

# EXPANSION LINK

BASINGSTOKE and DISTRICT MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY



Editor Austin Lewis

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**SPRING STEAM 2015**

## Editorial

I have been asked by the Board to enclose the following instructions on BOILER TESTING from the Club's revised procedures.

### GETTING YOUR BOILER TESTED

#### Booking a test appointment

There are two ways to get your boiler tested:

- The club will arrange a few boiler testing days in the events calendar. On these days there will be a number of slots available and you can book a slot by putting your name on the booking form which will be displayed in the club house. If you arrive without booking a free slot on a boiler testing day, then you may not get your boiler tested.
- The second approach is to contact one of the boiler testers on the list in the club house and arrange an appointment with them. Remember you will also need to have an independent witness to hand to verify the test and sign the paperwork.

#### Types of Test

All the tests are defined in the 'Red Book' which has been published by the Northern, Midlands and Southern Federations and the 7 ¼" Gauge Society. The book has changed some of the tests and in some ways made things better (i.e. hydraulic tests last longer) but have also increased the amount of work and paperwork needed to complete a test. The club has copies of this book – a recommended read for more information.

There are three sorts of tests you need to be ready for:

- **Initial Hydraulic Test:** This is performed on new boilers and on boilers for which you do not have evidence of a previous hydraulic test and boilers which have been modified or subject to damage and repair. **Test Pressure is 2 times normal working pressure** and certificates last for FOUR years.
- **Examination and Hydraulic Test:** These tests involve a cold examination of the boiler and a hydraulic test at a lower pressure (**1.5 times working pressure**) and must be repeated every FOUR years for a copper boiler or every TWO years for a steel boiler.
- **Examination and Annual Steam Test:** This is a test to ensure that the pumps, injectors, water and pressure gauges and other fittings operate correctly and are correctly fitted and are sound. For example safety valves must prevent boiler pressure from rising more than 10% above working pressure with the blower full on.

Remember you **MUST ALWAYS** have a valid hydraulic **AND** annual steam test certificate if you want to steam the boiler at the club or in public.

## Preparation

In order to get these tests performed **YOU NEED TO BE READY** and prepare your boiler correctly **BEFORE** you arrive for your booked testing slot.

### ***For a Hydraulic Test you need to arrive with:***

- The boiler sealed ready for testing but with a mechanism to fill and empty the boiler so the capacity can be measured.
- A male **1/8" BSP** fitting for coupling the boiler to the test equipment.
- The pressure gauge fitted for calibration (you may want to be able to remove it if it cannot tolerate the full hydraulic pressure).
- We would recommend you conduct a pre-test at home at working pressure to ensure that you have sealed the boiler as leaks which cannot be sealed 'on test' will result in failure. Talk to the boiler inspector if you are not clear on how this should be done.
- Initial/previous Hydraulic test certificate(s).
- The boiler's record card, history and drawings.

### ***For Examinations you need to arrive with:***

- The boiler in a clean condition.
- Note that the regulations state that the boiler inspector may require the cladding to be removed from the boiler or it may need to be dismantled for the inspection. Normally this will occur every 10 years.

### ***For a Steam Test you need to arrive with:***

- The boiler in a state where it can be fired with blower arrangements in place.
- **TWO** methods for putting water into the boiler while under test (e.g. hand pump and injector or two injectors, or injector and donkey pump etc.).
- Pressure gauge marked at working pressure (as calibrated during the hydraulic test).
- Safety valves set at working pressure.
- A valid Hydraulic Test Certificate.

### **Other things to note:**

- If the boiler is not built to a standard/established design, then you will need to provide calculations to show the design has adequate strength.
- Don't forget you must be able to drop the grate 'on the run'.
- The boiler testers are amateurs too – they give up their time to help you, so please respect that by being on time and understand that it will not always be possible to conduct a test on the exact date you need – so please plan ahead.
- Lastly, please remember we don't expect to see you **ONLY** when you need a boiler test – the Club needs your help and involvement to continue to operate, without your support we will not be here to test your boiler ...and just see how much commercial boiler testers charge!

