



WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

www.wirralmodelengineeringsociety.co.uk

Newsletter November 2015

Dear Member,

Another Newsletter so soon?

Fair question but there are a couple of items that all members may wish to consider. Meanwhile the diary for 2016 needs to be firmed up – society activities could benefit greatly with more input from members.

Please do connect with the society website, our Webmaster does a good job in keeping it up to date.

Your views and input to the website or indeed any aspect of the society and its activities are very welcome.

Contents:

1. **Society events during 2015**
2. **Santa Special Update**
3. **Improvements to the Raised Track**
4. **Members**
5. **Merseyside Model Railway Show 2015**
6. **2016 Diary**
7. **Society website and access for members to the secure area.**
8. **For Sale**
9. **Society pens**
10. **Best wishes**
11. **Appendix 1 Synopsis of Committee Meeting**

1. Society events during 2015

The society hosted a number of events during the summer and committee wish to thank all those members, visitors and friends who attended and supported the activities.

Would those who enjoyed attending the events please come up with suggestions and proposals for 2016? Your thoughts and views would be welcome.

2. Santa Special Update

The topic for this year has been a challenge. One aim is to use the existing scenery kindly stored by Geoff Moulding for the past year.

Thoughts for a topic included Santa's lap or pole dancing group, but that was rejected due to a lack of participating volunteers!

Anyway, a theme is being worked on and any input and help with the grotto would be welcome. The theme suggested for this year is 'Santa's fitness centre'! Now we have to be careful that we do not spoil youngster's dreams by suggesting that Santa is now going to slim! His fitness centre is for his reindeers of course! They have to be in good shape for their activities on Christmas Eve and Santa has to ensure that, in the build up to the big evening, his reindeers are fit and healthy. He achieves this by exercising them and ensuring they have the correct food. This is where you come in: provide some examples of a reindeer's fit and healthy food supply. All offers and provisions are welcome. We do note that a supermarket is offering reindeer steaks – presumably from those reindeer that do not make the fitness grade dictated by Santa! Reminder to those interested: **Progress meeting**

Thursday 3rd December at The Sidings, commencing at 10.00am.

All members' welcome and especially those willing to assist.

3. Improvements to the Raised Track

Without any ceremony the raised track was closed to running at the end of October. Work has immediately commenced on refurbishing the turntable. This important part of the operating system has slowly rusted away in parts and a completely new top is in the process of manufacture. Following the standards set by the original track builders this new top will require refurbishment in 2064. Those members willing to assist at that time please register your interest.

A substantial storage facility has been completed within the sidings that will hold the stocks of rail and plastic for the sleepers whilst the track improvements are carried out. Due to the restricted space available in the sidings it is necessary to co-ordinate what can be stored and potentially worked on over the next few months.

4. Members

Bob Spencer, our membership secretary, can be contacted on 0151 342 3570 should any member have a query or interest in society activities.

We were sorry to hear that Bill McGlade had a fall and required repairs. We hope you are making a good recovery Bill and feeling better.

We also send best wishes to Albert Kanes who has been a bit under the weather.

Although the year-end for the Society is still a few months away this is a gentle reminder to those interested that membership renewals are effective from the 1st February 2016.

Committee thanks all members, family and friends for their support during 2015. It has been a busy year and hopefully there was something within the society activities that was of interest. Or, perhaps more importantly, you were able to contribute.

Thank you.

5. Merseyside Model Railway Show 2015

Mosslands School was available from midday for setting-up on the Friday. Anthony, and wife Jean, were there early and had set up the covered tables and display boards. Barry and Ben turned up with their 'Teddy Bear' and installed it on its rolling road. Tony Ashe's 'Cyclist' was positioned before Anthony and I departed at 5pm. Further deliveries were made by Mike Coles with a 5" Simplex rolling chassis and part-built boiler which were mounted on a Chynoweth demonstration track and two Stuart-type vertical steam engines.

Saturday – the morning's highlight was the Mayor and his wife's visit to our stand where they spent almost 10 minutes in interested dialogue with our members.

They also said they were looking forward to visiting Santa with their 2 grandchildren. The morning was quite busy in the Hall but during the afternoon public numbers declined (rugby was on the telly and possibly a local match too) so that stands finished at 4.45 instead of 5pm. A good day with much public interest in our stand and many were aware of our presence in Royden Park.

Sunday – I understand that the morning was well supported by the public again with much interest in our stand. Public attendance declined during the afternoon such that stands were taken down circa 4.30pm

During the 2-day event approx. 45 of our Information Leaflets were handed out. The Society is grateful to those members who loaned exhibits and particularly to those who manned the stand.

Comment about the Exhibition in general – it seemed that there were less trade stands and possibly less society stands evidenced by a slight increase in space but the quality of the layouts was excellent.

AVP

6. 2016 Diary

The Society is always interested in obtaining speakers and topics of interest for meetings. If you know any contacts who would be willing to give a talk or presentation please inform any member of the committee.

There is still an appeal for two members who would be willing to give a short talk, 10 to 20 minutes, at the February 2016 meeting. The topic can be of your choosing. Committee will continue to attempt different events to attract visitors and fellow model engineers. However, input and suggestions for events would be very welcome. All suggestions in the first instance to the Secretary please.

