

# Northern Association of Model Engineers

## News Bulletin for club notice boards Spring 2011

### News on the web

Members will remember that we discontinued our twice-yearly newsletter a few years ago in favour of the internet, which is available to anyone with access to a public library or an internet connection. The site is still at [www.normodeng.org.uk](http://www.normodeng.org.uk) and this bulletin is posted there as well as, hopefully, on your club notice board.

The bulletin is your editor's 'without prejudice' account of the meeting, written for club members. Minutes of meetings are sent to your club secretaries and delegates but for reasons of confidentiality are not published elsewhere

The meetings were held as ever at Ockbrook near Derby, at the earlier time of 1.45 after a light buffet lunch, hopefully to secure an earlier finish

### AGM 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011

The AGM followed the usual format, with even less of note than usual, there being no changes of officer on this occasion.

Last year's minutes were adopted without comment and there were no matters arising. Chairman Frank Cooper then reported on the year past, and the rising membership of the Association, offset by declining membership in many individual clubs. He commented on our continuing successful representation at the major exhibitions, partly accounting for the rise in membership. He reminded delegates to seek out likely candidates for the Model Engineer of the Year award, and thanked fellow officers for their support, and the boiler team for their continuing excellent seminars.

Hon sec Alan Budd reported on the year from his perspective, on new membership applications and on plans for attendance at exhibitions in the forthcoming year, at Harrogate, Leamington and Shepton Mallet.

Our new hon treasurer Richard Guthrie presented the audited accounts, answered the few questions and thanked previous treasurer Maureen Stephen for her help in continuing with the work until he was able to take over in mid year. Clubs may now submit funds by BACS if they wish, but traditional methods are still perfectly acceptable.

Boiler registrar Alan Reid then gave a

status report on the boiler population. It seems that we have 6754 model steam boilers on the books, 200 up on last year, but only 1554 with a current certificate, and another 1600 that are no longer connected to any NAME society. He reminded delegates to collect supplies of stationery at the meetings wherever possible to avoid the cost of postage. Boiler inspectors may now submit counterfoils by email or as an Excel spreadsheet, on a proforma that Alan will supply on request.

There was no election of officers this year, none of them having completed their current term of office. Our insurance broker, auditors and accountants are all appointed annually and this was duly done with no changes.

### Delegates Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011

This followed immediately after the AGM, with a rather lengthier agenda!

With the preliminaries out of the way and under **Matters Arising**, the Urmston delegate noted that an important item had been nodded through with indecent haste at the last meeting, and proposed that matters of import should have the benefit of eight weeks prior notice for consideration at club level before being decided at a delegate's meeting. The officers argued against this on grounds of cost, but after extended debate and an amendment reducing the notice period to four weeks, the proposal was carried on a very thin vote, most not voting. One wondered if the issue was properly understood by delegates, being essentially one of democratic process.

Under **Affiliation Applications** six clubs were accepted as members: Derby SME, Steam Itinerants, Wolverhampton, Port Erin, Rugby and Merthyr Tydfil. **Loan Applications** were then considered, there being one from Leyland towards re-laying their elevated track in profiled rail and one from GEC Coventry towards a self-build club loco. Both were approved. The North Wales club had previously been granted a loan to assist with removal to a new site, but planning constraints had prevented their move, sadly, and the loan was therefore not now required.

Insurance broker Tony Wood then reported on the **insurance** situation and explained issues relating to director's and officer's insurances and professional indemnity

insurance for boiler inspectors and members. A lively debate ensued on which we are unfortunately unable to report in detail.

Under **legislation and accident reports**, the chairman reported on recent RAIB reports and mentioned that club websites, indeed all websites, are now subject to the rules of the Advertising Standards Authority regarding any marketing content.

Hon Sec Alan Budd reported that the HSE had proposed that **RIDDOR**, entailing amongst other things the mandatory reporting of all derailments of passenger stock other than in carriage sidings, should not be held to apply to private clubs ie those not involving the public; however it would continue to apply in situations where the public are involved, as in most of our club track sites.

The chairman reported that the invitation from **NRM** for our 7¼" gauge steam locomotives to run on their track in the museum had gone largely unheeded, rather disappointingly. A planned £23m reorganization of the museum involving the dispersal of many of the exhibits to new homes around the country has been suspended for want of funds. The museum would have become more of a touchy feely tourist attraction, less of a repository of the nation's engineering treasures. Truly, every cloud has a silver lining!

Delegates were reminded of the **Narrow Gauge Efficiency competition** (4-5<sup>th</sup> June, North Staffs) and the **Annual Rally** (9<sup>th</sup> July, Wirral), coinciding with the host clubs' 75<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries respectively. Wirral's anniversary celebrations continue on the 10<sup>th</sup>, all welcome. Nigel Thompson reported on a further **boiler seminar**, held this time at Hayward's Heath and attracting 73 applicants for the 40 places available.

Frank Stephen reported on the **Boiler Test Group** meeting on 16th March and the metamorphosis of that group into one with a wider brief to be known as the Model Engineering Liaison Group (ring bells?) The group has compiled draft terms of reference, herewith, that will be put to the clubs for consultation, also on whether a witness should be necessary for boiler tests. Responses to Hon Sec please ASAP.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm