

December 2012

# Steaming Ahead



[WWW.SCMES.CO.UK](http://WWW.SCMES.CO.UK)



**Sutton Coldfield Model Engineering Society**

# Sutton Coldfield Model Engineering Society

President Neal Harrison 0121 378 3992  
Chairman Allan Leary 01827 892503  
Secretary Eric Davies 0121 308 6886  
Treasurer Chris Greene 0121 351 3509

## Directors

David Smith  
John Cope  
Mike Bentley  
Peter Robinson  
Stuart Harrison  
Bill Colman

## Events This Month

Tues 04 December	Board Meeting	7.30pm
Sun 09 December	Santa Special	11am-3pm
Sun 16 December	Santa Special	11am-3pm
Fri 21 December	Party at Shenstone Hall	7:30pm
Wed 26 December	Boxing Day Steam Up	10am onwards

## Events Next Month

TUESDAY	01-Jan	NEW YEARS DAY STEAM UP	10am onwards
TUESDAY	08-Jan	BOARD MEETING	7.30pm
SUNDAY	20-Jan	STEAM-UP	10am onwards

Editor: Steve Kesterton  
Mobile: 07946 025 151  
Email: [steamingahead@scmes.co.uk](mailto:steamingahead@scmes.co.uk)

**Press Date is the first Tuesday of the month**

Front Cover: The SCMES display at the Warley Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC awaits the crowds.

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

### **Chairman's Chunter**

Well here we are, December already. Where has the year gone? That cheery chap with the white beard and fur edged red suit has booked his tickets at Balleny Green. Before we know it we'll be having a very social fun evening at Shenstone Village Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month chewing over all that's gone on and all that's about to come. Last year the Christmas party was superb so do your best not to miss this years. Ensure your name is down if you're going to be there so that the buffet can be sorted.

It seems some time since arrangements were being made for us to stage our biggest fund raiser of the year, bonfire night. As always, the diehards were as reliable as ever and we supplied our paying guests with a spectacular evening of entertainment.

A few difficulties were experienced but, fortunately, they were fairly easily overcome not affecting the overall success of the event. Together with our own people the success was achieved thanks to the generous help of many. Everyone worked very hard making my job as co-ordinator on the night quite uneventful.

Everyone was kept well fed by the ever present kitchen team who deserve all the thanks that are often not passed on but, believe me, we are blessed to be supported in the way we are. The fireworks display was again nothing short of spectacular. I deliberately stood to one side of the signal box and it was very satisfying to listen to the oohs and ahhs behind me and, at the conclusion, the rapturous applause. Pip and his mate, once again, treated us all to a tremendous show.

Once again Bob and Trish Whitfield graced us by bringing their loco to assist with the service we provided so well and I am particularly grateful to them both. As always I thank all for their support making the evening so great.

A couple of weeks ago we fulfilled our invitation to be part of the Warley exhibition at the NEC. A few members, fronted by Gary Tyso, had worked hard to ensure our stand was a good reflection of who and what we are.

The three days proved to be quite strenuous both physically and mentally and all the chaps who set up and broke down the display worked extremely hard with the NEC staff doing all they could to make things more difficult. The stand was manned well and the exhibition organisers have conveyed their appreciation making all the effort worthwhile.

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

I imagine by the time this is published we will have staged at least the first Santa Special on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. The second is a week later on the 16<sup>th</sup> and hopefully both will prove to be as successful as those of past years. Staffing makes all the difference and the more members in attendance the better, so if you were there thank you very much. The society finances really do rely on fund raising events.

As I hinted earlier the society Christmas party is at Shenstone village hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> so miss it at your peril.

Finally, on behalf of the society and myself, wish to thank all who have actively supported events throughout the year in particular the bonfire night which is by far the most lucrative and stressful event of our calendar.

I'll end by wishing you all a very merry, peaceful Christmas and to those whose health could be better I wish you all the best and hope you can feel a little better over the festive period. I also wish you all a very prosperous, healthy and happy 2013.

*Allan Leary.*

### **Christmas Donations 2012**

Christmas is nearly upon us again and Mike and I have arranged to put a Card on the Notice Board at Little Hay, as from 1st December for members to sign and give a donation, which will be sent to St. Giles Hospice.

Thanks for your support

*Mike & Cath Brophy.*

### **SCMES Christmas Buffet – Friday 21 December 2012**

We are holding our Christmas Buffet at Shenstone Village Hill on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 7.30 onwards.

The cost per head will be £3.00, as the Board have agreed to subsidise this event. A booking form will be put on the Notice Board for members to add their name or please contact us on (0121) 353 6233, before Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Look forward to seeing you there.

