

BEDFORD MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1948 to cater for local interest in Model Engineering in its many aspects. Regular formal meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 7.30pm. There are also meetings on Wednesdays from around 10.00am until around 4.00pm and on Sunday mornings from 9.00am to lunchtime; these latter meetings combine social gatherings with site maintenance and development.

At the site the Society has a clubhouse and both raised and ground level multi-gauge tracks. These are under constant development and both tracks offer a reasonable length at present. The current gauges are 2½", 3½" and 5" on the raised section, 5" and 7¼" ground level in the area surrounding the raised track and 7¼" ground level only connecting the two main stations. There is plenty of space and a hard surface farm track that allows traction engine or other model vehicles to be operated. Demonstrations, talks and film shows on engineering related subjects are organized for the formal meetings. Auctions and sales of materials, books, tools and related equipment also take place from time to time.

During the summer months Open Days are arranged for members and their families to gather for a day of train rides, open air events, BBQs, picnics, and other social events. These facilities are extended to the public each month from Easter until late October, when running also takes place on all three track systems. There is plenty of free car parking and a station buffet supplies snacks, etc. for members and public. Exhibitions and open weekends help spread the word and earn the club valuable income.

BMES is affiliated to national bodies and members can take advantage of competitive insurance cover for third party liability and theft from workshops, including equipment and models. This also includes cover required at shows and events for steam engines and traction engines.

It is the aim of BMES to help popularise all aspects of Model Engineering and Modelling and caters for the beginner, those with some experience, or the expert. Whether it may be just to join in, or to gain help or advice, or maybe your interests are purely to help run a miniature railway, a welcome is extended. The subscription rates are very reasonable and are renewable on 1st January each year. The membership includes regular newsletters and generally unrestricted use of the club facilities and railway tracks. However, on Open or Public running days there may be some restriction on the running of smaller locomotives, which may not be powerful enough to carry passengers.

In 2000 the Society became a private company limited by guarantee and not having any share capital. This is to provide additional security against any litigation that may arise.

The following facilities are available to all club members:

1. Ground Level Track

Approximately 5000 feet of 7¼" gauge track, which is constantly being upgraded, and which includes signalling, stations – one a terminus, with turntable, off-loading ramps and raised steaming bays. A second ground level track is now in use for smaller 7¼" and 5" gauge locomotives.

2. Raised Track

Approximately 640 feet of 2½", 3½" and 5" gauge track made up as a continuous circuit and incorporating a loop having flexible pointwork. This railway has recently been redeveloped. It also has raised steaming bays with a turntable. Its station is located alongside that of the ground level systems to permit passenger interchange.

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3 Clubroom

A room for meeting and recreational facilities, which is also used for informal meetings, and includes a Station Buffet that is used primarily on public running days.

4. Large Site

There is plenty of space for car parking and running traction engines and other models. For the larger events caravans can be accommodated and an electrical ‘hook-up’ facility is available.

5. Workshop

In current use, but will be modified and improved upon as required by the members.

Events

- 1. Members’ Running Days.
- 2. Club Open Days. Open to all members and to visiting clubs.
- 3. Exhibitions.
- 4. Miniature Traction Engine Steam Rally.
- 5. Public Running Days.
- 6. Birthday Parties and other special events.

Other Services

- 1. Full club and personal insurance.
- 2. Free boiler testing carried out by competent testers.
- 3. Library, which includes ‘Model Engineer’ magazines from 1950-1989, Engineering and other reference books.
- 4. Membership includes very experienced model engineers as well as a wide variety of disciplines required to build, maintain and run a miniature passenger carrying railway.
- 5. Normally six issues of the Society newsletter, ‘The Coupling’, are circulated each year to keep everyone in the picture with the club’s activities.
- 6. Help with engineering related problems.
- 7. Use of workshop and assistance with workshop projects.
- 8. Training is carried out for drivers, signalmen, guards etc. as well as for the use of workshop equipment.
- 9. Young members are encouraged and given every opportunity to carry out responsible jobs within the Society.
- 10. A small boating pool is installed at Haynes End, close to the station, and a garden railway for 16mm scale is under construction at Hammer Hill.

Membership Fees

Full Membership	£32
Senior Citizen (Over 65 years)	£25
Family Membership (partner only)	£7
Junior Membership (Under 18 years old)	£7

Clubhouse and tracks: Summerfields Fruit Farm, A600, near Haynes, Bedford
Company Registration No. 4087828 in England and Wales
Reg. Office: 2 Brambles, Wilstead., Bedfordshire, MK45 3ED

Please complete this form and return it to the address below:

I/we wish to join the Bedford Model Engineering Society (please use block capitals)

Surname First Name(s)

Address

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Post code Telephone No:

Email address:

Interests:

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Signature Date

Full Member £32.00

Senior member £25.00

Family Member (Partner only) £7.00 Name

Junior Member 1 £7.00 Name

Date of birth.....

Junior Member 2 £7.00 Name

Date of birth.....

Junior Member 3 £7.00 Name

Date of birth.....

Total £

Please make cheque payable to B.M.E.S. and send with a 9” x 6” SAE to:

Alan Beard, 2 Brambles, Wilstead, Bedford, MK45 3ED

This Membership application implies acceptance by the applicant of a period of three calendar months for approval by the Committee. If at the end of that period Membership is declined for any reason a full refund will be made of subscription(s) paid.

Approved at Committee Meeting on:

Note: For administrative purposes these details are held on a computer database. AT NO TIME WILL THESE DETAILS BE PASSED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE THE SOCIETY. Contact details may, however, be made available to members in the form of an address list for use in legitimate Society business. Please advise the secretary should this procedure not be acceptable to you.