

**Reading Society
of Model
Engineers
Charity Number
1163244**



President

Les Dawson
0118 969 4654

Trustees Chair

John Billard
01189 340381
07834 998971

**Trustees
Secretary**

Stuart Kidd
07966 278968

Editor

John Billard
john@jegbillard
.plus.com

Free to members

The Prospectus

November 2021



Boiler making. See page 4. Photo John Billard

AGM REPORT

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

John Billard

We have just had our 2021 AGM delayed from the usual spring time for the expected Covid reasons. It was a pleasure to welcome so many members—32 at the latest count. I started by raising an applause for all the hard work that has gone on since our last AGM in May 2019. We have survived very well and some other clubs have not been so lucky.

The last few weeks have seen our highly successful Federation rally, very busy and happy public running and a club day that was so busy that I almost had nowhere to put my engine!

The trustees met on 11 October and among the things discussed were the provision of card readers for public running, good finances including a small surplus from the Fed rally, and a proposal to extend the ground level carriage shed allowing extra vehicles and improving our service to the public. Anti vandalism measures were also on the agenda. We are also in the process of designing a new web site.

Our membership number continues to improve with 78 at the latest count. We hope obviously to build on this but the signs are better.

A further reminder that the approved minutes of trustee meetings are available to members. Please contact Stuart to arrange that.

Finally a plea. You may notice that this PROSPECTUS shorter than usual. This comes down to a shortage of copy that I hope is temporary. Do tell members your stories!

AGM REPORT

As reported above we had a well attended AGM on 21 October. This meant much to the trustees and the many others who work so hard to keep the club successful.

The annual report was approved—this covered the period to 31 March, our financial year, but with some updating in view of the delayed date of the meeting.

Special thanks were given to Alf Cusworth for his continued invaluable work for the club. We were sorry that he has had recently to stand down as a trustee for health reasons. We gave him our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Four members were elected or re-elected as trustees. Those continuing are Stuart Kidd, Peter Culham and Nigel Penford. We were delighted to welcome Stephen Millward as a new trustee.

We were pleased to see Les Dawson who was able to present the President's Cup to George Saffrey and Charles Benham for their work on the Parks and Gardens and their ability to keep the site attractive and welcoming despite the setbacks..

Two main items came up under any other business. The raised track exten-

sion was considered and by an informal vote it was agreed to continue work on the junctions as time permits from essential maintenance. Should resources and funds allow it in the future the work could be continued.

There was a discussion about arrangements for private parties. Peter Culham explained that it was now essential to know who was available in advance to do the range of duties required. A proposal to invite members to be a part of a panel to achieve this is being worked on for the 2022 season.

The meeting ended after about an hour following which most members stayed for tea and talk! Far more entertaining!

Right

Members accept
the financial
report



Left

Les Dawson, right, presents the President's Cup to Charles Benham and George Saffrey and here is Charles receiving it on behalf of them both.

Photos John Billard

IN SHOPS THIS MONTH—BUILDING A CLAUD

by John Billard
The Boiler Part 3

Last instalment was left with much copper bashing but the heating and soldering was yet to come. Well, we have come to this stage and as far as I am concerned this is the start of the real job!

The first step was to solder the tubes into the firebox tube plate. For this I made an adjustable stand so the tubes can be held vertically into the tube plate and guided at the other end with the smokebox tube plate – not to be soldered yet.

This job this was an essay into very high melting point cadmium free silver solder as part of a step process. For the essential flux we used Stay-Silv, recommended as a long lasting flux for use at high temperatures. It performed very well at the hands of a virtual beginner! The result exceeded our expectations—not always a good sign for future work!



Buoyed by this success the next stage was a big one—to fix the firebox outer wrapper to the boiler tube. These are fairly hefty pieces so much heat was required. We decided to fit a jointing ring on the outside so to give us good visibility of the process. The drawing put it on the inside but we preferred the other. The first piece of soldering was to attach the throat plate to the firebox outer wrapper, then to solder the outer ring to it. Then the barrel itself was introduced to fit inside the ring—some hammering required!



The throat plate newly soldered to the outer wrapper. And below shows that we achieved a good result. For this stage we were one down on the rod melting point.





Left The reinforcing ring fluxed up and ready to go.

Right The barrel in place. The outer wrapper former can be seen supporting the high melting point flux. Heating was with two propane torches taking care not to burn the metal.



Left....and it fits!

But there's some way to go yet.

Photos John Billard



The front cover on page 1 shows our latest work that was attaching the firebox inner wrapper to the tube plate. Heating has started, and it all went well—almost! More next time!

I would like to give continuing thanks to Nigel Penford, Stephen Millward, and Peter Harrison for their continued advice and encouragement for this important work. David Scott is in the background as well.

It has all been very satisfying and all our problems are being overcome so far. But as I have already said—there's a long way to go!

00 GAUGE GROUP

Vice President Mike Sinclair at the AGM made a plea for more members to come forward to work on the 00 gauge layout in the clubhouse. When fully operating this is very impressive. Meetings start at 1930 on Tuesdays and I am sure that all will have a warm welcome.

Related to this RSME has in the past run 0 gauge and N gauge layouts. These are presently in store as interest has declined substantially. What we remember of the 0 gauge it was a wonderful creation. It would be a delight if this could be taken up again. However some leadership is required!

.....and another thing!

Talking of wider activities club maintenance continues outside and is a continuous job. Track fettling, grounds maintenance, improving our existing facilities, painting; it is a long list.

Much of this takes place on Wednesdays, the usual club work day. All members are welcome to give a hand. Many tasks require little supervision so what can you do? The raised track steaming bays could do with a lick for a start!

The AGM discussed the raised track extension and this will continue up to a point provided general site activities are not affected. The existing raised track is due for some heavy maintenance so the more we have the better it will be.

The club has returned to a normal programme of public and club running and the Christmas event sold out very quickly. Here's hoping that with rising cases in our area Covid does not spoil it all again.

DIARY

November

Sunday	7th	Public running	13.00 onwards
Saturday	13th	Club running	11.00 onwards
Monday	15th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Tuesday	23rd	Club running	12.00 onwards

December

Sunday	5th	Public running	13.00 onwards
Saturday	11th	Santa }	
Sunday	12th	Weekend }	

Note: private parties are not being advertised at present—see explanation on page 3, as given to the AGM..

Opinions expressed in PROSPECTUS are the personal views of the contributor and cannot be taken as reflecting the views of the trustees or editor.

The deadline for the December issue is 18 November

Contributions may be submitted in hard or soft copy to the editor.

John Billard Old Station House Twyford Reading RG10 9NA

01189 340381 or 07834 998971

john@jegbillard.plus.com

*Please write for Prospectus. Photos welcomed.
Comments by RSME members on any subject appearing in
Prospectus are welcomed by the editor.*