

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

Secretary, Albert Stephenson
4 Thursby Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2JT
Phone 01429 299649

NEWSLETTER JULY/ AUGUST 2007

NEXT OPEN DAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2007

Note the date, which was changed so that our society could have a club stand at the Model Engineering Exhibition 7 to 9 September at Ascot.

Members' models are required for display in the Gazebos, on the Lake, the Loco Tracks and also on the Park Pathways. Members are also required to steward the various areas such as Gazebo, Steaming Bays, Station, Gates etc. As usual we need to be ready for our visitors by 10am.

Don't forget the General meeting 1st September at 1:30pm.

The previous open day, 17th June, was a great success, plenty of models on display, on the tracks and on the Lake, not forgetting the traction engine utilising the Park pathways.

We had one hiccup at the start, it was intended to close the Park to the public till after a Ladies Charity Run was completed. No Prior information of this intent was made known to our society but, as usual, strong firm and determined representation permitted the track to be used to very good effect. Possibly the long queue of prospective passengers helped sway the issue. Hundreds of runners paused to look at our activities whilst passing through the Park and jovial comments were exchanged between our members and the runners. After this initial hiccup the day was a great success. Joan provided her usual excellent buffet and was helped on the day by Audrey Teasdale, Elaine Dunn and Sheila Hough. The catering in the hands of these dedicated ladies was a great success and their efforts had a profound effect on the overall success of the day. Thank you ladies, you are a treasure and much appreciated.

Lets hope that with your support the September open day is as successful

Volunteers need to be in the park by 9am, or when they can get there. Those engaged on the many duties are always glad of offers to take over especially at meal times or for other bodily needs.

Joan will be providing the usual buffet on the day

Joan was pleased to accept the Young Shield for all the work she did in organising the catering for last year's open days and the Curly Bowl Competition coupled with all the loco driving she does and stewarding the club stand at the various exhibitions. Well Done Joan.

ASCOT M.E. EXHIBITION 7th to 9th SEPTEMBER 2007

As already mentioned we will have a club stand at this exhibition. Joan and Albert will be taking 26 models belonging to our members to this exhibition. Granted they may be of small size, not too small, but of excellent quality, one cannot expect to transport 5 inch gauge locos in one car. 2 locos of this gauge would take up all the available car space.

We shall at least be making a contribution to this Centenary exhibition

David Bramwell is also entering a 100cc 14 Cylinder Aero Engine in a competition class.

Joan and Albert will be stewarding our stand for the 3 days, call by if you are attending the exhibition.

Our attendance is only possible by the generosity of our members who have offered to exhibit their models at this exhibition, car space prohibiting the number of models we could have exhibited.

AIR DAYS 28/29JULY 2007

Once again we supported this event by running our loco track. After all the recent bad weather we were indeed fortunate in having 2 sunny days for this event.

During the 2 days we had the services of 6 steam locos and 8 electric locos to share the load of passenger hauling. Whenever the queues dictated it we had 5 locos on the track together, this is the

maximum permitted for safe running. Throughout both days 5 locos had to be on the track most of the time to cope with the number of passengers. But what feeling of enjoyable participation was present on these days. Note, no one is forced to run passengers, they can run light if they wish, it's truly voluntary. No one ran light. The atmosphere at the track on these 2 days was contagious with everyone pleasantly joining in with the club spirit. Those who were present will know what I mean and what we all felt. With all the activities of those 2 days boiler testing and maintenance was not ignored. We also had a visit from a RN helicopter pilot taking a short break from the Air Display, he generally drives full size steam locos in his off duty hours. He certainly enjoyed his visit and the welcome he was given. Incidentally, that was me driving, just keeping my hand in. A very large number of passengers enjoyed a ride behind our locos and gave well received monetary donations in appreciation of our efforts.

TELEVISIONING OUR TRACK IN ROKER PARK

On Tuesday afternoon 24th July I received a phone call from our local council asking if they could supply my phone number to ITV, because ITV would be televising in Roker Park the next day. Naturally I agreed but heard nothing more, possibly due to me having to keep arranged activities that evening. But I managed to obtain the support of a small team of loco men/women on the off chance we might be required for the Park programme. Fortunately for ITV and us.

Stan Fisher was televised driving his Etna Precursor with Simon a TV reporter and his young daughter as passengers. This was followed by the cameraman facing backwards on Joan's loco filming Stan and his passengers following. I was then filmed answering the reporter's questions on our society. This was a one off take, when I got home I watched a professional reporter taking 7 takes to say 'largest pipe organ', never heard so many variations of pipe and organ. I hope that my interview was understandable. Ron Haswell's steam loco was being hydraulically tested and this provided another suitable subject to be televised. The TV team then spent the rest of the day filming other park activities.

I was informed that the events would be shown on ITV 1 on 16th August. Hope that those who watch are not disappointed, I only have the date not time or programme. Could be between 6 and 6 30 pm. Simon returned on the first Air Day with his wife and daughter and made a handsome donation.

CLUB LOCO

At the suggestion of members, the committee have been considering the purchase of another club loco. Whether it should be steam or electric driven was well discussed. Steam being the preferred one. 2 locos came to notice recently. After agreeing to view these locos an appointment was made. 5 members went along to the viewing and after examining them and asking the price it was agreed to purchase them both on Sunday August 5th 2007.

The locos are 5 inch gauge

- 1, 4-6-0 LMS Royal Scot
2. 2-6-2T GWR Class 5100

After boiler registration and insuring these will be put to good service. Methods of logging drivers, driving times/dates, cleaning, servicing, training is yet to be arranged and agreed upon. Rome was not built in a day but lasted a very long time.