



# **SOUTHERN FEDERATION of MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES**

## **Minutes of the 2009/2010 Annual General Meeting. Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010.**

### **Venue**

The venue for the Meeting was the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, and it started at 14-00.

### **Attendees**

#### **Footman James Insurance (FJ)**

Kevin Askill, Angela Orford, Martyn Raybould.

#### **Polly Engineering**

Andy Clarke

#### **Southern Federation Committee**

Brian Thompson (Chairman), Clive Young (Vice Chairman), Ivan Hurst (Secretary), Norman Rogers (Treasurer), Wally Pearson (Safety Officer), Maurice Bennett (Boiler Registrar), John Walker (Membership Secretary), Stan Bishop (Newsletter Editor/Website), Mike Chrisp, Roger Griffiths and John Norman.

### **Delegates**

The following 48 Societies (8 fewer than last year) were represented: -

Andover and District MES, Banbury and District MES, Bedford MES, Birmingham SME, Bracknell MRS, Brent House Railway, Bristol SMEE, Buckinghamshire Garden Railway Society, Cambridge MES, Canvey Railway and MEC, Cheshire Live Steamers, Chichester and District SME, City of Newport MES, City of Oxford SME, Crawley ME, Dockland and East London MES, Fareham and District SME, Ground Level 5" Gauge Main Line Association, Guildford MES, Harlington LS, Harrow and Wembley SME, Lindsey MS, Maidstone MES, Malden and District SME, Mortcombe RS, MSRVS, National 2½" Gauge Association, North London SME, North Wilts MES, Nottingham SM&EE, Nuneaton SME, Oswestry MES, , Romney Marsh MES, Royston and District MES, Freesteamers MES, Rugby MES, Rugeley Power Station MES, Rushden MES, St Albans and District MES, Saffron Walden and District SME, Staines Society of ME, Stockholes Farm MRS, Sutton MEC, Sutton Coldfield MES, The Orchard Line, Vale of Aylesbury MES, West Huntspill MES, and Woking Miniature Railway Society.

In total, 68 Delegates (including the Committee) attended (8 fewer than last year), and 4 guests (Footman James and Polly).

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from the following Societies: -

Amnerfield MR, Billden MG, Bridge House LR, Burnley and Pendle MRS, Colchester SMEE, Gravesend ES, Hilton Light Railway, Keighley and District MES, Leeds SMEE, Luscombe Valley Railway, Norwich and District SME, Perranporth and District MES, Pimlico LR, Polly Owners Group, Ramsgate and District MEC, Rochdale SMEE, The Steam Itinerants and Winchester M and ES.

Apologies for absence had also been received from Diane Leahy (Hon. Auditor), Maurice Sparks (Hon. Auditor) and David Mayall (Committee Member). It was noted with pleasure that Mr Mayall is recovering well from a recent operation.

## **Introductory Remarks**

Before the formal Meeting began, the Chairman gave a special welcome to Kevin Askill, Angela Orford and Martyn Raybould of Footman James. He also welcomed Andy Clarke of Polly Engineering.

He reminded the Delegates that in voting, only one vote per society should be cast.

He also requested that questions be of general relevance; questions specific to an individual society should be raised with the appropriate individuals outside the meeting.

Finally, he reminded Delegates to ensure that they had signed the Visitors' Book.

## **Review of the Minutes of the 2008/2009 AGM**

The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate representation of the business carried out at the previous AGM. Mr Wilson (Guildford) proposed and seconded by Mr Underwood (Chichester) that they be approved. Following a vote, the Chairman signed them accordingly, to be put on File.

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from last year's AGM.

## **Chairman's Report**

Mr Thompson delivered his report (Annex A). In it, he summarised the achievements of the previous year and gave details of the events that the Federation had supported and will support in the forthcoming year. He expressed his thanks to Messrs Norman and Young who had previously indicated their intention to step down at the end of the year. He also expressed his concern that some Societies have not updated their records, in that communications are still being sent to the wrong Officers, some 18 months after changes had been advised to the Membership. This inevitably led to delays.

There were no immediate questions arising from this report.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Accounts had been distributed with the AGM Data Pack sent to all Federated Clubs and Societies prior to the Meeting.

The Treasurer (Norman Rogers) presented his Report (Annex B).