*Cath and Mike Brophy*

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

### **Thanks for staying safe**

As a member of the Board and as Safety Officer, I would like to say thank you everyone that has contributed to keeping Balleny Green a safe place over the last year. Any problems we may have had have been fully investigated with any contributing factor carefully examined and any necessary changes made.

I would ask you to keep me fully informed of anything you consider unsafe as you use our wonderful facilities. Your help can be used by looking at the List, on the clubhouse notice board, where I have posted jobs that I feel are necessary, picking a job and helping to get it sorted.

Every time I visit our site I am aware how lucky we are with the facilities we share at Balleny Green and the members that regularly turn up. Attending is always a pleasure and a highlight of the week (even if it filling bags with leaves with friends). There is always a small team working that could use an extra hand / advice?

Have a Great New Year

*Michael Bentley Safety Officer.*

### **Great Northern to have a 'Heavy General'**

For many years now, the petrol hydraulic locomotive Great Northern has done sterling work both generally and at events, and has been very reliable. However, the time has now come for it to be completely overhauled, and so it will enter 'the works' - actually the NE corner workshop - where Allan L and Garry will commence the work in early January 2013. Allan L will be responsible for the mechanical refurbishment, Mark B for the electrics, and Garry for the bodywork.

It is anticipated that additional vents will be cut in the body to allow better air circulation, and new fan grilles etc will be fitted. Bogie sideframe details will be added, and the locomotive then treated to a re-spray. The work is expected to take until Mid/End March 2013.

Sorry Chris, you'll have to drive the Hymek!

## Last month in Pictures ...



The SCMES formation paper folding team prepare leaflets for distribution to interested visitors at the Warley Model Railway Exhibition



Malcolm with his 32 mm engine and wagons.

## Last month in Pictures ...



Steve Whiston leaves the turntable to commence a few circuits of the track.



After some hard graft, the bonfire is ready to warm our visitors

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

### **Locomotive levelling device to be installed**

Members and visitors with large front bogied locomotives have always had problems with derailments when attempting to run onto the turntable from the signal box end of the platform. This is due to the incline up to turntable levelling out prior to the turntable causing the front bogies to lift clear of the track. As the track is curved, the bogie centralises causing it to derail when it drops back to track level as the locomotive moves towards the turntable. The proximity of the point to the turntable prevents the incline being eased unless all the points in the station throat area are raised.

To overcome the problem, D. Moseley has designed a section of track which can be raised at one end to level the locomotive prior to the entrance track to the turntable. A locomotive will be able to run up to the level area prior to the turntable, then a lever will allow the section of track on which the locomotive is standing to pivot at the front end and raise the rear end so that the locomotive is level with the turntable. The overall height of lift is around 2".

Preliminary work has already started, and it is anticipated that the installation should be completed by Mid February - weather permitting!

### **The Warley Model Railway Show**

As reported in previous issues of S. A. your Society put on a stand at the recent Warley Model Railway Show. I would like to thank all those members who helped to manufacture the stand and who helped to erect/dismantle at the NEC, and also all those who donated models for exhibition. Our stand drew a lot of attention from the general public, evidenced by the number of brochures taken.

It is hoped that we will see some tangible results from our efforts in the coming months.

Photos of the stand being erected and in operation are on the Society website. Once again, thanks to all who made this happen.

### **New high level track locomotive storage facility approved**

Your Board has approved a proposal by several members to install a new raised level track locomotive storage facility. This will comprise a new steel shed, similar to the one in the NE corner, which will be sited between the raised and ground level tracks on the opposite side of the footbridge to the existing timber shed.

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

The new facility will be 12' 0" long x 6' 0" wide and will incorporate locomotive storage tracks on 2 levels. There will also be a maintenance area. A traverser with a hydraulic lift will be installed at the tunnel side of the shed to give locomotive access to a new steaming bay and the raised level track. Addition space inside the shed will be used to store the ground level 5" trucks.

Once completed, the existing wooden shed will be removed and re-sited in the NE corner, the free steaming bay area created by its removal will be used to re-locate the raised level riding car rack, and a possible additional ground level steaming bay.

*Garry Tyso.*

### **Grounds Maintenance Diary**

#### **TUESDAY 6TH**

Although cold and damp a good turn out and with a warm cup of coffee in the club house before starting, there was a lot of activity.

It's that time of year with large amounts of leaves to clear before bonfire night on Saturday. Grenville and Ron got Bills blower and concentrated on the station area and tracks. They were joined by Steve Wilkn using the much less powerful society blower clearing track around the road side hedges and then assisting clearing the large bags full of leaves to the lower copse.

