



# The Northern Association of Model Engineers

(Founded 1945)

---

An Association Promoting Model Engineering Through It's Member Societies

## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Northern Association of Model Engineers (NAMEs) newsletter.

This is my first edition and I am excited to be taking on the role of editor of this newsletter.

From its inception Riverside Miniature Railway (RMR) has been affiliated to the Northern Association and we have undoubtedly benefited from this relationship. NAMEs have provided guidance and support on a number of occasions and the wealth of experience within the association is invaluable.

Those of us involved with model engineering, in all its forms, are aware of the history of the hobby and the benefits and pleasure that it brings, but when starting a new venture, or trying to entice new volunteers to participate, having NAMEs available to support us can be extremely beneficial.

So when the committee asked for a volunteer to take on the role of newsletter editor I felt that it could be an opportunity for me to contribute and also, hopefully, spread awareness of what the Northern Association is, what it does and why it is such a valuable ally to its affiliate clubs and societies.

I would welcome feedback on the content of this newsletter as well as welcoming contributions on any aspects of our joint hobby for inclusion.

Please provide your copy in 'Word' format, with pictures attached separately and ideally as named 'Jpeg' files, to myself at

[riversideminaturerailway@gmail.com](mailto:riversideminaturerailway@gmail.com)

## Chairman's Chat

Hi all, I am Denis Mulford, Chairman of NAME, and I live to the south of Oxford in a small village that no one has heard of but within earshot of the whistles of the locomotives at the Great Western Centre at Didcot.

My working career has been in telecommunications starting as an apprentice for the GPO in 1969 until I took redundancy in 1995. On leaving the GPO, then BT, I started my own company until 2015 when I retired.

My model engineering journey started when I met my wife as her father was a prolific builder of locomotives and I had my first drive of a steam loco in 1972 on the then Witney and West Oxfordshire society of model engineers track in Blenheim Palace grounds driving a 5"G GWR class 4200 (or a Firefly with extra driving wheels). I joined the committee of the society as treasurer in 1974 and served for many years before taking on the Chair of the now City of Oxford S.M.E following our move to Cutteslowe Park, North Oxford, standing for 3 years in 2007 suffice it to say I am still there as Chairman. My modelling preference is mostly Narrow Gauge but will admire anything good or bad that has been made to the best of the builders ability, we are not all skilled engineers.

My decision to stand as Chairman of NAME was after some thought as no one else was standing following the sad passing of Frank Cooper, my final decision was that someone had to do it.

I believe that NAME and model engineering has gone through a tough time recently, not helped with the pandemic when people could not do the things they wanted to do so sort of fell away from the hobby, however that is in the past and it's time to move on.

I am really pleased to be writing this piece as I appealed for a Treasurer and Newsletter editor and got both so I say hello to Richard and Ivan.

The success of this newsletter is not only down to the editor it is also those that contribute to it with articles, pictures, snippets etc, Ivan cannot do it alone. Most societies produce a newsletter of their own, why not send it to Ivan who may be able to extract, with the writer's permission, bits and pieces.

Please, please do support Ivan in his new role, let's help this newsletter and NAME move forward.

Denis Mulford

## **Introduction to the committee:**

### **Richard Barnes, Treasurer.**

Hi, I am Richard Barnes and I live near Skegness in Lincolnshire. I became a member of Evergreens Miniature Railway CIO, which is based between Spilsby and Boston, in 2023. Evergreens owns its own land on which we have a 5" and 7 ¼" track. I am a trustee and the treasurer there and managed to acquire a grant for us last year to purchase a 7 ¼" carriage for disabled riders, construct a station canopy, which I designed, as well as lay new paths.

I had a career in retail and the construction industry in the Southwest before retiring in 2021 to Lincolnshire. Apart from working on, and at, Evergreens, which includes my building a 5" Britannia engine from a kit donated to Evergreens, I am renovating our house and my wife and I own, and breed, Sussex Spaniels.

