



# SOUTHERN FEDERATION of MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

Formed from the Federation established in 1970 by Model Engineers for Model Engineers  
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## The Doncaster Exhibition



*The Doncaster Exhibition illustrated the international nature of the hobby when the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy was won by George Punter from Australia, with his 3" scale model of a 1913 Saunderson and Mills tractor that he had shipped over from his homeland.*

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## Doncaster continued

The Southern Federation had as usual a stand at this exhibition, manned by committee members who greeted and talked to many visitors, renewing old friendships and making new ones, answering queries both technical and general, explaining the role of the Southern Federation and much more besides.

*Bob Polley, Chairman*



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Well the bad news first, nobody has answered my plea in the last newsletter to take over the production of the Southern Fed's newsletter. The good news however is that David Goyder, our much missed former editor, has recovered sufficiently from his earlier health issues to once again produce the newsletter.

David wants to try and include as much club news and articles as possible in future issues and has asked that clubs send him news and articles about general ME related items, their events, etc. Whilst David will, with your help, once again produce the type of newsletter that we had become used to, this does not mean that we can expect him to remain editor for ever, in the same way that the rest of the "team" currently running the Southern Federation will need, sometime in the future, to pass the task on to others.

So what I'm saying is, if you feel you could contribute to the maintenance of the status of our hobby, work that is not just about headline items such as boiler testing, for there is much that goes on "below the radar", then please have a chat with one of the current "team" to see how you could help at this moment in time and possibly in the future take on the important role of being one of the "team" running the Southern Federation and maintaining the status of our hobby.

*Bob Polley, Chairman*

*Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies*



## Publicising ME as a hobby

On a recent visit to a traction engine and old time rally in Suffolk I found among the usual stands that one finds at such events the Ipswich MES stand.

On chatting to the folk manning the stand I found that they considered attending events such as this a good way of publicising ME as a hobby and of course their club in particular

I know many clubs are also pro-active in their promotion of their club to the general public with a view to

gaining new members.

Clubs should not expect new members to find them automatically.

I feel all clubs should not hide their light under a bushel if they wish to maintain and grow their membership. So, good luck to Ipswich and all the other clubs that actively promote themselves and our great hobby.

*Bob Polley, Chairman*

## September 7th 2019

So what's so special about September the 7th?

Well it's 90 years since the formation of the Maidstone Model Engineering Society and as part of the celebrations they are hosting the 2019 Southern Federation Rally on this date.

The club consists of a 1826ft long, aluminium raised level track in 3.5" and 5" gauges complete with the usual facilities, as well as an area for traction engines, etc, all to be found in the extensive area of Mote Park in Maidstone.

As always, a current boiler certificate will be required for all steam engines wishing to run.

The track can be a demanding drive, with a climb starting around the first bend with varying grades, the climb stopping at the exit of the far end loop and then commencing the drop back to the station.

Various videos can be found by searching for Mote Park Railway or Maidstone MES on YouTube.

Unfortunately there is no onsite camping this year but the club can provide a list of local accommodation if required.

Food will be provided for visitors on Saturday lunchtime and fish & chips will be sent out for during the evening, when running will continue, but these will have to be ordered in advance,.

On Sunday visitors will still be welcome but note that from 2.30 the club will be passenger hauling for the public and if visitors wish to participate in this their locos must have spark arrestors.

Visitors staying locally are welcome to "pop in" on the Friday night when the club will be preparing the site.

The entrance for visitors with locos can be found at ME15 8JW, but if you're spectating it is requested that you use the public car park at ME15 7SX.

Whilst not essential it would be appreciated if you could let the club know if you are visiting as this will help with catering numbers. If you need further information, you are welcome to contact Maidstone the MES chairman Tom Parham via their website at <http://Maidstone.co.uk/contact.html>.

*Bob Polley, Chairman*

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