I sorted a couple of queries on the Warley show rota, then oiled all the track point mechanisms and finally joined in the leaf clearing. A very good mornings work – see the piles of leaves in the lower copse. Michael W joined us later in the morning and cleared the base of the goat hedge and south west corner of grass and leaves.

Rod was again busy on the waterfall clearing and levelling the surrounding areas in readiness for planting up in due course. Meanwhile Stuart and John concentrated on fixing a safety control lock for the pedestrian gate by the level crossing.

Just after lunch St Giles Hospice brought the final load for the bonfire – without which we would be in some trouble.

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

### **TUESDAY 13TH**

At the board meeting last Tuesday evening the board approved the purchase of a Stihl blower, the society one not having a lot of puff and we can't continue abusing Bills good will using his. I got the blower from Seddons, Walsall Road, later in the week at trade price – pays to use them and get the discount for being a 'regular' but infrequent customer.

Nice dry morning but only Ron and I early on clearing leaves from around the central grass area and between the hedges at the back of the station. We were joined by Steve Wilk a bit later and the three of us cleared a large amount of leaves before stopping for a break. While we were clearing leaves Peter R did a good job filling in the holes in the drive and just inside the level crossing gate. Also dealing with the very soft low spot in the grass run in, were cars turn to park, with fresh soil.

After the break I sat in the club house writing up notes for the members going/looking after our stand at the Warley National Model Railway Exhibition – nice and warm!! Out in the fresh air Steve and Ron tackled the Beech and Laurel hedges behind the station – making a nice job of cutting them and clearing away afterwards.

### **SUNDAY 18TH**

Not many members today, after the Steam-up yesterday, so it gave me a chance to set up the new blower and clear the station area, steaming bay and all the grass area's up to the copse (see the web picture). Bill has been very good loaning his blower but the society needed to get its own (similar to Bills) to clear the very large amounts of leaves – have a look in the lower copse – and much more clearing still to do. All the hedges, shrubs and trees have put on a lot of growth this year and consequently more leaves for us to clear.

### **TUESDAY 20TH**

Well it rained all last night and continued to rain so much so that the club house was full of coffee and tea drinkers discussing the arrangements for the Warley show at the NEC this coming weekend - 24th & 25th November.

In fairness, Roger and Rod did work on clearing a new area on the pool bank to set up the duck house I built earlier this year. With weather like today you could see the water running down the waterfall and half way up the ducks – sorry.

## **Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

### **TUESDAY 27TH**

After more torrential rain, causing widespread flooding around the country, the Little Hay site was totally water logged with large amounts of leaves, in many places covering the track completely. Only the beech hedge and a few of the oak trees have any leaves left to fall.

The club house meeting room and kitchen were full of coffee and tea drinkers discussing the Warley exhibition and the success of the societies stand and exhibits. It went very well with considerable interest and lots of visitors taking photos, discussing the exhibits and society facilities. Garry is thanking members separately but I would like to thank the 22 members who made up the rota I produced for their part in that success – thank you all.

With the forecast of dryer weather for the rest of the week it was decided to let the leaves dry out and tackle them on Sunday and the following Tuesday. So you will have to wait to see if it was the right decision. If you should wish to run in the mean time you will have to clear the tracks and point mechanisms – it's not safe unless you do so. Whatever, they have to have been cleared in time for the first Santa Special on Saturday 9th December, so that's the main task for the team.

Roger and Rod checked the pool planning to complete the new base for the Duck House but found the water level was above the liner, the highest level any of us have seen for a very very long time.

Finally, since this is the probably the last report you'll see this year, I wish you all a very good healthy, happy and prosperous Christmas and 2013.

*Eric Davies*

### **Items for publication**

Just to fill this tiny space that was left! Please feel free to submit any articles of interest for 'Steaming Ahead' to me at any time.

I do my best to use them all. If they do not appear in the next issue, they will appear as soon as I have space to publish them.

Thanks to those of you who have supported the magazine with articles and photos in 2012 - please keep them coming next year!

*Steve Kesterton*

**Steam Ups on Boxing Day and New Years Day!**

# ANTIQUESTEAM Buy



All live steam coal burning model locomotives in gauges 3½", 5" & 7¼"

Also model traction engines from 1" to 4" scale.

Completed and part-built models bought and especially Exhibition Quality models and collections.

## Complete and part workshops purchased

For a friendly professional "nationwide" service please telephone:

Graham Jones M.Sc. 0121 358 4320

You will find my models for sale on

[www.antiqusteam.com](http://www.antiqusteam.com)

