



# TELFORD & IRONBRIDGE MECCANO SOCIETY

## Meccanuity Exhibition 2014

Setting-up Friday 2nd May. Open to the public Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th, Monday 5th May 2014

Dear Meccano Friends,

*We are delighted to extend Christmas greetings from all at the Telford & Ironbridge Meccano Society. As we relax over the holiday period, modellers everywhere may be working on that special Meccano creation. Our new calendars and diaries get marked-up with all those special dates, like Meccanuity 2014 !*

*Now in its twelfth year, Meccanuity has become one of the UK's leading Meccano exhibitions. Held in the massive exhibition halls of Enginuity, Coalbrookdale, the exhibition can attract over 2000 visitors during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Here in the beautiful Ironbridge Gorge, hailed by many as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, visitors come to enjoy the hands-on science discovery centre, and then discover the extra magic of a giant Meccano Exhibition.*

*Attached, here, for TIMS members and visitors alike, is all you need to plan your time at Meccanuity 2014. We look forward to seeing you!*

*Chris Shute,  
Chairman Telford & Ironbridge Meccano Society*

### **Booking your place**

Please complete and return the attached form, or email/phone the details to us. TIMS members, especially, may submit forms at our next meeting on Saturday February 8th. We'll do our best to accommodate you all. It's quite a detailed questionnaire, but it does help to make things run smoothly!

### **Getting There**

Set your sat-nav for TF8 7DQ. Alternatively, leave the M54 motorway at Junction 4 and follow signs for Ironbridge, then Coalbrookdale Museums, then Enginuity. Parking is free for exhibitors. Non-exhibiting visitors might wish to use the regular Park and Ride bus service near Jiggers Bank TF4 3QE. This service was free in 2013.

### **Registration**

On arrival, please collect your Welcome Pack from the TIMS information desk. This will contain your car park pass and exhibitor badges etc.

### **Setting Up**

Our tables will be ready for models from 1100-1630 on Friday 2nd May. Access to the halls is easy, without steps, via giant sliding doors. Trolleys and helpers will be available if required. During exhibition days (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) the halls can be accessed from 0900. It is helpful (but not essential) if models are in the halls by 1000. After 1000 on these days, when the public are admitted, the external doors are closed, and we enter by the public reception desk.

## The John Linder Memorial Shield

Our shield is awarded in memory of one of TIMS founders, John Linder. Exhibitors are invited to vote for a worthy recipient. Each year, different criteria are suggested, to reflect the range of talents, interests and achievements of those who share our hobby. Previously, the Shield was won by Bill Gardner for the best *interactive display*. The 2013 recipient was Gregg Worwood, seen here with our President, Mary Linder. Gregg's Railway Breakdown Train was reckoned to show the *best use of colour*.



Exhibitors at **Meccanuity 2014** will be invited to select the modeller who displays the **most novel use of parts**. Looking still further ahead to 2015, the Shield will be awarded for the *best scale model of a known subject*, so we all have plenty of time to prepare that special model!

## Meccanuity 2014 Theme

Can't decide what to build or bring? We have an optional themed project: **Space, in all its manifestations**. Spacecraft, lunar vehicles, satellites, orreries, 3D geometric constructions, robotic aliens and sci-fi hardware will be most welcome. Keith Way is co-ordinating our efforts, and can advise further. Feel free to let him know your plans, especially if you're hoping to avoid duplication of someone else's model: [kifway@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kifway@tiscali.co.uk). Your Space model can be displayed alongside others on the project tables, or if preferred, on your main table space. Advance notice; for Meccanuity 2015: the theme will be *Time*.

## Radio Controlled Vehicles and steam

We have a dedicated area where Radio Control enthusiasts can run their vehicles safely, and still share them with the public. Our halls can get quite busy. Unfortunately we don't allow the operation of live steam anywhere.



## Electrical Safety

We aim to provide a reliable power outlet beneath your table, or the one next to it. Please make sure all your own mains cables and power supplies are tested and passed fit for use. A number of TIMS members are able to advise or help with testing. Ideally, this should be done in advance. We have a good supply of rubber cable covers for use between wall sockets and exhibition tables, to help guard against tripping.

## Insurance

Members of TIMS, and some other UK clubs are already covered by public liability insurance, which gives great peace of mind at public shows like Meccanuity. Other guest exhibitors will be given temporary membership of TIMS for a modest fee of £1 per exhibition day. Of course, we all need to observe good safety practice, for everyone to enjoy the exhibition.

## Trading



Meccanuity is not a commercial event. TIMS aims to showcase as much Meccano modelling talent as possible. Our public visitors pay museum admission charges to our generous hosts, the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust, which is a registered educational charity. The museum shop sells some modern Meccano sets. By agreement, TIMS allows only one trader at its events. But rest assured, he is well stocked with a wide range of items at familiar prices.

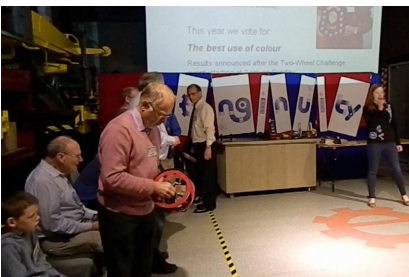
## Meccanuity Challenge 2014 – *Sumo Wrestling!*

*Do you enjoy a light-hearted challenge? Try our ever-popular Meccanuity challenge, to be fought out on Sunday afternoon in the lecture theatre in front of a baying crowd. Here are the rules:*

