



NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Editorial

This first newsletter of 2024 is mainly concerned with the forthcoming AGM to be held on 2nd March at Boscombe Down Aviation Museum. The program for the day is detailed in the following pages, some of it is a statutory requirement but much of it is a chance to meet and converse. I, for one, will be interested to hear any nuggets of information that might come to light during the insurance workshop with Martin Levers of Walker Midgeley.

Other items in this newsletter include a notice about the LittleLEC competition that is scheduled in June. This year it will be hosted at the North London Society of Model Engineers at Colney Heath – full details and history of the competition on the LittleLEC website.

The FMES website is undergoing some development with the aim of providing more information that can be of use to model engineers and societies. This work is at an early stage and we hope for input from our community to contribute to the information held. Please look at what has been put together so far.

In the last newsletter which included Peter Kenington's article about Young Engineers, I invited other societies to submit examples of their experience of developing junior members and their onward progress. I am grateful to John Roberts of Pimlico Light Railway for responding and describing what is achieved there.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Tony Lee

Chairman's Chat

Xmas and New Year are behind us, so what's the next event on the calendar. Well, if one ignores Valentine's day, then it's the FMES AGM. I know some of you will be thinking it's another boring meeting and will be stifling yawns. But hang on, think about it, while there is the formal legal bit, it's also the chance for you to meet those people who give of their time freely to help run our hobby, to interact with them and each other, raise questions, possibly influence future decisions and the direction of the FMES. So why not seek your club's "blessing" and come along as a delegate and thus not be one of those who think something should be different but do nothing about it or learn why it is the way it is.

So, how about it, come along and be a delegate. You could always make a weekend (or longer) of it as there are plenty of attractions in the Salisbury area.

The days are getting longer and those of us with railway, boating, traction engine and many other out door interests will soon be coming out of hibernating in our workshops, so may I wish you and everbody involved in ME activity a belated Happy New Year and remind you that you will be most welcome as your club's delegate at the AGM.

Bob Polley

BOILER CERTIFICATE BOOKS

If you are coming to the AGM and your club needs more boiler certificate books (or other such paperwork) please prebook these either by using the SHOP option on the website at <https://fmes.org.uk/shop-2/> or by emailing David Mayall at David.mayall@fmes.org.uk. If you have prebooked, we can then arrange to bring them to the AGM for you (or your club representative) to receive.

NB. ITEMS ORDERED VIA THE WEBSITE 'SHOP' OPTION

This option on the website allows authorized club representatives to order Boiler documentation: unfortunately we have had a hiccup with the email system for this facility and if you are awaiting documentation that you ordered using this SHOP option but have not yet received anything as a result, please contact David Mayall at david.mayall@fmes.org.uk to pursue this. The facility is now operating again however for new orders.



Images taken from the LittleLEC website are with kind permission of LittleLEC

Little Locomotive Efficiency Competition (LittleLEC) ***– An invitation to take part.***

Bryan Finch, GMES Secretary, and LittleLEC Co-ordinator

Most of you reading this will be aware of the high-profile annual efficiency locomotive competition – IMLEC, which caters for 3½” and 5” gauge locomotives of sizes typically capable of passenger hauling. Perhaps less well known is LittleLEC which is also an annual efficiency competition for drivers of small locomotives weighing less than 50lb dry, such as Tich, Rob Roy, Juliet, Mona, etc.

Small locos are much more challenging to drive than larger ones, and so LittleLEC was devised by Guildford Model Engineering Society member, Peter Langridge in 2008 to enable owners of small locomotives to take part in an IMLEC style efficiency competition. The event is usually held in June at a different Model Engineering Society's track each year, up, down, and across the country to allow a different set of locomotive owners to take part without having to travel great distances. The competition is open to 2½”, 3½” and 5” gauge locomotives depending on whether the host society has a multi-gauge raised track.

In terms of the competition itself, just like IMLEC, the efficiency is calculated from the work done by the loco and the weight of coal consumed. Instead of using a mechanical or electronic dynamometer, LittleLEC efficiency calculations are based on the distance travelled, the weight of the train's rolling stock, and the weight of the drivers and any passengers or any added ballast. A track factor derived for the track's gradient profile and assumed rolling resistance for the rolling stock is used to calculate the work done, and this is compared with the amount of coal used.

