

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

HARROGATE MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION 13 - 15 MAY 2011

Once again your society will have a club stand at this exhibition, What is needed is your models to be displayed on this stand. More members models are needed this year since the late John Cogdon's models will be greatly missed. Any type of model finished or not is urgently needed, unfinished models often attract the most attention since they often show the inner workings. The stand will be set up on Thursday 12th May between 10am and 2pm. Remember that when all the models are delivered by 2pm, Joan and Albert can leave about 5pm and have their tea by about 7pm. Your co operation is required. Members who need help with transporting their models should make their needs known. Details of models to be displayed on the stand, and their value, must be made known to Albert Stephenson before 27th March, there is a list in the Roker Park clubhouse or you can phone me, remember the dates **27th MARCH - 12th MAY and 13th to 15th MAY 2011**

Members Models on display at Harrogate will be judged by Committee Members for the awarding of the various Cups and Trophies.

OPEN DAYS 2011

This yeas open days have been set for

SUNDAY 19th JUNE and SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

Commencing at 10am each day, which means everything must be ready before 10am

Joan is unfortunately unable to help with the buffet thanks Joan for all your solo efforts over the past years, but Lynne Dunn, Sheila Hough and Audrey Teasdale will be doing the catering on these dates, so you won't be hungry. Thanks Ladies for taking on this task

Members models will also be needed for the display in the Gazebo and also on the loco tracks and Park Lake and Park Pathways. Members locos do not have to pull passengers Members presence is also required for the various duties to make a successful open day and to eat up the food.

NEW YEARS DAY RUN

We managed to run a club electric loco to first wheel the track. Due to the very frosty weather the Park' Public Toilets froze and burst various pipes, this necessitated water supplies being turned off until repairs could be completed. This included the water supply to our large track, so no steamers. We managed to get the water on by 1st March. In the present financial climate repairs to the Park being very low on the list, and would not be attempted till the weather improved.

Ron Haswell and John Barnes took turns to drive a loco in the freezing weather whilst I manned the gate. Our efforts were much appreciated by our passengers who showed their appreciation with generous donations. We did miss the warming cup of tea though, but appreciated our car heaters on our journeys home. We enjoyed the company of the members who turned up, and collected their subscriptions.

TRACK NEWS

John Barnes has constructed a 5 inch gauge 0-6-0 electric powered loco for the small loco track. The motor is only 100W, at present it is belt driven, but is being changed to chain drive. This battery powered loco is designed to run around the small track at a very low speed without a driver or passengers. It is meant to, and it does attract the members of the public who pass the track. They all stop and watch this loco running free around the track. Micro switches are fitted to the front buffers and to bar running across the cab roof. Touch them and the loco stops instantly.

The idea stems from using the small track more frequently, and showing the public that this track is

being used. Fortunately some members are using this track more frequently. We should never forget what has been said in the past 'USE IT OR LOSE IT' and its not so long ago that some bright spark though this area would make a nice exotic plants garden. Fortunately a very angry meeting changed his mind. This time last year we had the track stolen and rebuilt it, with same gauges of 2 ½ inch, 3 ½ inch and 5 inch. We are unique in have a 2 ½ inch gauge track, and have 2 members building 2 ½ inch locos.

John Barnes has also recently been steaming his 3 ½ inch gauge VIRGINIA LOCO, allowing Junior and other members to drive this excellent loco. It speaks well for the loco when all the new to steam drivers experienced no difficulties whilst lapping the track.

On Tuesday 1st March Paul Stephenson carried out the necessary repairs to the 5 inch gauge club loco, ROYAL AIR FORCE, a rebuild LMS Royal Scot and steamed it up, test drove it around the track, initially by walking alongside it for a lap before coupling up to a passenger bogey. I spend a very pleasant hour on the track before leaving for a late tea.

On Saturday 5th March he returned and pulled passenger for the afternoon without any difficulties. Its appeal to its passengers meant a very late finish, which unfortunately left no time to properly clean the wheels etc. But since he had spent one day repairing the loco and another driving we will forgive him this time. Thanks Paul for all the work you have put into this loco on behalf of the society, your hard work and expertise is very much appreciated.

ROLLER SHUTTERS

We had planned to fit roller blinds to the clubhouse windows and also the door. But unfortunately our clubhouse is in a 'conservation area'. It is the opinion of the conservationists that roller shutters would make our beautiful clubhouse look ugly. Our beautiful clubhouse is an attraction to the Park.

The fact that we have to look out of our clubhouse windows at the roller shutters on the bowling green pavilion does not matter. Not to worry you cannot please everybody so we will make hinged shutters. At least they will cost a lot less than roller shutters, and all we want is to remove the back breaking effort of lifting the present shutters. They seem to get heavier as we get older.

John Barnes has taken on the task of building frames with 1 inch RHS and covering them with sheet steel, each window will be in 4 sections hinged to open flat against the clubhouse wall, the hinges being hidden. How the shutters are opened will be shown to those who wish to open the windows. We should be able have natural light inside our clubhouse when we want it without having relying on the presence of young muscular members. Yes I too was able to lift the shutters 20 years ago, but not now.

COST OF POSTAGE

Could members supply the secretary with their Email addresses, this will enable newsletters to be sent by Email and thus reduce the costs of postage and printing. We pay for our internet connection so why not make the best use of it. Other societies and associations are all turning to electronic mail.

TREASURER

Morri Bergson is having great difficulty in getting about, even getting into some cars is difficult without assistance. Reluctantly Morri feels he must give up the duties of treasurer. I have been helping Morri with collecting Subs and Banking them, sorting insurance details and preparing financial reports. The Banks don't help, after struggling down to the bank to change money from one account to another, A task he has performed solo on many occasions, he was told that 2 signatures were now required and he could not transfer cash between accounts.

Little Tip - To prevent heat from the smoke box discolouring a bronze name plate and paint make an air space between the name plate and smoke box with a nut or washers

The 5 inch gauge rail being laid on the small track last year and the first locos on the finished track. Would have liked to have more photos to record the laying of the new track, but I often forget my camera when I am busy working on the track.

