



Minutes of Meeting August 2024

1. Essex Modellers Show

James Cater updated the members on the success of the Essex Modellers Show. All of the feedback has been positive and all of the traders present expressed a wish to return next year. Profits on the show were good, with £277.60 going to each of the four clubs (including IPMS Southend) who underwrote the show.

A large thank you goes out to anyone who attended the show, but especially to those members who gave their time to help with the setup/packing down, on the door, or in the kitchen.

2. Themed Contest Nights

Steve Bailey reminded the members that our next themed contest night is the November 19th meeting, with a theme of the 1980's. Any subject is eligible, as long as it is modelled as it appeared in the 80's.

The February 2025 meeting will feature the second instalment of the "Beer Mat Challenge".

3. Club Presentations

Steve Bailey updated the members on the schedule for Club Presentations. The August meeting included a presentation on the new "AK Interactive Real Colors Markers" given by Michael Stockwell and Steve Bailey. Upcoming presentations are as follows:

- September 17th – Making "Seascapes", delivered by Ken O'Brien and Gary Daisley
- October 15th – "Metal Paints" use and Application, delivered by Graham Wright and James Cater
- November 19th – "3D Printing", delivered by Stephen Snares and James Cater



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4. Show Attendance

Steve Bailey reminded the membership on the importance of pre-planning for our show attendances in 2025. The reason for this is to ensure better coordination as a Club, a more professional display stand on the day (including a high standard of models and a full table) and sufficient representation from the Membership at each event. The Club will compile a list of potential shows due to be held in 2025 plus any suggestions that are received. From this list members will then vote on the shows they wish the Club to attend/support prior to the Club (Liaison Officer) making further enquiries to confirm, organise and coordinate our attendance.

To highlight why this is considered essential, Steve used the example of the upcoming Medway show (7th & 8th September). After Graham Weston originally asking if we were attending, the Club managed to secure table space. However, we now have an issue with insufficient Members available to attend and represent the Club on the stand. As it stood, only 2 members were available to attend the two days, these being Graham Weston and Jim Smith (with Jim actually attending on behalf of two clubs thus having to split his time between two stands). Steve Bailey subsequently offered to attend on the Saturday (although he is unable to attend on the Sunday), but despite Mark Bellamy putting out a request for further volunteers, to date no additional offers of support had been received.

Steve therefore put it to the Members that unless further volunteers were available to attend on the Sunday the Club would be forced to pull out of the show. As a result James Cater and Laura Flack kindly offered to lend their support and attend on the Sunday to ensure the Club is sufficiently represented.

The upcoming Brampton model show (29th September) was also discussed, with a number of members confirming their desire/intention to attend the show. Mark Bellamy (acting Liaison Officer) will therefore co-ordinate our attendance.



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5. Public Liability Insurance/Risk Assessment and Under the Table Sales

Steve Bailey addressed the members about a potentially serious issue that came to light following the “Essex Modellers Show”. As a Committee, since our inception we have made a considerable effort the “re-brand” the Club in an endeavour to improve it for the Membership and hopefully attract new Members, whilst also re-engaging with other Clubs through increased Liaison and direct interaction. The Clubs new “Show Stand” is a prime example of our efforts to promote a more “professional image” at shows and events and with our new acrylic display cubes and table covers; we hope to achieve that and portray ourselves as an excellent and progressive Club in which to belong. However, in producing the new “Club Branded” full-length table covers, we overlooked the customary practice of “under the table sales”. As a result, during the Essex Show, members placed their intended goods for sale directly in front of the Clubs display stand. This action attracted complaints from other Club members as it spoilt the look of our Display Stand, but also created a far more serious issue in regards our responsibilities under Health & Safety and Public Liability due to the potential risk it created for trips & falls.

