

MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD
SECRETARY'S & TREASURER'S REPORT 2020-2021

Membership: Currently we have 122 members including, 3 Honorary, and 2 overseas. During the year two members were deceased, John Sleaford and Clifford Jones. We do not produce an address book due to GDPR regulation. Members can be contacted through the Secretary. It was thought that the membership fee for EU members would have to increase due to a rise in postage costs to Europe after leaving the EU. However, the rise was less than expected and no increase was necessary. **Subscription rates** remain at **UK £16, EU £19, Rest of World £23.**

Meetings: No meetings took place in 2020 and the meeting in March 2021 also did not take place due to the COVID pandemic. The first meeting since the 105th in October 2019 is the October 2021 AGM. Attendance at our usual twice yearly meetings is usually around 60-70 members and table space is sometimes at a premium. Members should notify the Secretary if they need more than 6ft of table space. Notification should be by email or letter - please do not telephone. An excellent lunch continues to be provided by our honorary catering crew coordinated by Paula Thompson. **A meeting fee of £3.00**, including lunch, is payable by members at each meeting.

Exhibitions: Thanks to all who supported the exhibition at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon, this is a great venue. We are grateful to the team of meeting reporters. Neil Bedford and Richard Smith have shared the reporting at the meeting on July 18&19th. The two day event was well attended including by other club members, and we saw an increased number of visitors. Our thanks to all who exhibited. Thanks are due to Bob Thompson who works hard to provide most of the photos of our meetings. ***We have been invited back next year on 16/17 July 2022 - again attendance is welcome on either or both days.*** Applications available in March 2022. The Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition on the Foss has been cancelled this year.

Publications: The **bulletin** is produced three times a year in December, April, and August. The current printing cost is £146 per issue. We 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 members' area) which will give access to a larger print font. **Ten MMG model plans** have now been produced. ***We have taken the decision to offer these plans at cost (i.e. half price) when purchased through the secretary. We are keen to continue the production of MMG model plans based on original models by MMG members.*** Sales to non-members through MWMO provide us with an income of 20% of the cover price. In '20-21 this has amounted to £403.36.

Guild Computer: The club computer continues to provide a secure basis for production of publications.

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. However, there has been no income from this source in '20-21.

Website: The site includes a member's page with password access. (The username and password are provided on the back page of bulletin 51 or from the Secretary). The 'members area' contains pdfs of bulletins and all MMGGs, as well as magazines from the Meccano societies 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. During the year the anti-virus protection for the website came up for renewal at a cost of £85.49, paid from the publications fund.

Public Liability Insurance: This was renewed at a cost of £534.78, an increase of 3% over last year. However, there has been a significant change in the terms and conditions. We are still covered up to £5 million for our own events (Baginton meetings, British Motor Museum and Midlands Model Engineering Exhibitions)

but individual members cover at other events is now limited to £1 million. Individual members requiring more than £1 million cover at non-MMG events, must now apply for an individual modellers policy. This can be done through Walker Midgley by going to their website <http://www.walkermidgley.co.uk> and selecting "Individual Modellers Insurance" from the options available. The usual certificates giving evidence of individual cover up to the new £1Million limit are available, as before, from the Treasurer for those who require proof of cover.

General Fund: A subscription-free year was enjoyed by members fully paid up for the year before. This reduced an accumulated surplus of £1279 to **£96.92**. As a "not for profit" organization we should not be making a large surplus. The surplus arose due to a reduction in printing costs from £188 to £146 per bulletin, since the subscription was set at £16 UK. The rate will be reviewed at the end of the current year when it is hoped to be able to reduce it.

Publications Fund: The only movement in the past year has been the £403.36 income from sale of model plans and £85.49 expenditure on anti-virus protection, mentioned above. The end of year balance being **£4038.86**.

Bequest fund: There has been no activity in the Bequest Fund over the past twelve months other than the addition of £59.25 interest from the National Savings Account. This raises the fund to **£3880.98**.

The end of year total in Guild funds stands at **£8016.76**, a decrease of £805.48 over last year. The subscription-free year was intended to reduce the money in the General Fund to a reasonable level which it has successfully achieved.

Roger Marriott, Hon Secretary (2020-2021)
John Nuttall, Treasurer