



SOUTHERN FEDERATION

of

MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

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As some of you will already be aware, David Goyder has for reasons of ill health had to step down from the position of Southern Fed newsletter editor. David has over the last few years produced newsletters of a very high standard that have been both entertaining and informative and I am sure you will join me in wishing David a speedy return to good health.

The Southern Fed needs someone to take up the baton where David left off; we need a new newsletter editor. Whoever fills the role does not necessarily have to be a board member/committee member but would need to be capable of producing four newsletters per annum. So if you feel you could, or you know someone who you feel could, help your fellow model engineers by becoming newsletter editor please contact myself or any committee member.

Bob Polley (SF chairman)

The Polly Young Engineers Prize & Southern Fed AGM.

The venue for this event left many of the delegates from the twenty or so clubs present drooling with envy, the workshop area alone of this local council provided amenity was the size of many a club's total premises, the Wolverhampton society members are very well provided for indeed.

Mike Chrisp spoke about the aims of the Southern Federation Trophy & Polly Model Engineering Prize and then introduced the young people who had won the various prizes, these being presented by Andy Clarke of Polly M.E.Ltd



The prize winners, with SFMES President Brent Hudson and Polly M.E.Ltd's Andy Clarke.

The more mundane business of the AGM, although it had its lighter moments, followed. Delegates received reports on the various aspects of the Southern Fed's activities including finance, boiler testing, general safety on miniature railways, exhibitions, etc. as well as Tony Wood's (Walker Midgley) insurance report. Questions from the floor were answered and votes taken accordingly. The previous year's officers and committee were re-elected for the forthcoming year. This opportunity for club delegates to have an input into Southern Fed affairs was well received by those present.

An old railway joke follows, allegedly told by LMS railway chairman Sir Josiah Stamp.

There is a story told of a locomotive works where the men were allowed to bring their wives or sweethearts on certain occasions to see what was being done by their men folk. Great interest was taken by the womenfolk at these events and it is reported that one sweetheart said to her young man who was taking her round "What is that? " and pointed to one of the objects. He replied "It is a locomotive boiler" and she immediately asked "But why do they boil locomotives?" Not to be let down the young man replied "To make a locomotive tender".

Not all model engineering is associated with railways as the picture below shows.



The Bugatti, which is battery powered, was built for the builders grandson, although it can be "driven" by an adult sitting on the seat mounted on the boot. Note the correct wheels, so many models of this type are spoilt by "bought in" wire or solid wheels. The miniature tractor was allegedly

produced one Christmas holiday when the builder was bored and disappeared into his workshop to unite several pieces of "scrap" that were lying around. At an exhibition he was asked "What make is it a model off", to which he replied "It's a freelance" and he was then bemused when the questioner responded with "Oh, I haven't heard of that make before".

This newsletter is very basic, the Southern Fed needs someone to produce a newsletter of the standard that we are used to, so I do not apologise for once again asking that someone take on the task, and paraphrasing a President Kennedy saying, think not what the Southern Fed can do for you but what you can do for the model engineering hobby. It's not just the editorship of the newsletter; any help with other matters such as IT, safety matters, legal matters, engineering problems and solutions, rallies, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

Rant over, may I wish you a successful summer season of activities in whatever branch of model engineering you participate in.

Bob Polley.