



SOUTHERN FEDERATION of MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

Formed from the Federation established in 1970 by Model Engineers for Model Engineers
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www.sfmesc.co.uk

AGM! 11th March Burton on Trent Are your Polly Award entries in?

Membership renewal month!

Here is some variety from the Wilton Show?



AGM fast approaching 11th March 2017 at Burton on Trent
Claymills Victorian Pumping Station
www.sfmesc.co.uk

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

EDITORIAL

Busy time of year for many of us as there is lots to do in our societies and our workshops. If nothing else making sure someone has a list of 'what is needed' for 2017'!

There is a bigger picture. There seems to be an ever increasing need to manage our societies with a level of professionalism unheard of 50 years ago. This can be done easily and well especially when you reference the Southern Federation website. Have a look two thirds the way down the home page, "Legal side of Managing a Society." Lots there.

These regulations will not go away so we had better become familiar with them and learn how to manage our societies within them.

This has relevance to the general wish to engage more juniors in engineering and our societies as shown by the Meccano project (below) and Patrick Hendra's work at Eastleigh.

Lots to do requires people (many hands etc) and the Southern Federation can help you if you help it. So, come and help manage the affairs of the Federation, you will be most welcome simply to try us out to see if you would like to help in the longer term. Get in touch!

David Goyder, Newsletter Editor

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

What does the future hold, not just for model engineering but for the country as a whole? One thing is certain, it is, as it has always been, the youngsters who will take over from the current generations and shape the future whilst the future will also be greatly influenced by how we communicate information using the evolving technologies. Interesting articles on both these subjects are to be found in this newsletter.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the prize giving ceremony of the Great Engineers School's Challenge organised by members of the North-East Meccano Society (NEMS) which was held at the National Railway Museum at Shildon. This was the culmination of a scheme whereby primary schools are given identical meccano sets and with help from NEMS members construct models for entry into the competition. It has grown from 3 schools 4 years ago to 17 this year and has attracted attention and partial participation from local and national engineering

companies, growth only being hampered by the low number of NEMS members able to assist.

So why am I writing about this? Above I wrote about the future being shaped by the youngsters of today and this scheme is one way of helping them to consider engineering as a career, and as a spin off to become model engineers. Perhaps it is the sort of scheme model engineering clubs could and should become involved in, perhaps your club already is. I would be very interested to hear your views on this subject and whether the Southern Fed may be able to act as a catalyst to foster this and similar schemes which could not only be beneficial to our hobby but to the country as a whole if it promotes engineering in general.

Lastly, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, with your Christmas stockings being full of model engineering goodies.

Bob Polley, Chairman

Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies

Events, Special Occasions and more 2016-7

The best place to promote your special events is on the website <http://www.sfmesc.co.uk/public/>
11 March 2017 Southern Federation Annual General Meeting—Claymills Pumping Station Burton on Trent
Programme: 11:30 Tours of the Pumping Station, 13:00 Lunch
14:00 Annual General Meeting

Model Engineering and Hobbies Exhibition 1st & 2nd April 2017 Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire

9th September 2017 Southern Federation Annual Rally @ Fareham

"Do use the website for your special events"

Please keep your Society data up to date (so we can talk with you)!

An up to date list of members is essential for club and society secretaries and so it is for the Southern Federation, so please would you check the names and contact details of your Club Officers held in our membership data.

You can update as necessary yourself, but if you have problems accessing or changing data then please either contact the webmaster by using the "Need any Help ?" section on the home page or contact me at peter-squire@sfmes.co.uk and I will do my best to help".

A Stroll through the Southern Federation Website Or exploring a veritable goldmine of essential knowledge

How many of you have actually used the Southern Federation Website? My first time was to try to change the name of one of our officers and I got into an awful mess. I called Martin Baker and he walked me through the steps needed to make the changes I wanted. He was extremely helpful. And I thought that was it. But no, I had opened Pandora's Box.

Martin asked me if I would like to do the Southern Federation newsletter as I think he had seen the one I did for our Southampton society a few years before. My reaction was NO!!! But somehow I was talked into it, so here we are talking about the Southern Federation website which is where it all started from.