## April Public Running and Maintenance

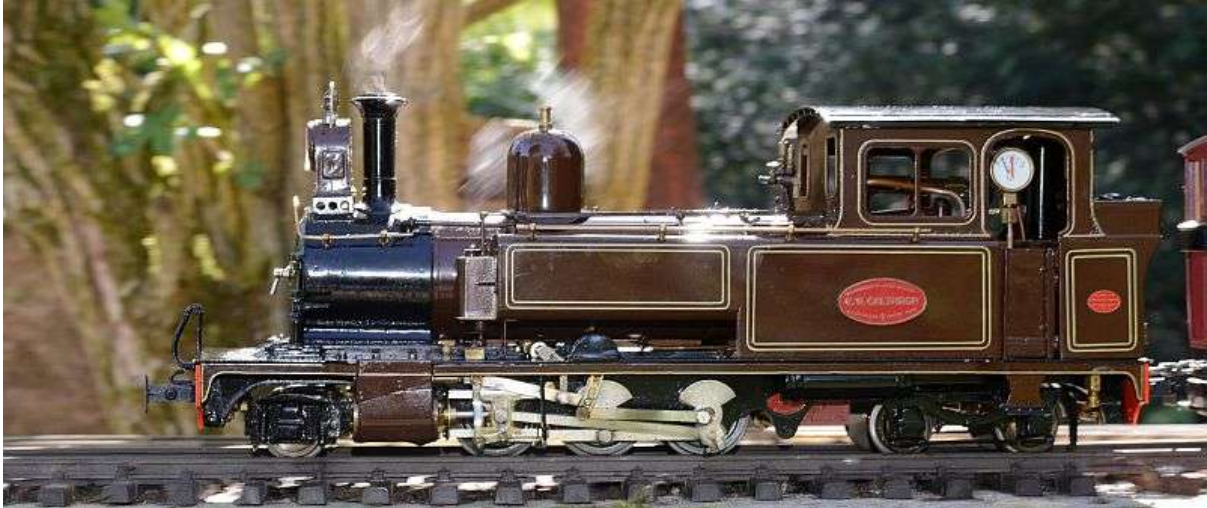


# Miniature Steam Rally 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> April























And finally



Available for Halloween



What did Tom see in the bushes?

## Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society 2015 Calendar (Draft 1)

<b>January</b>		<b>July</b>	
1	Members Day (Thursday)	5	<b>Public Running</b>
6	Meeting Night	7	Meeting Night
17/18	Maintenance Weekend	12	Members Running Day (Sun)
20	Bits & Pieces Evening	21	Meeting Night
<b>February</b>		<b>August</b>	
3	Meeting Night	2	<b>Public Running</b>
8	Driver/Public Running Training (Sun)	4	Bring & Buy Evening
14/15	Maintenance Weekend	18	Meeting Night
17	Meeting Night		
<b>March</b>		<b>September</b>	
1	Driver/Public Running Training (Sun)	1	Meeting Night
3	Meeting Night	6	<b>Public Running</b>
14/15	Maintenance Weekend	13	<b>Visitors' Open Day (Sun)</b>
17	Meeting Night	15	Meeting Night
31	Meeting Night	26	Members Running Day (Sat), incl. Fish & Chip Supper
<b>April</b>		29	Meeting Night
6	<b>Public Running (Easter Monday)</b>	<b>October</b>	
11/12	<b>Miniature Steam Rally</b>	4	<b>Public Running</b>
14	Bits & Pieces Evening	11	Members Running Day (Sun)
28	Bring & Buy Evening	13	Bits & Pieces Evening
<b>May</b>		27	Meeting Night
3	<b>Public Running</b>	31	<b>Halloween Public Running (Sat Evening)</b>
12	Stationary Engines	<b>November</b>	
17	<b>Visitors' Open Day (Sun)</b>	10	Bring & Buy Evening
26	Meeting Night	15	Members Running Day (Sun)
<b>June</b>		16-20	AGM (Date to be decided)
7	<b>Public Running</b>	24	Meeting Night
9	Bits and Pieces Evening	<b>December</b>	
20	Members Running & Barbecue(Sat)	6	<b>Public Running</b>
23	Meeting Night	8	Meeting Night
		22	Meeting Night

Public Running 11am to 4pm (setup from 9:30am) Sunday, unless stated otherwise

Member's Running days 10am to 5pm

Tuesday Evening Meeting 7pm to 9pm, with optional members running afternoon

Maintenance Weekends - Working parties to keep track & site shipshape. Check notice board for details



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**Email Addresses**

If you have received a copy of the newsletter by post, it is because we don't have your Email address. Each newsletter costs over £1.50 to print and post, where as Email is effectively free. If you do have an Email address, which we can use, could you please Email me with your details.

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*Treasurer*

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*Director*  
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*Electrical Work*  
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