

SOUTHERN FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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Views and comments expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies

EDITORIAL

Very unfortunately our Editor had to resign from this position due to business commitments. We missed the June and September issues and we felt on committee that something had to be done to revive this important means of communication. I put my hand up and said that I would have a go in a simple form to produce a Newsletter. This is my first issue.

My name is John Walker and I am Membership Secretary for the Federation. I have produced a club newsletter in the past, but please forgive any small errors that may creep in. I am better at the work bench than trying my hand at Publisher on the computer

I shall be restricting the contents to a number of A4 pages, The club news at this stage will not be included, I

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is very disappointing that the ever popular Federation Newsletter has fallen on "stony ground" in recent times, with the non appearance of the June and September editions. A new editor was appointed at the May committee meeting, with high hopes that the Newsletter would continue to be produced to the excellent standard that we have become accustomed, unfortunately, this was not to be, he resigned shortly afterwards. Unfortunately, this means we are back to square one, in a recent mail shot you will



David Beale of the Leeds S.M.E.E at Nottingham, winner of the Australian Association Trophy with his Black 5 at the Southern Federation Autumn Rally.

will do my best.
Please contact me if you have any snippets that would be of interest.
The Committee would like to

wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

John Walker

have seen an attempt to appoint a new editor, are you, or one of your members willing to be considered for this prestigious position within the Federations committee.

Until the situation can be resolved, it is intended to produce a much reduced News sheet with limited content, in an endeavour to keep you all informed of what is going on "out there".

The Federations "Road Show" has had a very active

season, and continues to be made most welcome whilst *out and about* supporting the various events that it gets invited too. Some eleven events have been supported, starting in May with the Harrogate exhibition, Federation Spring rally at Harrow and Wembley, along with events at V.A.M.E.S. M.S.R.V.S. Guildford, I.M.L.E.C. Bristol exhibition, Bedford, Birmingham, Federation Autumn rally at Nottingham and just recently the Midlands exhibition at the Fosse.

We extend our congratulations to David Beale of the Leeds S.M.E.E. as being the winner of the Australian Association Trophy for 2011 with his 5 inch gauge Black 5 locomotive. With the evenings starting to draw in, it indi-

cates that another running season is slowly drawing to a close; however the Federation "Road Show" will be supporting for one more event for this year at the M.E. Exhibition at Sandown Park on December 9/10/11.

Just a reminder, you are always welcome to pre-order any sales items, boiler certificates etc, for collection at any of the events that the Federation supports, see events diary on page 6.

Brian Thompson

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MODEL ENGINEERING LIASON GROUP

In the 1990s The Miniature Railway Liaison Group (MRLG) was set up in conjunction with, and hosted by, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and consisted of representatives from all model engineering associations/federations, certain model engineering societies, the model engineering press, the model engineering trade, commercial miniature railway operators, insurance representatives and the Office of the Rail Regulator. Amongst other work undertaken by the Group HSG 216 was drafted and published and the agreement reached that the separate boiler test codes of the 7¼" Gauge Society, the Northern Association of Model Engineers and the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies be merged in to one universal test code. A sub-committee, the Boiler Test Group (BTG), was set up to undertake this task.

The Health and Safety Executive considered that the life

of the Miniature Railway Liaison Group had reached an end and the Boiler Test Group was left to continue its work on the boiler test code. The various Organisations involved with Model Engineering activities have decided that the current Boiler Test Group should, in future, be regarded as a Group set up by the Organisations and that it should have wider terms of reference so that it can act as a route for any further consultation required on any matters concerned with the hobby. The group is to be known as the Model Engineering Liaison Group (MELG).

In the interests of efficient management the core membership will be kept as small as possible. However, in the event that there is a specific item on the Agenda that requires specialist knowledge, any of the Organisations represented can request additional representative attendance for that meeting, or part of that

meeting when such an item is to be discussed.

1. The Group shall be known as the Model Engineering Liaison Group (MELG).

2. The membership of the Group will normally consist of one formally appointed representative from each of the following organisations:

The 7¼ inch Gauge Society.
The Midland Federation of Model Engineers.
The Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies.
The Northern Association of Model Engineers (NAME).

