Andrew Brain said that because there had been so much change in the way spares are obtained, due to the internet, RMC Spares has now become, both in able to give next day service and being able to make a profit, a burden on the Spares finances. He suggested we should consider carefully the future with the view to closing down our spares business.

There followed a big discussion as to whether we should or should not cease trading. Rob commented that our problem is poor sales, not excessive stock and we should try to increase sales by promotions. Malcolm referred to the competition from other sellers and suggested that in lieu of the Club running a spares operation, we should be able to collate a list of the best spares suppliers and specialists and promote them in future Records. Chris Neal recommended making the discounted offer prices more clear and prominent. Chris Dowler thought that buyers of our spares en bloc may not find their provenance convincing and reliable and we should concentrate on selling them ourselves.

David Whittle stated that the loan the Club gave the Spares company years ago, could only be repaid if all the stock could be sold at a sufficient price to cover it. At this point in time he could not see us being able to sell the stock for such a price and as time went our losses would continue to rise and the stock would evermore become less valuable. He suggested that we should sell off the BMC stock to the trade and the RM stock hopefully to the RM Club and close the operation down by the end of 2026., At least that way we should cut our losses and prevent them from escalating further.

The general mood as a result of the discussion, was that the matter should urgently be considered by the Committee and the way forward agreed.

The formal meeting was then closed.

Members' Open Forum

There were suggestions; that Local Centres should back up the Committee and Officers' efforts, and, of the continuing need for younger members to be encouraged to become involved.

The Chairman brought the meetings to a close at 5.45 PM