

MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD
SECRETARY'S (and Editor) REPORT 2018-2019

Membership: Currently we have 114 members including, 3 Honorary, and 1 overseas. During the year two members were deceased and seven members resigned. We gained seven new or rejoining members. This means the membership fell from 116 to 114. We do not produce an address book due to GDPR regulation. Members can be contacted through the secretary.

Meetings: Attendance at our twice yearly meetings is usually around 60-70 members and table space is sometimes at a premium. 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 meeting reporters, Neil Bedford, Colin Bull, John Rogers, Richard Smith, two of whom have shared the reporting at each meeting in the year. 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. The two day event was well attended including by other club members, we also had representation from the Bayko and Dinky clubs and we saw an increased number of visitors. Our thanks to all who exhibited. *We have been invited back next year on 18/19 July 2020 - again attendance is welcome on either or both days.* Applications available in March at the meeting. We continue to exhibit at the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition on the Foss in October.

Publications: The **bulletin** is produced three times a year in December, April, and August. The current printing cost is £156 per issue. I constantly look at alternatives to try to achieve greater economy. 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. Four MMG **model plans (plus a supplement to MP237)** have now been produced with another in preparation. *We took the decision in the year to offer these plans at cost (ie half price) when purchased through the secretary. MPs have provided an income in the current year of £145.42 to club funds. I am keen to continue the production of MMG model plans based on original models by MMG members.*

Guild Computer: The club purchased its first computer last year which now provides a secure basis for production of publications. An additional photo editing software package was purchased at a cost of £70.60. A printer was not purchased with the computer but is now needed as my own has packed in. (cost about £150)

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: The website continues to be a used as a means to contact the club with offers of Meccano. The approach we have taken is to sell these for club funds. We have also agreed to dispose of member's collections on a commission basis, also donated in total to club funds. Donations have resulted in sales of £2358.53 to club funds of which £1722.49 resulted from the Ron Fail bequest. We have added Ron Fail to the list of benefactors of the club. The committee also agreed to sell Ken Senar's Meccano collection, for which services he offered a very generous commission. I want to thank publicly John Nuttall for his help with these sales.

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 and Bob Thompson for help in supporting the administration of the website.

Roger Marriott , Hon Secretary (2018-2019)