



Southampton Society of Model Engineers Ltd

Member of Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies

NEWS LETTER

Vol No 149 March 1997

Club Corner

26th Mar	A.G.M. 7.30pm Start.
30th Mar	Start of Running Season at track.
9th April	Presentation By Greenwood Tools.
12th/13th April	Two Day Event Official Opening of 7 1/4 Track.
14th May	Hemsby Video night (Norfolk 7 1/4 Railway).
11th June	Annual pilgrimage to Ropley (Mid Hants).
14th June	Club Outing to 'Pecorama; at Beer (see article in Newsletter for further details)
9th July	Outside visit to Bursledon Windmill 7.30pm. 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.

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

26th April	Isle of Wight Society Open day.
21st June	Waterside Gateway Club spending the day at the track.
5th/6th July	Downs Steam Rally.
12th July	Wallingford Village Fair - Portable track and traction engine event.
19th/20th July	Guildford Traction Engine and Steam Rally.
25th/27th July	Netley Marsh Steam Rally.

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 May Meeting please

Chairman and Secretary's Chat

Frost bite certainly lived up to its name this year; it was one of the coldest we've ever experienced. The stand pipes for the water froze and even the water in engine tenders froze. We ended up blowing the main fuse in the Clubhouse because we were trying to heat up the soup, kettles for hot drinks, saucepans of hot water to melt the ice and the heaters were on to keep people warm. But it was a super day despite the freezing cold and just under a hundred people were in attendance.

In late January several members visited the Exhibition held at Leigh Park Leisure Centre, Edmonton, staged by Tee Publishing. This was their first venture at Edmonton but it certainly won't be the last. Although it was smaller than some exhibitions it was well laid out and the Model exhibits were well represented. It is understood that next year they hope to stage a Four Day Event covering two halls. If response is good we will run a coach to this event, like we used to, Stoneleigh. Well done Tee Publishing!

Well the work is almost complete - the lads have really pulled out all the stops to get everything ready for the start of the 97 season and even more important for that very special event in the Society's history - The 35TH ANNIVERSARY of the 5" and 3 ½" gauge raised track and the long awaited official opening of the 7 ¼" ground level track. Please start crossing everything in the hope that the weather will be kind to us.

There has been a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes, but to look at the end result it is a dream come true. As I have said many times before I could never really visualise how everything would look from a set of drawings - to see it now in reality, we have a really superb miniature railway track. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who sent in their entries for our grand Exhibition in the marquee - the official Souvenir Programmes will go on sale on our first days running - Sunday March 30th 1997 - price 50p.

As you can imagine we are going to need all the help we can get starting from the Thursday (10th April) evening - marquees have to be erected, tables and chairs put out, exhibition tables to set up - so please come along! We can find a job for everyone on all three days. We shall need Car Park Attendants, Volunteers to man the Exhibition Marquee, Volunteers to conduct visitors to the Steam Boats and as we shall be selling Refreshments and Programmes throughout the weekend, we shall need helpers for these jobs as well. These are just a few of the things we have to cover for our two day event.

The 7 ¼" gauge track will be officially opened on Saturday April 12th 1997 at 2.00 p.m.
by Jeremy Hill of the Southampton City Council.

Whilst the lads have been working on and off site I have not been idle. I had the enjoyable task of setting out and typing up the official programme which was at the printers before my original deadline thanks to everyone getting their paperwork to me on time. In order to keep down the cost I then had the not quite so enjoyable job of collating the sheets together, then they all had to be stapled and folded - I had aches and pains in some odd places for days to come. I also compiled and printed at work 1000 fliers for distribution to the Southern Federation Societies, M J Engineering and A J Reeves who very kindly offered to include our flier with every order they posted out. I have also started sending out official invitations - if you have anyone you would like to invite please let me have their name and address. Dave and I also visited 'Home Spinney Lodge' to have a chat with the residents to explain what would be happening over the two day event. It proved to be a very interesting meeting as we were able to answer any queries they had. We hope too that we have allayed their fears regarding the Footbridge - it would appear that it is something of a novelty to the younger element of society to climb on the Footbridge and wave to the residents in their flats. We explained that the Footbridge hadn't been completed and that when the mesh had been put in place it would be extremely difficult for them to climb on.