Mr Rogers reported that some Affiliates wished to eliminate paper, and had enquired if Electronic Transfer of Money is possible. He continued to say that this is a topic which The Committee were reviewing, and took a "straw poll" of Delegates, which indicated that three quarters of societies had Internet access. It also revealed that one third would favour an electronic route.

FJ would also look into this possibility, but they felt that this could be limited to clubs, rather than individuals, based on cost effectiveness.

In reply to a question, Mr Rogers stated that the Tax Liability arose from the Insurance Commission payments.

There were no other immediate questions arising from this report.

## **Auditors' Report**

On behalf of the Auditors, Mr Leahy (Canvey) reported that he was pleased to state that the Auditors were satisfied that, in their view, the Accounts were in order, and recommended that they be accepted.

He also confirmed that they were happy to offer their services for the forthcoming year.

## **Insurance Report**

Kevin Askill, Footman James (FJ), presented his report (Annex C).

No immediate discussion took place following this report

## **Acceptance of Reports**

Prior to acceptance of the reports, Mr Underwood (Chichester) commented that details of incidents and accidents were not being propagated. The Chairman accepted this comment, and would investigate the possibility of publishing the information in the Newsletter.

The Chairman then sought acceptance of the above Reports. This was proposed by Mr Fisher (Fareham) and seconded by Mr Upchurch (Sutton), and was carried.

## **Safety and Boiler Test Codes Report**

Mr Pearson presented his Safety Report (Annex D).

He described the recent activity in response to queries on The Blue Book.

He also outlined the definitions and implications of “Commercial” operations.

He then went on to address the subject of Gas tanks, and explained that these came under the aegis of the Department of Transport.

With regard to dissemination of information, he stated that The Federation had made available a large amount of documentation on a range of subjects. A full set of Guidelines/Bulletins had been sent to society secretaries recently. He then carried out his own “straw poll” of Delegates, which indicated that approximately one-half of the Delegates regularly read the Editorial, Technical and Minutes sections of the Newsletter and Website. Only one third had read the Information Sheets/Bulletins published by The Federation. The lessons are self-evident.

Discussion of Mr Pearson’s Report is recorded here for convenience, although much of it took place under a later Agenda Item, Matters Arising from Reports.

- In reply to a question from Mr Hudson (Brent House), who had expressed his surprise at the statement, Mr Pearson reiterated that there are cases of clubs testing boilers for locomotives to enable them to be sold. His remarks were independently confirmed by Mr Leahy (Canvey).
- Mr Underwood (Chichester) raised the topic of retrospective certification of boilers. Mr Pearson referred him to the NANDO list in Bulletin #9.
- Mr Underwood also commented that one requirement is for the documentation on materials and processes. Mr Pearson replied that, although more of a problem, certification should still be possible.
- Mr Walker (Birmingham) had recently purchased a Boiler Kit, which he intended to assemble himself. He had requested and obtained the relevant documentation on materials. Mr Pearson reminded him to retain this for 10 years.
- In reply to Mr Walker (Malden), Mr Pearson advised that for Boilers of less than 50 bar-litres, amateur built boilers could be stamped by the builder with a CE mark, providing that the appropriate documentation and records were also produced.
- Mr Pearson observed that some individuals had returned their boilers to the original manufacturer for certification.
- He also wished to emphasise that there was no suggestion that reputable manufacturers were not competent.
- Finally, Mr Griffiths (Cheshire LS) commented that the design aspects must also be considered.

## **Boiler Registrar's Report**

Following Mr Pearson's presentation, the Boiler Registrar, Mr Maurice Bennett delivered his report (Annex E).

No discussion arose from this report.

## **Matters Arising from Reports**

Other than questions relating to Safety, there was only one other comment from Delegates.

Mr Fisher (Fareham) expressed his concern at the ever-increasing legislation which affects us all. He urged that societies/individuals should lobby their MPs, and suggested that The Federation produce template letters on specific subjects.

The Federation Secretary wholeheartedly supported Mr Fisher's comments with respect to writing to MPs. He took the recent Vetting and Barring scheme as a case in point (potentially affecting some millions of people), and asked how many of the Delegates had written to their MP on this or any other subject. None had done so.

## **Future Activities - Insurance**

Mr Raybould outlined FJ's future intentions with respect to enhancing the benefits to Members which were currently offered.

They had recently completed a detailed review of the policy contents and offerings for members, and enhancements will be made clear to both clubs and members in the next few weeks. Alongside core products, Footman James have agreed to make available to members a host of other insurance products to include (Home, Contents, Modern and Classic Car and Motorbike). These products have been agreed at specialist rates and are as a result of the hard work on behalf of members of the Southern Federation.

