

June/July 2013

# Steaming Ahead



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**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  
David Smith 0121 351 7876  
Ron Freeman

## Forthcoming Events

TUESDAY	02-Jul	BOARD MEETING	7.30pm
SUNDAY	07-Jul	GARDEN PARTY	11.00am -- 4.00pm
SATURDAY	13-Jul	MAXITRAK RALLY	10.00am -- 4.00pm
SUNDAY	21-Jul	BIRTHDAY PARTY BOOKED	2pm-4pm
TUESDAY	23-Jul	STATIONARY ENGINES	5pm onwards
SUNDAY	28-Jul	MID FED RALLY	10.00am -- 5.00pm
SUNDAY	04-Aug	STEAM-UP & 2 1/2" RALLY	10am onwards
TUESDAY	06-Aug	BOARD MEETING	7.30pm
SATURDAY	17-Aug	STEAM-UP & SCRS VISIT	10.00am -- 5.00pm
SUNDAY	18-Aug	BIRTHDAY PARTY AVAILABLE	2pm-4pm
TUESDAY	20-Aug	EVENING STEAM UP	5pm onwards
MONDAY	26-Aug	SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY	10am onwards

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

Front Cover: Double headed 5" gauge B1's featured at the Spring Steam Gala. Peter and Mark prepare to leave the station on a trial run.

# Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!

## Chairman's Chunter

I wish to thank all who attended the 2013 Annual General Meeting. I am well aware that some travel considerable distance, even from foreign parts. So please accept my gratitude.

A particularly pleasing outcome of the AGM is the Board is now up to full strength with the election of three new directors. I welcome Chris Greene, Brian Clark and Mark Dale and thank them very much for accepting their nomination. I look forward to working with them with the best interests of the society in focus.

If you were unfortunate enough not to be able to attend the AGM I can report a more than usual gathering took place. One thing that remained as normal was the weather. The meeting was held in the marquee but we decided not to fit the ends and walls because, at the time, it looked as if we were going to be lucky as far as the weather was concerned. What a mistake that proved to be. As soon as the meeting opened so did the rain clouds. By the meeting's end the rain inside the tent was almost as bad as outside.

Despite the conditions an interesting meeting was had with good input from those present. Some interesting ideas were suggested and hopefully these will be followed up by formal proposals together with realistic costing. Many questions were raised followed by positive discussion, in particular, the financial state of the society and the need to be increasingly conscious of spending. It was felt that future project proposals must have a realistic budget attached. All budget overspend will be subject to Board approval.

A couple of recent events have proved to be most enjoyable. One day I particularly enjoyed was the visit to Balleny Green by Ride on Railways and Station Road Steam.

As well as both companies a good number of private locos were running. It had been expected that S R S would bring articles of interest but disappointingly this did not occur. Although this was disappointing as far as the event was concerned one of our newer members, Steve Wilkin, was pleased to take delivery of his new Station Road Steam 'Stafford' 0 4 0 locomotive. The way he carried on I hate to think how he is on Christmas morning.

I find these events so much more pleasing than fund raising events and what the society should aim for. The more societies meet together the better and stronger the model engineering world will be. Perhaps, back to the state of bygone times.

Having said that, it is perfectly obvious that fund raising is essential and I find if I am enthusiastic regarding these events the more I enjoy them.

Concerns have been raised regarding the notification members have of forthcoming events. I have to say the club calendar is regularly circulated and, generally, events are advertised on the SCMES web site, but having said that I acknowledge the comments and will endeavour to improve the issue.

## **Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!**

The Garden Party is almost upon us and all available tickets have been sold. Weather permitting I'm sure we will have a good day.

As always, I ask all who are able to take part in fund raising to do so and enjoy it.

Best wishes to all and I hope those who are not feeling too good at the moment get to feel much better soon.

*Allan Leary*

### **Garden Party 7th July**

Members are reminded that we have our main summer event on Sunday 7th July 11am-4pm at Balleny Green.

If you can help and have not already informed him, please contact John Cope on [Copesc@lineone.net](mailto:Copesc@lineone.net) or call 0121 378 3915.

*John Cope*

### **Safety Officer Corner**

In between the tunnel and the footbridge there are a new set of steps from the track level up to the grassed area. Now the new High Level Engine / Carriage Shed is in place these steps are opposite the entrance allowing easy access to the clubhouse without going under the footbridge. As you will have noticed the height from track level to the lowest part of the underside of the bridge is such that a tall person could hit their head resulting in a nasty injury.

