



## WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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

Newsletter September 2017

Dear Member,

Hopefully you will have received this edition via the Internet. If it doesn't arrive with you no one will ever know! The majority of members have now agreed to receive Society communications via the web, obviously there are other members who do not have the facilities and hard copy will continue to be provided to them. Thanks to everyone who has indicated their preference.

The 2017 AGM was held in June and attended by 33 members who were apparently satisfied with the report and accounts, which were carried by the meeting.

The raised track is back in action and seems more popular than ever. A record nine locomotives attended on one recent Sunday with only seven carriages available!

Work to repair the damage from storm Doris has come to an end on the ground level station and surrounds. The sandstone wall has now been completed which has enabled an update to the platform facilities to be carried out.

Royden Park was awarded a green Flag this year, which is good but.....

Parking charges are being implemented in October. There may be a concessionary charge for volunteers – this will be advised in due course.

The next meeting will be the popular 'where I am up to' evening with the prospect of some new models and the interesting progress made with current models. The evening is usually well attended but what are the prospects for meetings when the present diary expires? Barry has some future items identified but there is a requirement for more input. Thank you Barry for your help with the diaries.

If members can not or will not provide assistance for the Society programme the future is looking decidedly bleak, in particular for Thornton Hough meetings. It is all too easy to leave it to 'someone else' and members are urged to participate.

Finally – We congratulate Lance on achieving good results in his A level exams. He is 'moving' to Bath University at the end of this month and we wish him every success in his future studies. At least one loco is going to miss him!

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## **1. Santa Specials 2017**

Members are invited to apply for seats before the event opens to the Public on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Member's priority booking will be available from September 16<sup>th</sup> and bookings may be made at Royden Park on Sunday afternoons or during the two weeks to the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The operating dates are:

Saturday and Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> plus the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Event times are 11.00 to 1.00 and 2.00 until 4.00pm.

The cost is £3.00 per person: children under 1 are free.

Please note: Once the bookings are full we will be unable to accommodate any further requests. It is therefore important that members book before the 1st October, please. It would appear that public demand for tickets is high and the event will be sold out on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Sorry, but once they're gone they're gone!

A lot of support has been offered for the event this year. There are a few new jobs that have been identified and help with these would be much appreciated. The format will be the same as last year so – if you carried out a role last year, please would you do it again this year. A Rota/job list will be on the notice board first week in December. The grotto will be set up from the weekend 2nd and 3rd December. If there are any questions please ask – an update will be available by the end of November.

## **2. Membership renewal**

Membership renewals for 2017 have been very satisfactory with only a few member losses. If you know of anyone interested in joining the Society please ensure they have information and an application form! Family members are always welcome; please enter their names on the form.

Important note:

Would members please let the Secretary or the Membership Secretary know if any of their details change e.g. address, Email contact information or 'phone number.

The membership secretary, Bob Spencer, can be contacted on 0151 342 3570.

Our secretary's address is: 43 Colmere Drive, Thingwall, Wirral CH61 7XT

Membership renewals for next year are invited from January 2018. The fee is £25.00 cash or cheque payable to WMES. A completed form, downloadable from the website, plus monies to the membership secretary please.

## **3. Membership News**

The Society is pleased to welcome five new members, Paul Adams, Paul Graham, Sarah Blackburn, Roger Dehany and Ashley Newton. We hope they will enjoy their time with the Society and look forward to seeing them at meetings and at the tracks. Please help them to enjoy the facilities we have.

## **4. Access to the Sidings – urgent notice.**

The Society has been asked to 'share' their allocation of electronic tags that operate the alarm system in the sidings. There is a fixed number of tags allocated to WMES, would members please consider whether they need regular access and if not, return their tab and/or their keys to the Secretary if their circumstances have changed.

Experience has shown that only four or five members regularly use their keys by opening the premises. Only two or three members ever lock the premises!

The society will refund the key holding fee as per the key policy.

## **5. The Society website**

Thanks to Alan Banks the website has recently been completely revamped. The fresh format is now friendly to tablets and smartphones and easier to use.

However, items are always required to keep the site updated and the Webmaster would be pleased to receive material suitable for the site. Please help with this task, contact the secretary in the first instance to arrange input.

