

B&DSME News

www.bdsmengineers.co.uk

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Editor
Richard Harvey
19 Kings Ave.
Christchurch
Dorset BH23 1NA
bdsmengineers@tiscali.co.uk
01202 481100

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The
monthly
club news-
letter
For
Bournemouth
& District
Society of
Model En-
gineers

Sec. Dave
Finn 01202
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March News

As the sun sets on another day I reflect on what I have achieved today. I can tell you that in the world of computers not much, just helping silly people correct silly mistakes. Unlike my peers within the club who during their varied engineering careers probably went home at night and had something tangible to show for the day's efforts. To me this becomes ever more prevalent as I continue to struggle with the vagaries of the steam engine. One moment it's all hiss, fire and action the next there's water & steam flowing from every orifice! A big thanks to all who braved the hail and lightning on Sunday to have a poke and prod around my loco and even to those that drew a sharp intake of breath in true tradesman style and started explaining what work I needed to do...now where's Clarky's phone number!

Have you noticed how our speakers are extremely interesting these days? Last month saw someone tackle a very difficult subject; namely Road safety for model engineers. I'm not sure quite what relevance the 'for model engineers' made, maybe it was journalistic license from Brian Merrifield or perhaps Brian being a biker felt that we all needed lessons but a good speaker all the same. Now what was that slogan? Oh yes clunk, click every trip. Or something like that!

Soon it will be April and the official opening. The arrangements are pretty much the same as the J.P.Morgan day last July with Brian Merrifield being duty officer for the day and yours truly as the fat controller (no change there then!) Request from Herr Capitan Martin, best boiler suits please gents. Now I'm not quite sure if it's a coincidence of the impending Mayoral visit or just some of the more senior members of the club reminiscing of their old service days, but things are getting painted! Fortunately not with Whitewash or luckily Battleship grey but a certain engine shed is looking resplendent in its new colour

scheme and certainly better now that the graffiti has gone. A big thanks to the guys that took on the task, so who's whitewashing the coal?

How many of you read the M.E? Only I spotted an extract from our newsletter in this week's edition. 'And' I hear you cry. Well it's just that for those of you that didn't see it, it is a piece from me to you asking for the loan of fairy lights for our grotto! Strange? Well yes as not that long ago they printed an extract saying how good the event had been. I wonder how that happened, still a good publication and a great source of questions for my monthly quiz that I set.

Last month's newsletter I reported on the fact that our Architect was making an appearance at our opening and certain salacious remarks about his dress sense. I would like to publicly apologise and retract unreservedly all references to 'turning up in a dress'... As its April it's likely to be a miniskirt! Happy days all see you soon. ■

Harrogate ME Show &

National Railway Museum

Is anyone interested in a weekend away visiting the Harrogate model engineering show & combining this with a visit to the National Railway Museum? The idea is to get 6~7 people for a trip to include transport in a luxury minicoach, two nights accommodation at an Innkeepers lodge, entrance to the exhibition and also entrance to the museum at York. The cost for all of this is likely to be around £150 per person. Spaces are limited. If interested let me know and i will organise. ■

Diary Dates

17-Mar-04 - Richard Knott "Video Evening"

24-Mar-04- Committee Meeting

1-Apr-04 - Visit Cheddar Models

11-Apr-04 - Official Opening

21-Apr-04 - Alan Frampton "Wildlife Wood Carving"

19-May-04 - Malcolm Bowditch "Cordite Factory at Holton Heath" Donations Please

13-June-04 - Open day

16-Jun-04 Bits and Pieces

Subscriptions Now Very Over Due

If left unpaid this is the last newsletter that you will receive

£18.00 Single £19.00 Joint

Chairmans Thoughts

Does anybody know when the club was started, by whom and where? Silly question really, but we haven't got anything written down as a history of the club or have we? Is there anyone with some time to spare to put pen to paper and put something down for the future. Could be an interesting project or has this already been done? Our opening the 11th April draws closer. Good news, we will have two traction engines for the day. It was suggested to me that on this occasion we should donate the proceeds from the club's takings to a children's charity. At the next club night I will send round a sheet so members can let me know which models can be expected on the day and also offers of help, this will give the committee a good idea what to cater for. Hopefully members will basically do the same jobs as we did on the JP Morgan day. Have you still got the badges you wore on that day if not a replacement can be provided, again put it on the list please. We will also be providing a visitor badge for our guests this should help the ladies with the catering. On the day could those members who are going to bring models for display have them at the track before 10.30 am. Parking arrangements will be as before more information on the club night. Thanks to those who have helped with clearing out the hut and taking things away. The council have cleared away our rubbish for us and also laid the bark chippings down and it is a great improvement to drive on. The external walls are nearly painted I hope you and the council all like the colour. The planning permission for keeping the existing building has been submitted to the council and hopefully we should know our fate in the near future, watch this space.

This Months Competition

Q1 Where was Richard Trevithick Born?

Q2 Which famous locomotive is up for sale at £2m?

Q3 Where would you find a lock of Robert Stephenson's hair?

Q4 If a drawing is said to be 'viewed at 90 degrees' or 'straight on' what type of projection is this?

Last Months Competition

Q1 50psi.

Q2 The first flight by the Wright brothers..

Q3 Sunday 11th April

Q4 Inspiration

And Finally

A novice monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks copy by hand the old canons and laws of the church. But he notices that all the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So the novice monk goes to ask the head abbot about this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up. He says, "I have noticed that error would be continued in all subsequent copies. The head abbot replies, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son." So, the head abbot goes into the caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscript is held in a vault that's been locked for hundreds of years. Hours go by, and nobody sees him. Finally, the novice monk gets worried and goes downstairs to look for the head abbot. He finds him banging his head against the floor. His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he's crying uncontrollably. The younger man goes to the elder and asks, "What's wrong, father?" With a choking voice, the head abbot replies,

"The word is 'celebrate'."