



WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

www.wirralmodelengineeringsociety.co.uk

Newsletter September 2016

Dear Member,

The 2016 AGM was held and presumably members were happy with the report and accounts, which were carried by the meeting. In the following discussion on Santa Specials some very valid aspects were covered including whether to hold the event again this year. However, the event was agreed and now the Society is fast approaching that time again. Members are invited to book before the event is open to the public. Please see the following details.

The current major activity is the refurbishment of the raised track. The project is proceeding well and has support from a number of members who are regularly attending the Sidings on Wednesdays and Sundays. Rail has been manufactured ready to install when the running period ceases.

A record of the work and effort expended within the Society are surely worth recording. Alan Banks does a splendid job providing an up to date website and members are again asked to contribute articles and photographs to help keep the web site fresh and interesting.

The celebration of our 50 years operating the raised track in the Park took place on 18th June. For such an achievement members made little of the event. Perhaps future members may be more enthusiastic in 50 years time for the centenary!

This is an appeal for programme input for 2017. If members can not or will not provide assistance for the Society programme the future is looking decidedly bleak, in particular for Thornton Hough meetings. It is all too easy to leave it to 'someone else' and members are urged to participate.

Please remember, your views and input to any aspect of the society are welcome.

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1. Santa Specials 2016

Following the decision at the AGM to hold the event this year, Members are invited to apply for seats before the event opens to the Public on 2nd October 2016.

Member's priority booking will be available from September 18th and bookings may be made at Royden Park on the Sunday afternoon or during the two weeks to the 2nd October.

The operating dates are:

Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th plus the 17th and 18th December.

Event times are 11.00 to 1.00 and 2.00 until 4.00pm.

The cost is £3.00 per person: children under 1 are free.

Please note: Once the bookings are full we will be unable to accommodate any further requests. It is therefore important that members book before the 2nd October.

2. Membership renewal 2015

Membership renewals this year have been very satisfactory with only four losses due to non-renewal. If you know of anyone interested in joining the Society please ensure they have information and a membership form! Family members are always welcome; please enter them on the membership renewal or application form.

Important note:

Would members please let the Secretary or the Membership Secretary know if any of their details change e.g. address, Email contact information or 'phone number.

The membership secretary, Bob Spencer, can be contacted on 0151 342 3570.

Our secretary's address is: 43 Colmere Drive, Thingwall, Wirral CH61 7XT

3. Diary 2017

The Society is always interested in obtaining speakers and topics of interest for meetings. If you know any contacts that would be willing to give a talk or presentation please inform the Secretary or a committee member in the first instance. In order to provide continuity please consider this matter, it would be helpful to put a programme in place before the year-end.

4. Future events

Here is an opportunity for members to arrange or suggest events they would like to see being held over the coming year.

In the first instance please contact the Secretary or any committee member with your offers or suggestions.

5. 2016 AGM.

Held on May 19th 2016 at Thornton Hough W. I.

The draft minutes are attached as Appendix 2.

Should there be any corrections please contact the secretary.

Many thanks to all those members who attended or sent their apologies for absence.

6. An Invitation

Our Society has received, from other Societies, invitations to attend their events:-

RIBBLE VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS www.rvls.org.uk

Holding their **DIESEL DAY** on **Saturday 3rd SEPTEMBER.**

SALE AREA M.E.S. contact: samstu3@hotmail.co.uk
Holding their **OPEN WEEKEND** on **10/11th SEPTEMBER**.

WREXHAM & DISTRICT S.M.E. www.wrexhamdistrictsme.co.uk
'A DAY ON THE DIESELS' on **Saturday 29th OCTOBER** from **10.30am**.
contact: george.walker@wrexhamdistrictsme.co.uk

7. Membership News

The Society has a number of members 'in the repair shed' at present. They are Mark Spraggot, Peter Bolderson, Dave McKaigue and Ian Eccles. Being 'active' members they are already missed. We wish them a speedy recovery and best wishes with their return to 'active' service.

8. Appendix 1 Synopsis of committee meetings

The attached minutes of the recent committee meetings are provided for members' information. Should there be any items or topics that provoke interest, please contact the secretary for further information.