Additionally, the increased product range available to members would allow substantially increased financial contribution for the Federation in 2010 and the long-term future.

## **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups**

Mr Griffiths presented a statement on this topic, which had been jointly produced by the Southern Federation and the Northern Association (Annex F).

Within the next few weeks all Clubs, Societies and other affiliated groups will be asked to complete a survey giving information, (without personal details etc.), of any incidents that may have affected their group; how it was dealt with and the result; what steps have been put in place to reduce the risk of further incidents. The joint statement presented will appear on the Federation Website and in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Mr Roger Griffiths is The Federation a point of contact for this important subject, and a link to him will be added to the Website.

In reply to a question from Mr Wilson (Guildford), Mr Griffiths regretted that he could not give definitive timescales for this work, but it would be as quickly as possible.

## **Change to the Constitution**

A proposal for a change to The Constitution had been included in the AGM Calling Pack. The Secretary outlined the background to the proposal, which had resulted from a comment made by an affiliated society following last year's AGM.

The proposed change is purely procedural, and does not affect the Federation or its objectives. However it will give an increased opportunity for Affiliates to influence policy when required.

The change was carried, proposed by Mr Underwood (Chichester), seconded by Mr Mee (Rugby). Article 16 of The Constitution will be modified to reflect this decision.

*“Any matter arising, which is not covered by this Constitution, shall be referred initially to the Secretary in writing, who will ensure that the Committee gives it their fullest consideration, and respond to it.*

*If an affiliated Organisation wishes to propose formally an amendment to the existing Constitution, it shall be submitted initially to the Secretary for consideration by the Committee. Any amendment shall be proposed by two responsible Officers of the Proposing Organisation.*

*The proposed amendment, together with the Committee’s recommendations, shall be put to the Membership at the next AGM (or, if warranted, EGM) of the Federation, the matter being decided by a simple majority vote of the Delegates present.”*

## **Election of Officers and Committee**

At the closing date, the following nominations for Committee Posts had been received: -

<b>Post</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Society</b>
Chairman	Brian Thompson	Hitchin
Secretary	Ivan Hurst	Bracknell
Treasurer	Norman Rogers	Bristol
Membership Secretary	John Walker	Birmingham
Safety Officer	Wally Pearson	Fareham
Boiler Registrar	Maurice Bennett	Rugeley
Newsletter/Website	Stan Bishop	Staines
Committee Man 1	Mike Chrisp	North London
Committee Man 2	Brent Hudson	Brent House
Committee Man 3	Roger Griffiths	Woking
Committee Man 4	David Mayall	Bracknell
Committee Man 5	VACANCY	

All were elected as nominated (proposed Mr Griffiths, Cheshire Live Steamers, seconded Mr Wilson, Guildford).

The Chairman observed with regret that, as had happened last year, there remained a vacancy on the Committee as defined in the Constitution. He accordingly sought volunteers from the Delegates. Mr Andrew Siddall of the Harlington Society expressed his willingness to participate, and there was no objection from the floor. He was welcomed to the Committee.

## **Election of Auditors**

Diane Leahy and Maurice Sparkes had previously signified their willingness to act as Auditors in the forthcoming year.

The Delegates present unanimously endorsed their re-appointment.

## **2010 Rallies and Events**

The Chairman reported that in 2010 The Federation has already supported the exhibitions at Alexandra Palace and Brighton Modelworld.

He went on to say that The Federation Sales Stand will be in attendance at the following events:-

### **Rallies**

- Southern Federation Spring Rally: - Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Leeds SMEE
- Vale of Aylesbury Traction Engine Rally: - Saturday/Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>
- IMLEC: - Saturday/Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. Bournemouth and District SME
- Guildford Traction Engine Rally: - Saturday/Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>
- National Loco Rally: - Saturday/Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>. Birmingham SME
- Southern Federation Autumn Rally: - Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>. Rugby MES

### **Shows/Exhibitions**

- Harrogate: - Friday/Saturday/Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>
- Midlands (The Fosse): - Friday to Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>
- Alexandra Palace: - Friday/Saturday/Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> (2011)

### **Anticipated (pending invitation)**

- MSRVS Traction Engine Rally: - Saturday/Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>
- Bristol Show (Thornbury): - August

The Chairman suggested that visitors to Harrogate and The Spring Rally might consider stopping in Yorkshire for the week and visit other attractions in the area. He drew the attention of Delegates to leaflets on the Federation Sales Strand which gave details.

