



Hornby Live Steam History

In 1966 inventor Richard Hallam began building an OO scale loco where electricity from the track boiled the water, superheated the steam that fed to 2 double acting cylinders, powering the pistons, driving the rods, turning the wheels. It was sped up and slowed down by remote control. He patented the system in 1990



and licensed it to Hornby in 2002 who launched a Mallard train set in September 2003 followed by



four more A4s and three A3s including Flying Scotsman.

Sales boomed at first but live steam just didn't catch on. There are different views why but by 2008 the falling exchange rate took the cost beyond what the market would bear. Production ended with around 14,000 having been made, mostly Mallard sets.

The pleasure of Hornby Live Steam is actually driving, tuning and maintaining something that proved to be uncannily close in operation to the original.

Hornby had created a masterpiece that most buyers never appreciated. Thousands of models are dormant in virtually new condition so there is a huge opportunity to find them, enjoy them, learn, improve them and build more.

THE MODEL MALLARD SPEED CHALLENGE

The OO Live Steam Club wants to see Hornby's dormant model engineering masterpieces back in use and enjoyed.

Young and would-be engineers would love and learn from examining model workings, measuring their outputs, comparing the real thing and coming up with practical and imaginative improvements.

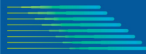
Seeing how fast the models can go is the fun part.

We invite as partners any organisation that shares the ethos of engineering excellence and innovation, engaging young people in engineering, enjoying model railways and taking pride in an important part of British railway history.

All our partners will be promoting the Model Mallard Speed Challenge, donating prizes and sharing in the publicity.

New partners are invited. Visit www.OOLiveSteam.com

Partners



HIGH
SPEED
RAIL

The National College



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The Club formed in 2011 as the brand was discontinued with the aim to become self sufficient should Hornby's then legendary after-sales service cease. It is free to join, has a big spares and information service and makes a new "Live Drive" controller that improves on Hornby's.

The Roadshow is the thrust for engagement where visitor's 'have-a-go', have fun and see how easy they are to control. There's a big website too.



The committee of mainly professionals, senior managers and business owners (some retired) includes the inventor Richard Hallam and aims to see OOLS revived with new build. A step in that direction is to get dormant locos into joyful use.

The Club is an independent community and is not run by or affiliated with Hornby Hobbies Ltd.