Putting on my second hat, I am pleased to say that Subs have been coming in fast and furious and that when this Newsletter was written only twelve members had not renewed their Subs.

Wearing my third hat I have been contacting several proposed speakers for our Wednesday evening Meetings.

Once the pressure is off after the Open Weekend we shall still have a few cosmetic improvements to complete on the site.

Namely - Hard standing around the Ash ramp, the Unloading and Steaming Bays on the 7 ¼" and to lower the septic tank manhole.

- Coal and Oil Storage improvements.
- Landscaping - If our attempts during the winter have not been successful then we start again!!
- Finally finishing off the Clubhouse - repainting the exterior.

On the 21st June we are having our friends from the Waterside Gateway Club for an all day visit - keeping the promise we made to them when they left last year, that is, that our first official passengers on the 7 ¼" track last year would have a full track ride this year. Please mark this date in your diary as we would like as many Loco's as possible to turn up as the word has spread since last year's visit and we are expecting a full coach load of passengers.

We have been invited again this year to take our portable track and traction engines to the Wallingford Village Fayre on Saturday July 12th 97 (hope the grass is cut lower this year!). The following weekend is the Guildford Traction Engine and Steam Rally where our traction engine boys come into their own. It is a very popular venue for everyone. The three day Netley Marsh Steam Rally is on 25/26/27th July 97 and we hope to stage an Exhibition again this year - please advise as soon as possible if you wish to exhibit at this event. We urgently need a 5 gauge Loco for this event and a standby Loco for running on the portable track - Can you please let Dave or any of the committee members know if you are able to help on this occasion.

Robin Wallace-Sims has again extended an invitation to members to visit his ground level garden track. If anyone is interested please let me know so that we can arrange a date. We have been asked by some of the senior members of the Society to hold a mid-week Wednesday afternoon at the track for a chat and to do general maintenance, for example, clipping the hedges back, trimming the edges of the grass and any other little jobs that crop up from time to time. This could link up with the Wednesday evening boys who come along for fun-running and a general chat. If interested please let us know.

Here's to a wonderful 1997 Season!
Monica and Dave.

Club Outing to 'PECORAMA' from your Social Secretary.

14th July 1997

Our official club outing this year is to the steam and model festival taking place at 'Pecorama' at Beer, Nr Seaton, Devon. The Coach will Depart from Riverside Park at 8.00am SHARP to firstly go to Seaton, where those of you who want to, can go to the Tramway Museum. This stopover will be for approximately 2 1/2 hours. We will then depart and proceed to 'Pecorama' leaving there at 5.30pm for the return journey. Those of you who would prefer to stay in Seaton for the whole time; we will arrange to pick you up on the return journey. Cost will be £10.00 per head which includes entrance to 'Pecorama' only. There will be a list in the Club House, including details of what the festival is all about, or please contact Monica or Dave to give your name.

Notes from the committee meetings

Supplied by Ron Bray

Matters arising

- No contact book yet to hand for Social Secretary.
- Posters handed over for two day event (to be produced in day glow).
- Water now connected up at Riverside Park except for main building.

Correspondence Received

Newsletters from the following Societies:- Birmingham (2), Brighton and Hove, Harrow and Wembley, Guildford, City of Oxford. Southern Fed newsletter received. Southampton Soc not mentioned. List of items for sale from Gerry Collins. Catalogue from Graham Engineering. Chichester Model Steam Expo 24th 26th May 1997. (more details elsewhere in Newsletter) Postcard received from John Paul. Letter received from Robin Wallace-Simms Secretary to Reply.

