

THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY Ltd

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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010

Sadly I must inform you of the death in February of PERCY FARRER aged 88

OPEN DAYS 2010

These have been altered to suit our Members with Traction Engines

NEW DATES - SUNDAY 6th JUNE and SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Gates open to Public at 10am each day, i.e. Models and Displays should be ready before 10am. Joan will provide her usual excellent buffet and Tea and Coffee will be supplied throughout the day. What models are YOU bringing and WHAT will YOU DO TO HELP

The Loco tracks need staff as well as models, the Display Tables need Models and Stewards, the Boating Lake needs Boats and the ROKER PARK PATHWAYS need Model Road Vehicles
Presentation of Society CUPS and TROPHIES for 2010 will take place at 2 pm

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2010

Good news Morri Bergson has taken over his duties as Treasurer.

Have you paid your subs if not why not, remembered boiler certificates are only valid for members who have paid their subs i.e. Current Members. Subs by 31st March very latest

PAEDOPHILE IN OUR RANKS

Yes Brian Stephens was a member, but once we knew of his past his membership was rescinded. It appears that an off duty Police Woman saw this man on our track in September 2009. He was taken to Court in February 2010 for a Court Order to be made against him restricting him from any contact with young females. I only have a Reporters phone message to me after the February Court Case and her facts of the situation. From September 2009 till after the Court Case in February 2010 I knew nothing of this. Strange B Stephens was taken to court to have an order served on him but at this court it was stated that he had not offended in any way since 2001 when he was convicted of a crime yes the police left him alone on our track. Our vigilance and observance of our Child Protection Policy ensured no child was harmed and as the police stated 'we did nothing wrong'. Time to move on and put this incident behind us

HARROGATE MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION 7-8- 9 MAY 2010

We will have a CLUB STAND at this exhibition, again stewarded by Joan and Albert

Members Models are required for our stand, closing date for entries is Saturday 27 March

A List is in the Clubhouse in Roker Park for you to enter your model and its value or you can phone the Secretary 01429 299649.

The CLUB STAND will be set up on Thursday 6th May 2010, Please arrange delivery of your model to our stand before 2pm on this date, allowing us leave the hall at 5pm

Unfinished models are most welcome, and generally create the most interest, all models are most welcome. This STAND represents YOUR SOCIETY, be REPRESENTED

Will your model gain an award of one of the societies Cups and Trophies; it could if it's on show at this exhibition

TRAILER PARK and TRACTION ENGINE STEAMING AREA

This has been mentioned too many times and our plans and thoughts about how it will be paved out or concreted must have made you think it would never happen and would just remain a pipe dream. Good news, on Thursday 11th March, thanks to the efforts of Bryan Tuddenham, the contractors arrived and by 3pm on that day we had a concrete base completed. The unsightly area which was disgrace to look at and of very little use is now a very attractive area. By the way the initials in one corner are none of my doing. We now have two areas for our Model Road Vehicles to be steamed up and displayed. Even an extra place for a Gazebo, as well as an extra space to keep clean.

PORTABLE TRACK and its TRAILER

Due to the infrequency of this Portable Track being used and the very poor response to requests for volunteers to man the track we have decided to sell both the track and its trailer. The Committee took a long time in coming to this decision because it took time to gain our memberships opinions on the matter. A loaded question really since to ask for the tracks retention meant volunteering to either tow the trailer and track to various venues, all of them some distance away, or to take on the manning duties. Towing the trailer meant having a tow bar on ones car and having a car legally capable of towing the trailer's weight, not to mention the problems of number plates.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The February General Meeting and its subject Bits and Pieces was very successful. Creating such interest that members have requested we repeat it again this year. One of our Autumn meeting will be devoted to Bits and Pieces. It is very pleasing to hear our members praise an activity and on this occasion its very easy to set out the agenda for a General Meeting knowing that our members will support it.

LOCOMOTIVE TRACK NEWS

After the worst spell of weather for many years, the loco track had its first loco on the tracks on 7th March. All other attempts having been either snowed or rained off. But the sun shone again on 13th March and we had Paul Stephenson lapping the Roker Park Pathways with his 3 inch scale Traction Engine 'Royal Chester'. Whilst on the large loco track Paul Stokes ran his 5 inch gauge 0-8-0 ;NETTA' and John Barnes along with Bryan Bellamy continued their driver training on the clubs 0-6-0T 'WOLFIT' What a change a lovely sunny day with every one having a great time and also all the engines being steamers. What a day, it was pitch black when I arrived home that night and tea time ended up as supper.

NEXT BUILDING PROJECT

Plans are being drawn up to fit roller blinds to our Roker Park Clubhouse, to cover both windows and the doorway. A Bay Window type extension must be fitted at the windows to ensure the 'ROLLER BOX' does not foul the guttering. This will enable the weight of the structure to be on vertical beams reaching to the ground

If and when this is completed the back breaking effort lowering and raising the existing shutters will be ended. The Physical effort required at present deters us from opening our clubhouse up to any sunlight. Normally the only times the shutters are lowered is on open days, and then only if there are able bodied members present . We intend to apply for financial assistance from the Community Fund.