## **The Southern Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering Prize**

Clive Young introduced this part of the proceedings. Mr Young's address is reproduced at Annex G. Andy Clarke of Polly Engineering presented the prize and trophy to Bethany Forsyth, a very worthy winner, from Stockholes Farm.

## **AOB**

Mr Rose (Nottingham) suggested that costs could be saved by publishing The Newsletter on the Website. The Chairman acknowledged the comment, but pointed out that a large number of people did not have Internet access. Each Society receives its own copy (sent to their secretary), and a number of individuals prefer to take out their own personal subscription.

It was noted that The Newsletter is already posted on the Website.

Mr Upchurch (Sutton) observed that they had made substantial savings in publication costs by using a local technical college, as part of a course.

There being no items of other business, the Meeting closed at 15-50.

## **Annex A - Chairman's Report (Brian Thompson)**

"Once again it is with pleasure that I welcome you all to another Federation Annual General Meeting at a very prestigious venue with an extensive historical collection of artefacts which, I hope, meets with your approval. May I express my thanks to all of you for giving up a Saturday afternoon to attend these annual meetings; it makes all the effort of finding a satisfactory venue worthwhile.

So, what has the Federation achieved since last years meeting? We continue to liaise with other national organisations, and government departments as appropriate on a whole range of topics. It is not my intention to itemise the various topics considered, these will become apparent as the meeting progresses, so don't drop off too soon, you might miss something important. In addition, we have also started having regular meetings with Footman James relating to our insurance business so that we can continue to improve the benefits that our scheme can provide for affiliated Clubs and Societies and there individual members.

The Federation's Treasurer continues to have a smile on his face as our bank account shows a very healthy situation, which is very encouraging. However, we should not be complacent; Norman will be submitting some observations for your consideration in his report, hopefully helping to maintain the long-term future of the Federation.

Interest in affiliation to the Federation continues at a very encouraging level, we are pleased to welcome: - Barry Model Boat Club, Polly Owners Group, South Devon Miniature Railway Society, South Essex Model Engineering Society and The 82D Club. There were six resignations.

With the return of a well respected previous editor at last years meeting, our Newsletter continues to maintain the excellent presentation that we have come to expect. Have you considered taking out your own individual subscription, at £7.50p for four editions it is very good value for money.

Our thanks and appreciation are extended to our rally hosts for their organisation and friendly hospitality during 2009, with Llanelli and District Model Engineering Society, hosting the Spring Rally, and City of Oxford Society of Model Engineers, being our host for the Autumn Rally. A feature of the Autumn Rally is the competition for the Australian Association of Live Steamers Trophy; our congratulations are extended to Richard Linkins of the Romney Marsh Model Engineering Society being the worthy winner in 2009 with his 5 inch gauge B.R. Class 2 locomotive.

The Federation sales stand continues to support many exhibitions and rallies up and down the country throughout the year, all helping to spread the model engineering gospel, and answering endless questions on many topics of mutual interest. This now covers some twelve annual major events where we are made most welcome.

Now for a gripe. One area of Federation business that continues to give cause for concern is the fact Clubs/Societies are not updating their mailing lists when advised of changes to the Federations administration. Eighteen months ago, you were all advised that Mike Leahy had tendered his resignation from the Federation Committee, and that Maurice Bennett would take over the responsibility for the boiler register, although we had a temporary newsletter editor for two editions, Stan Bishop, as previously mentioned, returned as editor.

May I make another request, would you please make sure you have the correct details in your mailing list, and in addition make sure your members are aware as well, all the up to date information can be found in our Newsletter.

In concluding my report, may I take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to my fellow Officers and Committee Members, for there continued help and support throughout the year. In my previous reports I have never singled out individual committee members for special thanks, this year I am going to make an exception, in that John Norman (14 years) and Clive Young (18 years, 13 as Vice Chairman) have decided to stand down, gentlemen, my most sincere thanks for all your efforts and wise words of wisdom, may you enjoy your retirement.

In addition, on behalf of the Federation Membership may I express my thanks to Footman James, Polly Model Engineering, along with Meridienne exhibitions and TEE Publishing, for their continued interest, support and encouragement.

I thank you all for your attention, and good steaming during 2010.”