## **6. Diary 2018/9**

The Society is always interested in obtaining speakers and topics of interest for meetings. If you know of any contacts that would be willing to give a talk or presentation please inform the Secretary or a committee member in the first instance. Please consider this matter in order to provide continuity; it would be helpful to put a programme in place before the 2018 AGM.

## **7. Future events**

Here is an opportunity for members to arrange or suggest events they would like to see being held over the coming year.

In the first instance please contact the Secretary or any committee member with your offers or suggestions.

## **8. An invitation**

The Wirral Model Boat Club would like to invite members and friends of WMES to join them on Wednesday the 20th September. 7.30 pm at The Hoylake Social Club. We have a guest speaker giving a slide show / talk on

### **“Old Liverpool Pub Signs Maritime Related “.**

Dave Crolley assures us he will have plenty of humorous stories to tell about the signs. For further information give Dave Morris a call on 0151 342 1292.

## **9. 2017 AGM.** Held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at Thornton Hough W. I.

The draft minutes are attached as Appendix 2. Should there be any corrections please contact the secretary.

Many thanks to all those members who attended or sent their apologies for absence.

## **10. Appendix 1 Synopsis of committee meeting**

Brief notes taken at the meeting on **12<sup>th</sup> April 2017** (unconfirmed)

Matters arising from the minutes – the licence has not yet been received but this is in progress. Secretary’s Correspondence - nominations for Committee have been received from Mr Ian Eccles and Mr Robert Spencer, Mr Barry Birch is not standing for re-election. Treasurer’s Report - the accounts as circulated were agreed to be satisfactory. A copy of the audited accounts will be circulated in time for the AGM. Major expenditure is required to refurbish and re-gauge the bogies for the raised track trucks. Further expense will be required for rail to relay sections of the ground level track on the field, but we should hold off purchase until after the next Committee meeting. Membership - there are no new members this month, renewals to date have been good with four or five members still to renew. Raised Level Track - the sign off document for the track has been completed. This was signed by Mr Stephen and Mr Seel. One truck has been re-gauged and refurbished and together with the two lightweight trucks is available for public use. The old trucks will not be used for carrying the public until they have been refurbished. Two copies of the Risk

Assessment have been produced one for us and one for the rangers. The raised track team was thanked for the sterling effort they have put in. Ground Level Track - maintenance is ongoing, a new engine has been fitted to Cliffy. The wall by the ground level station is currently being rebuilt. The damage caused by 'Doris' has now been repaired; track repairs by the turntable and 30 metres of damaged fence have been replaced. It was suggested that track repairs on the field could be done by pre-fabricating sections off site and then fitting on site. Publicity - a flyer will be produced for the public detailing forthcoming events. Premises and Security – the workshop needs tidying up, the security indication of the keys on the website has now been amended. Site Inspection - satisfactory, nothing to report. Risk Assessments/Society Records - all currently up to date. Programme/Future Events – a list of events for the year has been circulated. The Members Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> June will also celebrate the re- opening of the raised track. Barry Harrison has prepared a diary for circulation at the AGM. New seats for the raised track and ground level stations have been designed, these will be fabricated and fitted with plaques commemorated to Carol Coulling. These would be financed from Carol's legacy. This was proposed by Mr Stephen and seconded by Mr Meadows and agreed by those present. Web/Newsletter - the webmaster is happy to continue but needs coordinated information. It was suggested that newsletters continue to be produced this year. It was suggested that a form would be available at the AGM for members to indicate whether they would be willing to receive their newsletters electronically. AGM Preliminaries - Mr Eccles and Mr Spencer have been proposed for re-election, Mr Birch is not offering himself for re-election. Any Other Business - the contents of the First Aid box have been assessed and are now outdated. It was suggested that a new First Aid box should be provided. Thanks were given to Mr Birch for the work he had done whilst on Committee. He is willing to continue as a boiler inspector.

