

# SOUTHERN FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>End of an Era</i>	2
<i>From the Chairman</i>	2
<i>Your Federation Needs You</i>	3
<i>Introducing the New-Committee Members</i>	4
<i>Junior Trophy</i>	5
<i>Website Database</i>	6
<i>Report from Safety Officer</i>	7
<i>Southern Federation Insurance</i>	8
<i>Publications</i>	9
<i>Diary of Events</i>	9
<i>Federation Committee</i>	10



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

## EDITORIAL

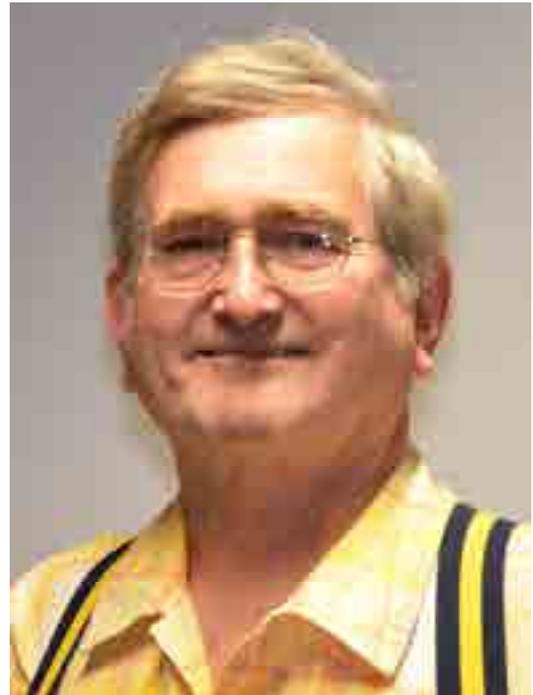
As you all know we have just had our Annual General Meeting at Mercedes-World at Brooklands. It turned out to be a very good venue and it was held in the cinema. There have been a number of changes and we welcome a new chairman Brent Hudson.

Brian Thompson has been made our first President in recognition of his services over the past thirty plus years. He will still be our representative out in the field at shows and rallies; he will continue to be your contact for Boiler Test Certificates and other paperwork involved in running a club.

Brent has put together a new team with some old faces to bring the Federation up to date with its operations. Details of the team will be found on page 3 and 4. The other major change, which has been in progress for a number of months, is the method we hold our data regarding clubs. It is now all on the Web and is placed there so that you can maintain the data on your club, please see page 6, this is important.

*John Walker*

Newsletter Editor



Brent Hudson our new Chairman

*Photograph by Mike Chrisp*

## NEW WEBSITE

VISIT US ON [WWW.SOUTHERNFED.CO.UK](http://WWW.SOUTHERNFED.CO.UK)

A new website has been constructed for your benefit and contains a host of information relative to Model Engineering and the running of your Club or Society. Here are some of the features that you will find:

- ◆ Information Sheets and Guidance Sheets.
- ◆ Copies of all Newsletters.
- ◆ Websites and location of all Clubs and Societies.
- ◆ Annual General Meeting minutes.
- ◆ Boiler test documents and procedures.
- ◆ Model Engineering Insurance scheme.
- ◆ Diary of Events
- ◆ Publications
- ◆ Contact - Committee members

**And very much more**

## THE END OF AN ERA

Back in 1969, a meeting was arranged to consider the re-forming of the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies. This proved to be most successful, and the present day Southern Federation came into being at the inaugural meeting on Saturday January 3rd 1970 during the Model Engineer exhibition at Seymore Hall, London. Its first Chairman was George Chaplin of the Malden SME.

An earlier Southern Federation in the mid to late 1940's was disbanded, reason unknown.

Their first task was to investigate the possibility of a dedicated Insurance Policy suitable for Model Engineering activities and an acceptable boiler testing procedure, and the rest is history.

Subsequent Chairman were Tom Luxford (North London SME) followed by Ray Milligan (Maidstone MES).

Brian Thompson joined the Federation committee in 1971 as the representative of the now defunct Hitchin and District MES. At the 1981 Model Engineering exhibition held at the Wembley Conference Centre, Ray stood down and Brian took over the helm.

Some 32 years later, Brian (Mr. Southern Federation) is standing down to enjoy a rest from the cut and thrust of running an organisation such as ours with approximately 12,500 members. Brian has steered the Federation through the loss of the direct handling of our insurance business, and latterly through the complete maze of New Boiler Testing documentation i.e. the Red,

Blue and Green Books, almost a complete set of signals. What colour next I ask.

