

May 2014

Steaming Ahead



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	Brian Clarke
Mike Bentley	Mark Dale
Peter Robinson	Chris Greene
Stuart Harrison	John Cope
Bill Colman	

Events This 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	

Events Next Month

SUNDAY	01-Jun	EREWASH SOCIETY	10am onwards
TUESDAY	03-Jun	BOARD MEETING	7.00pm
SUNDAY	08-Jun	STEAM-UP	10am onwards
SATURDAY	14-Jun	STEAM-UP AND AGM	10am onwards
TUESDAY	17-Jun	TUESDAY EVENING MEETING	7.00pm onwards
SUNDAY	22-Jun	BIRTHDAY PARTY AVAILABLE	2pm-4pm
SUNDAY	29-Jun	STEAM-UP & DRIVING COMPETITION	10.30am

Editor: Steve Kesterton
Mobile: 07946 025 151
Email: stevekesterton@hotmail.co.uk

Press Date is the first Tuesday of the month

Front Cover: It was brilliant to see Steve Wilkin back in action on his 'Stafford' loco at the Spring Steam Gala - welcome back Steve!

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

Watching the pennies

Your treasurer is still looking for ways of cutting unnecessary expenses. My last offering did not even make it into print, because it was felt that too many members would object or be offended.

I cannot understand why many members use the disposable styrene cups for their hot drinks when at Balleny Green. It has recently come to my notice that these cups cost the club more than 2 1/2p each.

As a conservative estimate, I would guess that for every drink sold to visitors in these cups, at least 20 are used by members without any thought of the cost. I don't know how much we charge visitors for drinks at events, but it means that unless they pay at least 52p, they are not covering the cost of the cup, never mind the drink in it!

I would like to ban the use of these cups, except for visitors and helpers at events. Members who don't like using club crockery could always provide their own. Alternatively, perhaps members should resume paying for all our drinks, as was the case up to about 10 years ago.

Chris Greene.

Thanks!

I recently visited Balleny Green and was warmly welcomed by Chris, Neil, Steve and other members. I enjoyed my visit very much.

Chris showed me round and I was very impressed by the signals monitoring and ingenuity and thought that had gone into so many aspects of the site.

I had a run with my shunter as well. Please pass on my thanks to all.

Neil Wyatt

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

Wood Chippings

Free

Ideal for mulching or ground cover.

First come first served.

Piled up by the turning circle at Balleny Green.

Eric Davies

Return to Balleny Green

I recently returned to SCMES after many years away on larger railways, but tiring of their commercialism, desired the simpler pleasure of a "club atmosphere", and returned to pasture old. Big is not always better! Little did I know that I would walk straight into a job.

My interest is in the research and design of 7¼" gauge locomotives, usually mainline diesels. However, the new Lynton and Barnstaple club locomotive requires many parts to be made from drawings that were originally only workshop "sketches" rather than engineering drawings. The team, under the direction of Brian Clarke was looking for a means to get "proper drawings" for the members to use when making parts.

Up shot my hand to offer to draw the locomotive, for I so enjoy engineering drawing, and the chance to learn more about a steam engine seemed a new fun thing for exercising the old grey matter. Thank you for the chance to be involved, and work has started on wearing out the pencil and using reams of paper.

My other surprise upon returning was to see "Great Northern" looking so resplendent in its new paint job, cheers Gary, and the engineering overhaul, thank you Mark. This was the first locomotive I built back in 1997 to my own design with some input from a model maker in the USA. It is lovely to see her going so strongly after all these years.

The Balleny Green of old shines through, and the grounds are immaculate, and beautifully tended.

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

The track has clearly been improved both in additions and improvements to the layout and the condition of the track-work. The SM32 layout is a new addition that did not exist when I was last a member. The ground crew have done a stalwart job keeping all in good fettle and making improvements.

It is great to be back amongst a friendly group of model makers of diverse and common interests.

Derek Payne

A response to the detractors of the L&B loco project

We call ourselves a Model Engineering Society. I have been a member for thirteen years, and in that time, I have not seen, or participated in, any modelling project.

In saying that, I am excluding the building of our sit-astride carriages and brake trucks on the grounds that they were constructed from prototype designs as opposed to being miniature replicas of any full sized vehicles. By the same token, repairs to locos and/or rolling stock come under the heading of necessary or essential maintenance, rather than creative modelling.

