

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd
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NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2008

Our next Open Day to be held in Roker Park Sunderland is

Sunday 7th September 2008

What is needed is for members to attend, with or without their models. But we do need members models for the display tables in the Gazebos, Locos for the Loco Tracks, Boats for the Park Lake, Road Vehicles for the Park Pathways. We also need members to Steward the Gazebos, assist on the Loco Tracks and Steaming Bays. Activities will commence at 10am, but that requires members to have everything ready before this commencing time, so come along, lend a hand and get involved, its your club.

Joan will have a deliciously appetising buffet prepared and it also requires members to help eat it, there is no set charge but a donation is appreciated to cover the costs. Tea and Coffee is served throughout the day along with the buffet goodies and cakes, all home made.

The previous Open Day held on 1st June was a day of continual rain, but those who attended enjoyed themselves. The buffet was greatly appreciated and it all went into eager stomachs non being wasted. The Gazebos attracted the public and were well worth the effort of erecting and filling with members models.

The loco track had only the club steam loco braving the elements. Quite a few members were given driving tuition and enjoyed their drive, they finished up wet and very happy. The rain did not dampen their spirits or enthusiasm. Wet and miserable the day may have been but our visitors and members may have been wet but they were a long way off being miserable.

SUNDERLAND INTERNATIONAL AIR DAYS 26/27 JULY 2008

The loco track was bathed in sunshine on both days, but unfortunately there was a belt of fog from the sea front outwards, which resulted in the flying displays being cancelled on both days. There were the static displays along the sea front to entertain the visitors. We heard some aircraft passing over but could not see them.

Our track, being in the sunshine, was popular with the public from 10am till 6pm, we could have been there longer if we had not taken steps to close when we did.

Whilst Joan drove her loco on both days, Elaine Dunn took charge of serving Tea and Coffee on both days, we may have been busy but not thirsty, Thanks Lynne.

On Saturday eleven locos were available and on Sunday there were thirteen locos. Five locos on the track constantly and non of these were the club electric locos, for once they were kept in reserve. We had a visiting 3 ½" G Britannia on Sunday, belonging to Paul Duckers from York MES.

The traffic on both days was non stop with queues to the Side Cliffe Road Gate. The public's appreciation of our efforts was shown in their donations for the rides given. Both days' donation boxes being full and heavy, Morry and our members being well contented with the cash donated.

The cash was very welcome but the most important thing was the sight of so many of our members working in perfect harmony together for the benefit of our society.

ASCOT MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION 19 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2008

Once again our Society will be entering a Club Stand at this exhibition. Joan and Albert will be taking a score of members' models to Ascot, car space determining the number of models for our stand. It was mentioned that Joan may have to get the bus if she has to give up her seat for models.

The theme of this exhibition is Locomotives. There will be a 5" G ground level track from Sinsheim for Locomotive men to run their locos, unfortunately space and weight will restrict our locos to 3 ½" G.

NEW MEMBERS

We have recruited another two members, namely

Keith Beckett and Brian Stephens.

Look out for them and make them welcome.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Our Risk Assessments are reviewed and upgraded as required, safety of our members and members of the Public needs to be constantly reviewed, we cannot afford to be complacent.

Communication of risks and precautions needed to be taken to ensure we are safe must be relayed to our members.

Firstly what is the track speed limit. Answer 6mph

How do we check it is being obeyed - fit speedometers to our passenger bogies

- random checking time taken to complete one lap of track

The updated Risk Assessment Book is on display in our Roker Park Clubhouse

Read it and act in a safe manner.

LOCOMOTIVE DRIVERS CERTIFICATE

Certificates will be issued to Locomotive Drivers for Steam Locomotives or Electric Locomotives signed by The Chairman and Secretary and embossed with the Club Seal for authenticity.

The Reason These Changes are being introduced is protect individual members, our Society and its Officers. One cannot and must not bury ones head in the sand.

ROKER PARK ACTIVITIES

Ken and Gwen Buckingham recently brought their Steam Car to Roker Park and provided visitors with a glimpse of yesteryear transportation. This car is becoming quite popular with the Roker Park Public.

Ken and Gwen dressed in period costume, the smartly painted car, the smooth quiet running of the car's engine with the wisp of exhaust steam, makes this a sight to be remembered as well as very attractive.

Traction Engines and Steam Lorries undergoing Hydraulic and Steam Tests attract many visitors.

Members of the public often pass on their appreciation of our activities to me commenting that there is always something interesting taking place in our area of Roker Park.

We get criticism such as steam being dangerous to ones lungs, one wonders how these people cope with boiling a kettle to make tea, or boil vegetables in a pan. Possibly they never cook or enter a kitchen.

Saturday and Sunday afternoons when the weather is fine, our large track is the centre of public passenger hauling. This keeps our landlords happy and the revenue gained is very useful.

Please feel free to come and join us, the work is not hard or difficult but the pleasant company you will be working with makes it all worthwhile.

One young child was heard to tell its Grandmother, if we keep quiet they may forget about us and we'll get an extra ride