

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

Secretary, Albert Stephenson
4 Thursby Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2JT
Phone 01429 299649 web site www.csmes.co.uk

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2007

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008

The Subscriptions for 2008 are to be increased by £2. Our only sure income is our subscriptions, we cannot continue to rely on public donations for rides on our miniature railway track to cover our expenditure. (Insurance, Lighting and Heating, Maintenance, Postage and Stationary etc) Even this increase will not cover our normal expenditure, but it was decided that increases in subscriptions, if necessary, should be kept as low as possible. To balance our budget in one go would be to large an increase in subs to contemplate. We appreciate the donations made by the public and would appreciate the assistance of more of our members during our passenger hauling activities. Volunteers are always welcome and training freely given.

FULL MEMBER £17 MEMBERS over 65 £12 JUNIOR MEMBERS £6

OPEN DAYS 2008

Once again we will have 2 open days in 2008. Make an entry in your diaries but most important set aside some time to attend on these days along with your models whether they are completed or not. There will be the usual excellent buffet and hot drinks available throughout the day. 10pm is when we open to the public.

OPEN DAYS 2008 Sunday 1st June and Sunday 7th September 10am each day

NEW YEARS DAY 2008

Weather permitting we will have our traditional New Years Day Run on the Roker Park loco tracks, Model Road Vehicles are also very welcome as are the Model Boats. It's a time for some fresh air and pleasant company. Activities commence about 12 noon and finish at dusk when the Park closes. There will be the traditional MINCE PIES, courtesy of Morri Bergson, and hot drinks.

CLUB LOCOMOTIVES

The 5" gauge LMS Royal Scot loco will be ready for club usage on our New Years Day Run. To ensure that our club locos are cleaned at the end of each running session, equipment has been purchased to make this task easier to accomplish. This includes a paraffin/air gun to wash all the track rust from the wheels and motion gear. Just few moments with this gun and all the dirt is removed effortlessly. Quick release components cut off the air pressure and make the changing of guns very easy - no spanners required. A trigger controlled compressed air gun can be readily exchanged for the paraffin gun to blow away any paraffin residue. To complete the cleaning job another gun filled with a mixture of 1 part oil and 3 parts paraffin is used to ensure the loco's motion gear has a coating of oil to help prevent rusting during non operational periods. Those members who have commented on how immaculate Paul Stephenson's locos look when he brings them to the track, will if they use this equipment be able to emulate their appearance.

The 5" gauge GWR 2-6-2T tends to derail on the bend at the top of the track incline. Remember the radius is only 29ft. This loco is built to 'Scale' and represents its full size brother in every detail, an excellent truly representative copy of full size practice. To alter the sideways swing of the front bogie, whilst not impossible, would be very difficult, and would destroy the authentic appearance of the model. Therefore it as been decided to sell this loco.

A shame but we must enforce safety on our premises, if the track had a 40ft radius (recommended by the experts) we would have no difficulty with this loco.

We also have 2 club Electric Locos, both 0-4-0, available for competent members to drive. How does one become a competent driver? Easy, come to the track, ask to drive an electric loco or steam loco, and training will be given. A good competent driver keeps his/her mind on the job, avoids distractions and never relaxes, concentrating on the task of driving safely. On a steam loco never let the water level in the boiler get too low.

Remember Idiots laugh at learners, normal people assist those in trouble in a calm and friendly manner..

ASBESTOS

Our local Council have contacted me about an Asbestos Register that must be kept. During an examination of our premises in Roker Park by a Council Asbestos Officer it was found that we had no asbestos on our premises. We must never have any asbestos of any kind on our premises, so I am reminding members that they must not bring any to Roker Park. If you have any asbestos lagging on your locos, remove it, taking care not to breathe any in and remove any debris from your clothes. Contact your refuse department for advice on its removal disposal.

7 ¼" Gauge PASSENGER BOGIES

Bogies 1 to 5 are being altered. Their braking system is being changed to improve their equalising capabilities, by means of Bowden Cables (Bicycle Rear Brake Cables). Mechanical clamping being used at the cable ends. This being the 21st Century soldered nipples are not used.

No. 5 Bogie has had its braking system altered and was tested out. It was found that a much less effort needed to be applied to the brake lever to stop this bogie, finger tip control only.

Work has been started on No.4 bogie

Colin Hough, Ron Haswell, Stan Fisher and myself being the present members of the bogie working parties. You are always welcome to join us on Sundays commencing at 10am. Just little bit of hack sawing, filing, chipping, welding, riveting and fitting is all that is required. I have completed most of the machining of new parts required for the alterations and the rest are in hand.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The dates of the next General Meetings are Saturday 2nd February 2008, Saturday 1st March 2008, and Saturday 5th April 2008. As usual these meetings will be held in our Roker Park Clubhouse commencing at 1 30pm

Alan Spencer will give a talk on the design and construction of the model 'SNOW CAT' tractor he is at present building. This a model of the vehicle used on Artic explorations.

NEW MEMBERS

2 new members namely

Ian James Wedderburn and Albert Bryan Tuddenham

We give them a warm welcome to our ranks.

TRACK NEWS

The steamers are the most regular users of the track. Jim Humberston with his 3 ½"G Maisie and Paul Stephenson with his 3 ½"G Princess Marina and for passenger hauling his 5"G Simplex Paul was on hand to test No. 5 bogie with a steamer.