Treasurer's Report

3 1/2" 'Britannia' and 5" gauge 'Halton' tank are insured wherever they are. (society or members premises). 1996 accounts taken to accountants. Monies paid: - Society insurance, Wessex foundry (castings for brake cylinders 7 1/4"), GPO, Personal expenses to R, Bray E, Moxham and D, Batt. Lankesters Steel (steel for footbridge). Wellington Welding Supplies (cutting discs, Holts of Totton (paint), Blue Diamond Bearings (5" trolley refurbishment)

Membership Secretary.

- 78 members paid to date, 23 require personal insurance (figures now 108 and 31 respectively).
- Society welcomes two new members
- F.E.P. Cutler
- J.H. Berry

7 1/4" Track

- Gates have been made for the bridge.
- 1-12-96 Ticket office moved
- 12-12-96 Last piece of concrete for track base laid
- 15-12-96 Last eighty feet of track laid
- 22-12-96 Last two tracks to storage container laid
- 29-12-96 One piece of track laid in storage container.
- Level crossing stand pipes and covers now complete part of conduit installed for signals.

Two Day Event

Sixteen Trestle tables required either rented or borrowed. Derek Giles in charge of running boards for both tracks.

Traction engines also included. Five hundred weight of coal to be ordered. Starting signals in the station will be ready.

Souvenir programme ready.

Support from trade stands was generally disappointing, apparently clashes with other events. Some trade suppliers have agreed to put mail shots in with orders being sent out by them.

Celebration cake is being baked by Jane Gettings.

An appreciation of the monthly club meetings.

By the Editor

September

Saw the membership awaiting the arrival of a speaker that never appeared due to a communication problem ? Barry Eden volunteered ! to fill the spot with slides of a visit he made during the summer months, full of interesting facts and figures, about the engines he had seen and photographed.

October and November sorry I wasn't there!

December

The Christmas Buffet was well attended by the members and their wives and for a change not all the talk was of engines, railways etc.

January

Well, a different approach to modelling was enjoyed by the members present as Mr Eric Best entertained us with his methods of constructing his road and railway models from cardboard, MDF and seemingly anything else that falls to hand the accuracy of his work is very apparent. Everything taken from works drawings. The ruggedness of these models is amazing to see.

February

Bill Gage. again amused us with an Illustrated Talk which I am sure will be remembered for sometime for the manner in which Bill recalled some of the Selsey Tramway anecdotes. He obviously enjoys his work enough to bring it home with him and let us into his world of archives. Thanks to the West Sussex Records Office.

Report of Frost Bite Activities

From Merlin Biddlecombe

Guess what? I had a pen for Christmas so for the first try out thought I would give our editor something to do. So far so good, seems to be plenty of ink, so will carry on.

Sunday the fifteenth of December 1996 was another notable day in the construction of our seven and a quarter track, being the day that the last section was actually laid making a complete circuit. Rumbblings were heard of a steam up. The following Sunday being the 22nd I arrived at the track site to find yet again a hive of activity, as well as the usual work being carried out. Some smoke was rising from the seven and a quarter steaming bays, who else but Jim and Tony Hoile raising steam on the Royal Scot. Things were beginning to look interesting. A casual glance towards the river saw Eric Moxham joining the main circuit from the approach line on the inside of the raised track to start the first continuous run on the seven and quarter line. Eric was driving his petrol powered Section Car. Shortly after, Jim and Tony were trundling on the same journey, being the first steam powered engine to complete a continuous run. The smiles on their faces said more than any words. Before the finish of work and play everyone gathered around the Royal Scot and I took some Photos to record the event, look out Alan!

