

October 2012

Steaming Ahead



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Sutton Coldfield Model Engineering Society

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President Neal Harrison 0121 378 3992
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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 02 October	Board Meeting	7.30pm
Sun 07 October	Steam Up	10am-2pm
Sun 14 October	Birthday Party (2BC)	2pm-4pm
Tues 16 October	Tues Eve meeting	7.30pm
Sat 20 October	Steam Up	1pm onwards

Events Next Month

Sun 04 November	Steam Up	12 noon onwards
Tues 06 November	Board Meeting	7.30pm
Sat 10 November	Bonfire Night	6pm - 9pm
Sat 17 November	Steam Up	11am onwards

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Press Date is the first Tuesday of the month

Front Cover: A busy scene at the station during the Garden Party on 16 September

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

Chairman's Chunter

In the July edition I reported the re scheduling of the “summer Garden Party”. I predicted the day for the re run to be a bright late summer's affair and, thankfully, I was not too far wrong. All but a couple of people who had bought tickets for the original event attended and, from the feed back on the day, they had a good time.

It must be said, when we stage events, we do a great job and all who put the time and effort in deserve a pat on the back together with my sincere thanks.

On the day, the number of members and loco's in attendance was a boost to the feeling of what the society is about. To me it appeared we were having a brilliant members social with a number of ticket holding guests joining in. The event was organised well and as far as I know we had no problems.

As previously reported the 2013 calendar is to steer the society back onto a model engineering footing. Invitations have been made and accepted for a growing number of dates. We will be staging two new rallies in the name of Maxitrak and Ride on Railways, these dates are booked. Other societies are to be invited to visit so if you want to get the best out of the club keep your eye on the diary.

I have had discussions with Jackie at Blackgates Engineering who run the very well and successful Sweet Pea rally every year regarding us holding a narrow gauge week end rally. Jackie and Philip know of our society but have never visited. They are both heavily involved with Wakefield MES and as a result of our conversation they, as a club, will visit in June. Jackie also expressed an interest in Blackgates being involved with our proposed narrow gauge rally.

Back to the present or should I say very near future.

Three very important events are this side of the horizon. Bonfire night and the two Santa Specials. We are all aware of the financial benefit of these three events, they are important to our bank balance.

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

The more challenging on the day, I feel, is bonfire night. A good turnout of help is essential and, unfortunately, a few of the regulars are unable to attend so I am strongly appealing to all who are able to swell the numbers of the team to do so with an aim to maintain our reputation of producing the best Guy Fawkes celebration for miles. Regarding the Santa Specials, they are as demanding but in different ways. One especially, they are not run in the dark. Both events require manpower so let the coordinators, David Smith and Peter Robinson, know you will be there.

Around the site. The most obvious development at the present is the SM32 track bed. As always the job is being done to a very high standard, the Titanic would never have gone down if it had been built at Balleny Green. Track laying is in progress and I'm positive this asset will be creating a good interest by next spring. Maintenance and relatively small developments go on week in week out and I can assure all involved this effort does not go unnoticed.

Finally the Safety Officer is to publish a list of jobs which need to be done obviously on safety grounds. The list will be on the notice board so if anyone feels so inclined please tick off the jobs when completed.

My best wishes go to all especially, to those who could feel better.

Allan Leary

Santa Special Events 9 and 16 December

Public demand for tickets to the second of these events is always far greater than for the first. In order to reduce congestion and perhaps avoid disappointment over preferred time slots, it would be helpful if members could ask their own families and friends to book for 'Santa 1' wherever possible.

If I had my way, I would suggest imposing a surcharge on tickets for 'Santa 2' or even a discounts for 'Santa 1'!

Chris Greene

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

Bonfire night event 10th November.

Please would all members ensure that I know if you are available to help at this event. Manning is looking problematic at the moment so I am appealing to all, who are able, to support the society.

Allan Leary

High Level Track Refurbishment.

We have now been working on this project since January and can see the tailing off of our efforts. The track is in good working order now and we hope you all enjoy using it. Some minor ballasting is still in progress as is some pointing up. All electrical connections have been made good so Bill's signalling system should work well.

