



Welcome to the September Smokebox

I am looking forward to welcoming members to our meeting on Sunday 6th September, it will be our first since the Hall closed following our March meeting. I am pleased to say that at the latest count there should be about 12 members present.

I have been advised by the Trustees we will have to finish 30 minutes earlier at 3:30pm, this is to give them time to deep clean the hall before the next user at 4:00pm. To keep the length of our meeting we will be able to start 10:00am.

The other restrictions that will be in place are as follows:

- We must enter by the front door and exit via the fire door adjacent to the kitchen.
- Only one toilet will be available, that being the Disabled Toilet adjacent to the kitchen. The Gents and Ladies at the front of the Hall will be shut.
- Finally, the kitchen cannot be used for food preparation, I suggest you arrange to bring your own drinks either hot in a thermos or cans of drink.

We also need to think about how we manage the build and running on Ridgmont. Clearly things will have to be managed differently. I have attached a copy of how we will manage our meetings while there is still a risk from Covid, if you don't feel you can work and comply to these Guidelines you should not come to the meeting, if you have any other concerns please let me know.

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It's that time of year again when we need to pay our Subs, you should all have read my Paper about the need to increase our Subs following the cancellation of Steam in Beds. I have had about 6 replies from members one or two have suggested a different approach to the one I suggested, many would have meant an increase in administration to manage the renewal process. As at present we do not have a Treasurer my objective was to keep things as simple as possible. Of course, the simple thing would have been to do nothing, but I do not really think that was an option. As I suggested in my email about the Subscriptions for 2020/2021 commencing September 2020 the annual subscription will be set at £40 however for those members not returning until January the rate will be £30 to cover meeting through to August 2021. Payment should be made via a bank transfer to:

Sort Code 23 05 80                      Account No. 26041686

Please quote your name as a reference, so we know who to credit the payment to.

You can also pay by cheque, payable to Bedfordshire 16mm Modellers, as last resort you can pay by cash in person at our meetings.

We will retain the one off payment for non-members who wish to attend one of our monthly meetings, the cost will be £5.00 per meeting.

**Group Meeting Dates – 2020**

Below are the remaining dates for 2020, our new start and end times are as follows 10:00 am to 3:30 pm.

6<sup>th</sup> September                      4<sup>th</sup> October                      1<sup>st</sup> November

As we have cancelled SIB for this year, if we have enough support, we have the option of holding a Christmas meeting on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. I would welcome your views.

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**Boiler Tester**

I have already advised you that Pete Newman was going to step down as our Boiler Tester, Pete has been doing the BAGs boiler tests for more years than I care to remember. I should like to thank Pete for all his efforts over the years keeping us on the straight and narrow through the various changes to the Code.

Having said all that the show must go on and I am pleased to say that Bob Gamble has agreed to take up the Boiler Tester role commencing with our October meeting. Bob has many years of experience as the Boiler Tester for the Gauge One Society so I am sure we will be in safe hands.

**In the March Smokebox I reported that Tony will step down as our Treasurer**

Tony McManus has advised me he will step down as the Groups Treasurer at the end of August which is our year end. This is a vital time of the year for the Group with our Subscriptions due and Steam in Beds. Even though Steam in Beds has been cancelled for this year, the Treasurer still has an important role to play. Naturally, this is a big blow to the Group, he will be sorely missed, Tony has been Treasurer since the creation of the Beds Group over 30 years ago. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience about the Group and its history, I am pleased to report Tony intends to remain an active member of the Group.

Having said that it goes without saying we urgently need to find Tony’s replacement as soon as possible so there is time to do a proper orderly handover. If you are interested in taking on this role and remember you do not need to be an Accountant, if you can manage your own finances then you should be able to manage ours. Please let me know if you are interested.

One final word, without overstating the case, the role of Treasurer is vital to the continued existence of the Group. Without somebody managing our finances the Group cannot function and prosper.

There would be no meetings in 2021 and no Steam in Beds 2021.

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Chris