

# Northern Association of Model Engineers

## NEWS BULLETIN for club notice boards November 2006

### The website

At the AGM last March it was announced that the printed newsletter would be discontinued after the forthcoming Spring issue, and that the Association's website at [www.normodeng.org.uk](http://www.normodeng.org.uk) would become the main means of communicating directly with club members, as well as projecting our presence to the wider world.

Most people have an internet connection these days. Those that don't need simply to walk down to the nearest public library, where the librarian will be very pleased to show them how to use the terminals there, entirely free of charge. It could be the start of a new romance! With the internet of course. You simply use the 'mouse' to move the 'cursor' to the long white 'address bar' near the top of the screen, left click, then type in the address given above, move the cursor to 'Go' and click again. When our 'home page' appears on the screen, you simply click on whatever you would like to look at on the 'menu' down the left hand side of the screen. It really is as simple as that!

For those who can't be bothered even to do that, we will produce a bulletin like this for a limited period with as much of the news as we can get on the page, and hope that your club secretary will put it where you can see it.

*Our website contains much of the content of the old printed newsletter: news and pictures of our events and loan aided projects, list of member clubs and their website addresses, other useful links, snippets, news and views, hints and tips, and how to contact us. Give it a whirl! [www.normodeng.org.uk](http://www.normodeng.org.uk)*

### The delegates' meeting

The last delegates' meeting was held at Ockbrook on Saturday 28th October under the able chairmanship of our new man Frank Cooper. Also new in post were secretary Alan Budd and treasurer Maureen Stephen.

The four societies currently benefiting from **loans** from the association had all made partial repayments, and the finances were looking in good order once again.

Our **insurance** broker made his report, which is confidential to club officers, but all appears to be in good order on this front also, and delegates were pleased to hear that premiums would be held at their present level for a further year.

Former treasurer Frank Stephen is now representing us on the British Model Engineering Liaison Group and he reported on the latest situation regarding the **boiler code**. An extension to the code to accommodate operating practice for the larger model boat boilers has been drafted and this is currently with the insurers for approval. Boilers under the 1.5 bar litre limit are exempt from the test regime but are nevertheless covered by the insurance scheme. **The entire code will be reviewed**

**over the coming year with a view to resolving the various difficulties stemming from it, and any further observations on the operation of the code as it now stands should be forwarded to Frank Stephen.** Frank confirmed that the many observations and comments already registered would be carried forward and there is no need to register them again.

It was announced that the next **NAME rally** will be held at Chesterfield on a date to be announced. It will be Chesterfield's 75th anniversary next year, and the rally will form part of the club's celebrations. A number of suggestions were made for subsequent rallies, coinciding with 'significant dates' for the clubs concerned.

**The Narrow Gauge Efficiency Competition** will be held at Oswestry over the weekend of 23-24th June, venue for the first such competition ten years ago. Glyn Davies of the host club handed out posters and entry forms and he urged delegates to promote the event in their clubs. He also proposed some changes to the competition rules to mitigate the situation whereby the winners tended to come from a small group of the more powerful locomotives originally built for overseas use, whereas the competition was originally conceived for the smaller type of quarry locomotive used in the UK.

The association's constitution calls for it to hold an **exhibition** every three years or so to promote the hobby and to serve as a showcase for the work of the association. A possible venue has been found at Bakewell in Derbyshire, a fairly central site nationally and a significant centre of tourism in the Peak District, and it was agreed that this option be pursued further for an event in 2008.

A bequest from the estate of the late David Birkett has offered the association an annual prize to the value of £100 for a **Model Engineer of the Year award**. It was agreed that this be accepted and augmented from the association's own funds, and that the criteria for the award be broadly drafted so as to include the maximum possible range of involvement in the hobby, given the small numbers of youngsters involved. The age limit would be set at 25yrs. Entries for the first year's award should be posted or emailed to the chairman:

[frank@yorkhouse.flyer.co.uk](mailto:frank@yorkhouse.flyer.co.uk)

The **news/website** editor introduced webmaster Paul Masters and explained the contribution of the two roles. In answer to questions he explained that the officers' addresses did not appear on the website for security reasons, and he explained the rationale behind the single email contact point which the key officers have access to.