LittleLEC is sponsored by Model Engineer magazine which provides small cash prizes. There is also a cup which is held by the current year's winner, and also a locally awarded special prize which is often for the best turned out entry.

[contd..](#)

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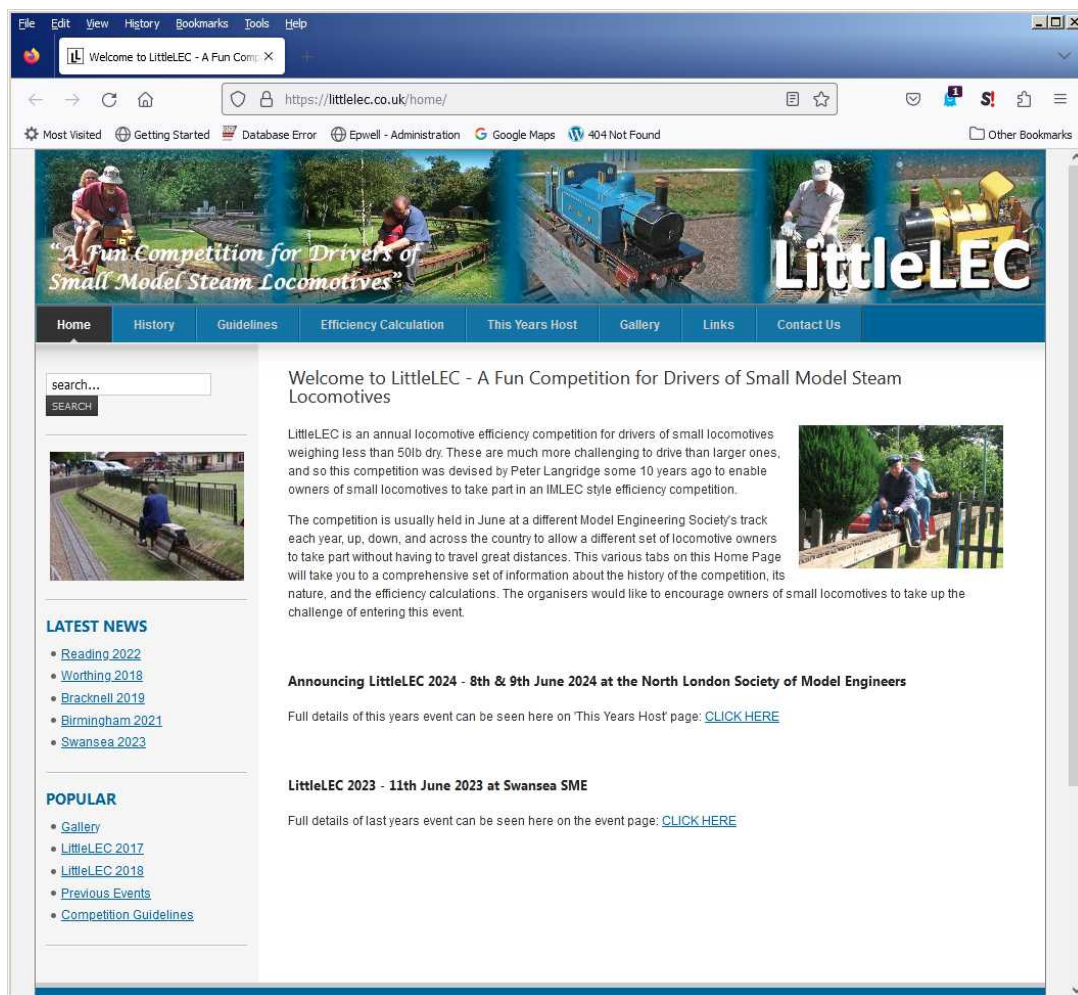
Please take a look at LittleLEC website <https://www.littlelec.co.uk/home> which has much more information.

LittleLEC has been described as weekend of fun and good company enjoyed by all taking part or just watching, and it is an ideal opportunity for younger or newer members to take part in a nationally recognised competition, but one which has less “pressure” than IMLEC.