1. Build a robotic wrestler to send, push, or throw an opponent from the ring!
2. Wrestlers shall be no larger than a 10" cube at the start of the contest. Limbs etc. may protrude further during the contest. Wrestlers shall weigh no more than 2 kilograms or 4½ pounds.
3. Contests between drawn pairs of wrestlers shall take place within a 3' x 3' square marked by tape on a 6' diameter round table. Wrestlers will advance from opposite corners of the square.
4. Wrestlers shall be powered by electric, clockwork or spring Meccano motors. Non-Meccano battery containers, wires and switches are permitted. There shall be no external control after the contest has begun.
5. Wrestlers must advance without the aid of wheels, crawler tracks or other rotating parts touching the table. Walking, jumping or pirouetting is permitted.
6. Recognised Meccano parts or their replicas shall be used. TIMS shall not be liable for damage to any wrestlers' parts.
7. Loose projectiles may not be used.
8. A knockout tournament will be arranged consisting of contests of not more than 1 minute, with further heats/finals depending on the number of participants.
9. If a wrestler leaves the ring, the opponent shall be declared the winner. If both remain, after 1 minute, the wrestler nearest the centre shall be declared the winner.
10. The final winner will be awarded a gold-like trophy, to be retained until the next Meccanuity. A non-competing judge will award a special prize to the most entertaining and/or human-like wrestler!

### Helpful Hints?

- A number of Meccano 'walking' mechanisms already exist (Konkoly or draglines).
- A simple clockwork walker which reaches the centre of the ring and stops there might win.
- Additional motors or spring loaded devices might be used to trip or deflect the opponent.
- Consider the tactics of evenly-matched human wrestlers...



At Meccanuity 2013, in the Two-wheeled Challenge, a well-engineered clockwork machine built by John Nuttall, here, beat the Chairman's fancy-but-flimsy electric machine!



## Accommodation around Ironbridge

A search online reveals plenty of accommodation within a few miles of Ironbridge. The following hotels each had several rooms available for the Meccanuity weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights) when we searched in mid December. TIMS is unable to endorse any, but we list some here, in no particular order, as a guide for intending visitors who may not have easy internet access. If phoning from outside the UK, omit the first zero and add 0044.

The Tontine: The Square, Ironbridge, TF8 7A	<b>01952 432127</b>	
Foundry Masters House: 43 Wellington Road, Ironbridge, TF8 7DU	<b>01952 433658</b>	
Best Western Valley Hotel: Buildwas Road, Iron Bridge, Ironbridge, TF8 7DW	<b>01952 432247</b>	
Bridge View Guest House: 10 Tontine Hill, Ironbridge, Ironbridge, TF8 7AL	<b>01952 432541</b>	
Days Inn Hotel Telford Ironbridge: Junction 4, M54, Priorslee Road, Shifnall, Telford, TF11 8TG	<b>01952 238400</b>	
Buckatree Hall Hotel: The Wrekin, Telford, TF6 5AL	<b>01952 641 821</b>	
Swan At Forton: Eccleshall Road, Newport, TF10 8BY	<b>01952 812 169</b>	
Springhill B&B: 2 School Rd, Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge	<b>01952 433225</b>	
Premier Inn Telford North: Donnington Wood Way, Donnington, Telford, TF2 8HH	<b>0871 527 9084</b>	
The White House Hotel : Wellington Road, Muxton, Telford, TF2 8NG	<b>01952 603603</b>	
The Raven Hotel: 30 Barrow Street, Much Wenlock, TF13 6EN	<b>01952 727251</b>	
Premier Inn Telford Central : Value Deal Euston Way, Telford, TF3 4LY	<b>0871 527 9082</b>	
Gaskell Arms: High Street, Much Wenlock, Much Wenlock, TF13 6AQ	<b>01952 727212</b>	
Park Inn by Radisson Telford: Forgegate, Town Centre, Telford, TF3 4NA	<b>01952 429988</b>	
The Stanage B&B: Dawley Road, Lawley Village, Telford, TF4 2PG	<b>01952 507742</b>	
Sytche Caravan and Campsite: A4169 Much Wenlock	<b>01952 726701</b>	

TIMS Chairman: Chris Shute. [chris.shute@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:chris.shute@tinyworld.co.uk)

Phone: 01939 236299

TIMS Secretary-Treasurer: Roger Thorpe [roger.w.thorpe@gmail.com](mailto:roger.w.thorpe@gmail.com) Phone: 01780 754537

Our website: [www.tims.org.uk](http://www.tims.org.uk)

## Meccanuity 2014 Booking Form

Please complete the form and send the information to TIMS Secretary:

Roger Thorpe, 44, Cromarty Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2TQ

Email: [roger.w.thorpe@gmail.com](mailto:roger.w.thorpe@gmail.com) Phone: (0)1780 754537

Name:

Address and/or email:

Phone:

Others in your party:

Are you a member of a Meccano society with UK public liability insurance?

Which one?

Which days do you plan to attend? Friday 2nd May (Set-up); Sat 3rd; Sunday 4th; Mon 5th May

Do you plan to display a model on the Space theme tables? Approximate size?

**Your (main) table requirement in feet:**

We also have 6-foot circular tables. Would these be suitable? How many?

To help us plan a varied layout, what type of model(s) do you expect to display?

Do you require mains power?

Any other special requirements?

Might you be tempted to enter the Sumo wrestling Challenge event?  
(no firm commitment required !)

### Buffet Lunches

As in previous years, we will provide a buffet lunch. Please reserve now at the bargain price of **£2** per person per lunch, including tea/coffee. Ideally, we require payment by Saturday 8th February. Cheques should be made payable to Telford & Ironbridge Meccano Society. Overseas visitors may pay on arrival. Please indicate the number of buffet lunches required below .

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Total	x £2 Payment =
				£

Any special dietary requirements?

For further information, contact TIMS Chairman, Chris Shute. Email: [chris.shute@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:chris.shute@tinyworld.co.uk)  
Phone: (0)1939 236299

Our website: [www.tims.org.uk](http://www.tims.org.uk)