**Date of Next Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> June.** This meeting did not happen due to holiday absences, the next meeting is being called for **20<sup>th</sup> September.**

## **11. Appendix 2**

### **WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY** **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017.** **AT THE W.I. BUILDING, THORNTON HOUGH, WIRRAL.**

- 2056/.** With 33 members present the meeting was opened at 19.35hrs by the acting Chairman, Alan Pennell. He welcomed all present and thanked members and Committee for supporting the Society throughout the year.
- 2057/.** Apologies were received from Bill McGlade, Maurice Worrad, Barry Harrison, Peter Bolderson, Jon Swindlehurst and Matthew Stewart.
- 2058/.** The Chairman asked members to confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and previously circulated with the notice for the AGM.  
Proposed by Steve Reece  
Seconded by Roger Couche.  
Carried by a show of hands.
- 2059/.** There were no matters arising.
- 2060/.** The President, Alan Pennell, made his tenth Presidential address to the members. He thanked the people who had produced the newsletters published during the year that made us aware of the dynamic nature of the Society.

He specifically mentioned the work done by the ‘Wednesday Gangs’ who had worked on both tracks and their teamwork in improving the facilities at the park.

He thanked:

- Everyone who assisted with the Santa Specials and the relationship we have with the public in sharing our hobby and the pleasure we give to the community.
- All who had contributed to the Society’s wellbeing and not to take their efforts for granted. He specifically thanked Barry Harrison for the years programme at Thornton Hough, Ian for opening the hall, Les for providing the biscuits and the tea-makers during the year.
- Alan Banks for continuing with and upgrading the website during the year.

He said we need to maintain our relations with the public and ‘chatting over the fence’ has gained us a few new members.

Our presence at previous MMRS exhibitions had offered a ‘shop window’ to the general public but the exhibition is not being held this year.

He concluded by thanking the Committee for their work and the production of the Annual Report. He hoped that members would continue to enjoy their hobby through the Society.

**2061/.** We have not had a nominated Chairman during the last year and have elected a Chairperson to preside over each individual meeting.

**2062/.** To approve the financial reports of the Society.

The Treasurer’s report for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 was included in the AGM documentation previously circulated.

The Chairman asked if any member had any questions, as there were none the Chairman called for a motion to adopt the accounts.

Proposed by Don Watt.

Seconded by Tony Ashe.

The accounts were approved by a show of hands.

**2063/.** To elect members to Committee.

Three members of the Committee were due to stand down two of which offered themselves for re-election. These were duly proposed and seconded and as there were only two nominations no vote was necessary.

The members re-elected for a three year term were, Mr Ian Eccles and Mr Robert Spencer.

Thanks were expressed to Barry Birch for his time spent on Committee and his input to the Society.

**2064/.** To approve Ashtax Associates as Company Accountant for 2017/18.

(At a fee of £210.00 plus VAT.)

Proposed by Ken Chynoweth.

Seconded by Len Williamson.

Carried by a show of hands.

**2065/.** The Chairman sought the appointment of two Internal Auditors for 2017/18.

Jon Swindlehurst and Robert Spencer, the current auditors agreed to continue for a further year, no other names being proposed. This was accepted by a show of hands.

**2066/.** To approve a N.A.M.E. Representative.

Frank Stephen agreed to continue for a further year but would only attend the meetings if it was convenient on the day

**2067/.** Confirmation of Society boiler inspectors for 2017/18.

Ian Jameson, Barry Birch and Jon Swindlehurst indicated their willingness to continue for the coming year.

**2068/** The current Honorary Members were confirmed as

Ray Dixon, Mike Casey and Peter Waddington.

**2069/.** In his closing remarks the Chairman thanked the Committee for the work they had done over the last year. Thanks were also offered to all the unseen helpers who assist at social functions, the Santa specials and weekend events.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.00hrs.

Following the meeting a discussion was held on the Society diary.

Receiving documents by E-mail, a form was available on the desk for members to sign if they wished to avail themselves of this facility.

The Society locomotive 'Len', the state of the loco was discussed together with the work needed to restore it. Alan Powell offered to do the work required if he could take the loco home. It was agreed that he could do this.

An event to celebrate the re-opening of the raised track, discussion about the format and a suitable date took place but no decision was made.

Support for the 'Rail and Sail' day on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. This would take the form of an exhibition stand for WMES and members of the Boat Club to display their models.

Facilities would be available for the boat club members to partake in railway operations if they wished. It was hoped that a sales table would be provided because the society had a number of items for sale. Members could also utilise the stand if they had any items for sale.