



The FMES Autumn Rally Competition

Competition Rules

The FMES Autumn Rally Competition is awarded annually at the FMES Autumn Rally to the miniature working machine judged to be the best example of its type as defined in the rules relevant to that year's competition. These rules are refined for each year's rally according to the facilities and interests of the host club.

Competition for the prize shall be open to all members of clubs and societies affiliated to FMES, and such members might nominate their entry, or be invited to enter by the judges on the day of the competition.

FMES shall convene a judging panel comprising an officer of FMES, a representative nominated from the host society and an independent suitably experienced person nominated by FMES (who may also be a member of FMES).

In the event that the judges do not consider that a required standard has been attained, they may decline to award the prize for that specific year.

Judges may award a 'discretionary award' to a deserving entry from a competitor from other societies not affiliated to FMES.

The Prize comprises a suitable award to keep and a cash prize.

An entry may only win the Prize once.

Only the owner of an entry is eligible to enter a model (although they may not have been the original builder), and they must be a member of a society affiliated to FMES. In the case of a discretionary award, the owner should be a member of a society affiliated to another representative organisation. The owner may nominate another suitably competent person to present and/or operate their entry.

The owner must be available at the rally to declare ownership and to discuss the provenance and details of the model entered with the judges (for example, who the builder was if not the owner, and what details or features have been added by the current owner) to help them determine eligibility.

Professional model engineers (that is, those who make models on a commercial basis) shall not be eligible to compete.

The judging criteria will be issued each year. The following are the common requirements:

- The entry must exhibit significant amateur model engineering content (which can include original design and/or manufacture whether computer aided or not, fitting, finishing and putting to work). Judges will seek to recognise the application of broad model engineering abilities, and a commercially obtained model must have had significant such model engineering work carried out since purchase to satisfy this requirement.
- The entry must be demonstrated to work and should fulfil as many as possible of the functions of the original that the model is based upon, and with an appropriate degree of control and reliability. It can be any working miniature of a prototype machine that falls into the category defined for each year's competition.
- The model need not be powered unless the prototype was, and any source of power should be similar to that used by the prototype except where this is impracticable.
- Any size or scale of model is allowed subject to the requirements for each year's competition, and within the spirit of 'model engineering' (for example, this would exclude a restored full-size car).
- An element of judging will be to recognise new model engineers and recent experience of the builder will contribute positively to the decisions.
- Examples of models could include the following, depending on the rules for each year's competition: locomotives or road vehicles powered by steam, petrol, electric or other means, stationary engines including power plants from road, rail, air or marine vehicles, other machines (powered or not) for workshop or other applications, aircraft or boats and clocks.

2025 Competition rules, Eligibility and Judging Criteria

Rugby Model Engineering Society Ltd.

Saturday, 6th September 2025

These rules are **in addition** to the overall rules and are relevant **only** for the above 2025 rally.

Rugby MES is in Rugby and it owns and operates facilities including extensive 7¼" ground level and 2½", 3½" and 5" raised tracks. More details can be found on the club website (<https://www.rugbymes.co.uk/>). As befits a club with wide ranging interests, members are also engaged in other model engineering activities besides railways and this allows this competition to be expanded in 2025 to include other areas.

The rules relevant for this competition, in addition to the overall rules are:

- Any model locomotives that can operate on either the raised or ground level tracks, will be eligible to enter.
- Any model vehicles or plant and machinery that is able to operate on the raised or ground level track including rolling stock, rail mounted cranes etc.
- Any miniature machines that can be accommodated on the premises (eg traction engines, stationary engines etc) can enter the competition, although some restrictions (eg ability to operate fully) may apply according to the entry. If there are restrictions - for example, limiting or preventing operation - then some allowance will be made in judging for this.
- Locomotives and other miniature machinery may be powered by any source including steam, electric, petrol etc. however rolling stock and any other machinery that was unpowered (or 'human powered') as a prototype will be eligible.
- Judges will be seeking fidelity to prototype of any gauge or scale and of any country or origin. Ideally the entry should be shown operating if possible (see above).
- Owners should be prepared to describe to the judges the prototype that the model is based on, and discuss the provenance of the model and the source of the design and parts, construction and/or alteration, maintenance etc.
- Since it is difficult to be totally definitive in written rules, if you have a model that you wish to enter that you are uncertain about its eligibility, please email us at info@fmes.org.uk and ask!
- Similarly, if you need to understand any limitations to entry (eg unloading, operation, power requirements, security, weather protection etc) please contact Rugby MES through their website.

If you wish to enter the competition, please come to the Autumn rally with your model. If you know someone who might enjoy the rally and competition, please let them know. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@fmes.org.uk