

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

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AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

NEXT OPEN DAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 - COMMENCING 10am

PRESENTATION of a £1000 CHEQUE TO MACMILLAN NURSES at 2 pm

Volunteers are required to erect the Gazebos in which to display our Members Models and for the Steaming bays. These should be erected and filled with models before the 10am start. Last September Joan and I transported 21 models, belonging to members, to the Ascot Model Engineering Exhibition. On this Open Day Members could easily treble this number with just a little personal effort. All that is needed is for you to bring your models to Roker Park and set them up in the Gazebos or on a Steaming Bay. The Local Press will be in attendance with a Photographer, arranged by our Chairman Colin Hough. Members Models whether finished or still under construction are required to make this Open Day a one to remember, so make us proud and rally round.

The Park pathways need our members Road Vehicles to be in steam either stationary at a viewing point or being driven around the Park Pathways, your attendance is urgently required.

The Park lake is ready for your boats as will be the gazebos, do not disappoint our public.

Both of our Loco Tracks need plenty of locos to grace their rails, lets make an effort to fill the steaming bays the more the merrier

The Press and the Public have been invited, will you make an effort not to disappoint them.

Joan always makes an effort to support our open days with her excellent buffet. This year there will be Chicken, Ham and Pork Sandwiches, Pease Pudding and Sage and Onion Stuffing and Sausage Rolls along with her delicious cakes with plenty of hot drinks to wash them down with. We need plenty of mouths to eat them, the kettles are on before 10am.

At 2pm there will be a formal presentation of a cheque for £1000 to representative of Macmillan Nurses to be made in the presence of our members and the public whose donations made this possible.

AIR DAYS 25/26 JULY 2009

Once again we supported this event by running our loco track from 10am on both days.

The Saturday was very sunny and attracted an immense crowd, which resulted in a large number of passengers for our locos to haul. 4 trains were in constant use throughout the day with steam and electric locos supplying the motive power. Plenty of volunteer drivers turned up to help along with the necessary station staff

Sunday morning started of promisingly, but as soon as Joan put her loco on the track, incidentally the first of many, it started to rain. So as at the cricket matches out came the covers for the locos and umbrellas for the staff. Fortunately for us the rain stopped about 11am and stopped away for the remainder of the day.

5 trains were in constant use on the track again with steam and elect locos along with plenty of volunteer drivers. Again there was no shortage of passengers and the donations kept dropping into our donation box. Some donations being made from non passengers, who just wanted to support our cause 'OUR CAUSE' we had decided that the donations for rides on our trains during these 2 days would be given to the MACMILLAN NURSES APPEAL.

The donations amounted to £605 from the public over the 2 days along with members donations of Thank you Joan Stephenson, Bryan Tuddenham and David Baxendale for your donations.

At the next committee meeting it was agreed that the donation to Macmillan Nurses should be £1000 and that a presentation of this cheque for £1000 should be arranged for our September Open Day and

that the presentation should be viewed by our members and the public.

### TRACK NEWS

The White lines on the ground through the station area are to be repainted. These lines are to mark the space on each side of the track which must be kept clear of all obstructions when the track is in use. For safety in the station area only one seat may be placed next to the entrance gate, and this is for the Gate Keeper's Use Only. All other seats, there are now 6 plastic seats for members usage, must be placed in a safe area inside the track near the station.

**Members MUST NOT STAND INSIDE THE ENTRANCED GATE, ONLY THE GATE KEEPER SHOULD BE IN THIS AREA**

The Station Area is controlled by the STATION MASTER and crossing of the track is with his permission only. The TRAVERSER is operated by the Station Master or with his permission.

A STOP LINE, painted on the ground prior to the traverser is there to indicate to the 'leading' driver were the front of the loco should stop. This is to ensure that all the following drivers will be able to stop their train within the concreted station area. Passengers should only dismount onto this concreted area, never allow passengers to dismount in the cutting on the approach to the station.

Your co operation in keeping our track safe, for members and public, is appreciated.

Thanks to the efforts of Ron Haswell the tree stump adjacent to the coal bunker is now topped with a table top. This can be used for tea making at the track side or as a writing desk if required. A Plastic Cover is in place to protect it from rain or bird droppings etc.

Thanks to the efforts of Roy Lambeth a video of Stephen Dixon driving his 5 inch gauge 0-4-0T loco on our Roker Park can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDemSQAP5vs> and also a video of Robin Evans driving his 2 inch scale traction engine in Roker Park.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vIa6kqMcGQ> Robin is a regular visitor with his traction engine entertaining the public to the delights of our Park and its many attractions.

Roy Lambeth recently had his 2 inch traction engine tested and it was found that the engine steamed well on household coal, we tried Welsh Steam coal of both Pea and Bean sizes but the pressure could not be maintained, but with household what a difference, engine running and blowing off at the same time. It just as we always say every engine as its own peculiarities and no 2 are the same.

The wood planking on the traverser has be replaced and the bridge woodwork is waiting for the contractor to completely replace it along with the railings. Due to the contractors work load this bridge repair could take about 2-3 weeks before it is started.

On the Wood building which houses the Portable Track which we call the garage we have decided to have the door replaced with a Roller Door. At this moment of writing we are waiting for an estimate from one firm and for another firm to view the area and give an estimate. It appears that the club house windows are not suitable for roller blinds. But we are not giving up, the present shutters over the windows are too heavy for our members to lift up and down. It was ok in the past when we had plenty of young muscle, but our then young muscle is now getting old and past it. To conform to HSE requirements any lifting should be avoided at all costs, remember we do have a responsibility for the health of our members. The good old days - GOOD FOR WHO.

Work is to start shortly on the rewiring of the garage, by an electrician, for the lights and machinery to be fitted into our new workshop ie lathe, milling machine, bench drill, vice and work bench.

The new 7 ¼ inch gauge electric loco has been started on, a donation of some 1 inch angle 2ft length would be appreciated, any offers to A Stephenson.

PS Don't forget your attendance is required on 6<sup>th</sup> September