

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

TREASURER

We now have a new Treasurer BRYAN TUDDENHAM  
STONECROFT  
120 TUNSTALL ROAD  
TUNSTALL  
SUNDERLAND  
SR2 9BD

Subscriptions are due 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, £17 for full members  
£12 members over 65  
£6 junior members

Morri Bergson the retiring treasurer decided to relinquish the post because he was having difficulty walking to the bank, and he felt he was imposing on others goodwill in assisting him in his duties. As he says his legs don't seem to go where he wants them to go. Morri had been our treasurer since 1998. During his time as treasurer the societies bank account as improved to a very healthy financial position. I can remember when he first became treasurer how the catering had to buy the coal, that year, for the steam locos. Thanks Morri, we all appreciate what you have done for our society for many years. Even now you still man the gate and control the passenger's entry onto the loco track. The committee exercised its rights in electing Bryan Tuddenham as treasurer to replace Morri till the next AGM, to be held in May 2012, when the treasurer's office comes up for election along with all the committee members and other officers. Morri will continue as a committee member.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Just as the Chairman and Secretary took their places to start the meeting, an electric powder fire extinguisher was accidentally set off. The members quickly evacuated the building into the fresh air, leaving everything behind in the dust cloud. It was unanimously agreed that we abandon the meeting. Bryan Tuddenham set of home to collect an industrial vacuum cleaner, and on his return used this to remove the settled dust and he then mopped the floors and washed down the walls and furniture to make our clubhouse inhabitable again. Thanks Bryan for your efforts in restoring our clubhouse to a safe environment for our members to enter. It was greatly appreciated that whilst we were dusting ourselves down and getting our breath back, you decided what action was needed and personally cleaned up the clubhouse. May I extend the thanks of all our members, to you Bryan for your thoughtful and considerate action for the wellbeing of those members present.

OPEN DAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

Unfortunately I was unable to attend; a foot injury prevented me from walking for a few days. I have been told that all went well, the weather was dry with no rain to interrupt the proceedings, but very windy. This appears to have affected the numbers of the public in the park on that day. It was reported that 5 steam locos on the small track could not raise steam; it was thought that the windy conditions may have contributed to this failure.

The Gazebo was full of models, locos, boats, and stationary engines many running on compressed air. The donations for passenger hauling was good with plenty of rides being given to the public. Again our track showing how popular it is with the public.

IMPROVEMENTS

When the park lodge was broken into recently it made us look into our security, especially since we

noticed marks on the 'garage' roller door. Bryan Tuddenham came up with what I think is a brilliant idea. Construct a wood partition, with double glazed windows and a 3ft wide door which opens outwards, just inside the roller door. This double barrier, roller door and partition, could possibly make the garage more secure. Also since the garage door, at present, can only be closed from the outside. Which makes this 'garage' workshop a cold and draughty place to work in during the cold winter months. This partition could be closed from the inside making the working area warm and snug as well as keeping any activities free from the public's gaze. It could also vastly increase the area for member's warm dry usage throughout the year

The clubhouse door is also to be strengthened. The new hinged shutters on the clubhouse windows are opened whenever the clubhouse is used and what a difference it makes. It improves the look of the clubhouse, members can look out into the park and watch the activities on the small loco track, and enjoy any sunlight, and with such little physical effort. Thanks again to John Barnes and Bryan Tuddenham.

### TRACK NEWS

The passenger hauling season is drawing to a close with the darkness closing in early and also the cold. But as usual, if we get a nice day, some brave souls will get locos out and brave the cold and run their locos on both tracks and may even give rides to the public.

New Years Day is the next planned running day on the tracks, weather permitting. This is a club tradition, some member's just turn up to pay their subs and have a natter.

A 2 ½ inch steam loco, a 2 - 6 - 0 'DYACK' ran on the small track on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This is the first 2 ½ inch gauge loco to run on this track since it was rebuilt. This loco ran without any trouble proving that the track is OK. 5 inch, 3 ½ inch, and 2 ½ inch gauge locos have all run on this track without difficulty, which speaks well for the track laying abilities of its re-builders. Another job well done and now fully tried and tested, it was worth all the effort, especially in retaining the 2 ½ inch G; John Barnes regularly runs his unmanned 5 inch gauge electric loco on the bottom track hauling 2 passenger coaches with a guard on the rear observation platform. It always attracts spectators of all ages, especially young children who stand for ages resisting their parents urging them to move on.

### NEW MEMBER

Alex Wilson joined our society in October, Alex main interest is in traction engines, and we wait to welcome Alex with his traction engine running around Roker Park pathways very soon.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY CASTINGS OR UNFINISHED MODELS

Bryan Tuddenham has recently acquired some castings of various stationary engines which he has given to other members for them to complete.

Do you have any old castings or uncompleted models, would you consider offering them to other members for them to finish off.

If you do, let me know the details,

It has been interesting to observe the drawings being produced and passed on along with these castings to members willing to complete a model.

I know of one loco which has been finished and can now be seen on our tracks and another under construction, all from models started but not finished for various reasons

Remember you join a club, to receive or give assistance to others, whether it be knowledge, practical or material. Let me know what you can give, it may be just the incentive some member needs.