



Southampton Society of Model Engineers Ltd

Member of Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies

NEWS LETTER

Vol. No 165 March 2001

Club Corner

25 March	First days running at track.
28 th March	A.G.M. – <u>7:30 start</u>
7/8 th April	Two day event at track.
11 th April	Bring and Buy chinwag.
9 th May	Talk on the Bursledon Brickwork's.
9 th June	Club outing to the 'Bluebell Railway'.
13 th June	Outside visit to the Bursledon Brickwork's.
16 th June	"No Trains Day" Traction engine event at Riverside Organiser - Paul Clarke.
23 rd June	Fun day at Riverside for the handicapped groups.
11 th July	Outside visit to 'Eastleigh Preservation Railway Society'.
18 th July	Southampton 'Parent and Toddler' group visit to the track.
11 th August	Club 'Fun Day' at the track – everyone welcome.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2001

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 28th March 2001 at the Royal British Legion, Manor Branch, Bullar Road, Southampton. Commencing 7:30pm

Agenda

- 1/ Chairman to open meeting and receive apologies.
- 2/ Minutes of last AGM
- 3/ Matters arising.
- 4/ Chairman's report.
- 5/ Treasurer's report.
- 6/ The President.
- 7/ Life members.
- 8/ Election of officers.
- 9/ Election of Auditors.
- 10/ Items raised by members.

Any member wishing to raise a question at the AGM must do so in writing. The letter to be with the secretary no later than 21 (Twenty one) days before the meeting.

All meetings are held at the Royal British Legion, Manor Branch, Bullar Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton on the SECOND Wednesday of each month at 8.00p.m.

Copy for the June Newsletter to be sent handed/thrown at me at the May meeting please. You may also email me at (newsletter@tesco.net)

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Chairman and Secretary's Chat

Just a little note to say "THANK YOU" to all who helped on the Poppy Run we raised the terrific sum of £246.09 which was over £100 more than last year.

Frost bite was well attended with some fourteen loco's in attendance and the weather was kind to us – it didn't start raining till we had almost got everything stowed away.

The AGM is nearly upon us, I have tried to give a fairly full diary until the end of August so here's hoping that someone will take on the mantle of SOCIAL SECRETARY.

This is advance warning! Next April the 3½ - "5" gauge track will celebrate its 40th ANNIVERSARY, we intend to celebrate this occasion. We would like you all to come up with your suggestions as to how you would like this to be done.

It would be nice to do a programme similar to the one we did when we opened the 7¼" track, is there anyone out there who would like to take this on?

Also would you like to stage an exhibition marquee again? Please don't put this newsletter to one side and forget all about it, time flies by all too quickly and an event such as this takes a lot of planning and thought.

The Club outing to the Bluebell Railway is virtually sold out, we have five seats remaining on the coach. It is nice to get such good backing for a change.

With regards to the Traction Engine event in June for any information please contact Paul Clarke. Direct as he is organising it.

We had a very successful trip to Edmonton virtually a full coach on this outing too. We all look forward to the change of venue next January.

It doesn't seem possible that that we start passenger running in just three weeks - where has the winter gone.

The lads have worked extremely well during this time and I am very pleased to report the whole of the raised track has been creosoted and lots of other jobs have been completed.

We should hear very shortly whether the Council would allow us to extend our steaming bays and move the blowdown ramp and also fit the knee rail. Believe it or not but there has been an objection to the extension of the steaming bays, The National Tree Society felt that they would impede the roots of a willow tree – however Eric has made some alterations which should improve our case. What the Tree Society has completely overlooked is the fact that when we laid our raised track the whole area was devoid of any vegetation. This came at a much later date and all the trees and shrubs were supplied and planted by the council in areas designated by them.

WE all hope for a much better season as far as the weather is concerned and hope to see you sometime during the season.

DON'T FORGET WE NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY.

Pickett's Lock 2001

By the Editor

The annual pilgrimage to the London Exhibition at Pickett's Lock, took place again this January. The coach left the track at the prescribed time and we were not held up on the journey north. Entry to the exhibition was swift and fairly painless without too much damage to the wallet.

With a few purchases to be made it was straight into the trade stands to try and find a bargain or two. Gripping my purchases in one hand and a collection of catalogue's (wishful thinking) in the other. Bargain hunting is not one of my strong points so material for various bits/projects were bought instead. It pains me to spend money on things I can make, usually from better materials and better finished. Frankly my old lecturers would have rejected some of the fittings sold today, just for their surface finish alone let alone torn threads and rough edges. One supplier of fittings who shall remain anonymous was very taken aback when asked if his fittings were to European standards. By a gentleman from Holland who happened to be next to me at a leading stall. Perhaps the Dutch have new rules about valve spindles that can be wound right out, or the materials that fitting bodies can be made from.

The show appears to be biased around the trade stands and I believe this to be the way that the organiser wishes it to be. I must admit it is very useful for topping up on bits and pieces. As they run the exhibition at Donnington later in the year for the exhibits side of the hobby. I understand that the show next year is to be held in or near Wembley. With the building works for the new stadium there it may not be so easy to get to as Picketts lock.

As you may well have gathered I had a very good day out with the boys and girls of the society on this annual pilgrimage. But I feel that I must comment on the behaviour of some members who insisted on smoking. I find it wholly inappropriate in this day for people to smoke in confined places such as coaches/meeting rooms etc. Whilst not decrying their right to smoke, I do feel that this practice may be keeping some members away from meetings.

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Distance Between Ctr's 500mm

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Saturday 16th June
All Day

The Idea behind this event is to give the Traction engine owners a chance to play in the park. Wednesday evenings are not much use to an engine owner that has an engine that takes an hour to get up steam. And Sunday afternoons are geared up for the train boy's to play. To have a gathering specifically for members, who are interested in road vehicles, seemed like a good idea. We could possibly tempt some of the Loco drivers to take part. Although their steering has to be seen to be believed sometimes. Kidding aside we have the permission to use the park and very rarely seem to use it. If the event is well supported we should be able to extend it to a bigger event in the future. Boiler Certificates and RLA Insurance will be required, after that you will have the run of the park you may even run into a Saturday football match at the other end of the park. The park has extensive paths either tarmac or slabs and a few slopes etc to keep you interested.

All we need is some sunshine and good luck to make this a 'Grand Day Out'
Contact me Paul Clarke 02380 495125 evenings or email (newsletter@tesco.net)