I have just taken over the role of Treasurer at NAME this year and am looking forward to getting to meet and work with all the representatives of member clubs and organisations of NAME as well as the other Committee members.

### **Bob Hayter, Boiler registrar**

Bob has been interested in steam engines and boilers since having a Mamod stationary steam engine as a teenager. He has a degree in Applied Physics which included material science amongst other subjects. He worked in the electricity supply industry for 36 years delivering remote inspection and repair to all types of power stations. The boilers being much larger than our models had problems of their own but also many similarities to our model boilers. Bob is a chartered Physicist and Chartered Engineer as well as being registered in Europe as a European Engineer. He is the lead boiler inspector at his local club in Rochdale where he is also the Treasurer. His model interests range from 5" gauge locomotive through a 2" Clayton undertype steam wagon to a number of stationary engines and boilers. He is currently completing a Sanderson beam engine from a workshop clearance.

## **Newsletter editor, Ivan Hewlett**

I have been involved with model engineering, particularly miniature railways, since 1978 when I joined the East Herts Miniature railway as a schoolboy. I have constructed locomotives and rolling stock in 7 ¼" gauge, but have also engaged in pretty much all aspects of miniature railway construction, maintenance and operations.

Since 2014 I have been kept busy having founded the Riverside Miniature Railway (RMR) in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. I am currently chairman of the RMR and our thriving club is currently developing rapidly and will carry our 100,000th passenger this year.

## **Boiler Management – From Bob Hayter, Boiler Registrar**

The Boiler registrar is one of the NAME officers. The role provides a focus for all boiler matters supporting boiler inspectors and providing the required paperwork. The registrar has no specific authority over boiler inspectors who are responsible for all boiler testing in their club. Boiler testing enquiries are answered as quickly as possible. The registrar maintains a database of boiler hydraulic testing (other ME associations may do it differently}. This allows monitoring of the boiler testing processes and also may be of assistance where the records for a boiler have been lost. Around 2 such enquiries are received every month, of which, on average one can be identified. The success rate relies on boiler inspectors sending in their hydraulic test results for inclusion on the database. There is a form available on the NAME website to do this. It can be downloaded and filled in on a computer and emailed or printed, filled in by hand and posted. We encourage clubs to do this at least once per year.

## **Insurance Matters**

One, of the many, really useful items that are covered at NAMES meetings and AGM's is the summary of open insurance claims. I hope to include a brief overview of these in future editions.

## Club profiles – Riverside Miniature Railway – club/society number 243



This section of the newsletter is an opportunity for our member clubs to share something about what they do, how they operate and why they choose to be a member of NAMES.

As a start point I hope you find this brief introduction to RMR interesting.

Riverside Miniature Railway club was formed in 2016, following almost two years of work by myself with our landlord Huntingdonshire District Council. This period established the working model of the future club and also identified an available parcel of land. We are lucky to have a beautiful location within half a mile of St Neots town centre, where we have developed, currently, a 500 metre figure of 8, ground level, track in both 5" and 7 ¼" gauge.

We are a community run railway with many members having little or no engineering interest, but instead enjoying interaction with the public through running our trains. There are of course several of us who do have engineering skills and knowledge, so we ensure that everything aligns with the advice of HS2020.

We run trains every Sunday afternoon between 12-00 and 16-00 during the summer months, with some Wednesday afternoons as well during the school summer holidays.

Members of other clubs, particularly NAMES members of course, are always welcome and more details can be found on our website: [riversiderailway.co.uk](http://riversiderailway.co.uk)

From the outset, being a member of NAMES provided reassurance to our landlords that we understand the responsibilities of our activities and the NAMES committee have helped us directly with support in some challenges as a club.

## Who will be next ?

Please send a profile of your club for our next edition to Ivan Hewlett  
[riversideminaturerailway@gmail.com](mailto:riversideminaturerailway@gmail.com)



## Members Questions

As members of your respective clubs and societies that form part of the Northern Association you are also a fully paid up member of NAMES.