The Frost-bite Steam-up held on New Years day is always an interesting do but 1997 was just that little bit more interesting than previous years being that there were seven and a quarter engines running. The frost bite was originally started to commence the year with a steam up of our own club members, no work no officialdom other than that which is required to maintain safety for the day. It was decided to have hot soup on the menu owing to the time of year. However I remember the first one, even the sun was shining and everyone was in shirt sleeves. Subsequent ones have not been quite so warm being more seasonal. 1997 a good example. I arrived a little after the event had started and the first greeting was from Molly with a tray of mugs of soup followed later by sausage rolls, mince pies and cups of tea. Unlike the variable weather the supply of goodies does not vary-always excellent and we must thank Monica and Molly and the ladies for there gallant efforts. Back now to the steam side of the event, as mentioned before, this year the seven and a quarter track was in use with four or five engines in steam as well as a good number on the raised track. At the time I did not take note of what engines were actually running so rather than guess and perhaps leave someone out I will just say it was nice to see them. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and I am sure like me all left for home feeling quite cold. Pen still seems to have some ink left so I will close by saying have a steamy 1997.

Sunday afternoon out

During February I went to an organ recital in the Guildhall at Southampton, Where Robert Wolfe was playing the Compton theatre organ. Robert Wolfe is probably better known as the resident organist at Thursford where he plays a Wurlitzer theatre organ. I just thought that this series of concerts may be of interest to members. Details of future concerts can be got from the box office at the Guildhall.

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Speed Chart for Riverside Park Tracks

Lap time Sec's	5" & 3 1/2" Gauge Track			7 & 1/4 Gauge Track		
	Actual MPH	3/4" Scale	1" Scale	Actual MPH	1 1/2" Scale	
60	12	192	144	12.18	97.44	
65	11.1	177.6	133.2	11.24	89.92	
70	10.3	164.8	123.6	10.44	83.52	
75	9.6	153.6	115.2	9.74	77.92	
80	9	144	108	9.14	73.12	
85	8.5	136	102	8.6	68.8	
90	8	128	96	8.12	64.96	
95	7.6	121.6	91.2	7.69	61.52	
100	7.2	115.2	86.4	7.3	58.4	
105	6.8	108.8	81.6	6.96	55.68	
110	6.5	104	78	6.64	53.12	
115	6.3	100.8	75.6	6.35	50.8	
120	6	96	72	6.1	48.8	
125	5.8	92.8	69.6	5.85	46.8	
130	5.5	88	66	5.62	44.96	
135	5.3	84.8	63.6	5.41	43.28	
140	5.1	81.6	61.2	5.22	41.76	
145	5	80	60	5.04	40.32	
150	4.8	76.8	57.6	4.87	38.96	
155	4.6	73.6	55.2	4.72	37.76	
160	4.5	72	54	4.57	36.56	
165	4.4	70.4	52.8	4.43	35.44	
170	4.2	67.2	50.4	4.3	34.4	
175	4.1	65.6	49.2	4.17	33.36	
180	4	64	48	4.06	32.48	
185	3.9	62.4	46.8	3.95	31.6	
190	3.8	60.8	45.6	3.85	30.8	
195	3.7	59.2	44.4	3.75	30	
200	3.6	57.6	^a	43.2	3.65	29.2
210	3.4	54.4	40.8	3.48	27.84	
220	3.3	51.2	38.4	3.33	26.64	
230	3.1	49.6	37.2	3.18	25.44	
240	3	48	36	3.04	24.32	
360	2	32	24	2.03	16.24	
720	1	16	12	1.01	8.08	

Supplied by Your Editor

The table is a spot of curiosity sparked off by reading the Chichester Societie's newsletter. When running engines at Riverside I have often been asked by passengers 'how fast will it go Mister' being responsible one usually replies 'fast enough'. The scale speed figures are to say the least alarming when one thinks of scale braking distances. These figures are calculated from track lengths 1056ft and 1072ft for the 5" - 3 1/2" and 7 1/4" tracks respectively. It may also be of interest to members that one lap of the 7 1/4" track on an 1 1/2" scale locomotive is equivalent to 1.62 scale/miles per lap. A 5" gauge engine will cover 2.4 scale/miles per lap. And the same lap will be 3.2 scale/miles per lap for a 3 1/2" engine.