I understand that previously the website has had bad press, I am really not privy to the history and I am not sure that this really matters very much. I can comment that the digital world is unforgiving and the on/off environment can be challenging. It works or it doesn't! In the analogue world, almost right was pretty good but in the digital world it is success or failure and that is why when a superb tool is almost, as in 99%, good it can fail because it was not 100%. And that is why a gem can be written off with undue haste!!!

Martin has worked incredibly hard to get from 99 to 100% and he has done it; so now is a good time to enjoy his dedication and superb work and to have a stroll through the website.

And before we get into the detail I would like you to consider that you are running a model engineering society in this modern litigious society with people ready to sue a fun little railway for anything and all. Once the letter hits the door mat, where would you look for advice, protection or comfort! There is but one place so welcome aboard.



Let's start with the good old home page, a bit like the table of contents in a book, remember those.

Ours is shown above. This is a busy page.

"Contact Us" is something you might like to do or not, but look at the "Find a Society near You". I used a Northampton postcode and found societies at Solihull, Leamington, Peterborough, Banbury and lots more. Pretty good this. They are all the little red bits.

If you click the society icons, you can see more details and if that society has a website, you can link straight through to it



We Are Strolling through the Southern Federation Website And exploring a veritable goldmine of essential knowledge

Next down is “Affiliated Societies”, a membership list of all the member societies so, find the one you like and contact them, that is if you wish to join the fun! So let us suppose you are living in North Yorkshire, the clicking Ryedale Society gives you the ‘Primary Contact’ and the facility to send him an email. Better than Facebook!

Next on the list is “Open a Personal Account”. This, I think, needs to be talked about with the next item and that is to ‘Affiliate with the Federation’.

This section allows a new society to join the Southern Federation through the website and do it with the minimum of fuss. There are copious and clear instructions and off one goes

fun from some of our stars. For example, did you know that the UK government actually hid away a lot of steam engines in disused tunnels as part of the “Strategic Reserve” during the times that the Russian secret agents were sabotaging the new diesels in the 1960s? No, nor did I until a society member from the West Riding Society revealed the story. He is still looking for them! Well all of a bit of a lark.

More serious and important business next, the Polly award. Jayne and Andy from Polly Engineering sponsor an annual award to a rising and capable young model engineer. The young person is nominated from a society and the wise and learned assess and then award. This gives tremendous impetus to encourage the youngsters. All here for you on the Southern Federa-



Some people may need help, much as I did a few years ago but we are there to help any new society (or old for that matter) with the process and this why the photo, function and telephone number are boldly displayed.

Please do remember dear reader, that we have not actually logged in yet as an ‘affiliated Society’, we are merely looking at all that is free to all. Once we log in as a member society the rest will be revealed.

But let’s continue our wander around the areas free for all.

‘Newsletters’ is next. Well that is my section as I put these newsletters together for all readers with a lot of help from member societies, individuals and a bit of

tion website.

Now we are down to “Need any help?” The answer is usually yes. This is reasonable obvious that there is much help at hand, just ask.

But before I conclude what will be part one of a few, have a look at the little picture in the top right hand corner of the website. Put your mouse on it and the response is ‘click for a slide show’. There are hundreds of photos of wonderful model engineering here from the shows, rallies and general fun. Many if not most come from Mike Chrisp’s camera but I have to reveal that one is of my boring an eccentric strap on my milling machine and I have absolutely no idea how it got there, such is the fun at the Southern Federation!

Part 2—The Legal Issues in the next issue.

Membership Renewal for 2017

The time of year approaches for the renewal process. This applies to all affiliated societies and to others that have individual personal accounts that require renewal.

Where there is no charge for your account, it will renew automatically.

Your committee is pleased to announce that the renewal fees are unchanged this year. Also, your committee has decided to extend the supply to Societies of boiler certificates free of charge for one year. In addition your committee has also decided that the **“Gas Tank Supplement”** will also now be free of charge. You will still need to pay for delivery if you want items posted to you.

Your current membership expires on close of 29th February 2017. We have been advised by the insurance industry that after the due date for renewal and if you have not renewed your affiliation, that any insurance conditional on being affiliated to the Federation and any boiler certificates issued since the renewal due date may possibly be considered invalid. This covers both your society insurances and any extension insurances such as third party liability for your individual members. So it is very important that you pay in good time.