N A M E Exhibition 2016

There is a **NAME Exhibition** at the Middleton Arena on 27/28th February 2016 at which we are hoping to have a table – help with display items and stewarding would be much appreciated.

Visit to ME Exhibition 2016.

The new venue will be Doncaster Racecourse, if Lou Rex agrees terms and signs a contract. The date will be different from the previous Harrogate dates as Doncaster has a big race on that weekend. Likely dates will be 20/21/22 May 2016, to be confirmed. If it meets with your support I will make the usual coaching arrangements. Alan Pennell

Members Day at Royden Park on Saturday 9th July 2016.

Is there any interest from members to enjoy the facilities of both tracks? The intention would be to enable members to drive locomotives and have a day getting to know the tracks. There are society locomotives to drive and assistance will be given.

7. Society website and access for members to the secure area.

Many thanks to Alan Banks for his work in maintaining and updating the Society website. The website has been arranged to provide sections of society business, with access restricted to members only. Despite notification in the previous Newsletter some members are still asking for the code!!

The code is:

User Brassey

Password GrandTrunk52 Maintain case in both instances.

As with all access codes please keep the login confidential to yourself. This minimises unauthorized access and the risk of hacking.

8. For Sale

As many members will know the Society premises at the sidings are well used and there is not a lot of storage space in the present arrangements. As part of the raised track improvements a new storage facility has been constructed – this is a very welcome improvement.

However, two items have been considered for disposal because they are not being used and the space could be utilised for other, more useful, things.

For Sale by sealed bid:

1 off Quorn tool and cutter grinding machine, complete in a box with an instruction book and some accessories.

The machine has been manufactured to a good standard and with attention to detail will provide a new owner with a useful facility. No doubt some friends will also wish to join in any sharpening exercise!

The machine can be viewed at the sidings by arrangement and is being sold, as seen, with no warranty or guarantee. Buyer collects.

Please send sealed bids to the Society Secretary by the 25th November 2015. The successful bidder will be informed on the 26th November 2015 and arrangements made to collect the Quorn.

Bids may be emailed but these will obviously not be confidential. However, it may save some time.

Free to a good home

The Society has provided access to a substantial collection of Model Engineering magazines. These date back to the 1930's for some issues.

As with all good intentions the hope was that members would use the facility as a reference. This has not happened and only three searches have ever been made.

The library is therefore being offered, FREE, to any member or group who could make use of it, or wish to provide reference facilities for others.

Currently packed in plastic boxes, the collection is heavy. There are also some bound volumes that could be included plus other magazines of a similar interest.

The collection can be viewed by arrangement at the Sidings.

Interested parties are asked to contact the Secretary and register their willingness to remove the collection by the end of November.

If there is no interest the collection will be removed from the Sidings early in December.

9. Society pens

The society provided pens to members following the AGM. Obviously some members have not received one! If you would like to savour a society triple function pen then please contact the secretary who will arrange delivery.

There are some pens for sale and these can be purchased at £2.00 each.

10. Best wishes

This will be the final Newsletter for 2015.

Committee would like to wish all members, family and friends a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and all Good Wishes for 2016.

11. Appendix 1

Synopsis of Committee Meeting

The September 2015 Newsletter covered the Minutes to 28th May 2015. The next Meeting of Committee took place on 24th September and the Minutes for that meeting will not be confirmed till the next Committee meeting on 26th November. However, the matters covered were:-

24th September 2015 (unconfirmed)

Secretary's correspondence - the Senior Area Ranger had been advised, by letter, of trees needing attention and the state of the wall by the ground level station.

Finance report - the treasurer reported the current state of finances was good. A substantial memorial donation had been received and acknowledged from the family of Carol Coulling. Committee would consider how this should be utilised within the society with a view to commemorating Carol's memory.

The Bank Mandate has to be updated and resolutions were passed to enable the matter to proceed.

Membership Report - two new members, Peter Bolderson and John Hunter, were approved. The current Young Persons Driving Policy will be reviewed in October 2020. The Rules and Codes of Practice are still relevant.

Risk Assessments / Society Records – to be reviewed in December 2015.

Raised Track Report – a draft discussion document, for track upgrade, had been tabled and committee fully supported the project. It had come to light that the takings at the track are being disclosed to the public, members should not do this as the information is not for public knowledge.

Ground Level Report – Thanks were given to those who transported the plastic sleepers. New track work for the station modifications was being fabricated. 'Royden' had developed problems that need to be resolved. An armoured cable to be installed to provide power at the station for Santa lighting.

Site Inspection Report – in general all is well but it was stressed that all grinding/welding operations should be done outside the coal hole and not on the front patio. Eye and ear protection should be worn by all in attendance in this area whilst welding, grinding and chop saws are in use. Observers should keep clear of machine operations. On the raised track care should be taken when using compressed air to clean locos, again eye protection should be worn.

Premises Report – nothing significant to report, general tidying up to be continued.

Future Events – a list of Key Dates was circulated. A Members Day was suggested for 9th July 2016.

Newsletter /Web - a newsletter to be produced pre-Santa. The web is being kept up to date, any copy for this to be forwarded through John Meadows.

Any other Business - The wire netting at the raised track station was frayed and in need of attention. A large pump flask is required for hot water delivery.

Date of Next Meeting - 26th November 2015.