The Insurance Brokers of the relevant organisations are invited:

Footman James
Walker Midgley
Royal Sun Alliance

BOILER TEST CODE REVISION

The Model Engineering Liaison Group (MELG) is to undertake a revision of the model engineers' boiler test code (often known as The Blue Book). The MELG comprises representatives from the 7¼ inch Gauge Society, the Midland Federation of Model Engineers, the Northern Association of Model Engineers and the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies, plus Walker Midgley, Footman James Insurance Brokers

along with the principal insurers Royal & Sun Alliance (RSA). The intention is not to change the boiler test procedure but to make the code more user friendly and any amendments that may be beneficial in the light of several years operational experience.

A major part of the revision is the consideration of comments and suggestions received from clubs, societies

and individuals. If you have any comments which you would like to be considered they should be sent to the Southern Federation representative for the Group Wally Pearson. The contact details will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

The closing date for comments to be received is 31st December 2011.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER FOR THE POSITION OF NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As you are perhaps aware, due to a change in personal circumstances, the Southern Federation Newsletter Editor has had to relinquish his post with immediate effect. Until a replacement is found, The Federation will be unable to publish Newsletters, or service the Website as comprehensively as before. The Newsletter is published four times a year. The editorial function is to collate Input material from information supplied by the South-

ern Federation Committee, or from Newsletters sent in by clubs/societies around the country.

The Newsletter "Hard Copy" is supplied to the printers, as a pdf file.

A closely related activity is that of Website Manager, which consists of submitting selected material (normally a subset of Newsletter material) to the Webmaster, again as a pdf file. **There is no requirement to become involved in the mechanics of**

the Website itself.

This is a rewarding and important job and the person will become a member of an active committee that meets six times a year in London, close to Kings Cross Station. All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

If you are interested, you are invited to contact Ivan Hurst (The Southern Federation Secretary) on 01252 510340, in confidence, to discuss this post in more detail.

SOUTHERN FEDERATION & POLLY JUNIOR AWARDS 2012

The award is made to a young person or persons who can be shown to have acquired the necessary skills in the use of metalworking hand tools and/or machinery, and the appropriate materials, to create a model or piece of workshop equipment/tooling—complete or otherwise. Whilst pursuance of excellence by those in their late teens/early twenties is to be promoted, equally work by youngsters

making their first steps in our wonderful hobby is also to be encouraged. Participation in club/society activities is advantageous.

This is to remind everyone that nomination forms were sent out early in the year. The Awards take place at the Federation AGM which will be held on March 10th 2012 at R.A.F. Cosford, Shropshire. At the time of writing this present Newsletter there has been little response, so if

your own Club/Society has a young member you feel deserves some recognition please complete the form and return as indicated. If you have lost the form another can be obtained from Brian Thompson by E-mail briant.sfed@btinternet.com The closing date for application is the 14th January 2012.

Committee Meeting Minutes

Until a Newsletter Editor is in place, Minutes of Committee Meetings will be published on the Website at the earliest opportunity

Boiler Test Code Revision

Please send in your revisions by the 31st December 2011

GUIDANCE SHEETS

Members of the Southern Federation have requested information related to accidents, their cause and guidance on how to avoid similar accidents in the future. As a response to this request the Southern Federation have issued a series of Guidance Sheets which will be available

for download from the Southern Federation web site: www.southernfed.co.uk The currently available documents are as follows:

- No. 1 AN INSPECTOR CALLS
- No. 2 PASSENGER TROLLEY GAP COVERS
- No. 3 DERAILMENTS, ELEVATED TRACK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

We have found a great venue for the Annual General Meeting in 2012. It will be held at the Museum of Aviation at RAF Cosford in Shropshire Nr. Telford. The meeting will be in the afternoon giving you time in the morning to go round

this very exciting exhibition of aircraft through the ages. There is good parking which will be refunded because you are attending our meeting. Entry is free and a restaurant is available to feed the inner man.

We will be sending you more details at the end of January 2012
Meeting Date 10th March

New Model Engineer Exhibition for Manchester

Meridienne Exhibitions have announced that they will be organising another Model Engineering Exhibition at Event City, part of Trafford Centre in Manchester. The dates are the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of March 2012.

BOILER TEST GROUP MEETING (MELG)

On the 14th September 2011 A full meeting was attended by seven members of the committee.

1. 2. 3. Covered apologies for absent' notes from the last meeting and matters arising.

4. Terms of reference. Terms of reference were agreed.

5. HSG 216

The latest information received from within the organisation was that Entertainment Sheet 12 was being withdrawn by the HSE. HSG 216 was once again with the ORR. There was no intention to re-write or up-date the document in the immediate future. Only copies of the original document were currently available.

All organisations and their member societies are reminded of their obligations under RID-DOR. There was a requirement to report incidents, in particular if someone was injured.

