



Model Engineering Association of New Zealand Incorporated.

President -
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO TWO YEARLY GENERAL MEETING OF MEANZ HAMILTON JAN 2004

The last two years since the previous meeting at Palmerston North have seen the MEANZ executive busy on a number of issues such as bringing together the MEANZ records, developing a new strategy for dealing with the OSH Amusement Device Regulations rewrite. Also determining a pathway to self-regulation for our modelling fraternity. The Eastern Bay of Plenty attempts to get registration under the old Amusement Device Regulations, (AD regs.) became complicated with some irrational technical decisions being made by OSH. The consequences of these issues necessitated MEANZ stepping in and challenging OSH on two issues, one relating to the registration of EBOP track and the other relating to size of boilers that can be built and approved for use with in MEANZ affiliated clubs. The result of our rebuttal to OSH has been sort of successfully completed, EBOP did get their registration, but we have not had formal acknowledgement in writing from OSH regarding the boiler issue as our rebuttal argument provided the evidence from their own published policy. We think that no response is an acceptance that we are able to continue on as we have been with the AMBSC codes.

The full MEANZ executive committee with Wellington based members and Nth & Sth Island regional representatives met and carried out a two-day review of the following aspects:

1. Background of problems to track registration under ADRegs. (we are striving for a rewrite)
2. Focus on present day OSH attitudes
3. Where is the model engineering fraternity going?
4. Consider alternatives for registration and operation.
5. Management tools and requirements for self-regulation situation.
6. Key documents required for supporting effective self-regulation. Produced by MEANZ? Clubs? Others?
7. Look at HSE amendment bill (responsibility to own members and public safety)
8. Set up a national approved boiler prefix code for boiler numbering systems.

9. Data survey of clubs for support of MEANZ when meeting with OSH.
10. Prepare a task list for MEANZ executive.

There are some important issues that the fraternity must consider if we are going to continue to enjoy our hobby in the future. We generally have a very good safety record over many decades but this fact will not protect us from the new climate of OSH imposed regulations investigation and prosecution. We are better to take control of our own destiny by becoming self-regulating, developing our own approved codes of practice / operation and run a well-managed and safe operation. We also must maintain the paper trail required to demonstrate that we are managing our operations well.

The decision to proceed down this pathway will have to come from the MEANZ member clubs. The foreseeable implications for us if we do go this way would be:

All clubs agree to meet the MEANZ compliance requirements with in an acceptable time frame.

All affiliated clubs accept that MEANZ has a monitoring roll.

All clubs would be left with a maximum of autonomy within the agreed compliance codes.

There may need to be an increase in MEANZ annual fees, and a reorganised structure.

The last two years have seen a change in focus. We have faced these changes and propose to continue in this direction with the approval of member clubs.

My thanks to Peter Anderson and John Romanes and Jock Miller for their support during this term.

Colin Burleigh President MEANZ.