What to do now

Please can you check your details on the website to ensure your details are correct and in particular to make sure that you are receiving emails from the website without the interference of your spam filters. If you are unsure then please log on and try sending yourself a test email.

If you visit your own society's details online line you

can check in advance the amount that will be due. Payment needs to be with us by 1st March please, Any amount held on account from last year is included in the final total that appears on your renewal notice.

What we will do

We will issue your renewal notice on 31st January by email, and for those who have no email then we will send your notice by post. Please contact me on 1st February if you do not have your email renewal, and 7th February if you do not have your postal renewal notice if one was due.

Reminders will be given by email, post and telephone. We will continue to accept late membership payments until 30 April but please be aware that this does increase our workload of membership administration considerably. If you still have not paid then on 1st May your membership will cease.

How to pay

You can pay by cheque, BACS or PayPal if you have a PayPal account. Details will be provided with the renewal notice. Last year we had several payments go astray due to being sent to the wrong bank account. Please check you have the right details in your payment system as we are not able to assist with the recovery of monies sent to the wrong account such as the original non-incorporated Federation.

Need Help

If you have any questions, or want me to check or update your records for you, please send the details to membershipsecretary@sfmes.co.uk.

Thank you for supporting your Federation.

Martin Baker, Membership Secretary

A Note From Your Boiler Registrar

I have noticed, when entering information you have sent me to record on the WSOE database, that there are quite a few boilers with no identifying mark.

Club boiler inspectors should note that it is a requirement of the Examination & Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers (green book), section 7.7 or section 9.11 whichever applies, that all boilers shall have some form of identification (3.1).

Please be aware that, if these boilers are used in public and there is an accident, there is a possibility that their insurance could be invalid.

BOILER CERTIFICATES - It has been brought to our attention that there have been models purchased

which have been issued with fraudulent boiler paperwork. Could all clubs please ensure that their certificate books are secure from any miss-use. Also, could I please ask that, if any clubs have certificate books which are surplus to requirements, i.e. they have no intention of using them and to prevent them getting into the wrong hands, they are returned to the Federation.

As a consequence of the above incident, from now on, if anyone wishes to collect any certificate books on behalf of their club/society at any of the exhibitions, they will have to provide proof of current membership of their club.

David J Mayall, Boiler Registrar

Welcome Eastleigh Model Boating Club— a new Federation Member

With thanks to Patrick Hendra for a warm welcome and a few words as well

The saying is, “The road to Hell is paved with good intentions” and that applies to your unworthy newsletter editor.

Last summer the Eastleigh Model Boat Club applied and were accepted as members of the Southern Federation. I thought with great enthusiasm that I could do a piece on them for the newsletter (usually I have to rely on club members such as Malcolm from Tyneside) but as Eastleigh is but 10 minutes away off I went to see them.

I was introduced to Patrick Hendra who was assembling his “Eastleigh Young Engineers” with their models for an “Open Day”.

Patrick kept a steady commentary on each model and the young person who had produced it. Finally I got him to sit down and redo his commentary slowly so I could make notes. This is where the ‘good intentions’ come in. I had written so quickly and so much that I could not get head nor tail of it and I had not the courage to get Patrick to slow down and do it again so I got him to do the job himself and here it is.



During the torrent of commentary Patrick told me about a wonderful young lady who had made a radio controlled fire boat. It was so special that her mother had been inspired to work along side and produced her

own model. I thought this so good that we had the fire boat on the Southern Federation stand at MEX 2016. So here is 10 years old Zahara and her fire boat.



The best for me is the sheer joy on this young girls face! How many of us have had the pleasure of, my goodness, it works!



The other chap in the above pictures is Angus French another young engineer. More later on him.

Before I turn this over to Patrick I should tell that the “young engineers” are a sort of club within the adult Eastleigh society. Patrick started this in his local community hall but it migrated to the EMBC. Time

to let Patrick take over but do remember, where do young engineer’s come from?

Next seminar for Boiler Inspectors, West Country Bound?

