



Southampton Society of Model Engineers Ltd

Member of Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies

NEWS LETTER

Vol No 150 June 1997

Club Corner

14th June	Club Outing to 'Pecorama' at Beer
9th July	Outside visit to Bursledon Windmill 7.00pm. Please inform Sec if attending the above event.
13th August	Barbecue at Riverside.
10th September	A talk by Capt. Kennedy of the Winchester Preservation Trust.
8th Oct	T.B.A.
12th Nov	Cock up Night! Bring along all those not quite right bits!!!
10th Dec	Christmas Buffet

All meetings are held at The Royal British Legion, Manor Branch, Bullar Road, Bitterne, Southampton.
On the second Wednesday each month at 7:30pm.

Forthcoming Events

21st June	Waterside Gateway Club spending the day at the track.
2nd July	Southampton Parent and Toddler Groups at Track.
5th/6th July	Downs Steam Rally.
12th July	Wallingford Village Fair - Portable track and traction engine event.
12/13th July	I.M.L.E.C. Llanelli Society track Pembrey Park (see Merlins wanderings Page)
19th/20th July	Guildford Traction Engine and Steam Rally.
25th/27th July	Netley Marsh Steam Rally.
26/28th September	Bristol Model Engineering and Hobbies Exhibition.

Also received are dates for exhibitions and illustrated talks by the West Sussex Archive Office that may be of interest to members. (sorry if the title is wrong Bill).

16th June - 31st August	Railway exhibition at the West Sussex Record Office. Entry Free The exhibition covers the Westward extension of the L.B.S.C.R. from Chichester and the Selsey Tramway.
17th June and 8th July	Illustrated Talk - Selsey Tramway at W.S.R.O.
19th June and 15th July	Railways from the Film Archives at the W.S.R.O.
26th June	Illustrated Talk - L.B.S.C.R. around Chichester at the W.S.R.O.
5th July	Selsey Tramway Centenary Walk.
10th July	Illustrated Talk - The Country Railway in West Sussex. at the W.S.R.O.

All your eagerly penned articles for the next newsletter by the August Meeting please

Chairman and Secretary's Chat.

On Easter Sunday the sun shone and we broke the society's record for the most passengers hauled on the first days running of the season - 713. The following week we had just under - 500 then came the 'big one'. If Martin Luther King can have a dream then so can the Southampton Model Engineers. Theirs came to fruition on Saturday 12th April. The big event started to take shape the previous weekend with the collection of tables etc and during the week young David was out there every conceivable hour he could, strimming and mowing grass, the site has not looked better for sometime. Thursday evening saw the erection of a tented city which was to be used for the exhibition of models plus a catering tent (by far the most important) the use of a marquee for a dining area. Throughout Friday the site was buzzing with activity with all sorts of things being setup in readiness for Saturday. The Trade stands were in position Friday evening when our first 7½" visitor arrived a 2-8-0 Denver and Rio Grande.

Saturday dawned to a beautiful blue sky and at seven o'clock Mike Collyer was seen steaming his 7½" G.E.R. J15 0-6-0. From then on the site became full of activity our dream had become reality. We had visitors from as far a field as Yorkshire across to Cardiff and Bristol and across to Canvey Island and a grand total of 53 running locomotives over the two days.

The general public were allowed access to the inside of the track for the first time via our new footbridge. Thanks to members support an exhibition of over 80 models were on display. This plus other members with steam boats on the Itchen River adjacent to the track made for a full and varied display of interests found within the society.

We did however have one set-back just thirty minutes before the official opening, our Jim, who had built The L.M.S. 4-6-0 Scot 'Royal Engineer' the lead 7½" locomotive, suffered a heart attack. The paramedics were called and it meant that Jim had to watch his locomotive from the sidelines before going off to hospital for a thorough overhaul. Jim having now been out shopped, with only a speed restriction. Dave (chairman not strimmer) asked our President Mr Uvedale Corbett to say a few words on behalf of the society, to welcome everyone present. Unbeknown to him the Society had decided to couple the grand opening of the 7½" track and the 35th anniversary of the raised track with a presentation to Mr Corbett himself. He was presented with an original L.M.S. coat of arms transfer mounted on a wooden background with an inscription thanking him for all that he had done for the Society over the past 23 years as President. Jeremy Hill of the Southampton City Council cut the ribbon at 2.10pm and then drove Royal Engineer around the new track. Derek Giles meanwhile set off on his 5" B.R. 9F with Mr Corbett. I have never felt so proud of our Society as when those locomotives pulled out of the station, people cheering, whistles blowing and when you looked around not a square foot of space left. I must confess to shedding quite a few tears of emotion. It was truly a wonderful sight. On their return to the station Mr Hill and Mr Corbett cut a celebration cake which had been made by Jane Gettings and iced by a friend of mine. The cake was superb thank you Jane. On Saturday evening a fish and chip supper had been arranged at our meeting room not far from the track site.

