

SOUTH EASTERN DIVISION REPORT 2019

Division Overview

South Eastern Division, NMRA British Region covers the counties of Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. The Division does not meet as such but rather through four active groups (see below). However, a Division level newsletter is issued quarterly to all members with e-mail addresses living within the Division. This is aimed to achieve two objectives: apprise members of NMRA news both globally and within the Region and to elicit views on what members want from membership. It also carries modelling articles and reviews.

The Division was the most populous in the Region with just over 100 members only four years ago. Recruitment and retention has become the major issue with a steady number of those not renewing each year for a variety of reasons including reduced disposable income and ill health. It is believed the Division membership might be as low now as just over 70. It is difficult to fathom what we should be doing more of (or less of) as we seem to be offering our Division's members the most of any with regular meetings through four active Groups across our Division plus the quarterly newsletter. It must be noted that the absence of up to date membership data from the Membership team has not helped as chasing non-renewing members is impossible without knowing who has and who has not renewed.

Groups

As stated there are four Groups within the Division, all meeting regularly. Details are below.

Kent & East Sussex Group meets six or seven times a year in members' homes for running sessions on layouts, show and tells and general chats about railways/railroads. The contacts for the Group are Mike Arnold (Chair) and Dave Griffiths (Meets Organiser).

Seaboard Southern Group meets weekly in its own dedicated clubrooms in Tilgate Park, Crawley. The Group meets on Friday evenings between 18.30 and 22.30. They are currently constructing a fixed multi-level HO layout but the current membership also have interests in N, HO_{N3} and On30. For regular updates on the layout and other club activities please check the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seaboardsouthern/> As an a NMRA group they are very happy to receive visitors so if you would like to drop by (Friday evenings at present) please contact the Secretary (Frank Warren) for times & directions - Tel: 01306 881270, email: secretary@seaboard-southern.org.uk or see their website: www.seaboard-southern.org.uk

South Shore Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month and on the 5th if there is one in the month, at Sompting Village Hall, West Street, Sompting near Worthing, West Sussex. They have converted their HO layout Drew, IA to continuous run and it was exhibited in this form at the Seaboard Southern show last weekend. This layout, along with another member's O gauge layout, is available to show organisers at this time.

They have almost completed one of their two On30 layout projects, Perfection GA but it is in need of a narrow gauge enthusiast to help get it finished and out on the exhibition circuit. The second one still needs more work, but it should be unusual in being an On30 layout set in the Diesel era. Work continues on their N-scale layout, Goose Island, set in Chicago in 2007 but there is still quite a long way to go with it. Contact for the Group is Steve Stripp.

The Surrey Group meets in members' homes from time to time across Surrey and South West London. Contact is Stephen Black.

Mike Arnold
South Eastern Division Representative
24 September 2019