This year’s competition is being held in June at the North London Society of Model Engineers’ track at Colney Heath, on the south side of the A414 between St Albans and Hatfield. Now in its 17th year, many of the “originals” who have participated regularly over earlier years are either no longer with us, or unable to take part either for age or health reasons, or loco unavailability, and so it would be good to encourage new participants.

If you’d like to take part, please send an e-mail to littlelec@gmes.org.uk

Screenshot of the LittleLEC website



FMES Annual AGM Event Day

2nd March 2024, 10am – 4pm

Part of running an organisation like FMES is the requirement to hold an annual general meeting for formal activities such as presentation of accounts and election of officers: most of our member clubs will recognise this! As a national organisation, this has some restraints in that expecting our member clubs to send their representatives long distances for ‘simply’ a few formalities is a ‘big ask’. Consequently, we have two choices: either we accept that all AGMs will have low attendance and we should get through it as quickly as possible with minimum disruption, OR we try to enhance the occasion to provide more reason for people to come. We want our member clubs to send their representatives, yes to conduct the formal business, but also to hear what we are up to, contribute to discussion and provide feedback and – essentially – to remind us of the world out there of people that we set out to represent!

We arrange these events in turn around the country to give as many clubs as possible the chance to come along at least occasionally, and to find a host that has some engineering interest as a side attraction. Last year it was the turn of the north, at Wakefield coal mining museum, and this year it is the south:

Boscombe Down Aviation Museum is run by volunteers, has been in existence since 1999 and open to the public since 2012. Boscombe Down was (and still is) a military test flight centre, and the aviation collection at the museum has a wide range of aircraft, vehicles and other artefacts on display.



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More details can be found on their website at
<http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk/>

Our day will comprise the following:

10.00am – 12 noon

Free visit to the museum (report to the meeting room first for passes), sign in, meet FMES volunteers

12 noon

Welcome by Chairman

FMES and Polly Model Engineering Limited Competition awards

12.30pm – 1.00pm

Buffet Lunch, chance to chat and take your unfinished lunch to:

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Workshop

This year's workshop is about Insurance. We, with Walker Midgely, want to understand a little more about your views on insurance and how it is provided.

2.00pm – 3.45pm

AGM business, including accounts, election of officers, reports from officers

3.45pm

Chairmans closing remarks

We very much hope to see as many there as can come: it is our chance to meet you, and vice versa, as well as spreading the message about what we do and should do for you and the hobby. Whilst we would like as many clubs to be represented formally as possible (that is, one representative each) we are always pleased to see others who want to come to contribute, numbers permitting.

Peter Squire, our secretary, has been sending out the formal AGM notes for the meeting beginning at 2pm. These have been sent to primary contacts for each club: please use these to register your attendance. If you want to know more, or are concerned to have missed any paperwork etc. please contact us on info@fmes.org.uk .



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2024, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AT
BOSCOMBE DOWN AVIATION MUSEUM, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE, SP4 6DZ.**

Dear Colleague,

This is an important event in the FMES calendar, and we ask that members in the area of the venue give consideration to sending delegates to represent them at the meeting.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 2nd March at the Boscombe Down Aviation Museum, Old Sarum Airfield, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6DZ. Information about the venue is available at <http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk/Index.htm>

The museum is open from 10.00 am, with free entry to explore the displays, galleries and buildings and the meeting will be held in an adjacent meeting room.

The Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering awards for young engineers will be presented at 12.00 pm prior to the AGM.

A buffet lunch will be served to delegates at 12.30 pm, followed by a workshop session and the formal business of the AGM will commence at 2.00 pm.

Please confirm the name of your delegate(s) attending or register apologies for absence, not less than 10 days prior to the meeting to peter.squire@fmes.org.uk

Synopsis of the AGM Agenda.

- ❖ To receive and approve the minutes of the AGM held on 25th March 2023
- ❖ To receive the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023
- ❖ To receive and adopt the Independent Examiner's report on the accounts.
- ❖ To appoint the independent examiner of accounts for 2024
- ❖ To receive reports of other officers
- ❖ To confirm the appointment of the Directors and Committee members for 2024
- ❖ To transact any other business relevant to an AGM, details of which have been received in writing by the secretary seven days or more before the date thereof.

I look forward to welcoming all delegates to the meeting.