We have been lucky to have the likes of Brian over these changing times (almost the life of Brian), always by the telephone, and always there with advice and guidance. His like and service will not be seen again as 32 years is half a life time. However, Brian will continue to represent the Federation and support the various events that we get invited to with our well established publicity and sales stand.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Model Engineering hobby and the Souther5n Federation of Model Engineering Societies he was appointed as the first President of the Southern Federation at their recent Annual General Meeting.

### *Members Insurance*

If your Club/Society is a member of the Southern Federation you can take out insurance cover for workshop buildings, machinery, models, home railway tracks etc. even if the club/society uses another insurer. Very competitive rates are available.

Contact Footman James for details.

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Summer has not arrived and I suspect many of you are contemplating designs for snow ploughs.

There was a change of Chairman and after 32 years at the top Brian Thompson has handed the mantle over to me.

Brian is now the President and will still be at all the usual places where the Southern Federation stand is exhibited so you can still call in for a chat. There are some new committee members and some of the positions have changed so please see the website for these changes. (see last page of this Newsletter. Ed.)

We as a committee are very concerned at the lack of information exchanged within Clubs and Societies. There is a frustration within the committee as to how we

can ensure members of our clubs and societies have access to the vast range of information that we supply that is Advisory notes etc. These notes are to assist member clubs to remain happy that they operate in an ever changing litigious world.

It is and never has been a requirement of membership to the Southern Federation to carry our insurance and you are free to use any Insurance provider.

All advisory notes are available on the Southern Federation Website and are FREE.

You will notice that our Safety Officer Wally Pearson has his name on all the Boiler test documents at the bottom and that is because he is the named Responsible Person who at the end of the day has the

buck stop at his desk. The whole of the Model Engineering World owes a huge thank you to Wally for his work in guiding the M.E.L.G. committee through the mine field of legislation and allow us to continue to remain running our models in a world continuing tightening legislation. The new boiler certificates are starting to roll in to David Mayall so most of you are getting to grips with something which will become second nature in the future. This is a great hobby which I started my modelling on 4th August 1964 and hope to continue for many years yet so let's join together in a year of happy steaming .

*Brent Hudson*

Chairman

## YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOU

As you will be aware, there have been a number of changes in the Federation Committee following the AGM, and we have spent considerable effort to match the posts to those individuals who volunteered to take an active part in the Federation Management. This has meant that in some instances, the individuals who now fill the posts may not have been nominated for them originally; however they were legitimately elected in accordance with the Constitution. The Committee regrets this unilateral action, but, unfortunately, there was no alternative.

The Committee make up is as follows:-

- ◆ Chairman - Brent Hudson
- ◆ Secretary and Vice - Chairman - Ivan Hurst
- ◆ Treasurer - Ashley Edwards
- ◆ Membership Secretary - Martin Baker
- ◆ Safety Officer - Wally Pearson
- ◆ Boiler Registrar - David Mayall
- ◆ Venerable Groups - Roger Griffiths
- ◆ Newsletter Editor - John Walker
- ◆ Committee Member - Mike Chrisp
- ◆ Hon President (non executive post) - Brian Thompson

It will be noted that the Committee is now three members short, continuing the decline first identified by Brian Thompson two years ago. Also, it should be pointed out that two significant Committee Members have already stated their intention to stand down in 2014, and a third who is contemplating doing so.

Without new blood, the Federation will not be able to continue the high level of service it gives its membership, and there is the strong possibility that it will not be able to function in other than a token capacity from 2014.

Please consider if you are able to volunteer now or in the future. Feel free to contact Brent Hudson or Ivan Hurst, in confidence, to discuss the matter further. Contact details on page 10.

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## MODEL ENGINEER MAGAZINES FOR YOUR CLUB LIBRARY

I have a set of Model Engineer Magazines from volume 100 (1949) up to volume 209 (2012) which I wish to dispose of. Volumes 100 to 115 (1956) are hard bound. From volume 116 (1957) through to volume 209 (2012) they are in loose leaf Model Engineer Binders so they can be removed to photocopy articles of interest, i.e. construction details of a locomotive. They are **free of charge** to any Model Engineering Club or Society, all you have to do is to drive to Stratford upon Avon and collect them. You

will need a large car or van, 102 volumes is a lot of books and weight. They are all in first class condition. For interest, Volume 100 is when LBSC started to write about Titch. I am trying to reduce some of the stuff in my office.