Before I joined the Society, I had a fascination for all forms of transport, but absolutely no experience of metalwork. The only modelling I had ever done was plastic construction kits, with varying degrees of success. When I retired, I decided to try something a little more adventurous, and so embarked upon the ill-fated programme of building a loco from a kit of machined parts. That's another story.

Fast forward three or four years, by which time I had become heavily involved in the running of our Society. Whilst we are basically a private member's club, we have to rely on the general public in order to maintain our existence.

Last month in Pictures ...



Allan D. working on the bridge pillars for the SM32 extension



Chris sorting out the old rail ready for sale

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

MIDLAND FEDERATION RALLY

SUNDAY 22nd JUNE 2014
11am onwards

AT THE
**BURTON-ON-TRENT
MODEL ENGINEERING
SOCIETY TRACK.**

Meadow Road, Burton-on-Trent
DE14 1TD
(Off the Old Burton Bridge, A511).

ALL WELCOME

The Society has a raised 5" & 3¹/₂" g track together
with a ground level 7¹/₄" & 5" g track.
Both tracks have hydraulic lifts to assist with unloading.

Refreshments will be available,
donations for which will be gratefully received.

Telephone for further information
Brian Benton (Chairman) 01543 257320.
David Gravett (Secretary) 07812 640130.



Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

Modelling takes many varied forms, such as all types of transport, militaria, dolls houses, or other buildings etc. Of these it is transport which is the principal aspect to involve outsiders. At Balleny Green we cannot fly model aircraft because of the overhead electricity cables, our pond is not suitable for model boats, and cars, when fully detailed, are not toys, so they can only be looked at, and not played with.

That leaves us with miniature trains and railways. Over the years, we have become the victims of our own success by inviting the general public to various ticketed events. Bonfire Night and the Santa Specials seem to attract more visitors each time, and all these people expect to be able to ride on the trains. The club owns two diesel outline locos which, when in running order, are up to the task required, but it is steam locos which really capture the imagination of our visitors.

Within the Society, we only have two or three members who own steam locos which are large enough and capable of hauling passengers for sustained periods at events. Even where they are prepared and available to do so, it would be unreasonable to expect them to run their large locos every time we hold ticketed events. Throughout my membership, it has been necessary to ask loco owners of other societies to help us each Bonfire Night, and occasionally the Santa Specials, by bringing those locos to run for the public at Balleny Green, because we had insufficient resources to do it all ourselves.

When one of our directors heard about the part-built L & B loco being available for sale, he proposed to the board that it would be an ideal opportunity to fulfil our *raison d'être*.

It would give the Society a sense of purpose

A chance for all those members who want to be involved to work together as a team.

We would become (eventually) self sufficient for big events.

Many of our regular supporters could follow the progress of the build.

There would be more incentive to keep the workshop tidy, and not a dumping ground.

An opportunity for members such as myself to learn about metalworking techniques,

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

At the end of the building project, if it is found that the finished loco is unsuitable for our needs, we would have an asset available for sale worth far more than we spent on it.

Conclusion: This new loco project has many similarities when compared to the track re-laying programme which the club undertook some seven to ten years ago – the anticipated timescale, the probable budget. There will be points to be debated or discussed as the scheme develops, there will always be sceptics amongst the membership, and although the team leaders may be different, many of the “hands on” members this time will have been heavily involved in the previous project.

Despite the critics, at the end of the track laying, the general consensus was a job well done. I can see no reason why the result should be any different for the new loco.

Chris Greene

Grounds maintenance diary

TUESDAY 1ST

No joke, just the four of us this morning, Grenville, Ron, Bill and myself trying to get the bonfire started. Very difficult as the wood is so green and after the heavy rain last night. However, with the usual gallon of diesel, some dry wood and paper we managed a relatively small fire. Even with the leaf blower it wouldn't burn.

So we left it and started work on the hedge from where we finished last week. Bill handed the cutter to Grenville who worked from the far side tackling the very large holly and hawthorn trees. These were easily 30-40 foot high with trunks at least 9-10 inches across and thorns of similar proportions.

We were all pleased when it was time for the usual coffee break; on this nice sunny morning it was nice to relax out on the patio. John C joined us and took on the job of looking after the bonfire which he did and managed to burn a small amount of the existing pile including all of today's branches.

