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NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

Sorry for the delay in producing a newsletter, but with Joan's spinal problems I have been a little over worked in other areas, I kept up with all my secretaries' duties but the newsletter had to be neglected for more important tasks that required my constant attention.

Sadly I have to inform you that John Cogdon died 16th November 2010 aged 79, John had been an active member since 1987. John made 3 model locos, a Sentinal, Lion and a Rob Roy, but his main interest was in Stationary Engines and Hot Air Engines. All of John's models were to exhibition standards and quite a few were featured on the front pages of the Model Engineer over the years, and also an article was printed about John, his workshop and his models. For many years John's models have been a centre of attraction on our club stand at various National Model Engineering Exhibitions and have always been photographed and greatly admired by a vast number of admirers. Has a steward on our club stand I have always been proud and honoured to have answered the many questions about John's models.

I always felt honoured that John permitted me to connect his precious models to an air compressor to display how these models worked

When our small loco track was stolen, John was one of the workers who helped to rebuild it; no fuss just turned up with his tool box and got on with the job.

John was a true friend, always a Gentleman, always willing to help with his vast knowledge and expertise; he will be sadly missed and always remembered.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2011

These are due 1st January 2011 and they remain the same as last year

FULL MEMBERS £17 MEMBERS OVER 65 £12 JUNIOR MEMBERS £6

Joan was unable to provide the buffet on the September Open Day and fortunately for us Lynn Dunn, Audrey Teasdale and Sheila Hough took over the catering and provided us with an excellent buffet. Joan has recently been able to provide hot drinks on Saturday afternoons but cannot stand at her cooker, so she will not be able to prepare any food for future open day buffets. Thanks Joan for all your efforts over the past years. The buffets which you provided were appreciated by members and visitors alike and the food you provided was renowned for its excellence.

What has been happening over the last 6 months, well we had a successful September open day with the sun shining all day. Plenty of locos on both tracks with steam only on the small track and members having their first drive of a steam loco, never a dull moment on that day, Plenty of models on display in the Gazebo, passengers a plenty on the large track with their welcome donations, One new loco for its first steaming was Stan Fisher's 3 1/2" gauge Tich with slips eccentrics.

Saturday and Sunday afternoons being devoted to passenger hauling on the large track, whilst the small Has seen plenty of activity with steam locos showing their paces and also members gaining driving and firing experience. By pass valves and injectors steam and water valves now becoming common words and how and when to use them becoming second nature.

The Wood Shutters covering the clubhouse windows are to be replaced with roller shutters, and the clubhouse door will also have a roller shutter.

Those members who have actually lifted these wood shutters up and down will know how heavy they are and with our advancing ages how more difficult their manual operations is becoming. Also it is our duty to protect our members from back injuries.

The Roof Guttering is causing a difficulty to fitting the roller boxes and will require the shutters to be moved out 7 to 8 inches to clear this gutter.

We have asked local firms to quote on the cost of fitting roller shutters and how they would overcome the gutter problem. So far we have had one reply.

Electrically operated shutters seem to be the best option, the final decision will depend on members accessibility and the best security arrangement, the present chub lock is not an acceptable option to the shutter manufacturers so far consulted.

We intend to ask for funding from the local community chest fund and must wait for their answers, which will depend on what dates these officials hold their meetings. Will there be any money in the community chest in the present climate of cost cutting, or will we have to find our own cash. What ever happens we still need to have Roller Shutters, members health and safety are paramount.

How members will gain access to the clubhouse when these shutters are fitted will not be published in any of our news letters, for security reasons. Remember our newsletters are on the internet, open for any one to read.

Instruction sessions have started on lathe work, but the recent bad weather has made it difficult for members to attend at Roker Park. Information on when these sessions restart will depend on an improvement in the weather. The lathe trainees will, for their practical work, be making tailstock die holders for the club and their own workshops.

More talks on machine tool practices have been requested and also on Loco construction, both Steam and Electric. New acetates are being produced to help with any future talks on these subjects. We should put my overhead projector to more usage, so its available should any member need it for their talk.

New Years Day Run on the Roker Park Tracks will depend on weather conditions. Let's hope it's not like this year, yes it was this year 1st January 2010, when it was snowed off.

If it's on, and I hope it is, members should meet at the track about noon, with their locos if possible. Hot drinks will be available. I hope we can First Wheel the tracks and keep up a club tradition.

If you don't have a loco why not turn up and meet your fellow members and possibly pay your subs. Both Tracks need first Footing or Wheeling, is could be possible if enough members attend. So why not make an effort, the fresh air will be most beneficial to ones health.

John Barnes tried his new 3 ½" G 'VIRGINIA' on the small track checking the springing, which needed some adjustment. He removed its boiler and lagging for its hydraulic test, which it passed with no problems. But for the recent poor weather conditions it would have been given its steam test. John did bring it to the track one Saturday afternoon but the heavy rain that day made the club house more attractive. Members did view the loco inside the car boot, which has wetted their appetites to see it perform on the track. Pity we don't run at night, then we would be able to see the loco's head light performing at its best.

*Wishing You a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Prosperous New Year*