Peter Squire

Secretary
Federation of Model Engineering Societies

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Volum

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Notes to the Notice of the AGM

1. The formal agenda and other supporting documentation for the meeting will be available to all members not less than 4 weeks before the meeting.
2. A member of the Federation of Model Engineering Societies is entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of their rights to attend, speak and vote at the meeting. The latest date for registration of a proxy to be received by the secretary is Friday 23rd February 2024
3. Any proposals for resolution or items of relevant business must be lodged in writing with the secretary no later than Friday 16th February 2024

Other information

Confirmation of delegates attending in person is important for the catering arrangements to ensure adequate refreshments are available.

The programme of events for the day

All events will take place in the Conference Rooms adjacent to the museum main entrance.

10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Opportunity for delegates to visit the Museum
12.00 pm	Greeting from the Chairman
12.05 pm	Young Engineers Polly Awards
12.30 pm	Buffet Lunch
1.00 pm	Workshop: Insurance with guest Martin Levers
2.00 pm	AGM
3.00 pm	Close from Chairman

About the venue

The museum is open from 10.00 am, with free entry to explore the displays, galleries and buildings. Please visit <http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk/Index.htm> for details

Parking

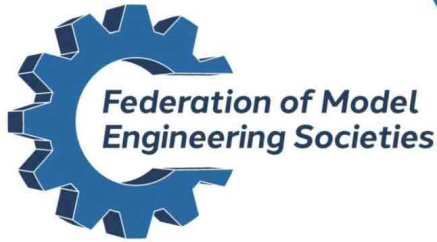
The Museum has ample free parking on the airfield side in front of the low buildings..

Note: The Museum is NOT on the MOD Boscombe Down Airfield.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome on a lead in all areas of the museum.

Final – 10th January 2024



AGENDA

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in the Boscombe Down Aviation Museum, Salisbury, Wiltshire
On Saturday 2nd March 2024 Commencing at 2.00pm

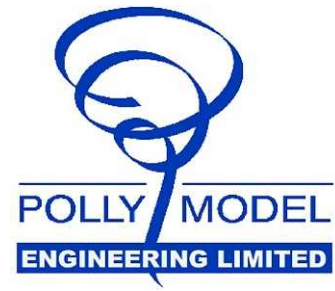
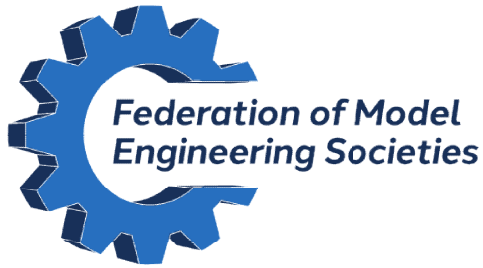
*As voting is required, all members and proxy holders must sign-in or register on-line.
Please arrive with enough time before the meeting for this procedure to be completed.*

1. Introductions and meeting management
2. Confirmation that a quorum is present.
3. To receive and record apologies for absence
4. Review of and matters arising from the minutes of the 2023 AGM
5. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2023 AGM
6. Chairman's report
7. Treasurer's report
8. Independent Examiner's report on the accounts for 2023
9. Acceptance of Independent Examiner's report
10. Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2024 accounts
11. Strategy Progress report
12. Safety Officer's report
13. Boiler Registrar's report
14. Membership Secretary's report
15. Appointment of Officers for 2024-25
16. 2024 Rallies, Exhibitions & Events

Hon Secretary
Federation of Model Engineering Societies

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Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering Prize 2024

This long-standing competition is a joint award for young people developing their model engineering skills and interests. It is not just about well-made models, it is about a Young Engineer demonstrating their interest and enthusiasm in making models, parts of models or associated equipment of all types of engineering (ie railways, cars, boats, planes, stationary engines, tools and equipment etc) AND describing their contribution to the life and activities of their Model Engineering Club. The entry requirements (which comprise the presentation of a portfolio of activities sponsored by a club 'mentor') describe this in some detail and this document alone can be a valuable aid to supporting applications for colleges, universities and jobs as well as providing information to the judges.

The prizes are awarded to those who the judges consider have developed their abilities the best as described in the entry, and these consist of commended awards and one winner. All receive cash prizes, and the winner also receives a glass trophy to keep.