Contact: John Walker Tele: 01789 266 065 or  
E-mail: jgwal@btinternet.com

*John Walker*

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW COMMITTEE



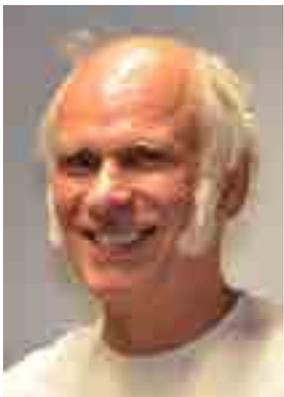
Brent Hudson - Chairman



Ivan Hurst - Secretary



Ashley Edwards -Treasurer



Martin Baker - Membership Secretary



Wally Pearson - Safety Officer



David Mayall - Boiler Registrar



Roger Griffiths - Vulnerable Groups



John Walker - Newsletter Editor



Mike Crisp - Committee Member



Brian Thompson - Honorary Life President

*Photographs by Mike Crisp*

## SOUTHERN FEDERATION JUNIOR TROPHY AND POLLY MODEL ENGINEING LTD PRIZE

Once again, it is most encouraging that Clubs and Societies are prepared to submit the names of junior members for consideration for this presentation, sponsored by Polly Model Engineering Ltd and the Southern Federation. It is also encouraging that Clubs have junior members from whom to choose!

The competition is open to any member of a Southern Federation affiliated Club or Society who is under the age of 24 years. The Federation are, as ever, grateful to the support received from Polly Model Engineering Ltd, and ANDY Clark in particular.

This year two names have been submitted.

Starting with the younger5, he is 13 year old **Daniel Town** from the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers. An accomplished model maker, he has won the 16mm Association Junior Cup three times, the first time at the age of nine, and the Butterley Trophy last year. He has also helped man the Association's Stand at exhibitions, and has contributed articles for their magazine.

The second nomination was 15 year old **Adam Dunkley**, of the Pimlico Club, based just outside Brackley in Northamptonshire. Adam is an enthusiastic member

of the Pimlico Club since 2008 and is always prepared to help with any task. He is a competent driver of both steam and electric 5 inch gauge locomotives, and is looking forward to driving for the public next year. Commencing in 2010 with completion in 2012, he constructed a Sweet Pea locomotive from a box of bits kindly donated to the club from a deceased model engineer's widow. This was not a straightforward task, as the intended model was not to the standard design, but there again, what Sweet Peas are?

With his enthusiasm, he has been attending the Club weekly engineering sessions during the winter months, and along with another junior member, (who incidentally was winner last year), they have been constructing a bogie driving trolley for two people that can be used for driver tuition. He has also demonstrated willingness to pass on his knowledge to younger members.

He also contributes significantly to the permanent way maintenance and manufacture.

To choose between these two candidates was difficult, and prompted spirited discussion in Committee and eventually the choice was based on Rule 1 of the competition. To quote "....acquiring the necessary skills and use of appropriate materials, metalworking tools and machinery.....active participation in the fraternity of club membership". In the words of the Duke of Wellington it was a damned close run thing, but it was felt



*Adam Dunkley receiving his trophy from John Walker Newsletter Editor for the Southern Federation.*

*Photo by Rachel Walker*

that Adam had slightly more rounded portfolio, and accordingly was adjudged to be the winner of the Southern Fed. - Polly prize. Daniel was hard on his heels and, given a few more years experience will no doubt be as valuable a contributor to our hobby - keep at it, Daniel.

These two gentlemen are a credit to their respective clubs - may they continue to enjoy many more years in model engineering.

## TALKS BY ARTHUR TARRANT

We have been sent details of talks given by Arthur Tarrant which offer a range of subjects designed for Railway Societies and Model Engineering Societies. He is based in Twickenham Middlesex. Here is a list of his talks.

