

April 2014

Steaming Ahead



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Sutton Coldfield Model Engineering Society

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Directors

David Smith	Brian Clarke
Mike Bentley	Mark Dale
Peter Robinson	Chris Greene
Stuart Harrison	John Cope

Events This Month

TUESDAY	01-Apr	BOARD MEETING	7.00pm
SUNDAY	06-Apr	STEAM-UP	10am
SUNDAY	13-Apr	BIRTHDAY PARTY (AVAILABLE)	1pm
FRIDAY	18-Apr	GOOD FRIDAY BANK HOLIDAY	
SATURDAY	19-Apr	EASTER BANK HOLIDAY	
SUNDAY	20-Apr	EASTER BANK HOLIDAY	
MONDAY	21-Apr	EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY	
TUESDAY	22-Apr	EVENING MEETING	7.00pm
SATURDAY	26-Apr	SCRS EXHIBITION	9am
SUNDAY	27-Apr	SCRS EXHIBITION	9am

Events Next Month

SUNDAY	04-May	STEAM-UP	10am
MONDAY	05-May	MAY BANK HOLIDAY	
TUESDAY	06-May	BOARD MEETING	7.00pm
SUNDAY	11-May	SPRING STEAM EVENT	11.00am
SATURDAY	17-May	STEAM-UP	10am
SUNDAY	18-May	BIRTHDAY PARTY AVAILABLE	2pm
TUESDAY	20-May	TUESDAY EVENING MEETING	7.00pm
MONDAY	26-May	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	

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Press Date is the first Tuesday of the month

Front Cover: Dave Meredith about to give his loco a test run following repairs.

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

Chairman's Chunter

There is not a great deal to chew over for this edition. The activity within the society and on site since the last posting has been steady but compared to recent years there has not been a major single development in action. Much work has been done week in week out on a variety of jobs.

With future projects in mind the workshop miller has been treated to an intense dose of maintenance which, in itself, caused quite a headache for those involved. I do believe the work has been successful and the machine is now back in service.

The club loco, Great Northern, having been treated to smart new bogie sides displayed its gratitude by suffering serious brake failure. The repair involved the bogies being removed and the air cylinder rams being replaced. Again as a result of a fair amount of hard work the engine is back in service.

The horticultural work continues relentlessly. The hort team report is included.

Our new long term project, the L&B loco, is already proving to be positive as one of our members Chris Greene has enjoyed machining the wheels. A different experience for him and, it has to be said with guidance Chris did a very good job. It has been decided that the workshop is to undergo intensive changes to make the facility far more usable and user friendly.

Together with the workshop improvements the whole North East area is undergoing serious development. The recent effort to do this has been very labour intensive but the usual work horses are guaranteed to pull out the stops regardless of pain.

As I said earlier the work at Balleny Green goes on and on. It's pretty obvious I will have omitted someone's effort on site and I apologise for that. Occasionally it seems this effort passes unrecognised but I can assure all the doers that the work done is very much appreciated by me and the Board of Directors.

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

I am sad as far as the Board is concerned that Cath Brophy is unable to continue as Minutes Secretary after the AGM, a job she has fulfilled brilliantly and I know she took on the job initially at my personal request therefore I am immensely grateful to Cath for her constant support.

It is important that this post is filled. If anyone is prepared to take on this position or can suggest someone who would, noting it is an Officer and not a Director post, please make yourself known.

Finally may I remind you all the AGM is not far away so ensure your nomination for directorship, proposed and seconded, is forwarded to the Secretary before the closing date? Obviously any proposals proper to the AGM should also be forwarded to the Secretary.

I'll close there so as always, best wishes to all in particular to those feeling unwell just now,

Allan Leary

Membership Update

The last few months have been busy on the membership front. A very long standing member of the Society, Jim Bayliss has been made an Honorary member.

The following introductory members have gone on to become full or senior members:-

Vincent Kane of Cannock Wood
Michael Southwood of Lichfield
Malcolm Shaw of Sutton Coldfield
Anthony Hulme of Sutton Coldfield
Paul Woolrich of Fradley
Graham Woolrich of Lichfield

Brian Dale of Bilston has joined as an Associate member and Charlie Hodge (grandson of Rodney Hodge) is now a Junior member.

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

There are two new introductory members:-

Derek Payne of Stafford and Ron Chilton of Dudley

If some of you think that Derek Payne seems a familiar name then you would be right as Derek has been a member before and now having retired he has returned.

Those of you who I have not caught up with re your membership subscriptions will find a reminder letter enclosed with your news letter, if your subscription and the reminder have passed in the post then apologies.

Mark Bradley

Spring Steam Event Sunday May 11

The first main public event of the year is the Spring Steam Event which will be held on Sunday 11th May from 11am to 4.00pm. We need your help on the day to run the event and we want as many visitors as possible to come along.

Please put this date in your diary. Please also persuade your family and friends to come along. Tickets can be purchased from Chris Greene at 0121 351 3509 for £5 each.

Please help us start the new season well by making this a great day out.

Bill Colman

For sale or wanted

Members are advised that they have the facility on the website to sell or buy anything for model engineering.

If you need some parts, materials, semi-finished projects - anything you like....put it the wanted page. Contact Steve Hodgetts and he will do the rest for you.

Brian Clarke

Last month in Pictures ...



“Great Northern” fitted with its new bogie side frames



The club's “Britannia” sadly failed its boiler test

Last month in Pictures ...



Activity in the workshop



Happy Birthday Mr Chairman!" Best wishes to Allan Leary on your 65th birthday from all your friends at SCMES—thanks for all you have done for us!

