



West Wiltshire Society of Model Engineers Newsletter

Issue No.32 September / October 2023

Calendar

September

2nd – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

Public Running Open Day. 10:30am-3:30pm

16th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

23rd – Holt Live Steam Models & Train Show
10:15am-3:30pm.

October

7th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

WWSME Member BBQ

21st – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

November

4th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.

18th – Saturday Steam Up. 10am-4pm.



News

Operations & Signalling Subcommittee

By Jon Clarke

The Operations and Signalling Subcommittee has been meeting once a month since April. It has been discussing, and starting to document, updated operational rules and guidelines for the operation of our portable and fixed tracks. The work has already seen good progress with the new level crossing gates for the ground level track, the use of paper tickets for public events and several other improvements in the way we operate when public running.

This work is to review our compliance to the HSE document "HS2020 - Managing health and safety at passenger-carrying miniature railways", and where we feel necessary improve our control measures to manage the risks when public running. Whilst we can implement some of the changes quickly, some things take longer and we are planning for full compliance to our updated Safe Operating Procedures to be for the 2024 season. One significant change for us will be documented competence for Duty Manager, Driver and Guard. Drivers on public running days will need to have been assessed and gain accreditation for driving the appropriate class of locomotive. There will be two classes, Steam and Battery Electric. Someone who has been accredited for Steam will also be accredited for battery electric, petrol and diesel fuelled locomotives.

We are keen to have as many accredited drivers as we can for next season, especially those people who don't own a passenger hauling locomotive. Now that our Polly locomotive is finished and certificated this gives more opportunity for members to gain knowledge, experience and mentorship driving a steam locomotive. We

currently also have an AME Vulcan 4 on loan to the club, for members to gain experience driving Battery Electrics.

The club has started to provide some structured training, and follow up coaching, for both new and experienced drivers. The first was held on Sunday 27th August and it received some very positive feedback. We will be holding some more training days over the coming months.

Another improvement is the standardisation of couplings across the club. We have also documented what was usually good practice for public running and made that mandatory for next season. Issue 1 of our Train Coupling Methods document is accompanying this newsletter.

Club Battery Electric Locomotive

By Jon Clarke

The club has now sold the Class 20 battery electric. The decision was made to sell it while it's still in good condition and upgrade to a new battery electric now, rather than running the Class 20 until it was worn out. Following discussions with various members and committee members, the decision has been made to buy an AME Neptune 4. This is similar to the Vulcan 4 that we have on loan which has proven to be a powerful and smooth locomotive. We have chosen BR Blue, similar to the one shown in the picture. This should be ready for collection during October 2023.



350 Not Out

By David Clarke

This is just a short note say that my resignation from the committee is purely personal. There have been no disagreements on the committee. I just felt that having been to more than 350 meetings, since 1994. I feel that I do not have any thing fresh to offer. There are many members of the committee who have a wide range of skills that are now needed and are far more able at this work than myself. I will still continue to assist at club events and open days. However, the club still needs fresh ideas and committee members. Many thanks for your support over the years.
David Clarke.

Driver Training Day

By Jon Clarke

On Sunday 27th August we held a Training day at the club for driver and operational crew training. The day was run as two duplicate sessions, morning and afternoon. We had six different trainers and around a dozen members taking part over the day. Peter Pearson provided a very informative and interesting presentation covering all aspects of driving and a theory on steam locomotive boilers. Then in small groups, members had a practical session that went through the process of locomotive preparation, lighting up, raising steam, driving, dropping the fire and cleaning following use. The feedback has been very positive and we will be running this session again soon, and also further sessions for drivers to gain more experience, and then specific training sessions for public running.



WWSME Member Event – 7th October

By Jon Clarke

Many thanks to those who came along to help run our Open Day on Saturday. It was another good day with lots of action on all of our tracks. There were quite a few regular customers turning up again, which is great to see. We took over £400, which is another useful boost for club funds. It has been a great year for events and improvements to the site and facilities. We really appreciate all the hard work and time dedicated to the club by so many of the members. In recognition of this we'd like to hold a members event on Saturday 7th October. There will be free food provided over lunchtime and free tea, coffee and biscuits all day.

Hopefully you will be able to come along at some point during the day to run a locomotive or two, or simply pop in for a cuppa!

It will be normal Saturday club running times, 10am until 4pm, and fingers crossed for good weather.

An Exhibition of Live Steam Trains and Models

**At the United Reformed Church,
Holt Wiltshire. BA14 6RS -**

Saturday 23th September 2023-.

Adults £2. Families £5.

10:15am to 3:30pm.

**Refreshments. Steam hauled
rides-Vintage model trains-Steam
toys.**



In aid of the Refurbishment of the buildings for the use of the community.

In Memory of Des Clarke 1936-2019, A Pupil in the School Room 1940-1945