

B&DSME News

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A Company limited by Guarantee registered in England Number 3351832

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Volume 25, Issue 2, February 2006 25 Years of the Newsletter

The monthly club newsletter for Bournemouth & District Society of Model Engineers

Sec. Dave

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February
News

Subscriptions Now Over Due

The treasurer is pleased to announce that as of 1st January 2006 all subscriptions are due. As before its £18.00 single and £19.00 joint. Cheques to M.Mortimer 18 Collwood close Poole Dorset BH15 3HF made payable to BDSME please. If you haven't yet paid then please be aware that this will be your penultimate newsletter. ■

Luscombe Valley Railway

Accident

Unfortunately there was an accident at our Humbug Day on Saturday 24th December where an elderly lady was hurt. I think it would be wise if I could gather statements from people who witnessed the accident or were present at the time. I would also appreciate any suggestions as to whom the lady doctor might be that looked after the elderly lady until the ambulance arrived. If you can help I would be grateful to hear from you on 01202 709833 Richard Knott ■

Sinsheim 2006 & Other

Ramblings

Well what can one say, as usual the parties grow larger and more and more friends are reunited to play trains from all walks of life and countries. It was a pleasure to see some new faces who travelled from England to join the merry throng. It was even more of a pleasure to meet the crew from Modelworks and share a tale or two over dinner. One of the highlights for me was to meet the guy who built the Hornsby chain tractor and actually have a go, funny thing is he lives in Poole so I reckon Brian ought to get him along for a talk. Whilst in Germany a decision was made for me that was quite a tough one but the offer was good so it couldn't be refused. I'm talking of the King. Well the King is dead, so long live the Queen (well Britannia that is) Yes whilst away, I struck a deal and have parted with what has been the biggest project I have ever undertaken and four years later showed no signs of completion. For me time is something I no longer have the privilege of and retirement is a mere fantasy. So with a heavy heart and differing advice I am now the owner of a 5" Britannia and expect to see me learning how to drive and fire the beast soon. My

thanks go out to Richard Knott for allowing me to share a day with him on an outing to Modelworks at Daventry this week. This facility has to be seen to be believed one can only describe the array of CNC lathes and mills forming parts for models as awesome. I and a few that accompanied us were stunned at the masses of machines producing quality parts from raw stock. To see a piece of solid steel 8" in section go in and then come out as a cylinder block was phenomenal. Its clear talking to the staff that they are passionate about the success of the company and I wish them all the best they deserve it. See you soon hopefully Ed ■

Chairmans Thoughts

Our coach trip to London ME exhibition was well attended by our members and thanks to Brian for organising the trip and getting a quart into a pint pot. An enjoyable day out was had by all. I hope all those ladies who received gifts from their husbands appreciated them. The annual dinner at the Crooked Beams last month had a good turnout and we all had a very enjoyable night, the meal, the company and surroundings were excellent. Thanks Dick for organising the evening, we have re-booked the restaurant for next year. Has any member in the club access to a mini digger, it would make the laying of the power cable much easier, please give me a call. I have received a final letter from the Awards for All acknowledging our end of award report. It also advised that we could apply again for a further project, which meets one or more of their programme aims. I am at present putting together a proposal for the new platform and costing for approval of the club, and hopefully we should be able to apply for a grant to cover it from Awards for All. Good news, the work on the traverser has started with the cutting off and alterations to part of the spur also a new concrete base has been cast for the end of the unloading spur by the existing traverser. You can still steam up and load using the old traverser so that the track is still in use. The Muscliff Community Association have given me a provisional date of the first week in April to remove the slabs, the exact amount that we can have is to be agreed so I hope we will have plenty of help with trailers etc. Hopefully more information in the March newsletter. David Martin ■

The views and articles featured in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the committee, officers and members.

Diary Dates

Date	Event / Speaker
15-Feb-06	Richard Knott - Video Evening
15-Mar-06	Peter Kent Mason - Talylyn Railway
19-Apr-06	Bits and Pieces (inc ladies items)
23-Apr-06	St. Georges Day run. Normal passenger hauling but help required from members, Flag pole Duties etc.
10-May-06	Joint visit with the Soton Soc. To Exbury Gardens, 1830hrs Approx.
14-May-06	Traction Engine Day at Littledown (Club traction engines only).
17-May-06	TBC
17-18-Jun-06	Club open weekend, BarBQ on Saturday Evening, Club members help required over the weekend, for this event.
21-Jun-06	"0" Gauge Guild to visit Littledown, 1800 hrs until late. BarBQ. During the evening.
19-Jul-06	AGM + 2nd Bits & Pices
16-Aug-06	BBQ Littledown
20-Aug-06	Charity Day. This year will be for the 'First Opportunity Group'
20-Sep-06	TBC
18-Oct-06	TBC
15-Nov-06	Ladies night
20-Dec-06	Christmas Party

Profile Of A Member

This month's member profile is from a member who is relatively new to the society yet has been interested in engineering since a small boy.

Ron Challener has been a member of the society since 1998 a year after his wife tragically passed away. For those that really know Ron, I may be wrong when I sum him up as 'quiet and unassuming' as I am told that a little drop of the 'Vin Rouge' is his favourite tipple! However, Ron as a small boy used to sneak into to his dad's transport firm depot and play with the old belt driven

lathes of yesteryear, 'I had a key but never told my dad' he said. So this is where he got the taste for engineering that led to a career as an engineering apprentice doing the usual day release and evening class scheme. His eventual career led him to be a designer for a company based in Leeds that specialised in the water treatment field for oil recovery; many of Ron's designs are being used by some very large industrial companies dotted around the globe, sounds like a secret eco warrior to me!

Having spent his national Service in the Senior Service mostly on HMS Bermuda, Ron's interest in boating and anything to do with messing about on the water was formed. I was offered a commission he told me but I got married and took up engineering, but still his keenness on boating has led him to be responsible for many major boating events over the years, major events like the round Britain offshore powerboat race Ron was in charge of, and was responsible for writing of the rules for the Royal Motor Yacht Club for this sport. Talking to this quiet man you can see that being on the water is a passion and to this day Ron has a narrow boat moored at Oxford which he bought in 1991, not quite the 3ltr Mercedes driven monster boat he last had but great relaxing fun.

Ron recently sold his Myford ML7 which he purchased in 1947 at that time for the princely sum of £56 and bought a Warco combination machine and despite not being as smooth as the Myford works well he said. His current model stock includes a steamboat which is around 18" long, a Simplex which he bought, stripped and refurbished and runs smoothly at Luscombe Valley and 1 of three class 59 battery electric loco's that the society has had to call upon on many occasion, the other two are still in the production phase. The latest acquisition is a joint venture with Richard Knott to build and run a Likamobile from Modelworks. An interesting project says Ron and will definitely stand out when complete. We are looking forward to driving it to Tesco for a bottle of wine he quipped. So if you see a quiet man on a superb class 59 and you are interested in boating as well as engineering, strike up a conversation guaranteed it will be interesting. ■



February
News