Gary has kindly written for us instructions as to the use of the turntable / lift. These are posted next to the lift, for your use. Likewise instructions for the safe use of the Carriage Shed lift are posted on the fence. Please follow these for the safety of everyone.

On the notice board is a list of things we need to do to improve the safety of our site for the benefit of everyone. Please look and if there is any chance of your help, on any of the projects, I would be very grateful.

You will have noticed that the concrete platform to the right of the traction engine pathway has been removed. This was because it had a very sharp edge and was very near to legs of passengers. The concrete front has been replaced with a slope of gravel which still allows for the pathway to be used.

The muddy areas of our car parking area have always been a problem. Heavy rain causes areas to be unusable. Plastic mats have been used to protect the ground but these have a tendency to work themselves out of the ground. Any ideas would be very welcome.

## Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!

We owe it to each other to keep our wonderful site safe for everyone and we each have a duty of care which I am sure we all take seriously.

Please tell me of anything you have noticed at Balleny Green that could be a potential safety hazard.

Thank you.

*Mike Bentley*

### High Level Locomotive and Carriage Shed

The new facility is making good progress to date thanks to the hard work of the team. The interior is being lined to reduce condensation problems and increase security. On Tuesday we installed a rainwater gutter and down pipe to the rear of the shed. Also sealed the gap between the steel frame and the floor and installed a threshold strip. This should now ensure we do not have puddles inside.

We will be designing and costing for two parallel high level storage tracks that will go on the left hand side of the shed. This will allow locos to be easily transferred to a traverser and so onto the high level track with no lifting. Moving across the traverse there will be small high level steaming bay. On the right hand side of the shed it is envisaged that rolling stock will be stored. The approval of the Board will be sought for this work.

Much thought is being given to making the building as secure as possible – trying not to make it too obvious.

We hope that this facility will enable all members to have easy access to high level locomotives and come and enjoy playing – that is what life is about.

*Mike Bentley*

### A Competition

How are your engine driving skills?

We plan to hold a Driving Competition on Sunday 1st September at Balleny Green..

It will be a test of skill, not power/speed, so any 5" or 71/4" engine can enter.. Judgement will be based on managing your boiler, observing signals/signs, controlling your train professionally and safely, etc, It will also include driving circuits in both clockwise and anti - clockwise circuits.

If you are interested in entering/taking part, please contact John Cope. This can either be done by adding your name to the notice in the clubhouse, dropping me a line at the clubs address or by emailing me on [Copesc@lineone.net](mailto:Copesc@lineone.net).

# News in Pictures ...



The Erewash Society bought with them a variety of traction



A visiting 'Stafford' enters the station during the Ride on Railways Rally

# News in Pictures ...



Mike's traction engine completes another circuit of the field



Fun for all ages at the Ride on Railways Rally

## Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!

PS We are also looking at holding a shunting competition on 6th October - details next month.

*John Cope*

### **Society Accounts**

All members will have received, amongst the AGM paperwork that was sent out in May, my version of the Society's Income and Expenditure statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2013.

I now have a limited number of copies of our Accounts and official Balance Sheet and Accounts for the same period. If you want one, please ask me for it at Balleny Green, or send me a large A4 envelope, self addressed and with the appropriate large postage stamp.

*Chris Greene.*

### **Grounds Maintenance Diary and Misc Notes**

#### **TUESDAY 8TH**

I opened up and was followed in by Grenville, Ron and Steve; we were off to a good start, all of us, mowing before the rest of the Tuesday guy's arrived. While G, R and I mowed Steve concentrated on the 'humps' by the crossing. This is the first full cut they've had this year and will now be left until later in the year.

We stopped for coffee/tea at our usual time, 10.30am, and enjoyed the fine warm sunny morning and watching the group getting the marquee erected for this weekends Spring Steam Event. Everything went well and we finished around 12-12.30pm for lunch. Grenville was not able to tackle the weeds as someone had moved the sprayer and chemicals from its safe space in the loft to the carriage shed.

In the process the sprayer handle and spray control were broken rendering it totally useless. This should **NOT** have been moved from the loft; the chemicals can be dangerous and must be kept in a safe area. The sprayer is a professional one and has been in use for a number of years so getting a spare is very unlikely; consequence is we are trying but it is more than likely we will need to buy a complete new spray.

Under the patio Mike Brophy was cleaning the garden tables and chairs – something that needed doing after the winter, not only for the weekend but all future events.

