

Northern Association of Model Engineers

News Bulletin for club notice boards April 2007

THE WEBSITE

The Northern Association discontinued its printed newsletter last year in favour of an expanded presence on the Internet, and this bulletin is a one-page summary for club notice boards and members, of material on our website and of recent Northern Association meetings. The bulletin and various items of news and comment may be seen and downloaded from the website at www.normodeng.co.uk. Readers without internet access may view the material free of charge at their local library. Most libraries will print items for a small charge.

The website contains pictures and reports of our recent events including the Narrow Gauge Efficiency competition at Southport, and the Annual Rally at Burton on Trent, the Warrington exhibition, Diamond Jubilee events, and a picture gallery on the hobby in general, showing what we are about. It also lists the officers and member clubs with contact details, and links to other websites of interest. We no longer publish a diary of events, but our links include one to Rochdale SME and their comprehensive diary, which we commend. Earlier bulletins and highlights from the old newsletter are available to read or download, and there are contact email addresses for the webmaster and other personnel.

New this month are the latest Snippets: interesting items from club newsletters, and some legal stuff. We will add pictures and details of our various events as they unfold during the summer.

MEETING REPORTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held Ockbrook near Derby on 31st March 2007 following the usual light buffet lunch.

After the opening formalities chairman Frank Cooper reviewed the year's activities including our deliberations on the impact of the Protection of Children Act, the boiler code and proposed revisions, and the Young Model Engineer Award, for which the response had been rather disappointing. He

thanked the officers and members for their support during the year. Hon secretary Alan Budd then made his report and commented on the considerable assistance he had received from the previous secretary Nigel Thompson, who had insisted on completing all of the projects that were still in progress at the end of his term of office. He reported that one new member had joined in the year and that there were applications in train from a further three. We had been represented at three exhibitions during the year. Hon treasurer Maureen Stephen circulated the accounts and invited questions, of which there were few. She reported that all loan instalments falling due for payment had been paid, and that funds were available from which further loans could be made. Boiler registrar Alan Reid reported on activity on his front, there being 1151 boilers currently certificated out of a total of 5820 on record.

Officer's honoraria were discussed, and it was agreed that these would remain at the same level as last year, when they were doubled.

The re-appointments of the accountants, Ashtax Associates, and insurance broker, Walker Midgley, were approved.

DELEGATES' MEETING

The Spring delegates' meeting was held immediately following the AGM.

The first item after the preamble was BMELG (**British Model Engineering Liaison Group**) representative Frank Stephen's report on recent dealings with the insurance company, the Royal and Sun Alliance. They have agreed revised wording for the **boiler code** exempting model marine boilers under three bar litres from the code. This legalises boilers, for example, with a single safety valve and no means of water feed under pressure. (As previously reported they will still be covered by the PL insurance, just not by the code.) On the broader issues of problems with the new code, he reported that Mike Leahy has been charged with the task of revising the code in the light of objections registered following implementation in January last year. Frank

commented that little comment had been made recently, but in answer to a question from the Leyland delegate, he confirmed that all the objections raised following the launch of the code would be taken on board and need not be re-registered. Any further representations needed to be made as soon as possible. Former secretary Nigel Thompson suggested that a seminar be held for boiler inspectors, resulting in much debate on the details of such a seminar. Former BMELG representative Barry Harrison proposed that Frank as current representative should serve on the NAME boiler committee. There was discussion on the need and frequency of calibration of pressure gauges and on the need for a boiler re-test after changing, dismantling, cleaning or re-setting safety valves.

Terry Vaughan (Wrexham, and a member of the boiler committee) asked if any progress had been made on a **new code for gas tanks** following reservations expressed previously regarding the existing code, and it was confirmed that the existing code would continue to operate until further notice. It was pointed out that the existing code had been drawn up based on information supplied by Shell.

Glyn Davies (Oswestry) confirmed that arrangements for the **Narrow Gauge Efficiency Competition** were well under way and that eight entries had been received with more on the way. An appeal was made for more slate trucks.

It was confirmed that Chesterfield MES would host the NAME Rally this year. The club wish to combine it with one of their 75th Anniversary open weekends on dates in July and August. It was agreed that we would opt for the August date, yet to be announced.

The **triennial exhibition** was next on the agenda, and proposals had been received for venues in Bakewell, Warrington and Haydock, Bakewell being much the least costly venue. Little detailed information was to hand regarding the relative merits of the various venues and the officers were tasked to establish firm costs, likely participation of local clubs, etc. Firm plans would need to be in place by the October delegates'

meeting if the exhibition is to be held during 2008. An offer from a delegate to organise the exhibition for a fee and a percentage of proceeds had been declined. Alan Bibby (Leyland SME) suggested that Eric Clifford, the man responsible for organising the highly successful Warrington exhibition, be invited to organise the next

Following a recent change in the law, delegates were reminded that clubs are now required to perform their own **fire safety risk assessment** for any premises they occupy. Details are available on the government website www.communities.gov.uk as a 147 page pdf download, or copies may be bought for £12.

The secretary confirmed that the **National Railway Museum** was now a member of the Northern Association following an approach from them last year. They became aware of us as a result of viewing our website, and joined in connection with their model engineering and miniature railway operations at the museum. It was agreed that **applications** from the Meadow Line club near Louth, the South Lakes Model club, and the North Nottinghamshire club be accepted.

Application for a further **loan** of £1000 had been received from the Evergreen club for the purchase of a locomotive and two passenger trucks. This was agreed.

Matthew Hainsworth of the Rochdale club has been awarded the **Young Model Engineer of the Year award**. The officers considered his supported written application as a long-standing and active member of the club well worthy of the award, but were disappointed at the dearth of entries notwithstanding the £200 prize. The hon sec would write to the recipient and the presentation would be made on a suitable occasion at Rochdale.

The next delegates' meeting will be held on 20th October 2007.

Now go to the website for the rest of the news!

www.normodeng.co.uk