

**MINUTES FOR AMBSC MEETING**  
**Held on Friday 3rd April 2015**  
**At Penfield Model Engineers Society, Edinburgh SA**

Welcome by Ray Hall, President of the host club, the Penfield MES, who then handed over to AMBSC Chairman John Auty.

Meeting Commenced at 7.45 pm

*Minutes taken by Linda Hall (AALS National Secretary) with additional notes by Les Irwin (AMBSC Secretary)*

**Present:** John Auty (Chairman), Les Irwin (Secretary), John Wakefield, Joe Huntley, Barry Glover, Mark Hempel, David Crawford, Leon Brack, Leal Brack, Andrew Davies, David Thomas, Roger Kershaw, Phil Gibbons, Jim Auld, Brian Day, Warren Hall, Peter Lawson, Ian Bowering, Robert Vaughan, David Proctor (AALS President).

**Apologies:** Alf Grigg, Lindsay Brack, Adrian Cox

**Minutes of the 2014 AMBSC Meeting:**

That the minutes of the 2014 AMBSC Meeting be accepted. Moved by John Wakefield (AMRS) Carried  
Seconded Andrew Matthews (Roseworthy RC)

**Correspondence:**

Accepted as tabled Moved by Peter Lawson (NWMES), Seconded by Joe Huntley (LMLSLS) Carried

**Chairman's Report**

Report has been circulated. The Chairman added that the position of AMBSC Chairman becomes vacant at the AALS Meeting tomorrow night, where a Chairman will be elected for the next three years. Normally, if there is only one nomination the boiler inspectors are given the opportunity to endorse or reject that nomination. On this occasion there are two nominations, John Auty and Barry Glover which means a vote by the AALS member clubs.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Chairman decided not to implement the normal practice of placing all boiler inspectors at the front with a demarcation between them and the observers, due to the limited space. He also added that with no objection being raised, all matters on the agenda would be for discussion only, with no voting taking place.

**1. Boiler Record Books - Methods of copying (the original books remain the property of the AMBSC)**

Discussion took place regarding a computer record on spreadsheets in case boiler books are destroyed. Some points raised: Offer by Robert Cox to have all Clubs' boiler registration information on one system; AMBSC maintain a data base of boilers; Each club keeps a second copy of their boiler records; Concerns were raised about revealing personal/confidential information.

**2. AMBSC Boiler Certificates (and Boiler Operators Certificates if approved by the AALS)**

Issue cards free of charge. Boiler Code Books issued to all Boiler Inspectors free of charge and one copy to each club free of charge. Certificates issued free of charge and with future printings there will be no numbers on boiler tickets. Numbering the cards doubles the printing cost for no benefit as they are all unique because of the boiler number. We still have around 4,000 Boiler Tickets in stock.

**3. Water gauge glasses**

Some suppliers providing glasses which do not meet AMBSC specifications of 3mm minimum passage.

DNC supplies glasses meet the AMBSC requirements, as do those from Wayne Roberts. Kelly Maybury from Winters advises which glasses in his range meet the AMBSC requirements. Every four years glass should be tested and replaced as the glass wears thin and becomes brittle.

**4. Boiler Operator Certificates**

General discussion, letter sent to all boiler inspectors by Les Irwin. Note: the final decision on this matter rests with the AALS, but a resolution from this meeting will be crucial to that decision.

Discussion on this topic touched on several issues:

Exemptions and the requirements therein; AALS Constitution regarding AMBSC Boilers; Training System by Training Officer; AMBSC circular to Boiler Inspectors re Operators Certificate; Club responsibility; Trial AALS Membership cards and on the back have licenses/certificates; Must be a National System; Safety Committee role – steam/non steam.

AALS President said meeting getting nowhere and asked for a show of interest by a show of hands. Result was 6 to 1 against. He advised that the postal voting system came up 3 to 1 against and that it was clear Boiler Inspectors did not want the Operator's Competency Certificate. He then read Code of Practice, Operations of Miniature Railways, Section 5.4 Competency, which covers word for word what this whole debate has been about, except that it would be controlled by the AALS and not the AMBSC.

Recommendation is that we ask the Clubs to comply with the Code of Practice.

### **5. Discussion on Liquid Fuels.**

Les discussed a blow lamp principle and experimenting to find a suitable liquid fuel system. Further work needed. Discussion then moved on to solid fuels - Bunnings sell 10 kg bags of char for \$9.00. Compressed in small blocks. Members are to investigate. Not the BBQ heat beads. Brendan Cooper is annoyed by individual members continuing to phone him. John Wakefield suggested all clubs contribute financially to a bigger size retort for Cooper Minerals. David Proctor to follow up.

### **6. The Gas Firing Code**

A review is already being conducted by the ALSSC.

### **7. Autonomy of the AMBSC.**

Discussion led by Les Irwin regarding current Committee relationship between AMBSC and AALS. Note: any changes to the current arrangement can only be made by the member clubs of the AALS and such decision carried can not come into effect until after the 2016 AGM at the earliest as it would entail the adoption of substantial amendments to the AALS Constitution and Standing Orders.

Les Irwin explained about Worksafe in relationship to the AMBSC; Exemptions for Victoria and WA; High Risk Work Licences

AMBSC is a Committee of the AALS, it is NOT a sub-committee. Ross Walker explained that AMBSC was joined into the AALS in 1997 at the Cobden Convention. In 2007 AALS was Incorporated with two Standing Technical Committees, the AMBSC and the ALSSC.

Treasurer (Ben De Gabriel) asked the question (food for thought) on how an independent AMBSC proposed to fund itself. \$3,000 is required for Technical and Filing Fees alone.

Technical Design – who has final say? AALS is ultimately responsible and is elected by the Members not by the Boiler Inspectors, who are also appointed by the members. As there can be no change and there is no desire for change the discussion ceased.

### **8. General Question Time.**

John Wakefield requested that Boiler Inspectors impress on steel boiler operators that they be more particular in maintaining steel boilers. Tandex will supply on request 3 test bottles and will formulate a boiler treatment for your particular boiler and water supply. Alternatively, at least use a treatment such as Tandex Tanblend. Do not use steel boiler treatments with Copper or Duplex boilers as it defeat the self protecting properties of the material. It is highly recommended that a flocculent such as Tandex Polyflock be used with these boilers.

Andrew Matthews spoke on storage of steel boilers in that boilers are only in steam for approximately 5% of the time and should be stored in a dry state. Leave all valves open to breath and make gauze covers to stop foreign bodies from getting in.

Meeting closed at 9.23 pm