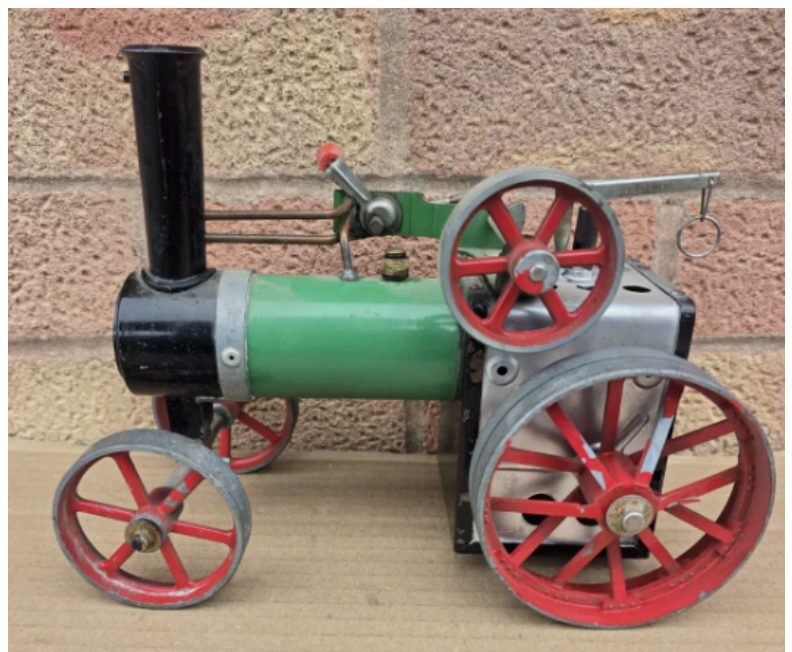
Through the experience of the NAMES committee, along with the combined experience within all the affiliated clubs there is a wealth of knowledge over wide ranging subjects.

This section of the newsletter is an opportunity for you to ask questions of all those people, so please send your questions to me for inclusion in future editions.

### Question:

One of our junior members would like to run their Mamod engine in the area adjacent to our passenger platform to entertain our customers. Is this covered by our insurance or would the Mamod, Wilesco or similar models require a valid boiler certificate first?

If so, are our boiler testers able to perform this test and what pressures or measures will apply?



### Reply from Bob Hayter, Boiler registrar:

Mamod, Wilesco and similar 'toy' boilers which are used in a public area must be tested in accordance with part 2 of the Boiler Test Code. Within the code these boilers usually come under the subsection of 'low pressure boilers' operating at less than 2bar (29psi). This is split into LO class or 'Open' boilers where there is no stop valve which can block the flow of steam to the cylinder. A spring loaded reversing



lever as fitted to some models is permissible.

Part 2 of the boiler test code covers a number of possible categories. Below is a table that will help decide what is required. It has been prepared by Peter Squire of The Federation to clarify the requirement.

### 2018 Boiler Test Code - Vol 2 - Summary

<b>Type of test</b>		<b>Clause 6 - Initial Test New Boilers</b>		<b>Safety / Steam test</b>
		<b>Initial Test</b>	<b>Repeat Hyd</b>	
<b>Boiler type</b>				
Copper		2 x Pw	1.5 x Pw	Yes
	Clause	5.6 \ 6.5	6.6	13.1.2
	Validity	Lifetime	See note	14 months
	Clause	6.5		13.2.1
Class LO (< 2 bar)		Not Required	Not Required	Yes
	Clause	14.1.1	14.1.1	13.1.2
	Validity	-	-	14 months
	Clause			13.2.1
Class LS (< 2 bar)		2 x Pw	1.5 x Pw	Yes
	Clause	5.6 \ 6.5	6.6	13.1.2
	Validity	Lifetime	See note	14 months
	Clause	6.5		13.2.1
High Pressure		2 x Pw	1.5 x Pw	Yes
	Clause	5.6 \ 6.5	6.6	13.1.2 \ 14.1.3
	Validity	Lifetime	See note	14 months
	Clause	6.5		13.2.1
			1.5 x Pw	
Brass		2 x Pw		Yes
	Clause	5.6 \ 6.5	6.6	13.1.2
	Validity	Lifetime	3 years	14 months
	Clause	6.5	14.2	13.2.1
Be aware - 13.1.5 b and 13.2.2.2 but see 13.2.2				Note: Clause 13.2 - 1st Steam test by boiler inspector, subsequent steam tests by owner!
Note:		The term "Initial Test" refers to both 2 x Pw and 1.5 x Pw testing being undertaken See Clauses 6.5 & 6.6. The certificate is valid for the lifetime of the boiler. See Clause 6.5		