As “Club President” and therefore the responsible person representing the Club on the day, Steve whilst noting the situation at the time, decided to allow it to continue (albeit under increased supervision) until the show concluded. However, following the Show Steve felt morally obliged to discuss the matter with the IPMS to better understand the Clubs (and his own) responsibilities under Public Liability which are as follows.

As a Club affiliated to the IPMS, SMC receives “Public Liability Protection” under the IPMS Insurance Policy to the value of £10m. This cover is extended to any Member of SMC providing they are also a member of the IPMS. It should be noted that a Club Member who is not a member of the IPMS is not covered under the policy regardless of whether or not they are representing SMC. To receive protection under the IPMS Policy the Club must comply with certain obligations and guidance. These include possessing a copy of the “IPMS Public Liability Insurance Certificate” plus a completed “Risk Assessment” available at each show and Event.

A generic “Risk Assessment” for Shows and Events has therefore been produced and a copy of the “IPMS Public Liability Insurance Certificate” has been obtained. These



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documents have been laminated and will be included in the new “Club Display Pack” that will be taken to all shows. In addition to the expectations of the IPMS, we also have an obligation to comply with any other requirements imposed by the show or event organiser, these include ensuring that we remain within our allocated curtilage as indicated within the floor plan.

By producing, maintaining and complying with our “Risk Assessment” when attending shows and events, were an incident to occur then as a Club we will be able to demonstrate that we made every effort and acted responsibly to mitigate our liability by removing or reducing identified risk on our Display Show Stand.

It should be noted that as a Club, were an incident to occur and we were found to have not complied with the above requirements, or that we had acted negligently in regards our responsibilities and/or actions, then there is the possibility that we may not be afforded protection under the IPMS policy. Were this to be the case then there is the potential for the Club, its senior representative and/or an individual member of the Club to be held liable for any uninsured financial consequences.

During his discussion with the IPMS representative, Steve was advised that there are very few genuine accidents these days, and it has been known for people to look for opportunities to have an “accident” in order to make a claim. Two examples were referenced where the IPMS has been taken to Court in recent years by the same individual under “Public Liability”, thus highlighting the potential seriousness of the issue. Steve has since been advised that the potential costs to attend and be represented in Court against a Claim for damages can easily be in the region of £12,000 to £17,000. **This is an amount that neither the Club, nor (it is assumed) any individual member could afford to pay?**

As a Club, we have no desire to stop “Under the Table Sales” as we appreciate this is a longstanding practice. However due to the potential ramifications we cannot simply ignore the situation and continue as we have done previous. We must display a professional public profile and comply with our legal obligations under Public Liability to ensure that we remain protected in the unlikely event of incident.

An A4 notice board containing a clearly printed list of items for sale, sited in a suitable location on our display stand has been suggested as a possible solution and



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potential compromise. However we are obviously open to any suggestion members wish to propose to enable us to accommodate under the table sales without compromising the presentation of our “Club Display Stand” or more importantly invalidating our protection under Public Liability.

6. Club Trips

Steve Bailey updated the members on the recent trips that have been discussed.

- Duxford (16th September) – There are now 8 members going and tickets have been booked
- Normandy 2025 – Only 3 members have expressed an interest. This is not sufficient to arrange as a group trip, therefore this will not go ahead.
- E-Day 2025 – Following on from Brian Thomas’ suggestion of this as a possible club trip, no interest has been shown.
- HMS Victory – this is a new suggestion for possible future outing to consider
- Shoebury Garrison – this is also a new suggestion for a possible future outing to consider

7. Card Payments

Steve Bailey informed the members that (whilst cash is king) the Club now has the facility to take card or PayPal payments for both the annual membership fee and the monthly subscription. It is also now possible for individuals to either join the Club as a new member or renew their annual membership via our Website.

8. Any Other Business

Gary Daisley made a request that the club acknowledge the visitors attending this meeting, two members from the Medway club, and James Cater’s father Tony.

James Cater
Club Secretary and Membership Secretary
IPMS Southend Model Club