1. The Wells and Walsingham Light Railway
2. Talking about Trams
3. Railways of the Isle of Wight - Then and Now
4. Memories of the Underground in the 1930's 40's and 50's

5. It wouldn't have Happened if.....The Southall Smash
6. Lighthouse Engineering
7. The Social Impact of Railways
8. How the Underground Shaped London

**Contact details:**

Dr. Arthur Tarrant, 11 Preston Close, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 5RU

Telephone: 020 8894 3339

E-mail address: arthur.tarrant297@btinternet.com

## WEBSITE DATABASE

This is a report from our Membership Secretary, **it is important**

Folks

You will have noticed that our website has a public area, where anyone can visit and see all the information publicly available, and a Members' Area that provides a record of Clubs, selected Club Officers. The website also tracks joiner clubs and renewals and has other restricted content such as committee minutes.

Because content that you see has to be restricted to comply with the Data Protection Act, and also to comply with your own personal choices of privacy, you can only get access to privileged information if you are logged on, and even then what you see is related to your roles (as Club Officer, as SFED committee member, etc). What you can do is also restricted, but where you are allowed to take action, such as to change your email address, then icons will appear on the screen to let you do these tasks. If you are a Club Officer, you can use the website to change the details of your own entry and those of others in your same club – and if you do not like using the web you can still email me updates. If there are changes in your data, please do not wait for our renewal process for forms. We will not be issuing those any more except for the very few clubs that have no email contacts. Please make changes as they occur, and particularly please review the information after you have a general meeting with officer changes. The website is our master database and the only means of us knowing who you are and how to contact you – so up to date information is very important. This information can also be used by officers

of other clubs to gain contact with your club.

Changes you make on-line appear immediately everywhere relevant throughout the site including directories. You do not have to email us to say that you have made changes. For those of you who are insured via us with Footman James, the updated information is also available to FJ if they need to contact you. If you are not yet using Footman James and want to start to do so, then you will need to give us permission to share your information with them.

For each Club, we keep a record of Club Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman, and one of these is designated by you as the Primary Contact. This will be your Secretary unless you change it. So for matters like renewals we will use the Primary Contact as the contact to deal with the renewal paperwork.

We do not provide a facility for all your individual club members to log on – for we provide a service to you, the club officers. We see it as your Club's responsibility to decide what of the restricted information is appropriate to share with your membership. If you can see it on the website when logged on as a club officer, then you are welcome to share that content with your members. If you want to share that content via your own website, then I can show your webmaster how to do this.

You can be given a log on account if you have an email address and are one of the designated officers registered at your club (or at the first club if you are a designated officer of several clubs). You do not have to have an account, but we urge that at least the Primary Contact of each Club had one.

Therein we had a problem. In order to be logged on we needed to know about you and have verified that you are the person authorised to hold an account. To start the

process, during the summer last year, the Federation imported the Membership Records from the manual system but some records continued to be maintained manually in parallel. This was not ideal. Many errors in the manual data were not previously noticed (people's name wrongly spelt, email addresses against the wrong person or several people or mis-spelt, Post Codes implausible, etc) and that has given difficulties in the smooth transition of the system. If the data was wrong then your attempts to log may have been will be blocked. In the two months since I took up the role of Membership Secretary we have had a big push to get all the data right – and in the main we have now got there. So far 289 people have activated their accounts and used the system.

You can get to the Members' Area by visiting the public area of the website <http://sfmes.co.uk/members> or <http://southernFed.co.uk/members>.

If you have any questions about membership, club affiliations, or the use of the Membership Area on the website, I am here to help and can be contacted most Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 0800 to 1800.

*Martin*

Dr. Martin W Baker

### *Southern Federation Web Site*

All our Data is now held on the Southern Federation website. Have you been on to check that your club/society data is correct.

This data is used to contact you and your club.

Please read this page to find out more.

## REPORT FROM THE SAFETY OFFICER

### The Boiler Test Code and Associated documentation.

This documentation package has been completed and issued to all Clubs and Societies who have placed orders with Mr Brian Thompson and this has been provided free of charge. Subsequent documentation will have to be paid for at cost as indicated on Information Sheet No 8.

There have been only a small number of queries or questions raised by the members who use the documentation and these have been answered on an individual basis. It has been reported by the Boiler Registrar that a steady stream of copies of the Written Scheme of Examination have been received which would indicate that the new configuration of documentation is being used by Member Clubs and Societies. To those of you who have mastered the new documentation I say 'very well done'. It must be pointed out however that some errors have been introduced whilst filling in the documents.

