

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd
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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY/MARCH 2007

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Adrian Pearce on Thursday 1st February. Adrian was a builder of model boats without equal, his magnificent prize-winning model of a steam launch 'WENZEL' reflected his skills, patience and expertise. Our thoughts are with his wife Mary at the loss of a devoted husband.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2007 £15 full members - £10 over 65's - £5 junior

Have you paid yours? If not, it can be paid at the clubhouse on Saturday afternoons or sent by post to our Treasurer M Bergson, 63 Hunter Terrace, Sunderland, SR2 8SA

Due 1st January 2007. Closing date for insurance purposes 31st March 2007

14th NATIONAL MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION - HARROGATE 11/12/13 MAY 2007

Our society will once again have a 'Club Stand' at this exhibition, Joan and Albert will have their caravan at the Caravan Club Site, next to the showground, from the 8th. They will therefore be able to steward our stand for the exhibition.

The stand will be set up on Thursday 10th May starting about 10:15am, we hope to have all the models in place by 2pm to complete the security wiring up and booking in procedures in time for tea.

MEMBERS MODELS are needed for this CLUB STAND, there is a list in the clubhouse just waiting for you to add your details of models and value, or you can phone me or write to me at the above address. Uncompleted models are especially welcomed. A note with some information about the model and possibly some points on its construction would be useful to the stewards, they have to answer all the public's questions.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 25th MARCH 2007

Assistance is always needed at the end of the exhibition; models have to be removed from the Hall to members cars. This entails lifting and carrying, a little bit of muscle power and sweat, as the Chinese Electrician said - many hands make light work.

The exhibition organisers are always asking for members to enter models on their competition stands, in the past our members have been awarded first class certificates. Do you have a model to enter on one of these competition stands?

Our Members who have Traction Engines/ Steam Cars will be on site with their models. If you visit the exhibition have a look at the outside activities and make yourself known to our members driving their models in all kinds of weather. Last year I was fortunate to have a drive behind a Traction Engine in between the showers, I was the one in a lounge suit, not boiler suit.

The Societies various Cups and Trophies are awarded to members for the models on display at this exhibition, Judging takes place on the Sunday and the Cups/Trophies are presented to their recipients on Sunday 17th June 2007, during our Open Day.

NEW YEARS DAY 2007

Quite a few members attended and enjoyed the Mince Pies courtesy of Morri Bergson. Only 2 members braved the elements with their locos. Joan Stephenson being first on the track with her 5" G Electric Loco 'JOAN' and also the last one off. Stan Fisher had his 5" G 'ETNA PERCURSER' which steamed without any difficulties. The day was very cold and after 2 hours plus both drivers came off frozen. Both Joan and Stan complained about how cold their feet and legs were. Joan did not get warmed through until she got home and in front of her home fire.

The track was 'first footed' and members greeted each other in the traditional manner, drank a welcome cup of tea, ate their mince pies and enjoyed themselves. The donations made by our passengers for their New Years Day ride made it a worthwhile outing.

NEW GUTTERING

Since September we have been plagued by 3 vandal attacks on the clubhouse guttering. Each time it was repaired, those mindless persons kicked sections away, and tore off the down pipe. The new Park Warden introduced himself and said 'I will fix that guttering for you'. True to his word we arrived to find all the old grey guttering and fixtures removed and replaced by a complete set of black guttering. So far we have been left in peace, whether its his personal presence or the change of colour that did the trick who knows? At least this last repair cost us nothing. Let's hope we have no more trouble. We make the Warden most welcome when ever he pops in.

3rd FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

This was a BITS and PIECES afternoon, very well attended by our members.

Peter Russell described the planning and building of his model hovercraft. The problems of battery weight and power outputs for the lift and propulsion motors. The paper patterns cut out from which the hover craft skirt material was pieced together to give the required lift. Problems solved in designing and manufacturing this superb model not readily recognised by pond side observers.

Peter concluded his talk with a demonstration of this craft's lift and manoeuvring capabilities on the table top, its size precluded too much movement since it almost filled the table top. Rudder dimensions, 2 and 3 bladed props their power requirements relative to battery weights were points well described. A very interesting and most informative talk from one who knows his subject.

Eric Colling then gave a very informative talk on the construction of a kit built model steam launch 'TOPAZ'. Giving a very amusing description of the trials and tribulations in assembling the various components of the kit. Quite a lot of skill and ingenuity being required, not always plain sailing. When the hull was completed which steam plant could best fit in. After much measuring, calculating and searching a boiler and steam engine was finally constructed and fitted. Eric made light of the problems encountered, but we all know that every thing looks easy until you actually try to do it. It was very amusing to listen to Eric's description of how he adjusted the trim of the vessel in his bath. The outcome is a truly magnificent looking model, the components paint work and varnish being expertly applied. Eric asked if this was true model engineering. Why bother, he enjoyed building the model and now owns a magnificent piece of work, we all enjoyed his talk and felt privileged in being able to view this excellent piece of workmanship.

Brian Ribton then took the stage with his nearly completed 2" scale Clayton under slung steam lorry. The engine lacked its all covering oil bath, better to see the engine and watch its moving parts before it disappears in a bath of oil. The boiler was not shown, but I know it was hydraulically tested this last year.

Only the tractor part was on display, the truck body which is finished, was too big to bring that afternoon. Brian coupled the engine to an air compressor to show off its smooth running capabilities. Brian gave a very informative talk on how he had machined and built up the various components, some of the difficulties he had encountered and overcome. Brian described how he intended to fire the boiler using propane with the cylinder mounted on the lorry body.

After the talks each model simply disappeared under a mass of inquisitive hands and eyes as the members examined the models at very close range. Due to their builders skills no faults could be found.

TRACK NEWS

Two new members, Daniel and Steven Duncan, Steven being 10 years old, are to be seen each Saturday afternoon driving Daniels 5" G 0 - 4 - 0 Electric Loco on our tracks. Daniel has recently passed out to be able to pull passengers, should he want to.

Paul and Dawn have provided the steam interest with Paul's 5" G Simplex, taking turns driving till dusk

NB Boiler owners don't forget your boilers annual inspection and steam test due this year.