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

Tuck Shop

Members who visit the Balleny Green clubhouse on a regular basis will be aware that there is a 'tuck shop' of various confectionary items and cans of soft drinks in one of the kitchen cupboards. Up to now the normal practice has been to pay for items taken by putting money in the donation churn.

We are trying to make this facility self financing, so in future please pay by putting the money in the red cash box with the improvised cash slot in the lid, and not in the milk churn.

Thankyou.

Chris Greene.

Models wanted for display....

On 26/27 April, Sutton Coldfield Railway Society are holding their annual exhibition at the Bishop Walsh school in Wylde Green.

As per previous year, SCMES are putting on a large display of our skills at this event and we are seeking members who would be willing to bring along items of interest for display over the weekend. Anything from a fully completed item to a 'work in progress' is welcomed as it will give visitors to the show an idea of the wide array of interests within our society.

Please contact David Smith on 0121 351 7876 if you are interested in displaying examples of your work.

David Smith.

For Sale

Simplex rolling chassis, runs on air. The following parts are included: Smokebox (Saddle and Door), Buffers, Steam Turret, Instructions and Drawings.

Price £500.00

Please contact Colin Roberts on 01709 365322

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

Grounds Maintenance Diary

TUESDAY 4TH

A lovely sunny still morning and just what the grounds team needed. Ron and I got the bonfire going with the usual help of Mr Diesel and were joined shortly by Grenville.

Then it was the first mowing of the year – chop and mulches the remaining leaves and twigs and will, hopefully, allow the grass/ground to dry out much quicker. We did quite well and were having our usual break when joined by Rodney, who then went off to check and number the lower copse trees.

We resumed mowing but because of a fault with the lawn tractor cutter drive I had to stop, so went and attended to the bonfire. By the time we all stopped the whole site was looking good for the tidy up, and after putting the mowers away, it was time for lunch and some of Ron's soup.

Roger and Rod had been working on the pool clearing some of the weed and planting the plants Rod had purchased and positioned on Sunday.

TUESDAY 11TH

The fine weather over the weekend is set to continue for the rest of the week, so whilst a chill wind it was a beautiful fine day and the site look really good.

First and main job today was planting the 100 hawthorn plants I'd obtained, they are bare root, 40/60 cm and one year old with good green shoots. Having got a spade, rake and hose we started at the maintenance store metal fence and worked our way up to the level crossing before running out of plants. The team worked well with Rodney using the spade to make holes, Grenville sorting and planting the hawthorn plants and yours truly using the hose to water them in and ensure they were positioned OK.

It went so well we were sitting having our coffee break by mid morning watching Ron get a steam test done on his new loco – a Jesse – with advice and guidance from the watching crowd. With a few minor adjustments everything went well and he should get his bit of paper from our boiler inspector shortly.

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

After coffee Mark and I went down to the maintenance store to sort out the lawn tractors electric wires to the cutter clutch. After a bit of a struggle with rope and Marks hoist we got the front sufficiently high off the ground for Mark to work. The fault turned out to be a faulty connection in a connector and once replaced its working fine. Thanks to Mark and help from Bill, Mike B and me.

Roger worked continuing what Rod had being doing on Sunday, clearing weed from the pool. He also worked on sorting out details for the protective fence going where the SM32 is intended to commence running along the back of the pool.

Finally, it was nice to see Dave Marchant, who arrived just after lunch, to do some work in the maintenance store.

TUESDAY 18TH

A fine prompt start to the morning, with all the grounds team on site and many more members. Bill had brought his long pole hedge cutter and made a start at the level crossing end of the hedge, down behind the club house. It was hard work and the hawthorn, being very prickly, soon saw team members pulling out thorns and bearing bloody scratches on the arms etc.

With Bill and then Grenville on the cutter, Rodney the other side of the hedge clearing cuttings, me clearing away from the cutting area and Ron and Steve taking and pilling it up on the bonfire. By 10.00am it was time to have a break and we all sat under the patio enjoying a well deserved coffee break.

We had cleared about three quarters of the way to the maintenance fence by 12-o'clock and decided it was time to break and clear up all the remaining small debris from the area. Ron and Steve, joined by John later in the morning, have done a good job stacking it and made an impressive bonfire. Next week more of the same.

While we were working on the hedge Rodger and Rod had re-installed the pump in the pool and done some more work on the fence to be installed between the pool and SM32 tracks.

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Finally, after lunch with Ron's soup to wash it down, Rodney helped me carry the high sides I'd made for the trailer down the field but unfortunately no time to install them today. They more than double the capacity of the trailer and will be a very big help carting away the hedge cuttings and leaves at the end of next year.

TUESDAY 25TH

A very miserable and wet morning and certainly not ideal to continue hedging. So Ron, Grenville and Bill had coffee and waited for the rain to ease off. Around 9.30 we decided that, whilst it was going to be wet, we would get the tools and continue hedging down behind the club house, e.g. Mrs Myatts. As there were initially only four of us I got the tractor and rope so that we could tow the branches to the bonfire instead of manually hauling them – the increasing distance was also becoming a problem.

Work went well and around 10.15 Richard Myatt came over to chat (he was exercising their dog, and said how well the work was progressing. He confirmed we could deal with the holly and other trees from their side in the maintenance store area – almost impossible to deal with it from our side. Lots of good will.

We had our coffee break and were joined by John, who then did a very good job piling today's branches on top of last weeks on the bonfire. It's now a very impressive pile and, given a few days dry weather, will be burnt next Tuesday.

A very satisfying morning's work and a good end to the months work. Although it looks a bit bare it will thicken/green up and ultimately save a considerable amount of work when we have to trim it in the autumn. A bigger bonus will be less leaves to collect up. More of the same next month.

Eric Davies

Don't forget the Spring Steam event on 11 May!

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