

# STRATHAVEN MODEL SOCIETY Ltd

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## News Letter May 2017

Dear Member,

### Members Information

Our AGM was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 in the Bowling Club Room within the Barrie shelter in Strathaven Park. The meeting was well attended with 19 members present. During the meeting several items were discussed regarding the running of the club and will be circulated in the AGM minutes shortly. One item that was decided was the name of the new petrol locomotive which should be with us Late May / early June. It will be painted in Crimson Lake with gold lining, the loco will be named STRATHAVEN CASTLE. We have also welcomed two new members in the last few days to our club. Lewis new junior member and Ailsa Miller our one and only female member who has already started to learn about driving Abberton and is keen to learn steam loco driving too. Both have already been out on duty at the park over the weekend. Lewis will be accompanied by his brother Taylor when on duty at the park. This has prompted us as a society to have a review on Child protection. In future when we are applying for grants from South Lanarkshire council this is one of the documents that I will need to provide, therefore attached policy will be adhered to.

Running totals to date after 14 running days were over 1,200 passengers up on last year's numbers. It was a pity that we had to cancel one days running at the May bank holiday as we did not have enough staff to run the railway safely on that day. Numbers of passengers to the end of April 3219.

### WEBSITE

Over the winter we have been working with a web designer for the Society to develop a website that can be viewed by the public and also have a members section. The website is now launched with cards printed and distributed to those who attended the AGM, for those who did not attend the AGM I have enclosed cards which has the website and Facebook address printed on them. We have had 500 of these cards printed with initial reviews being very positive if you require more please let me know and if available I will send them on to you. The website is still under construction but the key elements are already in place.

### **Members section of the website. How to gain access**

**1/ Go on to the website**

**2/ Click on the tab CONTACT US in this page at the bottom you will see a box with the header Log in. Fill in this box and submit your information.**

**3/ Steve Driver who will be our administrator for the website will authorise your request and you will get an email with a password to allow you to sign into the member's page.**

**4. If you are happy with the password supplied you keep and use same. If you wish to have another password please go into the contact page and change your password here.**

**Any questions please contact myself or Stephen regards this.**

### Work Completed

Work is almost complete on Margaret, Pistons stripped down checked over and repacked. At the same time all the studs were removed and the cylinder faces cleaned and fitted with new gaskets on all faces. While the loco's motion was stripped down it gave us an opportunity to clean the motion and the frames of the locomotive. Margaret is now fully re-assembled and ready for the track, she just needs her tender to be finished which should be done by the end of this week and she can then return to the park. Margaret will then require a steam test before starting to haul passengers. The fish van which operates as an air brake supply system has been stripped and rewired, along with a new battery fitted, upgraded brake system

connections fitted again ready to return to the park. Points on the ground level track have all been checked over and in some cases stripped down and cleaned before being put back into action. They were also painted to make them clearer for drivers to see when approaching them around the circuit.

### **Work Going Forward**

Track work continues with several more sections now completed it leaves us with somewhere in the region of 1200 sleepers still to be replaced in the outer track. This will leave only the turntable track and the track from the steaming bays to be completed after that. For the rest of the season, if it is dry weather, we will on a Monday be working on the track to try and complete the outer track before the open day in October. **This means we need as many members who are fit and able to be available to assist complete this major task.**

### **Events**

The special events that will occur in the park this year are:-

Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May **Sports Festival**

Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May **Sports Festival**

Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May Bank Holiday

Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June **GALA DAY**

Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June Father's Day

Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of July **Pipe Band Festival** (first weekend after schools break for summer holidays)

Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July **Folk Festival**

Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August **Balloon Festival**

Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August **Balloon Festival**

Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August **Balloon Festival**

Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October last running day (Any running after this date in the Park would be donations only)

**Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October (Club Open Weekend) No public running.**

**Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October (Club Open Weekend) No public running.**

**Thank you to those who have already entered their name into the diary for when they are available to help operate the railway during the forthcoming season.**

Kind Regards

IAN.