At the time of writing, our judges are contemplating the entries - traditionally the prizes are awarded at the annual FMES AGM event day, and we look forward to meeting our winners on 2nd March for this year's event! Those concerned will have already or will be about to receive an invitation to the event to collect an award in person, we do hope that they will be able to attend!

Young Engineers – follow-up

Following the feature in the last Newsletter which related the experience of Peter Kennion and his son Matthew and the encouragement of young engineers at Hereford, I am grateful to John Roberts who has sent in the following description of their work with young engineers at Pimlico Light Railway in Northamptonshire.

“We are a young club (officially starting in 2006) and have never had more than 30 or so members, but during 2023, 9 of the 30 were in full time education and a further 12 are in full time work which I suppose makes us unusual as we are not a 'top heavy' club.

We have always had a policy of welcoming young people who can officially become members when they are 7 years old but have to join with an adult member of their family. The club is based in a private garden and has few facilities apart from the owner's workshop. We do have a training scheme, the usual Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and then finally when full competence and 16 years of age are reached we have our 'Grease Top' award when they are presented with a proper grease top cap. (Up until now bought from Walker Midgely - are they still available?)

Over the years several of our young members have been awarded 'Polly' or 'NAMES' prizes and have gone on to be very successful in their chosen careers. There have been apprenticeships with JCB, Mercedes F1, in the railway industry and in the civil engineering world. Others became teachers, pilots, joined R.M.E., studied architecture and aeronautical engineering at university.

Yes, all have been encouraged in practical engineering, but without major workshop facilities as they have at Hereford, the success that our young people have had is, we believe chiefly, the ethos of the club that has encouraged them. They are welcomed, supported, trained, listened to and eventually treated as full members of the club despite the lack of years.”

John has also told of examples of two previous Junior members who have moved on using the engineering experience gained at Pimlico Light Railway. One is now at university and taking a leading role in a society developing human powered aircraft and another currently working in the motor sport industry is now renovating his own loco at a heritage railway.

Website Developments

Work continues in developing the FMES website

The FMES has recently added a new page to the web site in the technical library

This new page comprises some suggestions for Speakers for Talks to Model Engineers. This list has been compiled by an individual club as a starting point

We would like to add suggestions from your clubs' experience so we can make this a more useful resource for all clubs

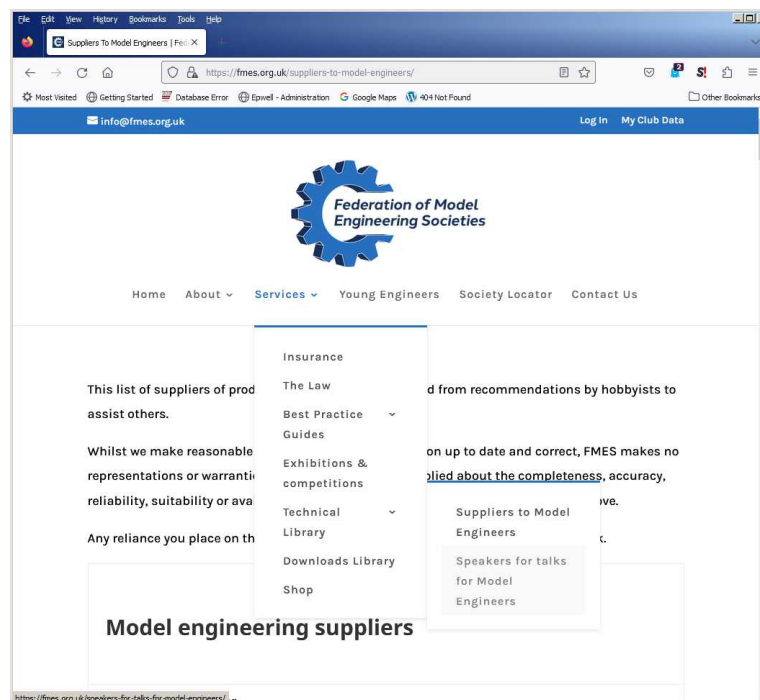
Please send suggestions for inclusion to info@fmes.org.uk

Another new page has been added that lists over 115 suppliers of interest to model engineers.

