

STRATHAVEN MODEL SOCIETY Ltd

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News Letter JULY 2017

Dear Member,

Members Information

During June we had another two new members join the society, first was Craig Hind and latterly Chelsea Paterson who now makes our female members numbers up to two. Craig is interested in the workshop and its workings on a Tuesday evening as he has to work during the week. Where time permits he will get around to the park to learn the roles available at the park. Chelsea is interested in the workings at the park and has already spent two days at the park helping clean up the steaming bays and also learning how to drive Abberton. Please welcome them to the society and look out for them along with the other new members who have joined us this year. Assist them to integrate into the workings of the railway and workshops as they learn about the operation of the society.

A reminder that the cash float in the bag for the park has been changed , there will be only one £50.00 float of 5 x £5 and 25 x £1.00 coins in future. Please remove float from the bag at the end of the running day before counting the day's takings and placing them in the cloth bags provided. Return the float to the leather bag ready for the next running day.

Gala Day started out wet and did not look like it would improve much as the crew gathered together at the park for what can be a busy day when the people turnout for this festival day in the park.

As the day progressed so did the weather and by lunch time we could see blue sky appearing and we decided that two locomotives would be steamed for the afternoon. (Eva and Lancashire Lad). As the parade entered the park the sun started to shine and the public came into the park and at the end of the day we had hauled 663 passengers which considering the start of the day was a good number to achieve. Thanks to Bill Carleton who assisted on Gala Day being our catering manager, keeping us fed and watered during a busy day.

Passenger Numbers

To the end of June we have had 7,228 passengers this is up on last year by 752 passengers. It so happens that we have had 31 running days to date with 31 to go to the end of the running year. So if we keep up our numbers we could end up with a very healthy total of passengers. July 2016 was a poor month for us due mainly to the weather, we lost two days and only averaged 122 passengers per running day , to date this year we are averaging 241 passengers. So if we are lucky with the weather this year in July we may have a healthy increase in numbers during the month.

The Pipe Band Festival this year is on the 1st of July. Last year's festival saw us haul 38 passengers for the weekend, The Bands were almost washed out of the park with horrendous rain from start to finish of their day so hopefully this year we will all have better luck with the elements.

Strathaven Castle We have been informed that work has now commenced on this loco now that the raw materials became available. Some pictures were sent to Brian which I circulated around the members by email and displayed in Dunlop Street on the notice board. We are expecting more pictures this coming week and a progress report with a delivery date for our new loco.

Work Going Forward

Black 5 (Highlander) In the workshop the new material required to make the Black 5 pistons has arrived and work has commenced in making them for the loco. The cylinders themselves are being checked over along with the piston rods and other parts of the motion before assembling these parts. Fiona had her steam test but at present failed due to clack valve issues which will be addressed early this month and thereafter retested and hopefully be ready for members to use in the park over the summer. Holmeside will require her boiler to be hydraulically tested and then steam testing thereafter.

Track work continues with several more sections of track having sleepers replaced. Plus a dip in the back straight of the track repacked. We have several sections to complete with approximately 1000 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.

For the rest of the season, if it is dry weather, we will continue 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 us complete this major task.**

Events

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

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

Saturday the 29th of July **Folk Festival**

Saturday the 26th of August **Balloon Festival**

Sunday the 27th of August **Balloon Festival**

Monday the 28th of August **Balloon Festival**

Saturday the 23rd of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Sunday the 24th of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Monday the 25th of September (**September weekend holiday**)

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

Saturday the 7th of October (Club Open Weekend) No public running.

Sunday the 8th of October (Club Open Weekend) No public running.

Thank you to those who have already entered their names into the diary when they are available to help operate the railway during the forthcoming weeks.

Kind Regards

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