### **Annex B - Treasurer's Report (Norman Rogers)**

“Yes in accordance with the Chairman's words I do still have a smile on my face although it has a slight droop around the edges.

Running down the accounts, I would just like to highlight some features that play a part in taking us to where we are: -

- The almost complete loss of interest on investments. Anyone on a fixed income will appreciate the impact of that and we have lost around £500 of income because of the current economic climate.
- Postage has doubled for a host of reasons – something that the newsletter struggles with because of the 100g weight threshold in a C5 envelope.
- Whilst the cost of the newsletter printing is stable, other printing and stationary costs continue to escalate.
- Main exceptional expense was the software package for the newsletter editor.
- Taxation continues to play a role since the abolition of the zero-rated band.

So overall although we have recorded a loss I am not too disturbed by that as we have ample reserves although as our Chairman reported there is no room for complacency.

At this point it would be useful to take a straw poll as to which clubs have internet access amongst their committee. The reasons for asking is because we need to consider the options that are open to us so that we can continue to give you value for money without having to ask for big increases in subscriptions for more of the same. So what might that be?

- As a starting example, we have received two or three requests to be able to pay affiliation fees via on-line banking. The banking industry wants to be rid of cheques and seemingly so do some clubs. We can offer that now and it will be available as an option in next year's renewals pack.
- The directory could be on disc. That way it is cheaper and can be kept up to date. By observing a few protocols it could also be on-line with individual club details being self-managed by the club as is done, for example, with charitable bodies and the charities commission. That also makes it easier for us to manage mailing lists with added confidence.
- With some imagination, the complete renewal process could be done on-line.
- We have a website – we do not at the present time harness the options it gives us.

In short there is no reason why a lot of routine activities should not be managed in other ways to maintain its integrity and reduce our cost base. Watch this space!”

**NB:** Copy of Financial Statement will be obtainable at the next AGM. Original signed by Treasurer & Auditors.

## **Annex C - Insurance Report (Kevin Askill, Footman James)**

"Mr Chairman, Committee, Members and Guests, firstly may I thank you for your invitation to attend the 2010 AGM.

I continue to manage the scheme along with Angela who controls the overall administration of the scheme along with the staff in the Commercial team.

Now in our 7<sup>th</sup> year of being the approved broker of the insurance cover which continues to be provided by RSA.

Following last year's AGM our meetings with the Committee we have continued to work together to amend the policy schedule and summary enhancing the cover and providing amended wordings as requested. Clubs should now have a better understanding of the scope of cover provided under the scheme. Following discussions with RSA the proposed rate increase postponed from 2009 has now been applied to this year's renewals and new business which were increased by 5%.

Renewal packs were distributed to Clubs the 26 February. To date we have received 74 applications for the coming season. Additional supplies of applications are also available today and further forms may be requested via the office. These are also available in a PDF format which we have sent to Ivan.

Please forward applications as soon as possible in order that these may be processed prior to the expiry date. As we have made you previously aware, Clubs' applications are given priority and individual extensions completed once the Club application has been processed. A copy of the renewal schedule is issued to all Clubs and Product Summaries to individual members who have the extensions in cover. Additional copies are available upon request.

Our aim is to process all applications within five working days of receipt and staff have been made available to try to meet this objective.

All queries on insurance matters must be directed to Footman James, a trading name of Aon Ltd, who are authorised and regulated by the FSA.

With regard to claims, we have had two reported in 2009/2010. No payments made to date for these two claims which were reported on the 5 April 2009 and just recently, the 26 February 2010. Claims payments made to date this year, £10,733 for a claim that occurred on the 30 March 2008.

In closing, I feel that over the past twelve months we have demonstrated our commitment and excellent relationship with the Southern Federation. I hope you feel that through working together we continue to offer cover that meets the needs, demands and requirements and look forward to the coming year.

Many thanks to the Committee for their continued help support and assistance, in particular thanks to Brian Thompson, Ivan Hurst, John Walker and Wally Pearson.

That concludes our report. If anyone has any queries they can raise them in matters arising or see Angela or myself after the AGM."

