tabled; Report on Duplex circulated at meeting.
6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (circulated): the Chairman, Barry Potter, read this to the meeting and an extra report (attached as an addendum) on the doubts raised about Duplex in Victoria that may have prevented the use of all AMBSC boilers in Victoria.
7. **Information.**

(a) Letters from an individual to Sandvik in Sweden claimed that red hot and white hot boilers ran (600 degrees C indicating a pressure of 3000 psi seems impossible). Having boilers at red heat is almost impossible unless there is no water in the boiler. Note that refractory in Briggs boilers will glow red. Therefore a recall of Boiler books would reveal any problems. Altona did supply its Boiler books – they were OK – returned in one week; boiler repairs at DVR should be in the Boiler Records Book – Altona and DVR had the same boiler inspector at the time. There was a question as to whether a boiler operated at DVR without a ticket – therefore the AMBSC mailed a letter asking for an explanation. The AALS President contacted DVR to obtain its Boiler books. Remember, Boiler books remain the property of the AMBSC.

(b) WorkSafe would believe AMBSC would have investigated such matters.

(c) Contact with Victorian authorities about an exemption for Duplex discovered there had been no exemption for AALS boilers since 1995. There were many months delay in Victorian boilers' exemption with the retirement of the head of the department slowing proceedings. The AALS President and AMBSC Secretary had a meeting with Worksafe Victoria. The Stan Ambrose letter in the Report on

Duplex convinced WorkSafe Victoria to exempt Duplex with other AALS boilers. A couple of alterations were required: information on training of Boiler Inspectors, ie, the training requirement, and a Victorian boiler operators' licence. Will Boiler Inspectors want this Australia-wide?

8. General Business

(1) Barry Glover, Illawarra – believed this (re operators) was a “competency” requirement from the past. B Potter – existence of AMBSC in authorities had been “forgotten” – the training requirement was raised by authorities and now is mandatory in Victoria. Roger Kershaw, Orange – deciding who is competent is a club decision, not just Boiler Inspectors.

(2) Peter Lawson, Evandale – as a Competent Person, do clubs nominate who signs off on boiler operators? Will it be a standard certificate like boiler tickets? Robert Cox – not all clubs have Boiler Inspectors. B Potter – that is difficult to solve.

(3) John Johnston, Wandong – do/will Boiler Inspectors deal with diesels and electricians? Mark Mills, Ballarat – did Worksafe nominate the extent of training? Tullamarine – re training extent – signing off on training is a requirement.

(4) David Mann, Geelong – how is suitability determined? B Potter – that is up to each club – not to be draconian – sensitive difficult situation – needs discussion – the club should be happy it's safe. Robert Cox, Altona – with insurance, club executives are covered for decisions.

(5) B Potter – Duplex is now accepted – item closed – may run at any club if it's an AMBSC boiler. Directly writing to a Sandvik office is not a satisfactory situation, therefore AALS incurred expenses in letters, travels etc – QUITE UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURE. The work for exemptions was for the BENEFIT of the hobby. WorkSafe Victoria and Sandvik did not follow an individual and granted AALS the AMBSC exemption.

(6) Roger Kershaw – had AALS Board involvement for five years – was AALS President at Perth, when Boiler Inspectors decided in 2009 to go ahead with Duplex: it was voted on and approved. Persons opposed, a small group, “serial pests” campaigned against Duplex for reasons given below from five years ago.

- i) Les Irwin – wanted Duplex for profit;
- ii) Les Irwin had Sandvik dupe all that it's safe, so started a disinformation process:
 - a) that B Dickinson, then the technical officer opposed them – no, he opposed Stainless Steel (Duplex is not stainless steel) – in fact he had no point of view.
 - b) the first of three (3) stunts was employed using “Duplex” as a ploy for undermining the AALS and AMBSC. Therefore AALS and AMBSC employed professionals whose comments were that you silver braze copper, but you are worried about Duplex? No scientific facts supported their opposition. Secondly, DVR wrote to all clubs about Duplex. This latest is the third stunt. **Serial pests must desist.**

(7) B Potter – boilers cannot be increased to 100 litres – legally they can only be 50 litres capacity.

(8) AMBSC officials should be nominated from Boiler Inspectors? B Glover – long system – nominations from individual clubs – every club should have a say – no change please. Ross Walker, Campaspe – election of AMBSC Board members must follow the corporations act since AALS is a non-profit company. Robert Cox – the AMBSC is run by Boiler Inspectors.

(9) David Crawford, Gippsland – boilers coming into clubs’ records should include drawings? B Potter – boilers constructed in the pre-drawing requirement won’t have them. Copper – very difficult to follow drawing per se: ie stays’ layout is done with inner and outer shells manufactured – most boilers don’t have drawings – can’t tell if drawings and boilers are the same – the hydro test is the main thing as well as the boiler records.

(10) B Glover – for insurance with the first broker, an amateur builder could only build two (2) boilers per year; though carbon steel required a professionally ticketed welder, the amateur could still cut and prepare the plates; Duplex takes away the aim of the original AMBSC 1968 code to allow anyone to build a boiler – a system with a number and certified boilers. Therefore a person with the necessary qualifications should have professional insurance. He proposed a motion, seconded John Wakefield, Morphett Vale:

MOTION: That the AALS Insurance Officer be instructed to negotiate with our Insurance Broker and Insurers to reinstate the caveat that limited the construction and sale of boilers/pressure vessels by amateur members to 2 per year. The manufacture and testing of the aforementioned Boilers/pressure vessels shall be mutually agreed by the Boiler Inspectors and members involved in the operation.

Discussion.

Ben DeGabriel, Orange – difficult to get insurance for the motion.

John Wakefield – discussion about the way Les Irwin constructs Duplex boilers.

Leon Brack, Central Coast – evidence is required of construction in the boiler’s paper records when a boiler is not constructed in the club, otherwise the constructor is not protected because it is not covered by insurance.

Barry Glover – paperwork procedure, such as plate inspection procedure is required.

Steve Reeves, Northern Districts and Mark Agar, Tullamarine – boiler inspectors want correct paperwork to enter into the Boiler book.

Roger Athey – discussion had been sufficient, so he called for the meeting to “Take the Vote”.

MOTION LOST BY SHOW OF HANDS.

Directors will discuss it.

(11) David Proctor, AALS President – Boiler Inspectors please supply personal addresses. There will be provision on the Affiliation Fee returns.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Barry Potter, Chairman, AMBSC.

Les Irwin, Hon Secretary AMBSC

Postscript: John Wakefield raised the matter of future supply of larger char.