



Southampton Society of Model Engineers Ltd

Member of Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies

NEWS LETTER

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Club Corner

There are no diary dates or speakers, as life has been a bit hectic of late. Monthly meetings will of course still take place at the CIU Club as per usual on the second Wednesday of the Month. I hope to resume normal services as soon as possible.

Members are reminded that they have to sign in at Club Meetings on the sheet provided if no spaces are left turn over the page **not the book** used by members of the CIU Club

James E Taylor 1921 – 2008

Ron Bray

June 21st was not only the Society's 'Electric' locomotive day, but it was also the day that the cremated remains of James were laid to rest. This occurred in the broad expanse of Portsmouth Harbour.

The Urn was taken to the submarine museum at Gosport. There, the Royal Navy Museum's Steam Pinnacle was brought alongside and due naval tradition was observed with the appropriate boar drill. At the appointed time the Urn was taken aboard to the shrill of a Bo' suns whistle and taken out into the harbour for the ashes to be laid in the deep.

At the wide point between Whale Island and Priddy's Hard the Pinnacle was stopped, and after a short service the remains were piped over the side and confined to the waters.

A fitting end to a fine gentleman.

James was instrumental in restoring the boiler room, where the engine came from the family firm at Chertsey, and the boiler was sourced in Scotland. James also restored the 3- pounder on the fore deck of the Pinnacle.

Southampton City View

Following on from the last newsletter where we announced a scheme with the city council whereby we would collect vouchers from their publication, I can report that we have collected some thirty or so of these. These will be returned to the council as a way of them getting feed back on their publication. When you take into account that they produced some sixty thousand of these magazines the return is very low no doubt somewhat affected by the weather during the period. It does however shine a light onto how we should perhaps be advertising our public running days.

Chairman

Mr Tony Hoile.
Westhouse Cottage,
Southhill, Droxford,
Hants.
SO32 3PB

Secretary

Mrs Mollie Giles.
158 Athelstan Road,
Bitterne Park,
Hants.
SO19 4DJ

Editor

Mr Paul Clarke.
28 Conifer Road,
Coxford,
Hants.
SO16 5FX

Electric Day 21st June

As a first attempt the Electric open day it has to be said was a stonking success. After the last few years general open weekends have been so poorly supported. We have been scratching our heads to find out why?

Our guests came from far and wide and enjoyed some of the best weather we have had this year (writing this in late August I am wondering if I am part fish or not?) Many thanks must go to Ralph Stockton who set up the majority of the day with help from the ladies in the catering corps keeping everyone topped up with refreshments throughout the day. I believe that the Fareham Society helped in sending out flyers etc to people that they having had at there own electric days, many thanks must go to them for there assistance.



July 16th Noel Shelly's return visit

Unfortunately Noel did himself a mischief in the back department a few days before his return visit to us. He was scheduled to demonstrate his furnace and pour a couple of castings for us. This now been put off until next year, during the lighter evenings. A date will appear in a later newsletter. He has apologised most profusely for any inconvenience that his plight put us to.

Parent and Toddler Day 16th July

For a number of years now we have run the track on a week day once a year for what was originally the 'Mothers and Toddlers', later to become the more politically correct 'Parent and Toddler Group' and now the 'Play Link'. I suppose that the change of titles reflects the funding of these groups and not necessarily their political make up. A good selection of engines turned up for the day which is always supported if the weather allows the children to come out to play, that is the young and older children who actually drive the engines. The level of support shown was fantastic with everyone settling down to what ever job they had given themselves, in true Southampton style. With approximately one hundred tots about and there ancillary equipment i.e. mums the centre grass was soon awash with humanity. Play sand, water trays and face painting available some members said that some of our members could do with 'touching up' here and there (names have been removed to protect the innocent!). The intention was to run on into the evening when Noel Shelly was due to give us his casting demonstration. However we kept on playing trains drinking tea and a trip to the 'Chippy' for a mass order of half a whale and a hundredweight of chips caused the poor lady behind the counter to nearly have a heart attack.

Health and Safety Meeting June 2008

This meeting has thrown up a few minor problems for us but nothing that wasn't already in hand or at least under review. What has been pointed out to us is that we must endeavour to record all of our discussions on the health and safety side of running the society. At present we have all of the documents required but these are somewhat disjointed, kept in different locations etc. The committee has discussed ways of improving this and will report back in due course.

Den Hoad, Ralph Stockton.

Just a note to inform members that both Den and Ralph have both been rather unwell of late. We wish them both all the best for the future and will see them both soon.