Sunday dawned to yet another bright and glorious day and we were as busy as Saturday. We had tremendous support from the general public. Thanks must go to all the visitors who passenger hauled for us. Special souvenir tickets presented for two weeks previously and a write up in the Southern evening Echo, assisted with advertising. The Cooks tent was a hive of activity all weekend. A very big thank you must go to all of the ladies without whom the weekend would have been a much slimmer affair! When at 5.00pm on Sunday the last locomotive came off the track the hard work of packing every thing away began. Many thanks must go to the members who helped in this arduous task. All was packed away by 7.30pm and all that was left were memories of a fantastic moment in the Society's history.

Thank You Everyone

Obituary of Mille Fay Wife of Alan Fay

Sadly the open weekend was to be the last time that we were to see Millie Fay the wife of Life Member Alan Fay and mother to Martin. She suffered a fatal heart attack three weeks after our grand opening. We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the family at this time.

Merlin's Wanderings

Supplied by Merlin Biddlecombe

On the weekend of March 22nd/23rd Marcia and I had arranged to visit our daughter who lives in the welsh town of Llanelli not knowing at the time the arrangements were made that the Llanelli Club were holding their Spring Rally. So leaving Marcia and daughter Kerry to tour the shops I popped along to the Club track site in Pembrey Park some six to eight miles further on. The track is about 1600ft in length, quite interesting going around a wooded hill. A nice Club building and steaming bay area situated inside the track, cut back into part of the hill. They have a club engine which is a 5" 'Dholpur' (a Hunslet narrow gauge engine, marketed by G.L.R.) a large and powerful engine. The Rally was quite well supported and very enjoyable. The Llanelli Club are hosting I.M.L.E.C. so are working quite hard to ensure that everything is ready, perhaps best wishes to them are in order, taking on this ever growing event.

On Sunday April 27th I made my yearly pilgrimage to the Isle of Wight, on the occasion of the I.W.M.E.S. 13th Loco Rally. I managed to catch the 11 o'clock ferry, plenty of room, a lovely sunny day, what a good start. On reaching East Cowes a short walk to the chain ferry and from the chain ferry a slow uphill twenty minute walk to the track site at Broadfields. I have attended this rally for eleven of the thirteen years but this was rather different. The difference? a completely new track new steaming bays, with traverser, signals etc, gone is the chicane around the tree at the bottom end of the track and a nice forty foot radius in its place. The boating pool has also been refurbished, slightly repositioned and now has a hard standing around the edge. I did notice that the Boating chaps have still got and are still giving a home to the dozens of tadpoles. A good turnout of loco's and boats were there to be pondered over but one model that impressed me was a 10.6cc V8 four stroke glow plug petrol engine. It measured 4" long 3" wide and 3" high with an all up weight of 15ozs and I quote "The engine contains 550 components over 280 of which are moving parts". To see it start and hear it run is quite something. It was designed by Mr Eric Whittle and described in the Model Engineer April 1995 onwards. (also reported in Engineering in Miniature at a similar time was Eric Whittle's De Havilland 'Cirrus' four cylinder engine) The most outstanding feature of the event has without doubt got to be the ladies who were plying the visitors and home club members with food and drink. Salad, Cheese, Rolls, Sandwiches, Quiche, Cake, Jelly, Cream, Trifle and so on what a feast who cares about the steam engines. So ladies from me and I am sure I can include all of the visitors Thank you most sincerely. (should be O.K. for a cuppa next year)

Tail Lamp

I must first of all thank you all very much for the reception that my wife and I received at the recent open weekend when we showed off Amy for the first time at only one week old. The temptation to ask for a membership form has been resisted for the time being. On our return home we noticed a smut on her head, what hope has she got!

Obituary of Alan Bealing

On a more sombre note it is with great sadness that I write the obituary of life member Alan Bealing. The amount of pleasure that Alan had brought to our club meetings with memories in the form of slides taken by him over a long period will sadly be missed. In the future will we be able to view the miles of video taken by members as technology makes them obsolete, remember the old betamax system? The simplicity of a lamp and a lens to project the past has a lot going for it.

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