

MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD
SECRETARY'S (and Editor) REPORT 2017-2018

Membership: *Currently we have 118 members including, 3 Honorary, and 2 overseas. During the year we lost seven members including John Bridger, David Goodman and previous President Ken Wright. We also gained seven members, including returning founder member Clive Hine. The membership has grown by over 10% in the last eight years.* The address book is now out of date. I will provide an excel version of the uptodate address list to any member by email.

Meetings: Attendance at our usual twice yearly meetings is usually around 60-70 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. I am grateful to the 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 coordinated by Paula Thompson.

Exhibitions: Thanks to all who supported the exhibition at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, this is a great venue and we saw an increased number of visitors. We have been invited back next year on 20/21 July 2019. Applications available in March at the mtg. We continue to exhibit at the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition on the Foss in October.

Publications: The **bulletin** is now produced three times a year in December, April, and August. Search for a new printer has resulted in a significant reduction to the expected costs (of £188) to now £156 per issue. I hope you agree this is without loss of quality. 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. Three MMG **model plans** have now been produced with another in preparation. *These have provided an income in the current year of £208.32 to club funds. (In total MPs have contributed £322.46 to club funds)*

Guild Computer: The club purchased its first computer which now provides a secure basis for production of publications. After careful consideration of the options and advice from Guild members, I decide on a Dell package based on 7th generation Inspiron (i5 with 8GB) with Microsoft office (professional which includes the publisher package). *After some negotiation on price the total cost was £1057 including monitor, and a backup hard drive.* I would like to thanks all who offered advice, particularly Eric Wright.

Club regalia: I can still take orders for club shirts, however the minimum order quantity is six shirts, so I will save orders until I get six.

Donations & 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. As publicized in the bulletin we have received a generous donation from Pat Fail, son of founder member, Ron, who passed away a good few years ago. *This has raised a considerable sum (so far £760). We have added Ron Fail to the list of benefactors of the club. We have also received anonymous donations of Meccano parts, from another former member, to the value of £50. In total sales have contributed £1038 to club funds in the year)*

Website: The site includes a member's page with password access. (The username and password were provided on the back page of bulletin 51 or from me). The 'members area' contains pdf of bulletins and all MMGG, as well as magazines from Meccano society of Scotland and Netherlands. The site also provides the facility to return meeting notifications online - please use this. Thanks to Dave Bradley for his help in supporting the administration of the website.

Roger Marriott , Hon Secretary (2017-2018)