

New on the web

New on the website recently are a report and pictures of last year's Narrow Gauge Efficiency competition, a copy of this bulletin, and a few minor updates on other topics. As the year progresses we hope to add reports and pictures of our various planned events and functions. Inevitably these will depend on the support of host clubs since your editor is no longer able to personally attend every event. Erewash Valley has kindly agreed to supply a report of the 2009 efficiency competition and we will post this when it arrives. www.normodeng.org.uk will take you to our website; you do not have to have the Internet at home; you can view it at your local library.

AGM and Delegates Meetings 4th April 2009

Your editor was unable to make it to the AGM this year, it being the first birthday of grandson number two. We are indebted to Jeff Dickinson of Saffron Walden SME for his delegate's report on the AGM and delegates meetings on 4th April.

After a light buffet lunch to fortify those who had travelled long distances, and those who lived locally (!), the AGM got underway, on time, with Frank Cooper in the Chair. The Officer's reports concluded that it had been another successful year with positive attendances at several model engineering shows, an increasing number of affiliated clubs/societies and financially the organisation is in good shape. The Officers were elected for another year although the Treasurer, Maureen Stephen, would like to stand down at the next AGM.

Alan Reid, the Boiler Registrar, reported that there are some 6,300 boilers on file with 1,679 having a current certificate. Walker Midgley were confirmed as the insurance

broker again as were the current auditors and accountants.

We then moved on to the Delegates Meeting. On the subject of Finance & Loans, there was a proposal to purchase an ultrasonic thickness gauge and steerable endoscope to be available to boiler inspectors. It was considered unwise as specialist knowledge was required. There was only one application for a loan, that from Saffron Walden, after the Treasurer read out our application letter it was agreed without further discussion.

Tony Wood presented his insurance report saying that it had been an excellent winter with no new claims. A claim stemming from 2007 had been settled with most of the cost going in legal fees. Insurance premiums had increased by some 4% this year after several years without an increase. Tony highlighted the improvements in insurance cover that had been made for this year.

The importance of CE marking for commercially made boilers was highlighted again. 3 boilers had recently been presented for testing of which 2 had failed, 1 due to weld penetration and the other due to inadequate design. It is possible for non-CE marked boilers to be tested by RSA but this is likely to cost £500-£600 a time. The moral is - 'If you have a commercially made boiler made after 31st May 2002 it must be CE marked or your insurance is invalid'

Frank Stephen gave a report for the Boiler Group. A discussion is continuing with Royal & Sun Alliance about formulating a Design and Construction Code, they are supportive of the proposal subject to a maximum pressure limit of 20 bar. An issue had been raised about the top of some water gauges on some traction engines coming off the steam manifold,

inspectors are advised to use their discretion to satisfy themselves that the gauge is giving a true reading.

On the subject of legislation there was some discussion about a HSE requirement to report all derailments using the RIDDOR process. There was a proposal back in 2005 to exempt miniature railways but this was not agreed.. It seems that a derailment is regarded as a dangerous occurrence and hence is reportable, even if no-one is injured. It is not clear what we should do - minor derailments are not uncommon, for example when loading people onto the train and report all these would result in a vast amount of paperwork of minimal value. The moral seems to be, if no-one is hurt, to keep records of derailments and have a system to analyse the cause. If there are injuries then RIDDOR must be followed.

Narrow Gauge IMLEC will be hosted by the Erewash club on May 30/31. A volunteer Club is needed for the 2010 event. The Northern Association rally this year will be hosted by the Leicester Club on 19th/20th September.

9 new societies have applied to join the Northern Association, these were all agreed. A plea was made for nominations for the Young Model Engineer Award.

The boiler tester's seminars have been well received with 21 inspectors at the Leyland seminar, 30 inspectors at Northampton, 36 at Urmston and 21 names so far for the Sheffield seminar.

It was reported that Johnson Matthey will be ceasing the supply of silver solder containing cadmium later this year. CuP Alloys will continue to supply silver solder containing cadmium made in Spain.