

THE CITY OF SUNDRLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

It is with great regret that I must inform you of the death of Stan Wilson on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Stan was our long serving Secretary for 21 years from 1972 to 1993.

Morri Bergson our Treasurer has suffered a Stroke on his left side. He is at present recuperating in a rest home having regained much of the movement in his arms and legs. Fortunately his mental capacity was not impaired and he is still his usual quick witted self. He should be returning home in the near future. We all wish him a speedy full recovery.

Before Morri was taken ill, he asked the committee if it could settle the subscription amounts early enough for our members to be informed in November each year. This was readily agreed. I am happy to inform you that it was decided there would be no increase in our Subscriptions for 2009.

These will remain at       £17 for Full Members  
                                      £12 for Members over 65 years of age  
                                      £6 for Junior Members

These will be due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009

Until Morri is fully recovered our Chairman, Colin Hough and our Secretary Albert Stephenson will jointly take over the duties of Treasurer.

OPEN DAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008

The weather was sunny this time and we had quite an active time in the Park. The Loco Track was busy with passengers from 10 am till Tea Time, Ron Haswell, Brian Ribton, Stan Fisher, N Maw Jim Humberston and Paul Stephenson brought their Locomotives and with the 5" G club steam loco they kept the track running all day. The driving was shared with other members, namely Peter Russell, Dawn Slater, Stephen Dunn, Colin Hough, Gareth Towe. The weather was fine during the running period but some members had to clean and remove their locos in a rain shower.

Unfortunately the Park Lake had a weed problem, it was clear of weed up to the Thursday before our open day, but on the day the weed covered a large part of the Lake. Could it have been the excessive amount of rain on the Friday and Saturday or had a fault developed in the ultrasonic equipment which usually keeps the Lake free of weed, the Lake, however was clear of weed on the following Sunday. The Gazebo was filled with members static models, Stationary Engines, Model Boats etc. John Cogdon, Eric Collins and Ron Wadsworth stewarding the display.

Ken Buckingham and his wife Gwen brought their Oldsmobile Steam Car and entertained the Public both in the Park and the Roads adjacent to the Park. Ken and Gwen being dressed in period costume certainly raised some eyebrows especially with Ken changing his Strawboater to an elegant Top Hat. Ron Evans had his 2 inch Traction Engine and trailer circulating around the Park pathways, quite a change for Ron to be driving in sunshine. Jim Jewitt had his 3" scale Steam Lorry which with its steam Siren certainly attracted some attention the sound vibrated throughout the Park.

The Traction Engine Display was completed by Martin and Arthur Young who drove their full size Traction Engine from their home 11 miles away. Incidentally this Traction Engine was built by Martin and Arthur in their home workshop. When it arrived and was parked in Side Cliff Road it was immediately surrounded by modellers and members of the Public, and every car passing by the Park stopped for a better view. It attracted the same amount of attention when it moved into the Park to a position in front of the gazebo.

Once again Joan Stephenson provided an excellent buffet which was enjoyed by all. Once again Joan's

culinary efforts was unsurpassable. Thanks Joan. Thanks also to Sheila Hough, Lynne Dunn and Audrey Teasdale for all their Stirling Efforts in serving our members and guests both in the Pavilion and at the track side. No one went thirsty or hungry throughout the day. They made innumerable hot drinks, served the food and also washed the pots, their collective efforts was greatly appreciated by all who attended. Thank You Ladies for a job well done, and always with a smile.

#### ASCOT EXHIBITION 19-21 SEPTEMBER 2008

Once again we had a club stand at this event. This year we had 21 models on display, which include a Traction Engine (Minnie), 2 3 ½" G Steam Locos - Princess Marina and Virginia, 10 Stationary Engines

2 Gas Engines and 6 Aero Engines. Loaned by John Cogdon, David Bramwell, Brian Aston and Paul Stephenson, stewarded by Joan and Albert Stephenson. We were limited to the number and size of models by what would fit safely into my car, my thanks to those members who offered models which were to large or heavy and for agreeing to the final selection and rejection with good grace.

The many appreciative comments about our Stand, the excellent workmanship of our members models and the thanks for us allowing them to view these models made all our efforts worthwhile.

Joan and I like our creature comforts so we placed our caravan on the nearest Caravan Club Site at Denham. It meant motoring 21 miles each daily on busy roads easily done when you are appreciated. The 2 ½ kilometres of 5" G ground level track was quite a sight, pity our cars capacity made it impossible to take a 5" G loco to actually enjoy a drive of such a distance and test one of our locos capabilities.

At our 4<sup>th</sup> October General meeting I was able to show what I had recorded ,on my video camera tape, of our club stand at Ascot and also some of the activities on the 2 ½ kilometres ground level track. A new member, Alan Towers, had sent me a disc of our Roker Park Track activities which he had recorded on the Saturday of the Sunderland Air Show held in July, this was also shown to an appreciative audience. This showed how busy the track was and the number of locos, also how our track was fog free and sunny whilst the sea front. two hundred yards away was covered by a pea super fog Which unfortunately caused the Air Show to be cancelled.

On Friday morning 17<sup>th</sup> October, Joan Stephenson, Ron Haswell and Brian Ribton brought their electric locos to the track and gave rides to a group of local school children. These children, 60 in total, were engaged in planting bulbs, flowering type not electric, in Roker Park. Part of the Local Education Authority and Roker Parks Officials attempt to encourage local children to take a more active and responsible attitude to their local Park.

Not only did the children and their Teachers enjoy their rides, but it gave us a chance to show off our recently update Risk Assessment documents.

To improve safety in our workshop, it decided to move the positions of the 12v batteries and their battery chargers. Three extra shelves were fitted onto the wall just inside the workshop. Bottom shelf for the actual batteries, and the shelf above it for each battery's individual charger. The top shelf for Distilled water, first aid box and small tools. An electric fan was fitted above the batteries to discharge battery gasses outside the workshop.

The paper towels previously used when washing hands was creating a nuisance, everyone placed their used towel in the waste receptacle, but, who emptied this receptacle, everyone seemed to dodge this task. .An electric hand dryer, with its own separate isolating switch, has been fitted. Problem solved