John, Peter and I worked as a team on this project, with the help of others, following the 'clubs way of doing things'. This is both worthwhile and enjoyable and I would ask all members, that are able, to get involved with our new and existing projects and get the most out of the club.

Mike Bentley

Health and Safety

I am very pleased to report that we have no serious accidents on site thanks to folks taking care of themselves and each other.

I would ask you to take note of the instructions for using the hydraulic platform lift in the N.E. corner. The instructions are attached to the fence on the right of the platform. Instructions include the closing of the gates while the lift is in operation and the number of operatives positioned on the lift and in the shed. It is essential that these rules are applied to prevent accidents to yourself and your colleagues.

Last month in Pictures ...



Laying roofing felt on the 32mm circuit—track laying next!



A treat for 'birthday boy' Harry on 9 September

Last month in Pictures ...



John's 'Polly' out for a test run



Crossing duty is a relaxing job in the sun ...

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

To give everyone the chance of being involved in keeping our site safe, Directors, at our last meeting, suggested we have a notice board with jobs requiring attention related to health and safety. This I will do and we can tick off jobs completed. With your help and support I am sure this will be a great success.

The First Aid box is on the top shelf of the white cupboard in the club room. Accident books on the shelf below. Eye wash files are located on the side of the cupboard. Sets of new safety glasses are also located in the cupboard where they should be returned to after cleaning.

If you notice anything that needs attention, concerning our safety, please inform me.

Mike Bentley Club Safety Officer.

Grounds Maintenance Diary

TUESDAY 4th

Picked up diesel on the way, checked the wind direction and got the bonfire going first thing. Then off to get the tractor and trailer to pick up the dried 'goat' hedge cuttings left from last week. Ron joined me and with the trailer piled high with dried hawthorn cuttings and some grass we were able to keep the fire going well, if just a little smoke going down the field!!!

Grenville arrived and got going with his mower and had made good progress by the time Ron and I joined him with the other mowers. With it being dry the grass had not put on quite as much growth and we made very good progress before stopping for an early break just after 10am.

After resuming Michael W arrived and having mixed some two stroke mix started strimming the banks by the level crossing. Pleased to have him back as there is plenty of good strimming to be done. Ron's also done a good job sorting out the library and setting it out on the new shelves – looks very tidy. Would members who have borrowed books please now return them – there are several missing!!!

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

Rod continues building up the waterfall, is near the top and almost ready to start thinking about work on the rill. Hopefully Roger will be back next week. We had left the hedge cuttings on the banks behind the waterfall to dry off but they require at least another week before we can burn them. However, John C used the tractor and trailer after raking them up to pile them adjacent to the bonfire ready for the next one.

I left after spending time watching the work being done on the SM32 base boards which are coming along very well. I believe this is going to be a very good asset to the society, presents a good opportunity for members to down size and save their back's as it's at least waist high.

SUNDAY 9th

Birthday Party for 6 years old Harry Hatton. There were around 50 adults and children and all thoroughly enjoyed the party and rides. We had non stop full trains -- four on the ground level -- from start to end. Lots of kind words but in particular from Jon & Zoe (Harry's Mum and Dad) who e-mail the following day saying "*Thanks for your message and photo. Zoe and I would like to thank you for organising yesterday's party which went down a storm with both kids and adults alike. Please pass on our gratitude to all of your team as they were fantastic with the children especially the driver who instructed Harry to take the controls at the end, that was Harry's proudest moment and will last long in his memory.* Best regards, Jon & Zoe Hatton. So from me, thank you to all of you for Sunday – another very successful party.

TUESDAY 11th

Another fine sunny morning with Ron parked waiting at the gate when I arrived and as we opened the club house Grenville arrived. Three team stalwarts and within ten minutes we were all mowing – must have it nice and tidy for the Garden Party on Sunday. Bill was next to arrive, quickly fuelled his hedge cutter and commenced cutting the front road side hedge. We were then joined by Michael who continued strimming the banks he started last week. By 10.30 we were all ready for a break and coffee in the shade under the patio.

