

RAMSGATE AND DISTRICT MODEL ENGINEERING CLUB

SPRING MEETING 2024 HELD IN THE CAFÉ IN ELLINGTON PARK ON THE 20TH MARCH 2024

MEETING OPENED AT: 19:30

ATTENDEES:

Alan Gibbs
Jane Clements
Duncan Edwards
Peter Wilson
Roger Holebrook
Darren Argyle
Adam Jaques
Scott Davis
David Tweedale
Faye Tweedale

Alan thanked the members that came for attending.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Amy Thackery
Kevin Bullions
Bob Barwick
Rosemary Barwick
Gerry Kirkland
Matthew Kirkland

NO COMMUNICATION

Dave Leahy
Ed Homersham

MINUTES OF AGM:

The minutes were accepted; Proposed by: Darren Argyle - Seconded by: David Tweedale

PARK AND LOCOS:

At the end of the 2022 season, there were plans to repair / replace the concrete track support beams and to paint the track and replace the remaining four concrete panels in the front wall with flints – One panel was done during a running day last season, however the plan to replace the other three or the concrete track support beams, or completing the painting of the track has not happened, so these remain outstanding.

The weather also played a part in not getting things done – it has been a wet and windy winter.

Although it doesn't affect its usability, the Club's Class 33 loco requires some, mainly cosmetic, remedial work following a derailment last season.

Both Halloween and EP's Christmas Fayre were unfortunately rained off.

Most of the steam locos owned by the Club and members will require steam testing, before running this season.

There are problems with some of the concrete track support beams – although they have shown signs of deterioration for a while, over the winter the rebar inside them has rusted and blown the concrete apart. We urgently need to carry out remedial work to replace the affected beams. A working party is being organized to cast some new beams and this will be carried out as soon as

possible. Once cast, the beams need to remain in the mould for 14 days and then removed from the mould and left to stand for a further 14 days to fully cure. Once removed from the mould, a second beam needs to be cast. Once both beams are fully cured, they will need to be transported to the park and the old beams replaced with the new ones. A decision will be made before our first scheduled running day as to whether it is safe to run trains over them while the new beams are cast and curing.

Alan announced his intention to step down from being Chairman at the AGM in October.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Insurance to be renewed by 1st April

Jane and Duncan were interviewed (by phone) regarding the impact the changes have made to us as a club following the completion of the Lottery Grant works. They were pleased to give a positive response.

Invitations to visit received from:

Romney Marsh MES – Saturday 18.05.2024

Tonbridge MES – Saturday 06.07.2024

Canterbury MES – Saturday 10.08.2024

Maidstone MES – Saturday 17.08.2024

Gravesend MM&ES – Saturday 22.06.2024

Welling & District MES – Saturday 20.04.2024

AOB:

The second loco storage box has yet to be made – Alan is liaising with John Denne and work should start on it soon.

MEETING CLOSED: 19:55

Followed by tea and cupcakes...