

NORWICH & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

Founded 1933

Incorporated 1967

eBULLETIN

JAN 2017

TRACKWORK – A NEW START!



See inside for more...

DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 4th – SUMMARY

Present: R. Montgomery, M. Rhodes, P King, B Fane, A. Shirley, P Moore, M. Riches and Company Secretary & Treasurer, Jim McDonell.

The meeting opened with a welcome to returning director Mike Riches

The matter of retrieving society assets and action concerning possible illegal payments was discussed and a plan of action agreed. A decision whether to escalate matters will be deferred for the time being.

Payments to charitable causes were discussed for year 2016-17. The destinations may be reviewed for next year.

It was decided to ask David Beeken to investigate possible options for upgrading toilet facilities which, it was felt, were in need of attention.

It was agreed that a ticketing system should be installed and that an initial print run of 20,000 Edmondsons would be ordered from *Bell Printing*. The council (MF and SM) have been consulted and have no objections. A final design is currently being made up. The club opted to use the reverse of each ticket rather than let the space out. JM to attempt to source a date press.

The Treasurer reported a healthy bank balance and that end of year accounts would soon be prepared. The application to reopen internet banking facilities was under way.

It was noted that NDSMEs insurances do not cover members engines stored at club site. Members should check that their own insurances cover such an eventuality.

A decision was taken to cease operation of the current portable track and offer this for disposal. Suitable ads will be investigated.

The Membership Secretary advised that membership management software may be available to improve membership admin. This would be discussed in greater detail at the next board meeting.

Track ballast – Philip would organise samples of granite chippings for review



BOILER TESTING

A service for members – by arrangement.

Contact the Chairman.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that the NDSMEs insurance policy does NOT cover any members' locos or assets stored at Eaton Park. Members should ensure that their own insurances cover this eventuality, should they wish to store any locos, rolling stock or other items at the Society premises.

Track work – A New Start

After the cessation of ground level sleeper replacement following the disruptions of last summer, a new track team has been assembled to restart sleeper replacement on the main line. A revised method is being adopted. Previously the new plastic sleepers had been used in conjunction with plastic chairs. Whilst this produced aesthetically pleasing trackwork, it did have two significant disadvantages, Firstly, it was time consuming, each length having to be lifted and removed to the workshop for dismantling and reassembly with plastic chairs/sleepers. Secondly, it proved more vulnerable to vandalism than the previous method of screwing rails directly down to sleepers. Last summer, vandals who gained access at night were able to lift rails which then popped out of the chairs just like undoing a zip. Ten lengths were damaged this way.

The cover picture shows Pete King fastening the rails to the new sleepers which have been inserted alongside the old wooden sleepers. This works because the plastic sleepers are fractionally thinner than the wood. It means that the track does not have to be closed while this work is carried out, unlike using the chairs, so work can continue throughout the running season with no disruption. Eventually, the old wood sleepers will be removed *en masse* and the plastic sleeperead track fixed down to the base.

There will be regular sessions on this task on Tuesdays and the Sunday group will restart soon too. Contact Pete King for further details...

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE MEMBERS AREA?

ALL MEMBERS OF THE NDSME MAY GAIN ACCESS TO THE PRIVATE MEMBERS AREA OF THE NDSME WEBSITE. TO OBTAIN YOUR LOGIN DETAILS, CONTACT webteam@ndsme.co.uk WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

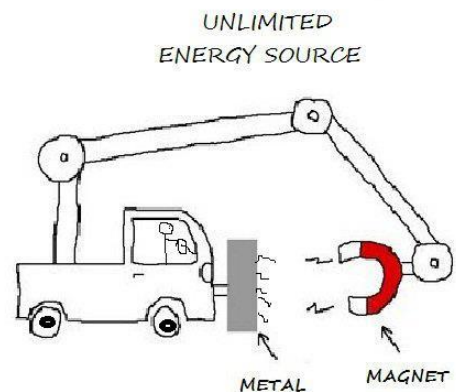
COMEDY CORNER



An old country gentleman sent his son off to engineering school. Four years later, upon his son's return, he asked him what he had learned at college.

