



Welcome to the November issue of Smokebox.

Membership

There are still a number of members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2017/2018. John Kitchenman has been contacting members who have not yet renewed their membership.

John Kitchenman writes:

During the first two months of the new (2017/2018) season we've had a good renewal rate comprising 29 paid-up of 40 members on last year's list with 4 more confirmed to date. There have been a couple of resignations due to house moves or transfer to other area groups and a new recruit interested in becoming a member.

The numbers suggest we will end up with 34/35 paid up members a few more may pay up at SIB, a bit down on last year's level.

Steam in Beds

By the time you read this Steam in Beds will be less than 3 weeks away, there are still outstanding items. Getting enough volunteers to fill the vacant slots is the main problem. In particular we still need help with setting up the church on Friday afternoon, the Hall Friday evening and for the early start on Saturday there are just 6 names on the list.

What is even more disturbing out of almost 40 members only 16 members have signed up with 2 or 3 members doing 5 or 6 sessions with the rest doing at least more than 2 slots each.

Don't you think it about time the other 20 odd members started to pull their weight and support the club and its annual show?

The volunteers list will be available again at the club on Sunday please offer your help with some of the activities and if the list is full you could think about relieving somebody else of one of their slots so they can enjoy the show as well.

Traders

I can confirm that the following Traders attending is as follows:

Andrew Neale Railway Books
Chuffed 2 Bits
John Sutton Models
Swift Sixteen
Garden Railways Ltd

Anything Narrow Gauge
Dream Steam
Jons People
The Sparesman

Atropos Models
Brandbright
Kent Garden Railway
Trenarren Models

Layouts

We will have Ridgmont and Prayle Grove in the Main Hall, once again St Marys PCC have given us permission to have St Genny's in the church. I hope to add a second layout in St Marys, providing it will fit into the available space, it should have a narrow gauge theme possibly battery or two rail electric.

Advertising

We will have a ¼ page advertisement in the October and November issue of Garden Rail Magazine; again we will also have a ¼ page advert in the local free magazine "Focus"

Steam in Beds will be included in the Events Pages of Railway Modeller and the Association Web Site and it will also be featured in the events listing on the UK Model Shops Web Site. Naturally it will also be featured on our own Web Site.

Member 2 Member Sales

Once again we will be holding M2M sales in the Committee Room, Martin Shrubsole will be running M2M sales as in previous years. From his experience, Martin has prepared a set of guidelines for this year.

Martin writes:

I have been giving thought as to how the Member Sales stand at SIB can work more to the advantage of vendors. The following rules for SIB 2017 member sales are therefore drawn to the attention of all who may wish to take advantage of the facility.

M2M Guidelines

Only paid up Members of the 16mm Association may put items in for sale, and each vendor will be personally accountable for the condition of the item, and for his/her right to sell it.

Each Member shall be restricted to no more than 10 items, the description of which, and the price sought should be listed on the prescribed form.

An item can be a "lot" of complementary items (e.g. loco, transmitter and charger, or set of three wagons) but in such a case will be sold as one transaction and not sub-divided.

All items for sale should be labelled with a tie-on label and display Sellers Name, Association Membership Number, and Selling Price. For a "lot" of complementary items, each of the elements in the lot should have its own label with the additional information (1 of 3; 2 of 3 etc) . ,

A commission to the credit of the Beds Area Group shall be levied on each item sold. This commission will be calculated at 10% of the actual selling price for any individual item, subject to a minimum of £1, and a maximum of £100 for any one item.

It is understood that a member may wish to assist the family of a deceased member with the disposal of assets. Any such third party lots will be treated as part of the member's own quota for the purposes of limiting the number of lots, and calculation of commission. Only where the vending Member can give the last membership number of the deceased member will the Commission be reduced from 10% to 5% per item (minimum £0.50, Maximum £50), for those items specifically identified.

Magazines, Videos, and any other "lucky dip" lots will not be accepted for M2M sale".

Included with this issue of Smokebox you will find a booking form for M2M Sales. Please print it off and complete with details of each item for sale. Bring the completed Form, along with the items for sale already labelled, to SIB.

Vendors open to "offers" on individual items should ensure that they write a mobile phone number, at which they can be contacted during the course of the event, on their booking in form.

Group Meeting Dates – 2018

Following any feedback I had regarding dates and times of our meetings I can confirm the following dates have been booked for next year's meetings. Please note the change to our usual date for the July meeting. As I have not had any adverse comments regarding the timing of our meetings we will continue with current times of 10:30am to 4:00pm.

7 th January	4 th February	4 th March
1 st April	6 th May	3 rd June
15 th July*	No meeting in August	2 nd September
7 th October	4 th November	

Steam in Beds will be on Saturday 24th November

VAMES Visit

I confirmed in the October Smokebox that the visit to the VAMES site would be on Saturday 7th October from 13:00 hrs. It went ahead as planned however the turnout was very disappointing just 3 members bothered to turn up, 4 if you count Gordon who was our host. We spent a very pleasant afternoon playing trains, with plenty of opportunities for running. If Gordon agrees to host another visit in the future I would strongly recommend you come along.

London Model Engineering Exhibition

As reported last month Ridgmont has been invited to attend the Model Engineering Exhibition at Ally Pally in January 2018 the show runs from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st January. The organisers have agreed our expenses to cover the cost of transporting Ridgmont to and from the show. Last month I asked for somebody who would be willing to drive the van to transport the layout to and from the show. I am very pleased to say that two members confirmed they would be willing to take up the challenge. It will depend on who is best placed geographically to meet the schedule. The van will need to be hired from 12:00 noon on Thursday 18th January with a view to loading Ridgmont at the village hall by 1:00pm, drive to Ally Pally to unload and set up. After the show closes on the 21st January, we will either return Ridgmont to the village hall Sunday evening or first thing Monday, this will allow for the van to be returned by 12:00 noon on the Monday. Once I have the final details from the show organisers I will be looking for volunteers for loading on Thursday and Set Up at the venue, a team of runners for each day of the show and finally unloading back at Eaton Bray.

There will be a board on the stage to put your names down for help with the setting up and running of Ridgmont. Please add your name to the list for whatever areas you feel you can help. As we don't meet in December this will be your last chance before our January meeting on the 7th so get your names down to help with set up and for the limited number operator's exhibition passes. If we are oversubscribed for the 3 running days priority will be given to those who have helped with the set up and take down.

Items for Sale

Alan Regan is assisting a member's widow to dispose of the contents of his workshop. The items include the following;

Several pieces of scratch built rolling stock, most 45 mm but some regaugable or with additional 32 mm bogies.

Accucraft L&B open wagons with coal loads fitted with 45 mm wheel sets.

Several scratch built buildings.

A quantity bagged up items of use to 16mm scale modellers, to be sold as bagged lots.

Alan has agreed to hold back making the above available to view and or purchase until all the layouts are fully built and up and running and not before.

Wags Wharf at Pitstone Museum

Apart from Wags Wharf, there are plenty of other exhibits of interest to see whether a railway enthusiast or not. There are many interesting items that show the developments that have changed how we do things around the Home, Farming, Technology and Engineering, things we take for granted today. Look at their web site at <http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk/>

Note, the museum is now closed until it reopen on Easter Monday 2nd April 2018.

Chris