#### **TUESDAY 15TH**

Ron was waiting at the gate, when I arrived to unlock, quickly followed in by Greville and Steve. I'd bought a replacement head for the damaged spray but it proved to be unsuitable, however, Garry said he would use special glue and repair it – good, and if successful it will save the society an expensive replacement.



## Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!

I'd also brought my one gallon sprayer which Grenville then used around the site. Steve and Ron went for the mowers and I followed but the safety switch spring on the tractor hand broken and it would not start. After half an hour on my knees repairing it I had the lawn tractor going and joined the other two.

Mugs of tea/coffee at half ten and about fifteen minutes watching the team clear away the marquee; then back to work.

### **TUESDAY 22ND**

Who would have thought there would be so much growth; the grass and hedges seem to be trying to catch up, so had to be mowed again this week. Grenville, Ron and I had to do a full mow to ensure the site looked good for the Bank Holiday weekend and the Traction engine evening tonight.

The chemicals we use for spraying/weed control are almost gone and need replacement. They have lasted around three years so are good value but since the last purchase, they have gone up in price and will cost £100+. Grenville tried the repaired sprayer wand but unfortunately it still leaked. The replacement wand I got, via the internet, proved unsuitable so Grenville took the broken one to ask the people he gets the weed killer spray off if they can help.

David, Allan and Paul also worked hard clearing the grass from inside the SM32 track which was quite thick. Roger and Rod worked on more planting on the waterfall rockery with some of the plants donated by Ian. While we were doing this, Steve managed to keep Garry occupied for part of the morning training him and testing him as a driver. He passed his test and then Garry had to repeat the whole thing again with John C.

### **TUESDAY 22ND**

Six of us this morning, it was tipping it down and no way were we going to do any serious work today. Rod planted a couple of items on the waterfall rockery, Roger fed the fish and other than that Grenville and Ron cleared a fallen branch.

Allan D pointed out to me a nest box in the south west corner. He pointed out a nest box which he said had a family of blue tits in. The parents were around and I agreed to be careful not to disturb them when mowing.

That's it for another month except for me to say that those of you who didn't make the Traction engine evening, also missed a very good supper – thanks to the ladies.

*Eric Davies*

# Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!

## **Pond Restoration /Waterfall Project – Progress Report.**

After what seems to have been a month of wet Tuesdays, the weather finally changed as June started, giving a dry weekend followed by a very dry and sunny Tuesday enabling the stream and waterfall concrete to have the required three coats of sealant.

The pump only needs a final electrical connection and water should be flowing over the waterfall. Work has continued on planting the rockery, weeding and generally tidy up around the pond edges.

The bench, facing the pond but under the trees, has been moved out into the open alongside the rockery and turned to face the pond.

Outstanding jobs are the planting of the other side of the rockery, finish laying the slab path between the pond and the laurel hedge and building a new fence around the pond.

*Roger Addenbrooke*

## **High-Level Signals Upgrade**

Over the past few months, with input from Mark Bradley and Peter McMillan, I have been upgrading the electronics in the signal heads of the above High Level circular track. This track has received a face lift to its mounting on the concrete support and the cabling has been replaced by Bill and helpers earlier on in the year.

It was noticed that some of the signals suffered from flickering particularly in damp conditions. So it seemed only right to upgrade this electronic area also. I volunteered to carry out this task and I can confirm that new boards have been produced and are now installed in all seven signal heads. To offer the greatest possible reliability I have had the components assembled on a high grade fibreglass printed circuit with through hole plating to maintain front to rear connectivity. Test facilities have been built into the design so that board functionality can be checked both in and out of the signal post. All the boards have been coated with a lacquer to completely seal them and they have been mounted on the front sealing plate of the signal head box to enable easy inspection of the board while still in its still live and in its working environment.

I am intending to give a talk on the design of controlling circuit on the 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm in the clubhouse. It will be aimed at the mechanical boys to give them an insight into the circuits operation. Although of course it is open to everyone who is interested. Also the better half will be serving you tea/coffee and a biscuit on arrival. If you would like to attend please either email me on [brian.oseman@talktalk.net](mailto:brian.oseman@talktalk.net) or put your name on the list on the notice board.

Thank you

*Brian Oseman (ossy)*

## Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!

### Ride on Railways Rally

A huge thanks to all to SCMES members who assisted with the preparation and running of trains at the Rally on 22 June and especially to the ladies and men who manned the kitchen to keep us well fed and watered - Dean, your burgers were delicious!

*Steve Kesterton*



John and Peter at work in the new high level carriage shed

**Help needed at the Garden Party on 7 July!**

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