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

We finished around lunch time and were joined by Roger who had spent the morning erecting the safety fence, he had constructed, between the pool and SM32 track. This is to prevent any person from getting past the side of the SM32 track and removing the risk of anyone slipping and falling into the pool. I mean we don't want the fish disturbed!!!!!!!!!!!!

TUESDAY 8TH

A nice sunny morning but with a chill wind to carry on with the hedging. Grenville, Ron, Bill, Steve and I started and were joined by Rodney with grandson Charlie a bit later.

The hedging has now been completed down to the maintenance area steel fence and a small amount behind the KLARGESTER, by the level crossing. We stopped late morning because the holly trees are under the overhead power lines and dangerous to go any further. Western Power have advised me they will be at Little Hay next week to clear all trees and hedges within 3 metre's of the power lines.

A good morning's work and an even bigger bonfire to deal with when it's dried out a little more, perhaps in a fortnight's time. I'm on holiday and Bills on a days walking trip next Tuesday, so it will be the rest of the team to get the mowing done ready for Easter Weekend.

TUESDAY 15TH

While I was away on the Isle of Man, Grenville, Rodney and Ron took the opportunity to do some mowing while the guys from Western Power attended to the greenery that was within 3 metre's of their overhead lines.

Next Tuesday will be a bonfire if we can get it started, some mowing and continuing the hedging down behind the maintenance area.

TUESDAY 22ND

Rod worked hard Easter Sunday clearing and laying a couple of slabs down the back of the pool, which when complete, will provide a safe and stable path.

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

Today the heavy overnight rain put paid to the aim of burning the large pile of bonfire materials and since I was away last week, my priority was to get the lawn tractor and mow the main areas. Bill checked the signalling and then checked his arrangements for the Garden Party while Rodney used the fly-mower to tackle the long grass on the humps near the level crossing.

Only three of us this week but hopefully, there will be a full team next week although Bill is having his Pacemaker replaced Friday and no doubt restricted to light duties.

TUESDAY 29TH

A nice fine day and the team were busy at work on the hedge at the side of the maintenance store dealing with two large hawthorn trees and several very substantial holly trees. Even with Bill, Grenville, Ron, Rodney and myself working we had to have a break for coffee at around 11.00am.

By the time lunch was reached we had decided to call it a day for this week; the pile of hedge in Myatts was almost the size of that in our bonfire area and still with some very large trees to deal with up to the corner where it's planned to finish.

Hopefully the weather up to next Tuesday will be mainly dry and enable me to get the bonfire started and some of the hedge cuttings/tree branches burnt. Whatever it will be mowing and hedging again next week!!!

Eric Davies

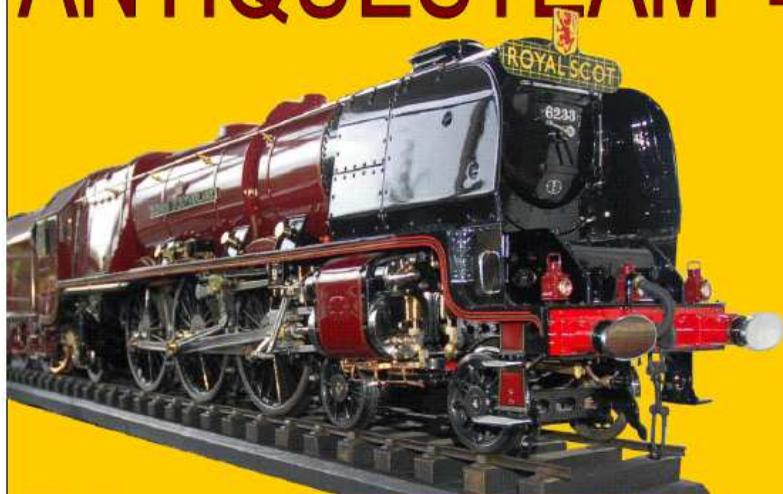
Midland Fed Rally

Please be advised that the 2014 Midland Federation Rally takes place on Sunday 22 June at the Burton on Trent MES tracks. See advert on page 7 for more details!

Peter McMillan

Don't forget to enter the Driving competition!

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.antiquesteam.com

