

Smokebox

November 2014

Beds Area Group Newsletter

Welcome to the November issue of Smokebox.

Steam in Beds 2014

Steam in Beds is now just 4 weeks away so most of this edition will be devoted to the organising of the event. That however does not mean you can skip the rest because you will find important news about next year.

Steam in Beds

There are a number of important tasks that we need help with. During the course of the day, I shall be collecting names of volunteers. There's no point in trying to hide 'cause I will find you.

1. Firstly, we need a team of 6 on Friday afternoon to help clear the chairs in the Church.
2. As always we need as many as possible at the Hall 8.00 am Saturday morning to help with the set up.
3. We will have a Roster of ticket sellers on the front door; we will operate 30-minute slots.
4. Likewise, we will need somebody stationed at the Church entrance to check tickets, again 30-minute slots.
5. Once again, Martin has agreed to running Member to Member Sales, again Martin will need volunteers for 30 minute slots.
6. One of the big problems in previous years has been the car parking, we need volunteers to help visitors by making sure we make the best use of the available space, and again there will be 30-minute slots.

Below is the complete timetable for the 28th/29th:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Friday 28th November		
Clear Church	2pm	6 Members
Saturday 29th November		
Set Up Ridgmont	8.00am	8 Members
Layout Hall	8.00am	Full Team
Supervise Set Up of Church	8.00am	2 Members
Posters & Signs	8.00am	2 Members
Kitchen Set Up	8.00am	Catering Team
Bacon Butties from	8.30am	Catering Team
Handout		
- Breakfast Vouchers & Badges	8.00am	1 Member to do both
Meet and Greet Traders/Layouts	8.00am	Chris P - Brian W
Member to Member Sales	8.00am	Roster - 30 mins each (Martin S)
Tony to hand over Floats		
Catering, Member to Member Sales	9.00am	
Manage Car Parking Spaces	9.30am On going	Roster - 30 mins each
Ticket Sales	9.30am On going	Roster - 30 mins each (Tony Mc)
Show Opens	10.00am	

Check Tickets at Church Entrance	10.00am On going	Roster - 30 mins each
Selling Raffle Tickets	10.00am On going	TBC
Collect Raffle Prizes from Traders	10.00am onwards	Chris P - Brian W
Draw Raffle	3.00pm	Chris P - Brian W
Show Closes	4.30pm	
Clear Hall	4.30pm	All
Hall Clear by	6.00pm	All
Clear Church	4.30pm	All
Restore Church Seating Etc.	4.30pm	All
Clear Church	ASAP	All

Catering

One other important area is the catering, in the past we have had excellent support from the wives and partners of members. Alas Sheila Cheeseman will not be able to prepare the Bacon this year so we are fortunate that Carol Regan has agreed to step in and take up the Bacon Butty Banner for us. Once again, Joy Neal and June Kitchenman will also be on hand to help run the catering on the day. If we have as good an attendance as last year I am sure that they would not turn down any help from other members or their wives.

As far as promoting SIB is concerned, we have once again had a Free Half Page advert in the Focus Magazine, which is delivered free to all houses in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall. We have once again placed an advert in the Railway Modeller Magazine which has a circulation in excess of 42,000 but don't panic they're not all in Bedfordshire. I have also printed some Flyers and A4 sized Banners which I will bring along on Sunday, if you would like to take some to pass out to family, friends etc please help yourself. It will also be listed in 16mm Association Events Diary and on the Events and Exhibition Diary of the UK Model Shops Directory.

As I mentioned earlier Martin will be running the Member to Member Sales again this year. It is an opportunity to turn unwanted items into cash which in turn you can spend with the Traders on the day, go on you know it makes sense.

There is no change to the list of Layouts and Traders I published in the October Smokebox.

Other Business

Membership Reminder

Our Subs were due to be paid in September for the 2014/2015 season. There are still a number of members who have not yet renewed their membership. One of the many benefits of membership of BAGs is free access to Steam in Beds so if you have not yet paid now would be a good time. We are now in our seventh season at Eaton Bray, we increased the Subs to £30 in 2011 and held them at the same level for the last 2 years. In spite of yearly increases in the cost of hiring the Eaton Bray Village Hall we will again hold them at the 2011 level this year. This is due in part to the success of Steam in Beds and an influx of new members. Our membership currently stands at just over 40 which is an increase over last year. If you are unable to pay in person you may be interested to know you can now pay by Bank Transfer direct to the clubs account, contact Tony or myself for the Sort Code and Account Number to use.

Future Events

As I briefly mentioned in the July Smokebox we have once again been invited to take Ridgmont to the Model Engineering Show at Ally Pally on 16th, 17th and 18th January 2015, make sure you put it in your diary.

It has also been confirmed that we will be taking Ridgmont to Peterborough next year, more details will follow.

Group Meetings Dates - 2015

The following dates have been booked for our 2015 meetings.

Please note the date for our February meeting is the 8th not the 1st. The reason for this is that the theatre group who put on the Pantomime each year would like to hold a matinee that day. After a discussion with the Chairman of the Hall Committee I have agreed as a gesture of goodwill to move our meeting to the 8th, they in turn have agreed that we will not be charged for our February booking.

4th January 8th February 1st March 5th April 3rd May 7th June 5th July

August no meeting 6th September 4th October 1st November

December no meeting

Steam in Beds 2015 Saturday 28th November

If you would like to know which dates Prayle Grove will be at the club meeting please contact Carol direct via her email: caroleast@me.com

Another Layout for BAGs

With the increase in our membership and the problem of being able to book a running slot on Ridgmont it has been suggested that we should build a second layout. It would probably be a bit smaller than Ridgmont and lighter making it easier to handle. Given the limited time we have at our club meetings I don't really think it would be practical to build the baseboards ourselves. With this in mind, I have approached Chris Moody of Loco-Boxes, who offers a baseboard building service, to provide me with a rough cost to build a set of baseboards, which would include fold up legs.

He has sent me some photos of boards he has built for other Area Groups; I will have them with me on Sunday along with a suggested track plan. Please let me have your views, any feedback, suggestions or encouragement would be appreciated.

Following on from the discussions last month regarding a second Layout for the club, I think I should say that the original idea was to increase our running capacity at our club meetings.

Having said that a number of ideas were put forward, which I think we need to consider. They are; and in no particular order:

- At least one circuit should be made dual gauge 32/45.
- There should be some provision made for scenery.
- Currently we only use the scenery on Ridgmont at exhibitions
- We should try to keep things simple.
- Will we have space to store it under the stage.
- How much is likely to cost, how will it be paid for.
- Who will lay the track and when would we do it.
- During our regular club meetings or book extra days?

I will bring the display board with me and would welcome any further suggestions you may have.

Chris