

MAID MARIAN LOCOMOTIVE FUND

PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2025

2025 AGM:

The AGM was held in the Far Caravan at Llanuwchllyn Station, which was just about large enough to accommodate the 14 subscribers who were able to attend. The Meeting was the first of the new timing during the Summer season and two points of general interest were aired. The first was raised by the Secretary who announced to the Meeting that as from the 2027 AGM he would be standing down from his current role and that he was giving the Fund two years' notice so that there could be an orderly transfer of responsibilities to his successor. He had been on the Committee of the Fund in one role or another ever since its inception in 1965 and felt that it was time that another person should become involved. One subscriber indicated an interest in taking over and it was agreed that the Secretary would produce a "Hand Book" on the role of the Secretary and that he would continue to support the handing-over process. The second point of interest was from the Treasurer who indicated that he would be looking into the acquisition of a card reader at an appropriate time when the initial cost had dropped from its level at the time of the AGM. Experience from running the stall over a number of years had indicated that many possible transactions had been lost because the Fund was not able to accept payment by card and many visitors did not carry sufficient cash to acquire even relatively small items.

NEWS OF THE LOCO:

Maid Marian has been running successfully since the winter overhaul although there have been some incidents with failing springs with the result that Maid Marian has had to be towed back on more than one occasion. The 10-year ticket will be running out over the coming winter, when further improvements will be made, including the fitting of a new stainless steel firebox that the Fund had ordered some while ago.

FUND-RAISING REPORT:

Your Secretary and your Fund-raising Officer attended the Stall at the AGM, at the August Bank Holiday Gala and the Bala Model Railway Show. Following the announcement at the AGM to acquire a card-reader this was subsequently obtained and was successfully used during the Gala and the MRS; transactions were noticeably improved as a result. The change of timing for the AGM has meant that the timing of the four stalls was more evenly spread across the year, with a subsequent reduction in stress. The presence of other subscribers on the stall was also most welcome, to enable the stalwarts to enjoy the activities that were available. New items that were available on the stall included a Dapol key ring in the shape of a reproduction of an MM works plate, MM fridge magnets, and a selection of Gomm's locomotive badges as well as a range of narrow gauge books. The Fund is now able to offer a new line in bilingual Christmas cards, two black-and-white snowy scenes from the Dinorwig Quarry at the cost of £3.50 per pack of 6 cards (3 each of the two cards). Although it is late in the season, the 2026 calendar is being offered at the usual £10 per calendar including P & P, all transactions this year being through the post. The calendar depicts a variety of archive scenes from in and around the Quarry, both in colour and black and white, and will be published by the same commercial printer used by the Bala Lake Railway Society in its own calendar. The lay-out will be a little different as a result as some modifications made to suit the printer's requirements. Orders for the calendar and Christmas cards should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at 139 Stoops Lane, DONCASTER, DN4 7RG and should be accompanied by an appropriate cheque made out to the Maid Marian Locomotive Fund (in full as the Bank will not accept initials).

Hugh Jones

Honorary Secretary