3rd March 2016

Matters arising – station signs ply-backed and painted, the GL one is installed and the RT one is to be positioned. Mr Dominic hopes to come to the meeting on 17th March. Key-fob holders will be provided with instructions. A Risk Assessment has been produced covering RT Work in the main building. The Birthday Driver Experience had gone well. Treasurer's Report – accounts have been sent to Ashtax and require internal auditing. Membership Report – 43 members on the books so far including Life & Honorary members.

Risk Assessment/Society Records – all risk assessments, for both tracks, are in place. A new assessment is required for the GL station modifications. Raised Track Report – good progress being made on installation of the new track, more track materials have been ordered. Ground Level Report – the new pedestrian crossing gates have been completed and look very good. A new point has been inserted in the station approach. Station flags require repositioning after the new line is run to the turntable. Site inspection – the RT group are still rolling steel outside the fire exit, this must be kept clear at all times. Premises/Security Report – key-holders having the new key fob should return the old keys to prevent access and setting the alarm off. New security procedures will be publicised. Santa Specials – the proposed 10th March meeting postponed, to appear as an agenda item at the AGM. Future Events – Claremount School's visit arranged for 16th June involving a ride and a walk through the carriage shed. Member's Day 18th June. New mugs with company logo will be obtained together with hi-vis jackets as we celebrate 50 years of our railways in the Park. AGM Preliminaries – 19th May, notices of motions/nominations for committee to be received by Hon. Sec. by 1st April. A.O.B. – budget for ballast and materials for station redevelopment estimated at £500.

Date of next Meeting 7th April 2016

13th April 2016

Matters arising – RT station sign now displayed. Risk assessment produced for GL station work. Donation from Claremount School acknowledged. Cost of dedicated mugs felt to be excessive at £4 each. Secretary's Correspondence – 4 nominations received for committee. Affiliation forms for NAME have been completed.

Treasurer's Report – the current position is good. Members were thanked for turning up week after week on Sundays to produce very satisfactory track incomes. All bills have been paid. Treasurer and President will arrange for steel purchases to be made at the best time. The Treasurer and his 'assistant' were thanked for their work on the accounts. Membership Report – renewals satisfactory, currently 8 members to renew. Risk Assessments/Society Records – Risk Assessments are up to date, Society records are being updated. Raised Track Report – weekly progress reports have been circulated. Work done is to be recorded in the Track Record Book. When work is complete the track must be signed off as fit for public use by a Committee member, before any public running takes place. Ground Level Track Report - weekly progress reports have been circulated, station work is progressing. A new signalling mimic panel is almost complete and software is to be tested and needs installation to interact with point operations. Manual signalling currently in use. Premises Report – security is fine. Inspection of the electrical installation is due, obtaining an estimate for this was approved. Mr Rooke to be asked to overhaul the front door locks. Future Events – Member's Day arranged for 18th June. Mr Banks to be asked if he is prepared to continue operating the website. MMRS had asked for us to exhibit at their exhibition, this was agreed. Visit from Tallylyn was put in abeyance. AGM Paperwork – was in hand. The accounts had been returned by the auditors. Current assets for insurance purposes are around £68,000. A.O.B. – thanks to be given to the project for the bramble cutting on the bank.

Date of next Meeting 25th May 2016.

8th June 2016 Brief Notes (unconfirmed)

Matters Arising – raised track now been signed off as suitable for public running. Electrical inspection now completed. Membership Report – no new members this month, some still to renew. Subsequently two new members had applied and been accepted by committee. Peter Waddington has been made an honorary member. Ground Level Report – new station trackwork now completed, more pointwork and track fabrication continuing. Site Inspection Progress – the issue of welding/grinding in the workshop was discussed. Preferred area for these operations is outside the Coal Shed with screening from 'flash'. Premises Report – front door locks treated with graphite. An external power socket, supplied via the water box supply, to be provided outside the Coal Shed. Programme/Future Events – hopefully both tracks will operate on Member's Day.

Plain mugs purchase in hand. Santa Special programme agreed at AGM. Hopefully we can run the railway on Tuesdays in August. Website – Mr Banks is happy to continue running the web but does require input from members. A.O.B. – it was suggested that more committee members should attend the Thornton Hough meetings. It was felt 'natter' nights without a specific topic did not have a high priority over member's time. Housekeeping in the kitchen must improve. Care is to be taken in segregating what waste is put out for disposal.

