



Model Aeroplane Meetings

In reading the club reports during the first summer session I have been interested to note that several clubs are including model aeroplane meetings among their outdoor activities. This is not surprising, as interest in aeroplanes and air services is greater to-day than ever before.

The construction of model aeroplanes is an ideal hobby for the summer months, and can readily be carried on as a club affair. Models of varying degrees of complexity and difficulty can be made, ranging from simple machines of thin card to more elaborate aeroplanes with longerons and spars of wood strip, and plane covering of suitable fabric.

A further good point about the hobby is that it is especially suitable for competitions, as summer is the best time of the year in which to make the practical tests of flying ability that must be the chief consideration in awarding prizes. Ordinary open competitions may be run, in which competitors are asked to enter aeroplanes designed and constructed by themselves from any material, but others in which the materials to be used are restricted in character, or an aeroplane of a particular design is to be made, will provide great scope for ingenuity.

In deciding on the merits of the entries in any competition, marks should be awarded for good workmanship and ingenious methods of construction, while if the competition is an open one the merits of the design must be taken into account. First consideration must be given to airworthiness, however. An open space free from accidental air currents is required in order to carry out tests of this, and if possible aeroplane meetings should be held in conjunction with country excursions. In addition it will almost certainly be found that the proceedings will be lengthy, as the members are sure to be so interested in the winning models that they will want to see them in operation repeatedly, and ample time should therefore be allowed. Each entrant should be permitted three trials in which to demonstrate the stability and range of his machine in the air.

Summer Holiday Hints

One of the habits that engineers, whether amateur or professional, should cultivate is that of observing keenly and storing in mind information gained in this manner, of which good use may be made later. There are always opportunities for training of this kind, but perhaps the best of all come with the summer holidays, when most boys leave for a short time the surroundings with which they are so familiar, and find themselves in places where on all sides there is something new to be observed.

I should like every club member to keep a keen lookout during his summer holiday for something of interest that is new to him.

By doing so he will form a basis for good model-building next winter, and the little time and trouble involved will then be fully repaid. In addition to this a holiday frequently affords ideas for other features of the programme, such as new lectures and papers, additions that will make Hornby train operation more realistic, and other hobbies and pursuits to increase the variety and interest of club work. There is nothing like variety to maintain interest in club affairs, and no opportunity of seeking means of increasing the enthusiasm of members and adding to the attractiveness of the programme should be overlooked.

Meccano Club Leaders

No. 83. Mr. W. J. T. Watson



Mr. W. J. T. Watson was the founder of the Sydney (Australia) M.C., of which he has been Leader since 1933. The club programmes are very attractive and include Model-building, Games, Lectures, Debates, Social Evenings, and Visits to places of interest.

Encouraging Club Photography

In practically every club there are members who own cameras, and the various summer excursions and outdoor meetings provide plenty of scope for them to practice their hobby. These members should be encouraged to learn how to make the best use of their cameras, and it is a very good plan to form a photographic section and give talks and demonstrations designed to help the beginners to get the best out of the hobby. These talks should be of a practical character, of course, and not merely lectures describing what happens when a photographic plate is exposed; and the senior members of the club will no doubt be able to help in this work.

Small prizes may be offered for the best collection of photographs taken during the summer sessions, for this develops a spirit of friendly rivalry among the photographers, and encourages them to take the necessary steps to secure good results. An important consideration is that an attractive record of the various activities of the club during the summer months can be obtained in this manner. I hope that this course will be followed in many clubs during this session, and while on the subject I wish to remind Leaders and secretaries that I am always pleased to see photographs showing their members at work or play, and if they are suitable, to make use of them in these pages. I should like to

mention also that in most cases I can obtain a much stronger and clearer reproduction from the negative than from a print, and whenever possible the negative should be sent.

Proposed Clubs

Attempts are being made to establish Meccano Clubs in the following places, and boys interested should communicate with the promoters whose names and addresses are given below:

GUIST, S.O.—N. L. Everitt, High Street, Foulsham.
INDIA—R. K. Banerji, D40/5 Lachmanpura, Benares City, U.P.
MALTA—A. Cappola, 96, St. Vincent Street, Sliema.
NEW ZEALAND—C. C. Carncross, Graham Street, Eltham, Taranaki.
NEW ZEALAND—V. Hack, Pleasant Road, Glen Eden, Auckland.