We have two offers from Member societies in the West Country to host the event although no decision has been made yet. We have not yet had much expression of interest from Member societies for their boiler inspectors to attend.

We plan on a maximum of 40 delegates in order to give each delegate the best opportunity for involvement on the day.

It is now time to start planning the spring 2017 semi-

nar and therefore expressions of interest from members in sending delegates would be most welcome.

We would particularly like to hear from members in the south west of the country which until now, has not been covered by the seminars. If you leave it to the last minute, you may miss out!!

Please send your requests for places at a seminar to petersquire@sfmes.co.uk “

Eastleigh Model Boating Club, cont'd

also work with the Eastleigh Scouts. This is in its third year and involves a group of about six lads who then each build a R/C boat taught by Club Members. Here is a picture of one group hard at it.

One of the Scouts has moved on to join the Young Engineers and has just finished a Morgan Three Wheeler in 1 to 8 scale.

Examples of other Young Engineer's projects are shown below.

Just as some of our Senior Members enjoy the cut and thrust of Competition the Youngsters are VERY competitive and members have done brilliantly in the last few years e.g. Angus French has won the Junior Challenge Cup Silver Awards twice at MEEEx and the Stuart Shield at this year's MMEEEx . Angus and I gave a Demonstration Talk at Brooklands this year but it was very poorly attended. We shall be repeating the chat and also the demonstrations of the various vehicles running round the room at the Southampton Model Engineering Club and next Summer at the SMEE headquarters. Please come and see us."

Patrick Hendra



Morgan Three Wheeler in 1:8 built by Ryan Philo. Ryan won Best Young Modeller at the Littleton and Harestock Show and won Second Prize at MMEEEx Warwick 2016



Zahara's mother built this Danish fishing boat not to be outdone by her daughter! Brava Ros!



HMS Crane was built by the CRAWLEY VILLAGE YOUTH CLUB to give the kids something useful to do in August. About 20 very young folks contributed to the construction over four weeks. Their ages ranged from 8 to 16.

An Anagram

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:

TWELVE PLUS ONE



A similar group did the Thorneycroft Horsebox the following August.

Challenged for your next project? Try a River Bus, Hamburg Style

What has been billed as Germany's first amphibian vehicle service to offer combined tours on land and water has gone into service in the city and port of Hamburg for HafenCity RiverBus.

The 12.07 m long, 2.54 m wide and 3.75 m high Type Swimbus SB 12.00 has cost around a million Euros. It looks just like a bus but offers combined city and river tours lasting 80 minutes with 35 minutes of that spent on the River Elbe during a tour that includes the city's historic Speicherstadt warehouse district and other maritime highlights. It is hoped there will eventually be five guided tours a day starting and ending on land at Hamburg's Brooktorkai close to the International Maritime Museum.



The RiverBus enters and leaves the Elbe via a ramp and then sails upstream or down depending on the tide. It carries 36 passengers and a crew of three and operates at a speed of seven knots on water and 65 kms/h on land. The boat boasts air conditioning, heating, an audio system, a main entrance and two emergency exits.

HafenCity RiverBus said it was the first such amphibian in service in Germany. Elsewhere however Riverbus builders Hungary's Swimbus International Kft have operated a RiverRide service in Budapest for six years and similar amphibian services have been available elsewhere in Europe. Stockholm has Ocean Bus and a WaterBus service operates in Rotterdam.

Fred Franken, one of the two founders of the Hamburg project, told *Maritime Journal* the vehicle is driven on land by a 290 hp MAN engine. On water propulsion is provided by two Italian Castoldi Water Jets driven by 156 hp Steyr Marine diesel engines.

Co-founder and Technical Manager Jan Peter Mahlstedt, like Franken also from Hamburg, said that technically the RiverBus meets all safety demands. It is classed by DNV GL and is approved by the German vehicle standards concern TÜV Rheinland and also has an EU passenger ship certification.

Mahlstedt said at the launch of the service that: "for us, it represents the end of a very long process and, at the same time, the beginning of a crazy adventure!"

The firm said it had taken 1,500 days to plan and develop the idea in Budapest where Swimbus International's RiverRide has served as a prototype for RiverBus during its years of successful operational end maintenance experience.

