

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1984

# ASHPAN

## EMERGENCY ISSUE

ON SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY A FIRE, DELIBERATELY STARTED, DESTROYED OUR CANTEEN ANNEX AND CAUSED MUCH DAMAGE WITHIN THE MAIN CLUBHOUSE ALTHOUGH HAPPILY THE STRUCTURE IS SOUND. NO ONE WAS HURT. THE ATTACK FOLLOWED SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF VANDALISM AND BREAK INS DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEKS.

DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THIS ASHPAN BUT A REMINDER - THERE WILL BE A MEETING TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE OBJECTIVES, IN THE CLUBHOUSE, ON FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY.



**Ickenham & District  
Society of  
Model Engineers**

# FIRE!

The fire was reported to the Fire Brigade by neighbours in Willowtree Close around 7.30pm but it could have been smouldering for some-time previously. It started in the corner of the canteen by the sink and completely destroyed the wooden canteen structure and roof, the door to the compressor house, the chairs stored in there and burnt out much of the compressor equipment -we await news of the state of the compressor and air cylinder which although of metal were at the heart of the fire. Fortunately apart from some minor damage to the roof end and wiring the fire did not spread to the workshop. It did however, break through into the main clubroom and burnt out one end of the '00'. The rest of the room was badly affected by smoke and water and the ceiling and wall covering and carpets have been removed. Happily, apart from a hole made in the ceiling board by the fire brigade, the roof and ceiling structure are undamaged. A combination of the damage by smoke and ash and a need to brick up the remaining windows led to the remaining part of the '00' being removed .

Various members were called to the scene on Saturday night - even from Wedding Anniversary dinners - and retrieved the locos, dirty but basically unharmed; the library, a little damp, and other easily removed valuables. On Sunday a large working party - most of whom were unaware of the fire until their arrival - was on site from early morning until well after dark. Much burnt material was cleared; the windows secured; electricity restored for lighting in the main clubhouse and a limited supply elsewhere; the remaining material from

the clubroom removed for safe storage elsewhere, and the fencing restrengthened.

# MEETING FRIDAY

THERE WILL BE A MEETING ON FRIDAY. As the clubroom will still be rather scruffy and bare we have put off our intended speaker (John Laker) but there will be a meeting to discuss our future plans. We hope as many members as possible will turn up...but if you want to sit down please bring your own chairs! It is anticipated that there will be an all day working party on Saturday and that the normal programme will resume the following Friday (March 2).

## New HQ?

As you will know we had plans to rebuild the clubhouse in the long term. To start off we were going to do the simple bit (the new workshop, etc) first. However...the first thoughts are that we now go ahead with the main building - it will need quite a bit of work done on it anyway. The change in timescale gives problems; plans, materials, finance. But the general feeling during clear-up operations on Sunday was that we take the opportunity given and make a silk purse out of a sow's ear!

## OO Plans

Although the 'oo' layout is no more much of the stock and equipment survived. The section is a

alive and kicking and intended to meet on Tuesday to plan its new, stop-gap, portable layout.

# Summer

Apart from the compressor the railway survived intact. We still intend, therefore, to start our summer operations on Saturday 7 April. The one date which may be in doubt is the Exhibition day.

# Cups and Chairs

As the canteen cum storage area disappeared entirely so too did our chairs and tea making/drinking equipment. Ideas and donations gratefully received.

# Thank you

Thanks are given to all those members, families and friends who have already helped, particular mention must be given to the gentleman who turned his wife's car out of the garage so we could use the space for storage!

# Next...

Hopefully the next Ashpan will have happier news to tell. Just a reminder that Ashpan 24 will appear in April and the Editor would like to receive your article by March 2...

**ASHPAN**

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