## **Annex D - Safety Officer's Report (Wally Pearson)**

"Some thirty years ago a well known and respected member of the model engineering fraternity wrote the words,

*I must confess that one of the many attractions of our hobby is the almost total absence of any Official Control over the activities of Model Engineers.*

I suspect that today everyone wishes that statement was still true. It is my understanding that some people still believe that the statement **is** true and the law does not apply to them. But it is a sad fact that this situation no longer exists. Last year in my address to the

members at the AGM I gave a brief description and use of some of the many Regulations, Statutory Instruments and Orders that now apply to Model Engineering Clubs and Societies. For the content of the presentation I was castigated on two counts. Firstly because the presentation was too long and complicated and secondly because it had been recommended not to ask questions.

On the first count I have no regrets and the reasons for the content are documented in the report to be found in annex D of the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting. On the second point some people stated that the reason they had come to the AGM was to ask questions. The problem here is not that questions are asked but that in some cases it is difficult to give answers. Some time ago, in response to a query raised in the magazine *Model Engineer*, a letter was printed written by Doctor Alan Blacker. Many of you will have read this and the subsequent correspondence and have drawn your own conclusions. However one statement in the letter which relates to **barrack room lawyers** is pertinent in this case. The statement is quite correct in that there are a large number of people who think they know all the answers when in fact all they are doing is giving their opinion. Personally I have chosen not to give my own opinion, nor give the opinion of the Southern Federation, but have sought as far as possible to provide information from an authoritative source.

Those of you who had wished to raise questions were requested to contact the Southern Federation in writing. On safety and boiler issues these were directed to me for action. And exactly that happened. **Eighteen** Clubs and Societies raised queries related to the content of the Examination and Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers (2008) commonly known as the Blue Book, and a further **thirteen** Clubs requested information related to CE marking on boilers. All of the queries took several months to obtain authoritative responses, not necessarily answers.

The queries raised relating to the Blue Book were presented to the Boiler Test Code sub committee at the meeting in Bedford 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009. A copy of the report of that meeting was sent directly to the originators of the queries and subsequently the report was issued on the Southern Federation web site for any one to read. The queries related to CE marking and commercial boilers were passed to the insurance company who declined to answer, and subsequently to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) who did respond. The results of that correspondence were issued directly to the originators and are also documented on the Southern Federation Information Sheet Number 12.

A short form version of my AGM Safety Report for 2009 is presented on Information Sheet 10. It was however considered appropriate that all the Information Sheets, of which there are twelve, would be updated and reissued. This activity was carried out principally by the Membership secretary John Walker and the News Letter editor Stan Bishop and is an integral part of the Southern Federation Mission Statement. All of the information is also available to everyone on the Southern Federation web site. However there is not much point in producing all this information if members do not get to read it.

Information Sheets cover a wide range of topics including Child Protection/SVGA/CRB, Disability Discrimination, Insurance, Fire Safety Law and Performing Rights. In view of current situations more will no doubt be said about the requirements for CRB checks.

Since at least 1990 the word *Commercial* has appeared on boiler hydraulic test certificates and it is the *commercial* aspect of boiler manufacture that has caused so much distress in the model engineering world. It is becoming apparent however it is not just boilers that are affected by the *commercialism*. Increasingly clubs are providing a service to the public either out of choice or by requirement of tenure of the track site and in some cases admission and fares are charged. To augment the viability of the site a shop may be set up selling souvenirs, sweets and food as well as engineering tools, equipment, books and

models. Some Clubs have become involved in the testing and certification of locomotives that are then sold through the club as a commercial enterprise. Some Clubs have become involved with the manufacture and test of commercially supplied boilers and locomotives. Clubs and Societies are now involved with Company's House, trading accounts; corporation tax etc. and some have been classified, by local councils who may require rates to be paid, as a small business. This situation has led to a further **potential** problem as highlighted by one of the member Societies of the Southern Federation. The Pressure Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2002 allows boilers to be manufactured by private individuals for their own use without having to comply with the requirement to have the boiler CE marked. However, there is a proviso in the Regulation that states *it has been used other than in the course of a business*. If it is deemed that the Club or Society is in fact operating commercially and not as a hobby activity then the exclusion will no longer apply. Put simply homemade boilers would have to be CE marked. It was decided therefore to seek clarification on the subject and consequently the circumstances of the situation have been sent through Footman James to the insurance company, RSA for comment.

Principally, the response given is that if money is taken by a Club or Society over and above the basic running costs, this constitutes a commercial activity in a public place and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 applies, together with other applicable legislation viz. PER and PSSR. It has been suggested however that this situation should be discussed with a legal representative to give his ruling. Further investigation is therefore required. The Southern Federation will seek further guidance and advise the membership accordingly.

