

ISM AGM 2022, held in the Small Chapel, Henley URC, September 3rd, 11.30am

The Chairman welcomed those attending after a 2-year Covid- break and reported on various greetings and apologies received from around the world.

A message from the ISM Founder, Dr. Michael Adler, was also shared.

The **Founder's Prize**: Adrian Williams reported that the international committee awarded the 2021 prize to Steve Briancourt for his model of a Penny Falls arcade machine. The Committee and Adrian were thanked for their work in making the award this year. All ISM members are encouraged to consider submitting an entry for this year's competition.

The Golden Spanner Award. This has now run its course, and André Welti also announced that he would be resigning as Member of the ISM Committee of the ISM. He was warmly thanked by all present for his generous support and encouragement of our hobby since the society's inception. We are deeply indebted to André for his generous support and encouragement throughout the life of this award which has done much to recognise the contributions of Meccano people around the world to the hobby that have gone far beyond mere modelling and collecting. Ten awards had been made since its inception, with Elizabeth Wright as a joint recipient with Geoff.

50th Anniversary of the Henley Gathering. Our grateful thanks and appreciation was expressed to Geoff Wright *in absentia* for this initiative and for all that he did for the hobby and still means to us. A letter will be sent.

Treasurer: Mike Gleen presented a brief summary of the accounts which remain in good balance. There was a small income from royalties due to ISM from MWMO publications. Outgoings such as meeting-room rent (AGM) and website maintenance remain, and a £2000 grant was made as agreed to the Heath Robinson Museum to support their children's work.

A substantial balance remains. The Chairman suggested that ISM might make a contribution towards the costs of SkegEx in recognition of its value as one of the foremost international gatherings of Meccano enthusiasts. The treasurer proposed a grant of £500.00 towards the costs and the proposal was warmly received and approved.

The Function of our AGM. We may elect officers – approve accounts, accept minutes. We mention news of members and societies and report on the presentation of awards. How many of these require a physical presence? It disenfranchises and expects a lot of foreign members, some of whom do faithfully attend each year despite the cost. There is nothing to stop there being an ISM reunion somewhere each year for those who can and wish to make it but would a virtual meeting now be better in putting us all on the same footing regardless of our residence or nationality? Above all we must be clear about our distinct purpose not least when faced with an ageing and declining attendance.

Future Purpose and Activities of ISM:

Although we no longer publish a magazine or directory, with the decline of printed media we now have a burgeoning and ever-fluid **Social Media** available which fulfils many of our original ambitions at little or no cost: The Spanner Mailing List continues, membership unknown, though with many less daily mailings than it used to have.

On Facebook, though, Friends who like Meccano has 162 members

- Meccano Zone.com has 253 members
- (By comparison our **ISM database** lists 381 members and there is of course this very site!)
- The Meccano, Erector, Marklin, stokys and vex robotics model builders, collectors etc site has 629 members

- ISM appears on Facebook with its own “Page” and a “Group” presence and with a growing membership of over 700: all members may contribute to this as often as they wish
- But Meccano Nuts has 2,500 subscribers!

There are also various excellent and varied digital international Magazines available, in addition to the <http://www.nzmeccano.com/> resource.

So, are all our ambitions now being fulfilled by others? Members noted that our membership has always included many of the most able and distinguished Meccanomen around the world and from that base we have sought through our awards to recognise and promote excellence within our hobby wherever it is found. It is certainly hoped that this will continue, representing a unique and important contribution to the hobby.

It was suggested that a small group might consider these ideas, perhaps led by the Founder himself. Appropriately it was suggested that this be a virtual meeting.

The meeting closed with thanks and good wishes to all present.

End.