It includes a range of categories covering building, buying and selling, fully or partly built models as well as many supplier services.

The list will be checked and kept up to date from time to time but we would appreciate your help by letting us know of any errors, omissions or recent changes.

Please send your comments to info@fmes.org.uk



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CE marking of boilers: update 2023

Following recent questions, we have compiled a brief note on this topic. This is available on our website at <https://fmes.org.uk/pressure-vessels-and-testing/>. It describes some comments about the implications of CE marks, what is required to verify a CE mark on a boiler and the impact of Brexit.

Website Access and Logins

If you are not able or doubtful about logging on to the website then here are some easy steps to assist you:

- Much of the website is open to the public and so for a lot of information you do not need to log in, just go to <https://fmes.org.uk/> and start browsing!
- If you would like to access some of the other functions (such as seeing your club data and some other information) then you will need a log in. This has two parts:

A username: This is the code issued to your club as a universal identifier for your club. It comprises letters and numbers (eg ABC123)

A password: If you are the club primary contact, then you will be entitled to the password for you to issue to people at your club under your responsibility (because knowing it gives you access to some of your primary contact and some others' personal details).

If you wish to become your club primary contact (with formal club approval) then please contact us on info@fmes.org.uk for us to enable appropriate access.

You type in your username and password by selecting the 'login' option at the top right of the website home page at <https://fmes.org.uk/> and following the instructions.

- If you have remembered your username but forgotten your password, then you can do 'forgot password' on the log in page. This will cause an email message to be sent *to the email address that is recorded in the system as the primary contact*. If you do not remember or have this email address, or have forgotten your username contact us at info@fmes.org.uk.
- If you are not a club officer but you would like to see more information, then your club primary contact should be able to give you the '**Clublite**' password

which will restrict you to only information and not the personal data on the database.

- If you want to read more detail on the website and can log in, please do so and find 'Introduction to the website' in the documents library.

FMES is moving more to providing information and help through the website owing to ease of use and the ability to be more efficient, and we recommend that every club joins this way of working by having at least one person to act as 'primary contact' to co-ordinate FMES communications with their club. This person need not be a committee member as long as the committee approves and supports this responsibility.

We appreciate that not every one has grown up using 'windows', 'apps', websites and a host of other technology and some find these things daunting. The best thing to do is to try! We will never ask you to type in security sensitive things and if you can 'break' our website then it is our fault not yours, so don't worry about this either.

FMES Committee

President	Brent Hudson
Vice President	Mike Chrisp
Vice President	Ivan Hurst
Chairman	Bob Polley
Secretary	Peter Squire
Treasurer	David Goyder
Vice Chairman	Paul Naylor
Boiler Registrar	David Mayall
Safety Officer	Robert Walker

Support Team: Peter Harrison, Jim Hollom, Peter Kenington, Tony Lee, Melvyn O'Connell

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND INCIDENTS

All claims and reports of incidents should be notified in the first instance to Walker Midgley
FEDERATION INSURANCE BUSINESS Managed by Walker Midgley Insurance Ltd

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

www.fmes.org.uk

Publications Available from FMES

The FMES 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 'Federation MES' or use BACS to Sort Code 20-71-82 Acct 43755967.

	From Our Stand
Examination & Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers BTC 2018 - Orange Book	Free
Vol 1: 3 bar litres to 1100 bar litres; Vol 2: under 3 bar litres; Vol 3: LPG tanks under 250 ml.	
Boiler Test Certificates - Pad of 50	FREE*
Written Scheme of Examination - Pad of 50	FREE*
Small Boiler Test Certificate - Pad of 50	FREE*
Boiler History Record Card - Pack of 10	£3.50
Plastic wallets to hold certificates size A5	£0.75
HS 2020 Passenger-carrying min railways 'Guidance' post included	£4.00

David Mayall

Tel:+ 44 1252 684 688

[Email: david.mayall@fmes.org.uk](mailto:david.mayall@fmes.org.uk)

* These publications are issued free of charge to fully paid up member Clubs and Societies ONLY, and are NOT available for general sale. For delivery by mail, the cost of postage and packing is £5.00, and must be borne by the Club/Society placing the order.

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