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG2009) contain a statement that *the reader should remember that the law can only be interpreted by the Courts*. In principle that applies to any of the laws but I would prefer not to be the person in Court. You may ask what CDG has got to do with model engineers. Last year I indicated that some form of testing should be carried out on the rechargeable gas tanks associated with the firing in small boilers, (model boats and small locomotives). I had contacted BIS for information on the subject only to be advised that it was not their department and was under the control of the Department of Transport. In this situation transportable pressure equipment may only be tested/inspected by a body appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport and not by a competent person. I do not believe that the DoT would wish to test several hundred model gas tanks. I have previously indicated that the only working document for testing gas tanks has been issued by the NAME as a supplement to their Blue Book. The Southern Federation does not currently have such a document. We have been in touch with NAME and they have agreed that we can use their document to be published by the Southern Federation. However some of you that have seen this procedure have stated that the content requires some further consideration. It would be improper for us to issue a document that is, in content, different to that of NAME since we have a commonality in the form of the Boiler Test Code. Consequently any changes will be made with the full agreement of NAME.

As you can see therefore the Southern Federation Committee Members have a full programme of topics that need to be addressed on your behalf. I trust that you will bear with us for in most cases there are no easy answers to the problems but we will advise you as soon as possible."

## Annex E - Boiler Registrar's Report (Maurice Bennett)

"I am pleased to report that once again I am fully up to date with the registration of boiler test slips. The Southern Federation seems to be in a very healthy state, receiving exactly 798 boiler Slips for the year 2009/ 2010.

There still seems to be a big problem with getting the slips to me, as 115 (14% of the total) were either given or sent to Mike Leahy, who totally resigned from the committee at the July 2008 meeting.

At the subsequent emergency committee meeting in August 2008, I was volunteered into the job & the Hon Sec immediately wrote on the 11 August & informed all of the clubs as to who was taking over the various roles as a matter of urgency.

What happened to those 115 slips which Mike had is as follows. At major exhibitions / rallies during the year that he attends, he passes what ever he has been sent or given, normally about 25 at a time to the Chairman whom passes them to me next time he sees me.

I find this most frustrating as having left home on that particular morning being fully up to date, I am presented with a few hours of unexpected work & as I am an active model engineer my spare time is not my own again! & these slips could possibly have been entered months before.

There's no excuse that club boiler testers don't have my address, they have been notified by all methods available to the committee, so please go back & tell them again.

Now I am going to give you a few facts which are still showing up on the slips & require resolving.

1) The first problem was raised last year at the AGM & refers to the 4 year test period which is still not filled in accurately & again 149 slips were received having 4 years & a day as the test period. Are you insured for the extra day modellers?

2) The Bar Litre calculation was omitted on 17 certificates.

If testers don't understand how to work it out, I refer them to the inside cover of the Boiler Test Certificate book which tells them how to do it.

There's also a considerable number which appear to be calculated incorrectly, so it should help these guys to get it right.

3) Other parts of the slips are also not completed correctly or left blank which causes confusion & some of the handwriting is indistinguishable. I have raised these problems at committee & after discussion it was decided that problem slips would be returned to their associated clubs for clarification. Secretaries Beware.

4) Last year, I also drew your attention to the way we number our boilers ( new Boilers), saying how difficult it is to follow up on trying to track sold /stolen models & I suggested a standard scheme, which I discovered is exactly the same as the one already recommended since the change in Boiler testing . It can again be found on the front inside cover of the boiler test certificate book. My thanks to Wally Pearson for that!

By having a SF & club ref no, a working steam pressure: - the boiler testers will know that the boiler presented to them complies with that particular model drawing requirements. At present we don't have a reference list of boiler steam pressures for various models, however I am trying to look into this. It should be an aid to them, as it will ensure that boilers are not over stressed or issued with an incorrect maximum pressure rating certificate.

5) 9 Boiler Slips were received already out of date or not having sufficient information to tie them to a club! What a waste of time! How could the Register help in these situations?

6) I am pleased to say that I have been able to help 2 people whom had insufficient information / knowledge of models which they had purchased, through to a satisfactory situation where their perspective clubs could accept them & steam could be raised..

Once again I am pleased to report that there must be a considerable Number of Locos, Traction Engines, Stationary & Test Boilers within our federation, all in ticket giving our club members immense pleasure & satisfaction. Happy steaming!"