As with any boiler the initial approach is to check what documentation is with the model. If there is a manufacturers test certificate or a certificate of conformance with sound engineering practice (SEP) then no repeat of the hydraulic shell test is required.

With older brass boilers and fittings dezincification is a possibility. All fittings should be unscrewed and the threads examined for erosion and replaced if necessary. If the outside of the boiler barrel shows signs of paint bubbling or corrosion check for leaks when the boiler is filled with water. Should the boiler barrel be so affected it will probably have to be scrapped. *Spare boilers may be obtained from suppliers such as Forest Classics (with whom we have no links).*

Subsequent checks are the responsibility of the owner who should keep a record to show that they have been done.

Note that this is the minimum recommended to meet the requirements of the test code and demonstrate to the club insurers that due process has been followed. Club inspectors may want to maintain records of checks.

## Save the date!

This is where our clubs can publicise their upcoming events and other important dates.

## June 14th & 15th – Stapleford Miniature Railway Models and Miniatures

**Stapleford Miniature Railway**  
**Models and Miniatures**  
**June 14th and 15th 2025**

Adults £6  
Children £4 under 5's FREE  
Train Rides £4 all classes

Miniature Steam Engines  
Classic Cars / Motorcycles  
Vintage Tractors  
Vintage and Modern Caravans  
Trade Stalls / Food Vendors

Licensed Bar, Model tent, Ice Cream and much much more

Weekend Camping Available £40 includes entry to Event.  
To Book in to Camp / Exhibit or Trade Scan the code

The Old Forge, Stapleford, nr Melton Mowbray LE14 2SF

QR code for booking



## June 28th & 29th – Narrow Gauge Locomotive Efficiency Competition

Oswestry and North Shropshire MES, SY11 4AB

[Flyer](#)

[Entry Form](#)

### 2025 NAME Rally

The 2025 NAME rally will be held at Urmston and District Model Engineers Society's 2200 feet (670m) raised level 5" and 3.5" track on July 19 and 20th July 2025

Contact [secretary@udmes.co.uk](mailto:secretary@udmes.co.uk) with any queries





### Dreaming Spires Rally

25th - 27th July 2025



Join the City of Oxford Society of Model Engineers for our annual rally!

- Tracks available for use 12pm Friday to 4pm Sunday
- Ground level 7.25", including park extension, and raised level 5" and 3.5"
- 16mm railway, featuring both 32mm and 45mm gauges
- Hard pathways in park for model road vehicles
- Free car parking
- Secure overnight storage for locos
- Lifting tables for unloading & 12V/compressed air for steam raising
- Caravan & camping pitches (donations towards cost welcomed)
- Fish & Chip Supper on Saturday evening (order during the day)



To book, or for further information, contact Denis Mulford:  
☎ 07850 062932  
✉ [denis.mulford@btinternet.com](mailto:denis.mulford@btinternet.com)