6. Boiler Design Code; 7. Boiler construction; 8. Beginners guide to boiler building.

The meeting discussed the objective and merits of each of the three topics. Whilst the Southern Federation. View was that the number of people requiring a design code was small. However, there was a need for documentation that would provide consistent and hobby helpful information.

The meeting briefly discussed the possibility of 'adopting' the Australian code in place of 'adapting' it or having to re-write it. This leads to the requirement for someone to contact the appropriate authorities for further discussions.

The Group therefore issues a request that anyone within the hobby who is interested in the creation of documents regarding the above items should contact the Chairman, Mr. Wood, before the next meeting.

9. Welded Copper Boilers. Welded copper boilers may be acceptable provided that:

- A) Certified material is used with supporting paperwork.
- B) The welding carried out by a competent and certified welders qualified for welding the material.

These requirements are mentioned in the Blue Book. The meeting noted that retrospective testing and CE marking of copper boilers has not been successfully achieved.

10. Stainless steel boilers. At present the Blue Book states that stainless steel boilers shall not be tested. However, the RSA will accept commercially **made and tested** stainless steel boilers provided they meet approved design standards and the boiler has a commercial test certificate.

The meeting noted that the AMBSC Code, Part 4—Issue 1 2010 was now available. This could be used as a basis for a duplex steel boiler and the RSA would welcome the oppor-

tunity to assess and possibly test a boiler constructed from this material.

11. Boiler seminars. 12. Routine boiler maintenance seminars. There is the possibility of a further seminar being arranged by NAME in the New Year. The location will be advised to the organisations.

The topic of boiler maintenance could be included in the matters covered if the organisers agreed.

13. Boiler tests and the need for a witness. Further discussions will take place and it will be dealt with later.

14. Written scheme of examination (WSOE).

A draft of a proposed WSOE for a copper boiler had been circulated by Mr. Pearson. He outlined the reasoning behind the document. The point being made was that the technical information existed and that the WSOE points to the place where information may be found.

Mr. Garnett (RSA) added that the Blue Book content was OK but updating could include details that 'tied' the boiler being inspected to the WSO.

Following extensive discussion regarding the requirements of a WSOE and the details that could be included, or were necessary for the hobby paperwork, Mr. Pearson offered to carry out further work on the document he had drafted.

15. Boiler test code. Following the previous discussion, all agreed that the Blue Book had reached the time when it should be 'revised'.

Mr. Pearson offered to revise the document and it would be useful to incorporate the WSOE requirements and references into any future edition.

There were topics that had been notified to the organisation for possible incorporation into future revisions and these would be considered. All organisations were asked to send any amendments in writing to Mr. Pearson through their Boiler Sub Group representative for consideration. This included issues raised by the Southern Federation prior to the publication of the current 'Blue Book'. The Chairman agreed to draft a notice for the Model Engineering press. All comments to be received by 31st December 2011.

An amendment regarding boiler storage was passed over for possible incorporation.

Clarification regarding the size of boilers covered under the hobby scheme was to be incorporated into the revision.

16. Model gas tanks. Based on the NAME document the Southern Federation had drafted a revised boiler test supplement covering the safety of LPG tanks. The reasoning behind the rewording was explained, as was the revised test procedure. Mr. Garnett raised some questions regarding the test procedure outlined in the Southern Federation document.

17. Gas pressure systems. There is an increase in interest and construction of gas fired locomotives and other steam raising plant. Following discussion the meeting agreed that the uneducated use of 'gas' systems was not helpful and guidance would be useful.

A recent publication by the model engineering press relation to gas firing a 7¼ gauge Romulus raises concerns about the situation. The suggestion to connect the system with some 'cheap rubber hose' which in turn is fitted as a push fit on a copper pipe stub very close to open flame is not what is expected as safe practice. Gas hose, partially for propane, are to a specific British Standard. The hobby needs some guidance to be circulated to prospective builders before there is an incident. The Chairman agreed to contact the LP Gas Association, Ringwood, on behalf of the group. The meeting also asked that the model gas tank question be raised. A report back would be made.

18. Gas turbines. The number of gas turbines and similar equipment in use was small. The meeting agreed that where such novel equipment was to be used the owner and the owner of the premises on which the equipment operates have a duty of care to others. This may be achieved by carrying out a risk assessment before the items are put into use and ensuring any safety related items that may be necessary are also to hand, for example fire extinguishers etc. It may be appropriate to make contact with or make reference to the Gas Turbine Builders Association who may well have documentation and procedures already in place.