## **Annex F - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Roger Griffiths)**

### **Interim statement by SFMES & NAME**

Recent events will have brought this subject into prominence amongst members and officers of Model Engineering and similar societies. The introduction of the Vetting and Barring Scheme later this year will raise further concerns within these groups.

At present the Northern Association of Model Engineering Societies and the Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies are considering guidance which will help the member Clubs and Societies.

As an initial step groups should seek advice from their local specialists in this area of work or Volunteer Group Associations. In addition it is recommended that risk assessments covering the group's activities are carried out and written down for future reference. This should consider instances where abuse could become a problem and means of eliminating such situations arising during these activities.

All Southern Federation affiliated groups will have received during the last six months copies of a series of Information Sheets and No. 6 deals specifically with this topic and includes helpful notes. Further information on the Child Protection aspect was covered in Information Sheet No.1 though some parts have been superseded by the 2006 Act.

The whole series of Information Sheets can be viewed on the Southern Federation web site at [www.southernfed.co.uk](http://www.southernfed.co.uk)

The Associations are continuing to seek to improve the guidance through consultations with relevant authorities and will inform the various constituent clubs and societies of their findings.

## **Annex G - Polly/Southern Federation Award (Clive Young)**

"Once again, we have a nominee from the breeding ground for junior model engineers, Stockholes Farm Miniature Railway Society in South Yorkshire, a delightful and charming young lady, 13 year old Bethany Forsyth for the Southern Federation Trophy, and Polly Model Engineering Prize, being awarded to Club/Society Model Engineers less than 24 years of age. The Federation are ever grateful to the support received from Polly Model Engineering, and Andy Clarke in particular.

Approximately five years ago Bethany and granddad (Mike May) asked if they could start attending the junior workshop run by the Stockholes Farm Society to build their own locomotive. Mike has never had any model engineering experience or any other similar activity; this was to be a joint effort, with Mike funding the project whilst Bethany did the majority of the work. During the years that the project has been ongoing she has developed skills in handling a wide range of hand tools for marking out, sawing, filing and cutting/shearing in various types of metal. In addition, she is now more than capable of using both the small Myford lathe and the larger Warco machine along with a finisher machine and electric soldering iron.

So what did these two budding enthusiasts decide to build, nothing fancy or beyond their capabilities, namely a 71/4" gauge 0-6-0 battery electric locomotive which has progressed to a stage where there is a fully functional chassis, and a basic superstructure. The locomotive has proven itself on the track and they are now in the process of detailing the basic superstructure.

One of the reasons why the project has taken so long is due to the fact that they have had to do the majority of the work themselves under supervision with advice and guidance from other members of the class. Basically all the physical construction has been left to Bethany and Mike, with Bethany the majority, when they both attend the Tuesday and Wednesday evening workshop nights.

To give these two budding enthusiasts a good start the class supervisor and Club Chairman (Ivan Smith) manufactured the six driving wheels, it was felt prudent not to let a 8/9 year old loose on a large lathe at that time. In the mean time the situation has changed, and she is more than capable of using such a machine.

So what is Bethany's involvement in Club activities? Along with Mike, she is a regular attendee at most Society events and she is always prepared to carry out whatever duties are required, whether this be in the ticket office, station staff, guard or shunting duties. She is a very competent driver of our full range of battery electric locomotives, and is very conscious of the rules that apply when operating, i.e. use of tokens/signals etc. She is even willing to learn steam driving. In addition, when we have our annual maintenance week, again, she will carry out whatever tasks are given, this could be painting the concrete workshop floor, outside structures, and recently she has been let loose on the large ride on lawn mower.

Within the Stockholes Farm Society, Bethany was a joint winner of the loco trials in 2005, which is a competition to test driving ability and awareness and in 2006 was also awarded the Societies 'Broken Spoke Award' which is awarded annually to any member chosen by the Committee who has shown dedication and perseverance in any task or tasks given.

She has been a member of Stockholes Farm Miniature Railway Society since she was two years old, and at every opportunity, Mike always tells the tale of how on her first visit to the railway in 1998 she had twenty six rides. Over the years she has become a valued and competent member at everything that she does, with a pleasant personality and popular with all the other Society members, and a credit to her family.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with pleasure that I introduce you to **Bethany Forsyth** being the worthy recipient of the Southern Federation Trophy and Polly Model Engineering Prize for 2010."