



MAFVA SOUTH WALES BRANCH MEETING
Monday 6th March 2017

- **New Members**

Welcome back to Ollie Jones from Caerphilly, and a warm welcome to Tony Evans from Penarth.

- **Tankette**

I had been given the latest issue of Tankette at the Folkestone show, and distributed it to everyone at the meeting.

- **Shows**

Starting with new shows, I've had this e-mail from Andy Hinton about a show in Barry Island Railway station:-

Event: Barry at War Museum Spring Model Day 2017.

Venue: Barry Island Railway Station. Station Approach. Barry Island. CF62 5TH

Date: Sunday 23rd April 2017. 12.00 - 16.30. Model day begins at 2.00 (or earlier if we are ready)

I have confirmed the use of the main building and your group will have exclusive use of the main hall, all other participants will be in other smaller rooms.

Free parking will be available in our own car park alongside the museum. (room for around 12 cars)

We will provide refreshments to all participants (tea, coffee, biscuits, Welsh cakes etc)

We have plenty of tables (39 to be exact) and chairs to go with them. The main hall will accommodate around 15 tables.

The Barry at War Museum will also be open.

I hope that this will confirm things for you. Please could you keep me informed as to how many tables you require.

The following people said that they would like to attend this show:

Me, Sean, Mike G, Mike J, Haydn, Nigel, Peter, and Dave B

We have now heard from Shropshire IPMS that they cannot include us in their show at Cosford on Sunday 2nd April. Dave B and I may go to the show just as members of the public.

MAFVA Nationals. We have our usual two 6ft tables at the MAFVA Nationals on Sunday 18th June (Father's Day) at The Burgess Hall, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU. Leaflets for the show were given out to everyone at the meeting.

The following said that they would like to attend:

Me, Mike J, Mike G?? Ollie, Paul W (plus his wife Louise), Nigel, Dave B, Sean?

That means either 2ft x 2ft or down to 1 1/2 ft x 2ft each of table space.
I shall probably book in to the Premier Inn at Brampton which is about 9 miles away.
Anyone want to join me?

The On Track show in Folkestone on Saturday 25th February went okay, but I was disappointed with our Branch display. Whenever we attend a show I always try to ensure that everyone gets an equal amount of space to display their models. At one end of the table, Paul Hennessy and I filled up one and a half tables reasonably equally. At the other end though Mike Gill had a whole table to himself, and Dave Burton had about 1 1/2 ft by 2 ft to display his three single models and one diorama. This was partially because space had been kept for Sean Hooper who couldn't attend, and partially because Dave only brought along a few models to leave room in my car for the three other people in it. Dave will be attending the MAFVA Nationals and so what I would like to suggest is that as Dave was so considerate to everyone else at Folkestone, we should give him a portion of table space allocated to Mike Gill (if he attends) and me at St. Ives to make up for this.

After the show Paul Middleton told me that Gary Wenko has asked for a table for the newly formed Suffolk Branch of the MAFVA. As South Wales were the only branch there with three tables, I have offered one of ours to Suffolk, so we may have just two tables there next year, depending if any other room can be found for them.

- **Polo shirts and Hoodies**

A list for Polo shirts and Hoodies has now been sorted. Jonathan and I shall try either Fabric World in Treforest Industrial Estate or the Dunelm store nearby to get the material for the drop cloth and we shall visit the embroiderers in Dinas Powys soon to place the order with them.

- **Digitising The Dragon**

At present all back issues of Tankette are being scanned and saved as PDF files. John Paulding of Cambridge MAFVA is working with Yuri Gavrilov of Northern Home Counties Branch to use some software that can be set up so that only fully paid up members of the MAFVA can access it. Once completed this will enable all paid up members of the MAFVA to look on-line at all issues of Tankette. And so that they can get Tankette on line, rather than as a paper version, but with the provision for a paper version for those that want it.

I have given John Paulding the latest issue of The Dragon as PDF files and he has shown me what it would look like on the software that he has. It looks very impressive to me as you can look at it full screen on your computer monitor and you can scroll through pages just like a book. You can also enlarge pages and photos for a closer look (although this does show up the limitations of the level of resolution of the scans of the photos).

I have been asked if The Dragon could also be similarly scanned and made equally as available, and also with a copy to Chris Lloyd-Staples the MAFVA Information Officer. I have no problem with this as it will only be available to MAFVA members. We get very few requests for back issues, so we would not lose any income by doing this.

One snag we have with The Dragon is that all of the black & white photos in the older issues were converted by Tim Neate in a dot matrix, which made them fine for

photocopying, but the pictures become screwed up when you scan them onto a computer. As a result, any scans of The Dragon can only go back about halfway.

Dai Buckler told the meeting that this would be a good way forward for the MAFVA to offer something quite unique and he welcomed the idea. There was some concern expressed over what level of control we would have over who could look at our magazine on-line, but there was general agreement with the idea in principle.

- **Branch Mascot**

When I attended the TWENOT show in Overloon in The Netherlands last Easter, Dave Burton brought along a "cuddly toy" dragon that we have adopted as a mascot on our stand at every show since then. I briefly discussed this at our last meeting and offered to have a look in The Grogg Shop in Pontypridd. I visited their shop last week where I purchased a dragon and a sheep that I showed to everyone at the meeting. We all agreed that these would be good mascots for the Branch and that the Branch would pay for the dragon, and I would pay for the sheep so that I could also use them to show "Made in Wales" on my P G Models trade stand. The "cuddly toy" dragon has been given back to Dave Burton to return to his wife, with our thanks.

- **Trip to Castlemartin**

On our way to Folkestone last Friday we passed several convoys of Challenger 2s and of support vehicles on their way to the Castlemartin Ranges. I have printed out the Firing Dates from the Ranges firing schedule and intend to go there on Wednesday this week to visit the Public Spectator Area. Dave Burton and Ollie Jones both said that they would like to come along as well.

- **AOB**

Haydn told us that he is still looking at the possibility of running another version of the South Wales Model Show after the collapse of the show in Llancaiach Fawr Manor House in Nelson. So far Margam Park have not replied to him, St. Fagans showed interest, but cannot charge an entrance fee, which rules them out, Haydn has even tried the former National Garden Centre in Ebbw Vale. I suggested that he needs to be cautious with this as he could find himself with a massive financial liability just to hire a location for the show with all sorts of other liabilities following on from that such as health & safety, and insurances.

- **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of South Wales Branch of the Miniature AFV Association will be on Monday 3rd April 2017

Paul Gandy
MAFVA South Wales Branch Secretary