The son replied "*Pi r square.*"

The father exclaimed "*You didn't learn nothin' boy, pie are round, bread are square!*"



Spotted on Youtube

[Porn for model engineers](#) (that's what it says!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJbEZTHu6cU> (copy/paste this link)

Some interesting mechanical aspects of Live Steam Model Engineering, by Keith Appleton

Roundup – a peek into other society journals and onlines

From the *Halesworth SME* Autumn 2016 newsletter,

Support of Club Activities

Over the years the membership of our club has steadily increased and now rests at one hundred and twenty plus. On paper we are probably one of the most successful clubs in East Anglia in terms of growth. You would imagine that this would result in more members turning up for meetings because we surely share similar interests. Or more members turning up for our advertised steam ups or more retired members perhaps turning up on a Thursday to help with the maintenance and improvement work which has to be carried out. Not at all. With a few exceptions to whom we are very grateful, the numbers have not increased. What has happened is that the members who do, or did, turn up have got older or infirm or died and the net result is we have fewer active clubmen. Clubmen, by my definition, are members who actively support their club. This is not something new, it has been occurring over a number of years, but it has now reached the point where it needs to be addressed. The recent committee meeting following the Grand Henham Steam Rally was dominated by the subject of lack of support.

A problem that is afflicting all societies, not just SMEs, I suspect...

From *Northampton SME* website, Dec 2016

Somewhat topical if rather unfortunate



Southern Railway wishes all it's customers a happy 2014 and apologises for the late arrival of this message.

From *Riverside Miniature Railway Club*, St Neots. This is their new container. Makes ours look rather small. Still, size isn't everything.

They intend to convert it into a combined workshop, stores and station building



Andover SME – here constructing a 9m overbridge to carry their 7¼ line over their new raised track. That'll be quite something when it's complete.



HSG216 and the NDSME

At the recent EGM, the Society adopted HSG216 as the guidance for all operations involving carrying non-members on the two railways at the park. If you are involved in any way with public operations, you should familiarise yourself with this document. It is currently available online at

<http://www.vulcan.works/media/hsg216.pdf>

and is also available on the Southern Federation website or in our members area. Please take the time to read through this important document. Our railways have an excellent public safety record – let's keep it that way.

SAFETY ISN'T A SLOGAN – IT'S A WAY OF LIFE!



A coach is being organised by the society for members who would like to travel to this exhibition on at Alexandra Palace on 21st Jan 2017. The fare (coach only) is £21. Members will obtain their own admission tickets on the day. Coach departs Eaton Park at 07:30

There are a few coach seats left – don't delay if you wish to attend this exhibition – contact Roger Montgomery on 01603 403395 to book a seat.

Admission tickets will be available from the ticket office on the day of your visit to the exhibition at full price.

TICKET	PRICE
Adult	£12.00
Senior Citizen/Student	£11.00
Child (5-14 years)	£4.00

Advance ticket sales closed on 12th January 2017. Full price tickets available on the day only.

All pre-ordered tickets will be posted by 13th January 2017 at the latest.



Forthcoming Events

11 Jan 17	<i>Auction.</i> Angel Rd Infants
21 Jan 17	Coach to London Exhibition, d.0730 from EP
08 Feb 17	<i>Bits and Pieces.</i> Angel Road Infants
08 Mar 17	tba, Angel Road infants
23 Mar 17	Pre-season steam day, Eaton Park

If you have any suggestions for future meetings, let us know. Remember there is still a vacancy for Meetings Organiser too! Email the chairman if you'd like to help.



Coming soon to Eaton Park – The Edmondson Ticket System

Following consultation with the City Council Parks bosses, NDSME has decided to reintroduce a secure and auditable form of ticket system for the miniature railway. This now handles significant sums of money on busy days and it was felt that a “cash in hand” type operation was neither appropriate nor desirable. We have opted for the historic and proto-typical Edmondson system. Most members will remember the small rectangle of card, date stamped on issue, that used to be issued at booking offices. These had largely vanished in Norwich by the 1970s as machine printed, and later computerised issue took over. There are still a handful of (largely printing enthusiast) suppliers who can produce these and we have chosen *Bell Ticket Printing* for our first batch. Bell currently supply other SMEs including, Northampton, Oxford and Ickenham as well as other standard, narrow and miniature railways.