**Cotteslowe Park Miniature Railway**  
Harbord Road, Oxford  
OX2 8LH

25th to 27th July – City of Oxford  
S.M.E Dreaming Spires Rally



**July 26th & 27th, August 23rd to 25th**

**Stapleford Miniature Railway** – The Old Forge, Stapleford, Melton Mowbray  
LE14 2SF

**Stapleford Miniature Railway**

**Visiting Engine Weekend**

**July 26th & 27th**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
Train Rides £4 all classes

Selection of Craft and Trade stalls

**RAVENSTONE**  
MODEL RAILWAYS

Along with Model engineering displays

To book your stall scan QR Code

The Old Forge, Stapleford, nr Melton Mowbray LE14 2SF

**Stapleford Miniature Railway** **LOROS**

**Open Weekend**  
**August 23rd to 25th 2025**  
**Saturday, Sunday, Monday**  
**10am - 5pm**  
Adults £6  
Children £4 - under 5's FREE  
Train Rides £4 all classes

**FREE CAR PARKING**  
Weekend Camping Available £40  
(advance bookings only)  
Licensed bar, Catering, Trade stalls, Classic cars/motorcycles, Stationary engines and much much more

Scan code and Book in

The Old Forge  
Stapleford,  
Nr Melton Mowbray  
LE14 2SF

07803 776637  
events@fsmr.co.uk  
www.fsmr.co.uk

## Items for Sale.





Due to bereavement this stunning 7 1/4" gauge twin unit (A+B) General Electric locomotive, modelled on a prototype built for the Bethlehem Branch between Lansdale and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, is offered for sale.

Built by Barry Green of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes model engineering society, and also a well known 7 1/4" gauge society member, this superb battery electric locomotive has performed faultlessly at his club track and also at several AGM's. The locomotive features a custom designed, tilting, control panel that manages all functions

including:

- Battery monitoring
- Speed
- Direction
- Vacuum braking
- Sound system
- Lighting and more!

This locomotive is truly exceptional in its level of detail and finish, as well as being a superb hauler, it would be ideal for running at RMR, or as a model to take to other tracks or rallies. It will need

either a trailer or larger car to transport, but is always a head turner wherever it runs. Each unit is 5' in length and they have previously been transported side by side in the back of a Discovery

(rails fitted to a frame to enable this are available if required).

Realistically this locomotive should attract offers in excess of £5,000 and if you, or anyone you

know, might be interested in purchasing then please contact Sue Green on 07860732209 [Sue.grn1@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.grn1@gmail.com)



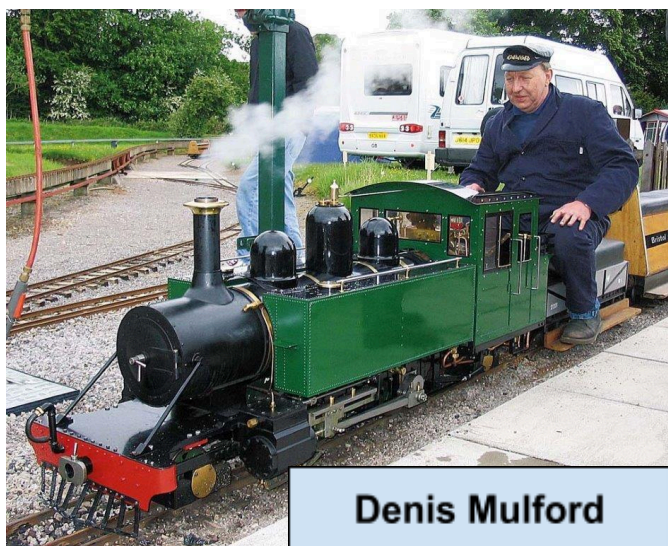
## About us

### Association Officers

<b>President</b>	Alan Reid
<b>Chairman</b>	Denis Mulford
<b>Secretary</b>	Alan Budd
<b>Treasurer</b>	Richard Barnes
<b>Boiler Registrar</b>	Bob Hayter
<b>Website Manager</b>	Lee Griffiths
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Ivan Hewlett

[NAMES Website](#)

### Meet some of the team



**Denis Mulford**



**Richard Barnes**



**Bob Hayter**



**Ivan Hewlett**