The Hamburg vehicle took more than a year and a half to plan and build, said Swimbus head Gabor Galla. Safety, standard and insurance authorisations alone took nine months to acquire, he added. Galla's wife Szusza launched Riverbus in Hamburg. The vehicle's hull and upper Ikarus body are Hungarian built, but other components have been bought in from Italy, Austria and Germany, he said.

Credit to Tom Todd, Maritime Journal

A presentation at York

The York Model Engineering Society presents a 'trophy' to the member who it is felt has made the greatest contribution to the club either over the previous year or over a longer period.

After giving 20 years service as clubhouse manager, Don Bowerman has retired so that he could actually find time to do some model engineering. As he said in his acceptance speech, some of our more junior members had not been born when he first took on the role.

Richard Gibbon OBE, until retirement the chief mechanical engineer at the NRM and now very active York committee member made the presentation.



Richard Gibbon, OBE (l) presenting to Don Boerman.

Tyneside Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Thanks to Malcolm Phillips

TSMEE are situated in Exhibition Park, Newcastle upon Tyne. Quite a lot has been happening over the last year or two. The Park has had an extensive face lift in an attempt to encourage family use. Newcastle City Council have been proactive in reaching out to groups, including ourselves, who are park users and they have assisted our boating members by providing accommodation for boats and safety equipment for use on the lake. Our hard working secretary Linda Nichols has found herself attending all sorts of committees in order to tell others of our existence and to make sure our views are represented.

Over a year ago we completed a 7¼" ground level track and purchased an electric locomotive specifically as a backup for members steam locos so that we could encourage youngsters to come for a ride. Our lease does not let us charge, but we find the public are generous in donations. This has been a new interest for members and we now run a Halloween ghost train day and Father Christmas trains, again for the general public.

Linda has a "Little Chuffers" enterprise, parents can arrange to bring their kids and she gives them a one-to-one teaching session and ride using her 5" steam loco. The older ones get hands on experience including lighting up, firing and driving.



The old museum building in the park has been taken over by Wylam Brewery. We have benefited by their surfacing the muddy patch we used to use as a car park and by the feeling of

extra security now that this building is in regular use. We are still on a learning curve as regards sharing the site.

Most importantly we have recently completed a new clubhouse. It was funded by club members and a grant from the Reece Foundation. Foundations were laid commercially but the rest we built it ourselves from a "kit" with member Peter Newby as Gaffer, assisted by Robin Evans who is an electrician with an interest in signalling. The build has taken about a year, though we still have to see one of the old club buildings go off site and we have landscaping to complete. We are establishing a new workshop with machine tools. Peter is soon to have an article about the clubhouse, published in Model Engineer.

We are very proud of what we have accomplished and needless to say, enjoy having members of other clubs visit us on open days. Cheers, Malcolm



A Letter from Dennis Herbert

From time to time we receive letters from members of this great community of Model Engineers with messages that are merely the kind disposition of us all. Hardly the stuff of letters to the Editor, more just a realization that we are all giving way to the younger set. So here is a touching letter from Dennis Herbert, still trying to assist!

Dear David

Having spent a lifetime in model engineering my workshop machinery has been silent for a long time now. I have also had to relinquish my status as president of the Elmdon Model Engineering Society to care for my wife who has been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease. However, whilst my situation is heartrending, I am sure that I not alone amongst the many of us who would still go down with the ship for their wife.

In free moments I have since kept focused by writing a reminiscence of my seven decades of model engineering in hope that it will attract younger folk to take up 'hands on' amateur engineering. At 82 I have no interest in financial gain and should the book be profitable I hope to make donations to Alzheimer's Research.

The book is published on Amazon Kindle and is titled 'The Mettle for Metal'. I would therefore be extremely grateful if you feel it would be appropriate to add a few words promoting my work to your journal.

Kindest regards,

Dennis Herbert

p.s. If you are aware of anyone who is genuinely building the Trevor Shortland 'King' I may have items of some help to them.