#### 1. The Register of Boiler Inspectors.

This was a form sent to all Clubs and Societies in order to register the names of Boiler Inspectors and more specifically to identify the names of Inspectors authorised to test boilers above 500 bar litres and those

authorised to test boilers without the presence of a witness. The latter has caused problems. To date 165 forms have been received of which 25 are incorrectly completed. The requirement for Single Signature Authorised clearly stated to indicate with a YES if the Inspector has been formally authorised by the Club or Society to carry out Examinations and Tests without the presence of a witness. This was to conform to the requirements of the BTC 2012 paragraph 3.9(f). The error is that the 25 forms contained signatures not the answer YES. Sample signatures were neither requested nor required. By default it is presumed that those who have signed their names have in fact been duly authorised by the Club or Society. If this is not the case the Boiler Inspector Registrar should be informed immediately at [wallycpearson@aol.com](mailto:wallycpearson@aol.com)

#### 2. Boiler Test Certification.

It has been reported that some Examination Certificates are being completed incorrectly. Typical (but not limited) errors are: not deleting the non relevant Organisations in Box1, not including the Written Scheme Number under the Certificate Number and indicating the Limit Pressure in place of the Working Pressure in the box at paragraph 7(e). In both the above (1&2) cases it is

apparent that users of the documents are not reading the guidance information provided with the relevant documents as printed on the cover or the specific instruction given on the form. It is important that all forms are completed correctly. Therefore you are requested to read and understand the guidance information that has been provided. If you still have concerns about the documentation you may contact me directly at the E-mail address given above.

#### Issues related to 'Trees'

In my Report included with the December 2012 Issue of the News Letter was information related to 'Trees'. This article was subsequently updated and issued by the Southern Federation as Information Sheet No 17. I had taken advice from a professional woodsman who stated quite categorically that trees and branches can fall without warning, not even necessarily in a storm or high wind. If you have any doubts about the reason why this information was issued I would recommend that you look at the picture in the Model Engineer, April 2013 (No 4453) at the bottom of page 533.

*Wally Pearson.*

Safety Officer.

## REPORTED INSURANCE CLAIMS

Clubs and Societies have always been asking us what accidents have happened over the past 12 months and what were they. All we can do is to tell you the briefest details but it does give you some idea of what is happening. Here is a résumé of the reported accidents in 2012.

1. Derailment, passenger fell off on ground level track, a number of injuries to lady, gentleman and child. RIDDOR report sent to HSE.
2. Derailment resulting in a child fall off a carriage.
3. Injury to the knee of a passenger on a portable Track.
4. A tree fell down and hit a BT pole and line.
5. Derailment in which three passengers fell off the carriage. Caused by passengers leaning out.

As you will see there have not been many claims, these are

the ones that have been reported to us at the Southern Federation. You will note that derailments are the problem and it could mean that we must take very much more care.

- ◆ Keep speed down
- ◆ Don't allow passengers to lean out.
- ◆ Ensure that your trains have adequate brakes.
- ◆ Ensure that little fingers can not get down between the carriages.
- ◆ Go out and check those trees. A bit might fall of on to your car!

Safety is the most important part of running trains. In addition to preventing accidents it keeps the insurance premiums down.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Over the past few years there has been a drastic rise in the costs of printing and postage, this has led the committee to recommend that in future that the Federation Newsletter is distributed by E-mail. This will start with the next summer issue of this publication. When you receive an E-mail copy please print it off and pass it round your Club or Society, it contains vital information which effects others.

Those Cubs and Societies who do not have a computer will still receive hard copy. This also applies to those members who subscribe to copies by post. If you have any problems with this decision please contact me, John Walker, Editor. The savings are around £550 per issue, this will result in us being able to contain the affiliation fee.

# SOUTHERN FEDERATION INSURANCE FOR CLUBS AND SOCIETIES AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP

You can trust the Federation to make sure we meet your needs with the right cover at a competitive price.

No one knows better than we do and we work hard to bring you the very best value for money. Plus, unlike a commercial; enterprise, any surplus revenue from our insurance scheme is reinvested in the Federation and used for the benefit of all our clubs and societies; enabling us to provide a better service. Insurance cover for all Clubs, Societies and their members who are affiliated to the Southern Federation.

