

Minutes of the General Meeting, Christchurch Centre



Date: February 12th 2020

Apologies: Roy Verden (secretary), Mike Grossmith (Treasurer)

Guest Speakers: Roger Stephen on the subject of acquiring a model steam locomotive and Mike Collins on the challenges of taking on a part built model steam locomotive

Annual membership: Fees were collected as people arrived.

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7:45 by the chairman Clive Reynolds who welcomed two new members to the club, Ron and Justin.

Alexandra Palace: CR commented that it went well and that our stand was notable for its wide range of different types of model. Clive thanked all who donated models to exhibit.

Volunteering and Participating at upcoming club activities: CR drew everyone's attention to the six volunteering and participating forms laid out at the front and invited people to come and write their names down at the interval. The events were:

- 7th March - RNLI quiz night at St Mary's church, £12 pp inc fish or chicken supper
- 12th April - Easter egg regatta (Clive noted that St Albans council are claiming this is an "event" and therefore needs approval from the council to proceed and if it does, the payment of £100 will be required. Mike Grossmith and Clive Reynolds have written letters back to the council challenging their stance)
- GlosWarks railway visit - £35 pp. £10 deposit needed by the March club night.
- 21st June - Kew Bridge steam museum
- 12th July - Pitstone museum
- 25th February - Gauge 1 project kick off meeting at Clive's house

The Boating Lake: Confirmation received that there is still plenty of water in the lakes.

Puffing Park: CR reported that a walnut tree fell down in storm Ciara but otherwise there was no impact on Puffing Park.

Website & Newsletter: Rob Briancourt (webmaster) announced that we now had a complete twenty years of scanned gazettes and newsletter on the web site. Thanks go to Noel who was able to supply the a set of gazettes for scanning from the missing year!

AOB 1: Roger Lane announced that it was subscription time for the MPBA and invited any interested members to join.

AOB 2: CR noted that the club's draft accounts had been completed but were currently awaiting audit by Peter Haycock, who is currently away.

AOB 3: Ian Ferguson announced that he was now employed teaching at Oaklands college and has gained the OK from the college to relocate his model engineering evenings to their well equipped workshop. The first evening at the new venue will be Thursday 27th February 6pm-9pm.

Speakers: At 8pm Clive handed the meeting over to Roger Stephen who gave a thorough presentation on all the things to consider and look out for when looking to buy a model steam locomotive. After the interval, Mike Collins gave a presentation on the model engineering challenges associated with taking on a part built Stirling Single, seeking advice on a number of matters from the audience. Based on that advice Mike committed to persevere with the build!

Close: At 10:10pm Clive closed the meeting.