Model Engineering and Hobbies Exhibition 1st & 2nd April 2017 The Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire From Peter Parrish

This exhibition is probably unique. Peter Parrish and his wife put this on as a 'private' exhibition simply to raise money for the Salisbury Hospital. They are ably supported by the nearby societies but this is their personal effort to put a lot back into the system.

The next Model Engineering and Hobbies exhibition 1st and 2nd April 2017 at The Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton SP2 0JS

Open Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. Free parking next to the hall. Disabled access. Light refreshments are available with home made cakes. The entrance fee will be £4.

After the success of the exhibitions held in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, I decided it was worth organising another event at Wilton next year.

All profits from all the shows were and are donated to local hospital departments. We have made several thousands of pounds over the years. We have given money to Salisbury Hospice, the Dermatology department, Urology department, the ENT department Stars appeal and Action on Hearing loss. We like to feel we are supporting those who helped us so much.

Once again we are hoping to create the same high standard of exhibits as this is an invitation only event. Two local clubs support the show, the Salisbury Model Engineering society and the newly formed Wessex miniature steamers. Over a hundred individuals from all over the South of England have come and supported us over the years. Trade stands associated with our hobby are always present. The two day event includes live steam locomotives, traction and road locos, marine modelling, horse drawn vehicles, fair-ground equipment (some of the finest in the country). In the last 7 events there can't be many areas of model engineering we have not invited. There is still some space available for exhibits and trade stands

All enquires can be made to Peter Parrish 01980 610346.



Have you unused Written Scheme of Examination Books (WSOE)?

Should your society have Written Scheme of Examination book that is an unused or not needed, David Mayall would be happy to hear from you to seek your returning it for use by other societies.

The best way is thought to be at an exhibition so there is no postage cost involved.

Please contact David at davidmayall@sfmes.co.uk

Memories of the Witney and West Oxfordshire Society of Model Engineers track in the grounds of Blenheim Palace by Richard Higgins

In 1954 my parents moved from Oxford to a new house in Kidlington. At the end of the garden was the Oxford Canal and about half a mile away, the Oxford to Banbury railway. Thus from the age of seven I was a trainspotter and by 10 travelling with friends to stations near to Oxford, for example Didcot, Reading, Swindon and Bletchley.

My mother had stopped working in a friends shop and was doing the odd cleaning job between making wedding dresses and wedding cakes. When cleaning for one customer she found out the next door neighbour was a model engineer.

I was invited round and met John and Elsie Wheeler. I was shown round his shed and his engines, a 3 1/2 inch gauge County (of Oxfordshire) and Great Northern (Heilan Lassie), both well made and put my Hornby Dublo into perspective.



From then on, for at least seven years, I used to cycle to the Wheelers and off we would go to Woodstock. The first time I went to the railway it was still being built. Because pump action screwdrivers were used, I was deemed too young to use one and my initial work was limited to putting washers on screws.

It was a raised track, 3 1/2 and 5 inch, using aluminium rail, 440 yards long. The layout was similar in shape to an athletics track except there were short straights at the ends, longer at the station end than at the far end where the straight was only 10 ft long.

Once the railway was completed I was introduced to the ways of steam engines and given a thorough training in what to do and what not to do.

There were two club engines, a Maid of Kent and a Speedy. An older lad usually drove the Maid and I used to drive the Speedy which was actually a better engine. The lad driving the Maid developed a way of driving which usually got it round, it was basically to thrash it. From the station, the first 50 yards were level, then downhill, to keep the fire bright he accelerated to a



fair speed, then when the first of the far corners was reached, which was also the start of the bank, he gave her more regulator and would charge up it. (The corner had been laid with super elevation and the corner radius was 200 ft if my memory is correct. The lap record was 57 seconds, over 15 mph, set by a visiting 5 inch gauge V2 with 2 coaches full of club members.)

Which brings me to the COSME's History page on their website. Quote "In April 1962 the Marchioness of Blandford and three of the Duke of Marlborough's grandchildren were thrown off when a train stopped suddenly. Apart from a few bruises nobody was hurt, and there seem to have been no hard feelings"

I was at the station, but one of the first to the accident, must have been fit.

Like so many accidents, there was more than one cause;

Track layout, after the super elevated corner there was 10 ft of straight before the next corner which was level (not super elevated), which was not ideal.