Date of next Meeting 28th September 2016.

9. Appendix 2

WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON THE 19th May 2016
AT THE W.I. BUILDING, THORNTON HOUGH, WIRRAL.

- 1930/.** With 24 members present the meeting was opened at 19.35hrs by the acting Chairman, Mr Alan Pennell. He welcomed all present and particularly The Chairman thanked the members and the Committee for their support during the year.
He also thanked Mr Derek Jones for printing the newsletter and the notice of the AGM.
- 1931/.** Apologies were received from Bill McGlade, Maurice Worrad, Barry Harrison, John Harrison, Ken Rylance, Chris Warburton and Andrew Postlethwaite.
- 1932/.** The Chairman asked members to confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 21st May 2015 previously circulated with the notice for the AGM.
Proposed by Mike Cole
Seconded by Tony Ashe
The minutes were approved by a show of hands by the members present.
- 1933/.** There were no matters arising.
- 1934/.** The President, Alan Pennell, made his ninth Presidential address to the members.
He mentioned that the newsletters published during the year had shown that the Society has become quite dynamic in its railway activities. He specifically mentioned the work done on the raised track and congratulated the efforts of those who had assisted in the work. He also mentioned the work in progress on the ground level station and signalling system, the Santa Specials and the many helpers also got a mention.
He said it was the successful operation of the railways which helped to keep the subscription rate down and that we should be proud to be entering our 50th year at Royden Park.
He continued by thanking all members who had contributed to the running of the Society during the year. He mentioned the teamwork involved with the Wednesday working parties and hoped that new members would enjoy their involvement with the Society.
We need to maintain our PR with the public and chatting over the fence on running days has gained us a few new members.
Our presence at the MMRS exhibition offers a ‘shop window’ to the general public.
He concluded by thanking the Committee for their work and production of the Annual Report.
- 1935/.** We have not had a nominated Chairman during the last year and have elected a Chair person to preside over each individual meeting.
- 1936/.** To approve the financial reports of the Society.
The Treasurer’s report for the financial year ending 31st January 2015 was included in the AGM documentation previously circulated.
The Chairman asked if any member had any questions, as there were none the Chairman called for a motion to adopt the accounts.
Proposed by Don Watt.
Seconded by Steve Reece.
The accounts were approved by the members present and accepted with a show of hands.

- 1937/.** To elect members to Committee.
Four members of the Committee were due to stand down and all four offered themselves for re-election. These were duly proposed and seconded and as there was only four nominations no vote was necessary.
The members re-elected for a three year term were, Mr F Stephen Mr A Seel, Mrs C Chynoweth and Mr K Chynoweth
- 1938/.** To approve Ashtax Associates as Company Accountant for 2015/16.
(At a fee of £210.00 plus VAT.)
Proposed by Christine Chynoweth.
Seconded by Robert Spencer.
Carried by a show of hands.
- 1939/.** To Chairman sought the appointment of two Internal Auditors for 2015/16.
Jon Swindlehurst and Robert Spencer, the current auditors agreed to continue for a further year. This was accepted by a show of hands.
- 1940/.** To approve a N.A.M.E. Representative.
Mr Stephen agreed to continue for a further year but would welcome someone to attend in the future.
- 1941/.** Confirmation of Society boiler inspectors for 2015/16.
Messers Ian Jameson, Barry Birch and Jon Swindlehurst will continue for the coming year.
- 1942/** Due to loss of contact it was decided to remove Mr D Mosley from the list of Honorary members. The current Honorary Members were confirmed as Mr R Dixon and Mr M Casey. The meeting decided that Mr P Waddington should be offered Honorary membership, this was approved by a show of hands.
- 1943/.** In his closing remarks the Chairman thanked the Committee for the work they had done over the last year. Thanks were also offered to all the unseen helpers who help out at social functions, the Santa specials and the back room staff who make these events such a success.
The Chairman mentioned that Mr M Worrad and Mr B McGlade are now incapacitated but would still like to attend on members days. Appropriate transport will be arranged for them to do this.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.03hrs.

After the interval there was a discussion on whether we should continue to run the Santa Specials. After discussion it was decided that we should continue for this year but warn the public that this may be the last year they would be running.