

MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD
SECRETARY'S (and Editor) REPORT 2016-2017

Membership: Currently we have 116 members including, 6 Honorary, and 2 overseas. Six members resigned during the year. We gained eight members, including one returning member and one junior member, who have joined since the last AGM. The address book is now out of date. I will provide an excel version of the upto date address list to any member by email.

Meetings: Being the 50th year, we held a special anniversary meeting in July which was well attended and we enjoyed a celebration cake at both this and our 100th meeting in March. Attendance at our usual twice yearly meetings is on average 60 but has varied from about 50 to 66 members and table space is sometimes at a premium. The new approach to notification seems to work and so members only need to notify of attendance if they need a large amount of space eg greater than 6ft. I would prefer notification by email or letter - please do not telephone. After many years, nearly 25, Mike Cook stepped down as model reporter and our thanks to him for the exceptional quality of these meeting reports. I am grateful to new team of models reporters, Neil Bedford, Colin Bull, John Rogers, Richard Smith, two of whom share the reporting at each meeting. Thanks are due also to Bob Thompson who works hard to provide most of the photos of our meetings. An excellent lunch continues to be provided by our honorary catering crew who did us proud for the celebration meeting in July.

Exhibitions: Thanks to all who supported the exhibition at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, this is a great venue and we have been invited back next year on 15 July 2018. Applications available in March at the mtg. We continue to exhibit at the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition on the Foss in October. Last year we won the challenge shield for the best club stand with Gerg Worwood's fabulous models.

Bulletin: The bulletin has been produced quarterly. Sadly the printer who, provided the bulletin at very economic cost (£147 per issue) went out of business in July. Search for a new printer has resulted in a significant increase to £188 per issue. This together with the difficulty I have in getting copy for the bulletin means I am proposing reducing the number of bulletins to three a year: ie in December, April, and August. This means meeting reports will be in the December and April issues with exhibition reports in the August issue. Many thanks to those who have contributed articles - please keep them coming. The bulletins are distributed to members and 10 corresponding UK Meccano clubs. PDF copies are placed on our website (in the member's area) which will give access to a larger print font. This and other publications have been designed/ prepared on my now obsolete computer system. **I will be proposing that the club purchase an upto date computer with appropriate software using reserves from the publications fund.**

50th Anniversary: A special anniversary sign has been given to each member and the Anniversary book - "A history of the MMG, the first 50 years " has been distributed at the AGM. Any members not attending will receive these items with the December bulletin. In addition the club funds have covered the cost of the special meeting 29th July and the club has provided subsidized Club regalia (one shirt with club logo) to members. I can still take orders, however the minimum order quantity is six shirts, so I will save orders until I get six. However all subsidies will cease on 31/12/2017.

Club sales: from time to time I am contacted with offers of Meccano. The approach I have taken is to sell these for club funds **and also to dispose of member's collections on a commission basis, also donated in total to club funds. This has raised a considerable reserve in the publications fund.**

Website: The site includes a member's page with password to access. (The username and password were provided on the back page of bulletin 51 or from me). The site also provides the facility to return meeting notifications online - please use this.

Roger Marriott , Hon Secretary (2016-2017)