The speed of the train, it was the lad with the Maid of Kent.

The Marchioness was seated side saddle, and no one was prepared to tell her she should sit normally.



Memories, cont'd

The result was that when the train travelling at speed changed from the first corner to the short straight the Marchioness lost her balance which resulted in the group being deposited in the grass. It's worth noting that one of the children was Jamie Blandford, now 12th Duke of Marlborough.



After a few years the club engines were wearing out and although club members were building 5 inch engines a stop gap was required. So John Wheeler built a "diesel" over one winter. It appeared to be a Bo-Bo but was not, the rear bogie was bolted to the well, only the front, unpowered bogie, pivoted. The power was provided by a Villiers 50cc two stroke with integral clutch and two speed gearbox, with chain drive to the rear two axles. Power was adequate and the engine performed well for several years. Adhesion was OK as long as it did not rain.

Mr Wheeler produced a Mk II, which was a 2-8-0 with a Bianchi 75 cc three speed gearbox, it was capable of hauling anything asked of it.

Just found an interesting site explaining lathes from first principles;

<http://andysmachines.weebly.com/on-buying-and-using-a-lathe.html>

That'll do for now.

Richard Higgins

Complaint to the Irish Railway Company

The following is an actual exchange of correspondence between a customer and the Irish Railway Company (I am sure those of you who have commuted by rail will have some sympathy with Mr Patrick Finnegan).

Gentlemen,

I have been riding your trains daily for the last two years, and the service on your line seems to be getting worse every day. I am tired of standing in the aisle all the time on a 14-mile trip. I think the transportation system is worse than that enjoyed by people 2,000 years ago.

Yours truly, Patrick Finnegan

Dear Mr. Finnegan,

We received your letter with reference to the shortcomings of our service and believe you are somewhat confused in your history. The only mode of transportation 2,000 years ago was by foot.

Sincerely,

Irish Railway Company

Gentlemen,

I am in receipt of your letter, and I think you are the ones who are confused in your history. If you will refer to the Bible and the Book of David, 9th Chapter, you will find that Salaam rode to town on his ass.

That. Gentlemen, is something I have not been able to do on your train in the last two years!

Yours truly, Patrick Finnegan

By permission Robin Howard Tonbridge Model Engineering Society

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM SOUTHERN FEDERATION MES

The SFMES publications listed below are available from our stand at rallies and exhibitions or by post from David Mayall. Please make contact first by phone or email to get combined postage costs when ordering more than one item. (See note below). The figures shown here are for single items only. Please make cheques payable to 'Southern Federation MES'

| Title | From Our Stand | By Post |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Examination & Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers BTC 2012 - Green Book | £0.50 | £1.30 |
| Ditto - Pack of 5 | £2.50 | £4.50 |
| Boiler Test Certificates - Pad of 50 | FREE* | 2.60 |
| Written Scheme of Examination - Pad of 50 | FREE* | £3.40 |
| Small Boiler Test Certificate - Pad of 50 | FREE* | £2.60 |
| Boiler History Record Card - Pack of 10 | £3.50 | £5.10 |
| Plastic wallets to hold certificates size A5 | £0.75 | £1.90 |
| Ditto - Pack of 5 | £3.75 | £5.30 |
| HSG216 Passenger-carrying miniature railways 'Guidance on safe practice' | £3.00 | £5.00 |

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Or use <http://www.sfmes.co.uk/public/?action=publicpublications>

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Committee members' contact details can be found on the Southern Federation MES web site

www.sfmes.co.uk

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For the first year only it will be necessary for those clubs, societies and members who have their policy via the Southern Federation scheme, to complete a fresh proposal form. For miniature traction engines and other road vehicles up to 6in scale you need Model Road Steam Insurance. For locomotives, rolling stock, boats and other models you need Southern Federation Members Insurance. Both policies include the facility to insure Road Trailers, Personal Accident, Home Workshops, Products Liability and Garden Railways & Portable Tracks

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Supervisory input and items built as apprentice pieces in a training environment are acceptable. The work shall be the nominee's own but normally acceptable commercial fittings, fixings, fastenings or other components may be used.

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