## Why choose Southern Federation Insurance?

- ◆ Your scheme, Insurance for Model Engineers by Model Engineers.
- ◆ The Southern Federation Scheme directly supports the Federation and all its Clubs and Societies.
- ◆ Competitive rates.
- ◆ 40 years of insurance experience.
- ◆ Membership cover when visiting others clubs and societies.
- ◆ Boiler Inspectors liability cover.
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call

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Ring Stephen Banks and ask for the Southern Federation  
Insurance



*Southern Federation Insurance is only available to Clubs and Societies and their members who are affiliated to the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies.*

# PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOUTHERN FEDERATION

## Availability

From our stand at rallies and exhibitions or by post from Brian Thompson.

	From our stand	By Post
Directory Supplement 2012 (Secretarial Information).....	£3.00	£3.60
Directory - Detailing S/Fed affiliated clubs/societies facilities.....	£3.00	£4.20
Examination & Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers BTC 2012 - Green Book.....	50p	£1.00
Pack of 5... ..	£2.50	£3.20
HSG216 Passenger-carrying miniature railways 'Guidance on safe practice'.....	£3.00	£4.50
Boiler Test Certificates - Pad of 50.....	£5.00	£8.20
Written Scheme of Examination - Pad of 50.....	£7.50	£11.50
Small Boiler Test Certificate - Pad of 50.....	£5.00	£8.20
Boiler History Record Card - Pack of 10.....	£1.00	£2.20
Plastic wallets to hold certificates size A5.....	60p	90p
Pack of 5.....	£3.00	£4.20

Please make your cheque payable to *Southern Federation MES*, if by post and send to:

Brian Thompson  
35, Rivershill,  
Watton at Stone,  
Hertfordshire, SG14 3SD

## Postage Charges

There has been a very large increase in the postal charges for packages from April 2nd 2013. If you require more than one item please ring Brian Thompson first and he will advise you of the postal charges

## DIARY OF EVENTS 2013

June 1/2	*Vale of Aylesbury Model Engineering Society Traction Engine Rally.
June 8/9	Sweet Pea Rally Nottingham Society Model Engineers
June 8/9	Harrow & Wembley SME Locomotive & Traction Engine Rally
June 15	Locomotive Rally Harlington Locomotive Society
June 15/16	Rally for 5" & 7¼" locos North Wilts ES Coate Water Park.
June 29/30	*Model Steam Road Vehicle Society Rally - Tewkesbury.
July 12/14	IMLEC Leyland Society of Model Engineers
July 20/21	*Guildford Model Engineering Society Exhibition & Rally.
July 27/28	City of Oxford Model Engineering Society Dreaming Spires Rally.
August 3/4	Vale of Aylesbury MES - Metropolitan Railway Gala
August 9/10	Frimley & Ascot Loco Club - Locomotive Rally
August 16/17/18	*Bristol Model Engineering Exhibition - Thornbury, Bristol.
August 24-26	Harrow & Wembley SME Locomotive & Traction Engine Rally
August 30/Sept. 1	*Bedford Model Engineering Society Invitation Rally.
September 1	LBSC Rally & Trophy North West Leicestershire SME
September 21	*FEDERATION AUTUMN RALLY, Northampton Society. MES.
September 22	Host Society Open Day.
October 5	Welling & District MES Locomotive Rally inc. Gauge 1.
October 17 - 20	*Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition at the Fosse.
December 13/14/15	*Model Engineer Exhibition Sandown Park.

## SOUTHERN FEDERATION COMMITTEE

The committee officer details have been removed from this version of the newsletter. This is because this version of this document is available electronically on the web and Data Protection Considerations.

Please see the **Contact Us** Page on our website for the list of officers and how to contact them.

**We are on the  
Web**

[www.southernfed.co.uk](http://www.southernfed.co.uk)

### *Diary of Events*

Events identified thus \* the Federation sales stand will be present

Would you like your event shown on our Diary of Events? Please send details to the Newsletter Editor, E-mail address on the first page.

The event should be restricted to invitation events for Model Engineers, NOT public running.

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**Think Design & Print**

1, Windsor Street,  
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Warwickshire, CV37 6LF  
01789 419 921

## WE HAVE THREE VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE

We have a vacancy on the committee. We are three members down and we are looking for people to come and help us continue with the work in supporting our clubs and societies. We need new people to bring new ideas to the organisation.

We need members to come from organisations like the Traction Engines, The Gauge 1 Model Railway Association, Model boats or The Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers so that their interests can be taken into account in legislation, Boiler Testing and other matters.

There are only six meetings a year in London, travel expenses are paid. If you are interested please apply to our secretary above Ivan Hurst.