



MAFVA SOUTH WALES BRANCH MEETING
Monday 7th November 2016

- I started the meeting by welcoming two new members, Alex Harmer and Paul Foley. Alex is a work colleague of Paul Hennessy who came to our Open Afternoon last year, but has been caught up in moving to Cardiff, which he has now done, and has his model table already set up in his new home. Paul came to our Open Afternoon a few weeks ago and spent quite some time looking at our displays and had a good chat with most of us. He came to the meeting with a nicely made 1/35th scale German Tiger tank set in a snowy scene with some bare trees, and one novel feature. If you wound a handle at the back of his diorama you heard a Christmas jingle! Just the wacky sort of thing that we all admire South Wales MAFVA!
- Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum - I have circulated an e-mail that had been passed on to me by Tim Neate which is saying that they are not going to run either the February nor October shows in the Fleet Air Arm Museum in 2017, but I cannot see the shows running anymore.
- We had our own Open Afternoon, on Sunday 9th October. As in previous years, the show went well and we all enjoyed the afternoon, but we didn't have a huge number of people coming through the door, although more than previous years. What was pleasing was that several came early and stayed right through to the end of the show. We had a few empty tables though as neither West Glamorgan IPMS, St. Athan, nor Cardiff Aeromodellers were able to attend.
- I raised the question as to whether we should continue with the show in our regular meeting hall in Danescourt or whether the show would be better in a town/city centre location. We then had a lively discussion with the main issues of car parking and who we wanted to attract to the show. Dennis made a very pertinent point. We first started these shows about six years ago with half a dozen or so members in the branch, and, including the two new members tonight, we now have 17 members in the branch. So the main aim of our show, to recruit new members, seems to be working perfectly well. Tom suggested that we could perhaps look to see if there are any other suitable venues in and around Cardiff, but in the meantime we carry on as we are.
- The Cardiff Model Railway Show was on the following weekend, the 15th & 16th October at the Glan Taf Welsh Comp in Llandaff North, Cardiff. Thanks again to Peter Denyer who was the star of the show with a huge amount of interest in his 1/76th scale German rail gun, and in his 1/35th scale armoured train, and thanks also to Mike Gill, Mike Johns, Paul Hennessy, and Dave Burton. Our display went down well with the show organisers who have invited us back there again next year with another large club display, although it'll be without my Haverfordwest layout as they always have different layouts each year.
- I have written an article for the MAFVA pages of Military Modelling magazine that has gone off to the editor of the magazine, covering both our Open Afternoon and our stand at the Cardiff Model Railway Exhibition.

- This coming weekend 12th and 13th November is the IPMS Scale Modelworld. I shall be there as a trader, and Dave Burton and Peter Denyer are going up on the Friday and coming back Sunday lunchtime. Dave Burton asked about us having a club stand there, but the clubs are mainly IPMS branches or IPMS Special Interest Groups. There is always a large MAFVA display at the show, and if anyone wanted to take along any models that would probably be the place to put them.
- I have now had the stuff for the Bristol BMSS Bugle Call show on 27th November in Nailsea. They have allocated just one 6ft table to all clubs, and just four passes. These were given to Mike Johns (who was also given the show details that I had from Des), Mike Gill, Peter Denyer, and Paul Williams.
- I shall not be able to attend our December meeting as I shall be away with fellow MAFVA member John Paulding on a trip to the USA. We agreed that it will start as a normal monthly meeting, but with some nibbles in the second half of the meeting, as we did last year, rather than going out for a meal as in previous years
- Branch Polo shirts - Paul Hennessy said that his contact for these has now stopped doing them. Jonathan Davies has offered to contact someone he knows in Penarth who may be able to do them for us with our South Wales MAFVA name and logo, the same person may also be able to do a 'drop cloth' for us with our name and logo on it, to go on top of and over the side of our display table at shows.
- Haydn Nelms had raised with me a request from a person in Penarth to give us a short presentation about a video they have of the Dambusters raid in WWII, and for that to be show in a cinema in Penarth. We all agreed that Haydn can bring the person along to one of our meetings to give his presentation.
- The next issue of The Dragon is due in December. I already have articles from Dennis Lunn and Mike Gill that should go some way towards filling it, and shall make a start on it shortly after the Telford show. I always give priority to any articles from branch members before anyone else, and always welcome any new material from the branch.
- And finally, The most recent issue of Tankette has an article on Mike Gill's armoured train, and another inviting members to apply for posts on our national Committee. I have applied for the post of Chairman which has been proposed by Des Burgess and seconded by David Payne of London branch.

Paul Gandy
MAFVA South Wales Branch Secretary