

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

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NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009

These are due 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and have remained unchanged from last year.

£17 Full Members    £12 Members over 65    £6 Junior Members

Morri Bergson our Treasurer is now fit and well and has taken over his Treasurers Duties. Subscriptions for 2009 can be paid at our Clubhouse in Roker Park on Saturday Afternoons our posted to Morri at 63 Hunter Terrace, Sunderland, SR 2 8SA

NEW YEARS DAY RUN

Once again we upheld our tradition of running Locos on our Tracks in Roker Park on New Years Day. This year Paul Stephenson first footed the steaming bays with his 5" G 'SIMPLEX' soon joined by Brian Ribton with his 5" G 'JINTY'. Brian was first on the track, having, so it is said, kept Paul talking so he could be first on the track. The fact is that shortly after 10am we had 2 steam locos lapping the large track. Jim Humberston brought his 5" G Electric Loco, but unfortunately when replacing the metal body work over the batteries he accidentally 'shorted across the batteries' which created problems with the electronic speed control forcing Jim to retire. But he took over duties on the station.

Joan Stephenson arrived just before noon and took over Brian's Passenger Bogie, and joined her son on the track. Brian had to leave at lunch time due to prior arrangements, family visitors.

Joan and Paul continued hauling passengers till after 3pm, many visitors to the Park enjoyed, not only having their first ride of the year but also the spectacle of steam and electric locos lapping the track with effortless grace.

Other members turned up to join the festive occasion and wish others a Happy New Year, also to enjoy the Mince Pies with a non alcoholic cup of tea.

The weather was fine but very cold, my cars temperature gauge showed -2C when we arrived and 0C when we left at dusk. Still the sun shone and we had the company of our fellow members, and we had kept up an annual tradition so what could be better.

Paul Stephenson brought the Club Steam Loco 'ROYAL AIR FORCE', a 5" G LMS Royal Scot rebuild, back to the track after repairing the damage sustained in a derailment, incidentally Paul was not the driver when it derailed. He had replaced the sheared bolts on the front bogie frames straightened the axle and repaired the damage to the frames. Altered the Blower Valve and replaced parts in the Regulator, changed the springs on the main axles and reset the springs on the engine and tender. He also designed and constructed a 'Lifting Beam' to assist him with the repairs and spring replacement and resetting. The loco was given its annual seam test, which it passed with flying colours.

Paul drove the loco slowly around the track, whilst observing the riding motion of this newly sprung loco, gradually increasing the speed till we were satisfied with its performance. He then hauled passengers for 3 ½ hours. It was gratifying to give rides to those members of the public who had been refused a ride whilst the loco was being checked for its riding qualities, and had waited till after all testing was complete. They enjoyed it and we did, several commented on the care attention and tests we carry out on our locos and rolling stock before allowing the public onto our track. Our activities when testing had kept their attention as interested spectators to what we do within our track area. I keep telling our members that you never know who is watching, photographing etc our activities in the Park, and how they interpret our actions when talking to others.

## GENERAL MEETINGS 2009

We have decided to hold our General Meetings on the second Saturday in the month, not Bank Holidays, this is to move the Committee Meetings and General Meetings away from the same weekend. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February is the date of the next General Meeting at 1 30pm in our Roker Park Clubhouse- Lathe Work for beginners by Albert Stephenson being the subject

Followed by

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Computers by Peter Russell being the subject

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April - An Armstrong Hydraulic Engine by Albert Stephenson

All commencing at 1 30pm in our Roker Park Clubhouse

The May meeting is our Annual General Meeting and usually takes place mid week at a date agreed upon by the committee, each member being given the 21 days statutory notice.

The June meeting is usually dedicated to clean up activities prior to the June Open Day. There is never any General Meetings in July or August

The dates of our 2009 Open Days have still to be set, delay is to ensure we do not clash with Traction Engine Rallies as requested by our Traction Engine building Members. We may have 2 extra Steam Lorries on display this year.

Work Planned for track improvements, for which volunteers are required, is as follows:-

The wood walk way on the bridge needs replacing, the wood for this has been promised and we hope to have it on site soon. An idea has been mooted to construct a replica of the Wear Bridge.

The small track needs the moss removing from tarmac around the track. Last time it was removed was prior to the Curly Bowl 2006, when I did it in one afternoon by myself. I will bring my water jetting gun and equipment, but this time I will need some assistance with brooms to sweep away the excess water.

Not much skill required, just a bit of elbow grease.

The signals on the traverser need checking and adjusting. A bit of fitting work, drilling and tapping, re alignment and cleaning out the traverser pit.

An extra passenger bogie needs to have its wheels refurbished. This bogie will then be placed in the Portable Track Trailer for portable track use only. A bit of lathe work and fitting required. It will eradicate having to take a passenger bogie away from the large track usage every time the portable track is used thus saving a great deal of hard labour.

Harrogate Model Engineering Exhibition 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Now is the time to start getting your models ready for our club stand, setting up on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May Models can also be entered onto the Competition Stands or join in the Live Steam activities outside the Exhibition Halls

Work has started on the new children's playground adjacent to our track, but this should not interfere with our track activities, all the work is on the far side of the pathway between the track and playground. The Gateways are not effected nor is our access restricted

Would you like to drive a model electric loco? Book a driving session on our track. Free tuition given

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of Charlie Tunna. The information came late via the Park Warden, who was informed by a neighbour.