In the text below, Bob Proudfoot of Ickenham DSME takes up the history of Edmondson.

“Having become involved in [ordering this system for IDSME] I soon realised that I knew very little about the ‘Edmondson Ticket System’ so did a little bit of digging – It would appear that the system was the invention of Thomas Edmondson, a former cabinet maker. In 1836 Edmondson changed his career to become Station Master at Milton station (now called Brampton) on the Newcastle & Carlisle railway. It was here that he turned his skills to trying to improve the ticketing system. At the time it was the practice to issue each passenger with a hand written ticket, which was only written out at the time of purchase. Details such as the time of the train and the name of the passenger were recorded. This was a practice carried over from the days of stage coaches. Queues of intending passengers at the booking office could easily build up. Edmondson’s first improvement incorporated a device where pre-printed cardboard tickets were held in vertical tubes for each destination, each ticket being raised to the top of the tube by a simple counterweight system. These were numbered by hand. He then devised a finger crushing date stamping system operated by a foot pedal. His real success came when he patented a printing press capable of

producing his now standardised ticket style with the serial number printed as well. The serial number forms part of the security of the accounting system in booking offices. At the end of each day a note is made of the serial number of the next unsold ticket of each type. By comparing this to the records for the previous day it was possible to work out the number of tickets of each type sold during the day, and, by extension, how much money had been taken by the booking clerk. Clerks had to account for any discrepancy. Each batch was numbered from zero, so that the number of the next unsold ticket was always equal to the total number of tickets of that type already sold from that batch. IDSME’s new batch of tickets has serial numbering for the first time...

By patenting his press, Edmondson was able to charge a royalty to any railway company using his system, at a rate of 10 shillings per annum per mile of route – hence a railway of 100 route miles paid £50 a year in royalties. Edmondson went on to utilise his cabinet making skills and by standardising ticket sizes then engaged in producing the rack design now seen in our own booking office. The Newcastle & Carlisle railway was not enthusiastic about Edmondson’s system and so Edmondson embarked on a publicity campaign, which was successful in coming to the ears of the General Superintendent of the, as yet, unopened Manchester & Leeds Railway. The latter called at Milton to inspect the system and is said to have offered Edmondson the position of chief booking clerk of the new line there and then. Edmondson took up his new position in May 1839 and was given a free hand to introduce his ticketing system in time for the new line’s opening the following July. The system was a great success, and soon spread to many other railway companies. Edmondson left the railway in 1841 to found his own ticket printing business. The company lasted as an independent concern until 1960.

The last Edmondson ticket on the national network was issued in February 1990, just over 150 years after they were first introduced on the Manchester & Leeds Railway.”

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Norfolk Railway Society
Founded 1955 www.norfolkrailwaysociety.org.uk

ANNUAL SHOW
Saturday 11th February
2017
12.00 noon – 5.00pm

at IPSWICH RD U.R.CHURCH HALLS
EATON RISE NORWICH NR4 6QR

Members & Visiting Model Layouts
Railway Art & Photographic displays
Raffle proceeds towards
The Southwold Railway

Refreshments

Admission £3.00 (children 25p)
Family ticket £5.00
Come and meet our friendly society
For more details phone 01508 492562
www.norfolkrailwaysociety.org.uk

DEREHAM MODEL
RAILWAY EXHIBITION
25th Feb, 1000-1600
The Memorial Hall
Norwich St
Dereham
NR19 1AD
14 Layouts
Trade/Society stands
Refreshments
Adm £5, accompanied children free.
More info tel 01362 697628

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NDSME and Good Causes

By the time this financial year ends in a few weeks, NDSME will have raised over £3200 for charitable causes since Easter last year. This will be shared with a number of local good causes, or national causes with local impacts. Last year (2015-16) we contributed to, *inter alia*: Colman Road PTA, Clare School, Parkside and Harford Special Schools, East Anglia Childrens Hospice (EACH), Children in Need and the East Anglian Air Ambulance. This year's allocations will be decided soon. A big "well done" to everyone involved.