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

I got the tractor and trailer and started collecting the road side hedge cuttings – joined shortly after by Grenville and Ron. With the four of us working we had the whole of the road side hedge cut and everything cleared away onto the bonfire by lunch time. Looks like next week I'll have to burn it, hopefully it will have dried out some. While we had been working on the grass and hedge Michael made good progress strimming the banks. His second week and we hope to see him next week to finish off the second of the large humps by the level crossing.

TUESDAY 18th

Priority this morning was to burn off all hedge cuttings from the last couple of weeks. Fortunately it's been dry and with a good wood base and a gallon of diesel it was only a few minutes before it was burning well. The last two weeks dry weather also meant that there was no need for any grass cutting, hooray; just as well with Grenville and Ron away to day.

I'd just got the strimmer fuelled and ready when Steve Wlk arrived and said he would deal with the long grass round the trees in the copse and elsewhere round the top of the site. So got the other strimmer, found the line and just got that sorted when Michael W arrived and took it to finish the second of the mounds by the level crossing.

Again I had just turned round and John C arrived and said he would hover the banks from the bonfire end towards those Michael was working on. With all three working well I turned my attention to the Oak tree in the south west corner between the tracks. Allan D had told me on Sunday that it had a number of dead branches and he was concerned they may break off. Those sorted and added to the bonfire I talked to the Safety Officer about the need to get an interlock on the small pedestrian gate at the side of the level crossing. Pedestrians take no notice of the buzzer – it's meaning less and requires a clear warning notice on the gate.

The morning went very quickly and by lunch all the banks had been cleared – a very good job and the site looking nice a tidy.

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

TUESDAY 25th

Again this week, other than round the club house, there was no need to mow which Ron did before leaving.

With most of the team away and me leaving early there was little that could be done. Steve Wn gave Chris a hand stripping rail from an 'O' gauge layout to go as scrap while Rod continued cementing the final rocks into the face of the waterfall.

Eric Davies

SCRS visit to Ballney Green 14 July 2012

Considering the appalling weather during June and the daily rainfall up to the event, we were indeed fortunate to pick the one dry day we had had in ages. In fact the sun made an appearance around 3pm to cheer us all up, where many of us had thought it had become the new 'lost planet'.

We are very grateful to all the members at Balleny Green for making 3 steam locomotives and the diesel available for the enjoyment of our members and their families, not forgetting of course the availability of hot drinks, crisps and confectionery.

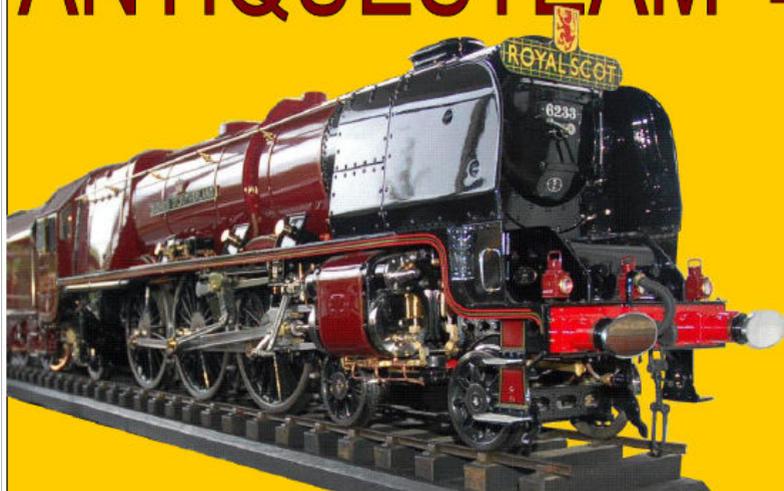
It was interesting to note the continued development of the railway. The computerised display and point/signalling linkage were particularly impressive.

Please extend our gratitude to all at Balleny Green and we enclose a cheque for £50 as a contribution to the event and as a token of our appreciation.

Malcolm Gibbins (SRCS)

Bonfire night 10 November—please help!

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