19. Reactors. The group have no experience in this field of the hobby. Should the device be radioactive and a possible risk then the appropriate authorities should be contacted regarding requirements for use

and possible transport.

20. Club boilers. The questions are:

1. Does the CE compliance exemption apply to boilers built by a club for their own use? The response was 'YES' boilers built by a club for their own use do not need CE marking.
2. May a club test a boiler which is owned by them?. The response was 'Yes'.
3. May a club test a boiler which was built by them? The response was 'Yes' provided the actual 'builder does not test the boiler.

21. Unmarked foreign boilers. Boilers that were purchased commercially after May 2002 should be CE marked. If a boiler manufactured after that date is presented for test under the Blue Book scheme it may not be tested.

The meeting was advised that boilers manufactured outside the EU are also subject to the regulation.

22. Materials and specification. It is the responsibility of the purchaser of any material used in a boiler to ensure that the material is suitable for the purpose. Before commencing construction potential builders should consult their boiler inspectors who may wish to satisfy themselves that the correct material is being used.

Where there is any doubt the purchaser must request and obtain appropriate certification. If certification is not available then the material should not be used.

23. Insurance. Traction engines or any other steam operated vehicle should have a valid boiler and steam test certificate before being operated, especially in public areas. There are no exceptions and third party insurance does not cover boiler operation.

24. A.O.B. Mr. Armstrong raised a question regarding boiler inspection certificates. A boiler certificate must be able to be linked to an identifiable boiler. If the boiler and paperwork do not match, or are unconnected then the paperwork and boiler are not acceptable.

Where there was any doubt as to the construction or suitability of new boilers, issues could be referred to the HSE or Trading Standards.

25. Date of the next meeting 24th March 2012.

Change of Secretary

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See over for Andover & District MES

OTHER MATTERS

Payment for Boiler Testing

It has come to our attention that some Clubs/Societies are requesting payment for Boiler Testing. **You are reminded that this is not permissible under the terms of our Insurance Policy.**

Changes of Secretary and Treasurer

All clubs and societies are reminded to notify the Federation of any change of name and address of its officers to ensure that correspondence, mail, e-mail and enquires continues to be directed to the right person.

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We are on the Web

www.southernfed.co.uk

SOUTHERN FEDERATION COMMITTEE

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

To be advised

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Mayall, Roger Curtis, Brent Hudson, Andrew Siddall, Mike Chrisp and Roger Griffiths.

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND INCIDENTS

All claims and reports of incidents should be notified to Footman James in the first instance.

FEDERATION SALES

Available from Brian Thompson, Chairman.

FEDERATION INSURANCE BUSINESS

Managed by Footman James, Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 6PU, Tele: 0121 561 6210 Contact Angela Orford

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DIARY OF EVENTS 2011/2012

2011

December 9/10/11 *Model Engineer Exhibition at Sandown Park London.

2012

January 20/21/22 *London Model Engineering Exhibition Alexandra Palace.

February 24/25/26 *Brighton Modelworld, Brighton Centre.

March 2/3/4 Northern Modelling Exhibition, Manchester.

March 10 *FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at R.A.F Cosford.

May 11/12/13 *Harrogate Model Engineering Exhibition, Yorkshire Show Ground

May 19 *FEDERATION SPRING RALLY at Guildford Model Engineering Society

May 20 Host Society Open Day.

June 9/10 Welsh National Locomotive Rally, Cardiff Model Engineering Soc.

June 16/17 Sweet Pea Rally at Hereford Society of Model Engineers.

June 23/24 Little LEC at the Swansea Society of Model Engineers.

June 30/July 1 Traction Engine Rally, Miniature Steam Road Vehicle Soc. Tewksbury.

July 7/8 *Guildford Model Steam Rally & Exhibition

July 14/15 IMLEC West Riding Small Locomotive Soc. Tingley, Wakefield.

Jul 21/22 Dreaming Spires Rally, City of Oxford Society.

August 17/18/19 *Bristol Model Engineering Exhibition.

September 7/8/9 Locomotive Rally, Bedford Model Engineering Society.

September 8/9 National Locomotive Rally & Martin Evans Rally, Birmingham S.M.E.

September 15 *FEDERATION AUTUMN RALLY, Chelmsford Soc. Model Engineers.

September 16 Host Society Open Day.

October 17-21 *Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition, Leamington Spa.

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*Note: Dates and events marked thus * the Federation "Road Show" will be in attendance. Other events will be added as the information becomes available.*