NDSME directors (committee) and officers as at Jan 2017

President	Neville Gower	Company Sec.	Jim McDonell
Chairman	Barry Fane	Membership Sec.	Allan Shirley
Treasurer	Jim McDonell	Publicity	Mark Rhodes

Other directors: Peter King, Dave Beeken, Roger Montgomery, Mike Riches and Philip Moore.

Bulletin distribution, *digital* – Allan Shirley, *hard copy* – Philip Moore. There are a number of other roles, such as meetings organiser, that need filling. Contact Barry Fane if you can help. The email is chairman@ndsme.co.uk

From journals past.....



40 years ago, Jan/Feb 1977 newsletter.

Back then the journal was a single foolscap sheet. Items covered included: a bring and buy auction which was recorded to be, *"a great success with all kinds of material, tools and other articles changing hands for all kinds of prices!"*, a talk by Don Gordon on "Small engineering or Big Watchmaking", an argument for the view that the techniques of the watchmaker were more relevant to model engineering than those of the full size engineer. Also covered was a coach trip to the *Model Engineer* Exhibition at Wembley in early Jan '77, a trip not without incident as, *"arrangements went smoothly until we arrived at the new Exhibition Centre at about 1125, just in time to learn, as we joined the queue, that as some 8,000 people were already inside, no more could go in until some came out!"*. Intriguingly, the article continues, *"However, by devious means we gradually gained admission..."* It was later noted that, as over 16,000 had attended on that Saturday, the trip would be organised for a different day in future.

Also announced in this newsletter was a trip in April to the *Shuttleworth Collection* at Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, all-in cost per head expected to be £2.50.

The newsletter was prepared by Arnold Hoskins, Hon. Secretary, and Barry Steel, Asst Hon. Sec.

20 Years ago, Jan/Feb 1997 newsletter

By now, this was a multi A4 sheet newsletter, using early DTP applications, under the editorship of Barry Steel. He notes a visit to Olympia when, *"the coach was cold on the way there but...this was due to the extreme cold outside"*. Richard Slipper noted that, *"For members waiting [to depart] in sub-zero conditions the sight of a luxury coach was welcome – and fortunately we Norfolkers are a hardy race. No heating, a door which flew open, ice on the windscreen. Self development by endeavour came to mind..."* After an enjoyable day, he was pleased to note, *"Relief – a warm ride home to Norwich clutching my carrier bag. "What did you buy dear?" "Oh... er – two pieces of steel, some files, a scribe, square and dividers". "What for?" "I'm going to make something"*. And that level of explanation was, apparently, enough...

In the same newsletter it was recorded that there was insufficient demand for T-shirts to make it a viable proposition. Probably a wise move as, in your scribes opinion, T-shirts are strictly for the young!

Finally, some things never change –in an endpiece, Barry Steel commented in the newsletter, *"I have had little response to my plea for contributions to this Newsletter"*, a situation that continues to this day! Unless you know otherwise!

It's your newsletter!

Send us stuff to publish! News, views, projects, photo's.

chairman@ndsme.co.uk

A message from the Membership Secretary Allan Shirley

2017 is upon us and just around the corner is this year's subscription renewal. I'm sure that by now you will all know that I've taken over the role of membership secretary and that I'm attempting to get to grips with this role because I don't have an up-to-date list of the membership.

In the near future a membership renewal form will appear in the newsletter and in the members area of the website and I'd like all persons who want to be on the list to return a completed form with their subscription fee. Already some of you have done this so this appeal is aimed at everyone else. It would be a great help if everyone could provide an email address because keeping members informed would be quicker and cheaper than having to print some bulletins for some members. Please also note that Associate Membership has been discontinued for all new members, however all existing associate memberships will continue as before

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and that all of us will have A Happy New Year!



**KEEP
CALM
AND BE AN
EARLY
BIRD**

2017 Renewal forms are now available to download from the members area.

Be an early bird and aid the membership secretary by getting your form in early.

A copy will also be in the Feb edition.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS