



The Summer Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the final newsletter before the Show next month. This edition includes an interview with our 2025 President, a new marquee at the Show this year featuring the Romsey & District Railway Modellers and the chance to win a family ticket to the Show!

Show Day - Saturday 13th September 2025

2025 Advance Tickets & Membership

There are two options for entry to the Show:

Standard entry tickets – purchase either in advance or on the day

OR

Show Membership – Includes enhanced benefits - purchase in advance

For both options, children 11 years and under are free and don't require a ticket

Standard tickets can be purchased in advance with up to 20% off the Show day price. Adult tickets start from £20. Prices increase a week before the Show. Visit our website for more information:

www.romseyshow.co.uk/the-show/buy-tickets

Membership

Purchase membership in advance of the Show to benefit from: a member's badge providing entry to the Show and Members' Enclosure. The enclosure includes ringside seating, the Members' Marquee featuring seating, the cafe and bar and VIP loos.

Members lunches can be booked in advance before the end of August. Our Member's Café will have a small range of food and drink available to purchase on the day as well. The booking link is on our website page below: www.romseyshow.co.uk/membership

Premium Parking

Premium parking is available to members and sponsors only for £40 a space. Cars must be parked by 11am and cannot leave until 3pm. Reserve your own space, located in a small car park behind the Members' Enclosure on the Showground. Email info@romseyshow.co.uk to book.

An Interview with our 2025 President, Dave Merrington

Our Secretary and Chairman welcomed our 2025 Show President, Dave Merrington to the Show Office for a chat about his life and his thoughts on joining everyone at the Show this year. Enjoy reading the interview below.

Q. Let's start with your early life Dave. Were you were born in Newcastle?

Yes, I was born in Newcastle itself, so I'm a real Geordie.

Q. Were you always a natural sportsman?

Yes. I think when you look back to then your choices were limited, you either went into the pits, the docks or if you had a talent sports. Or if you were academic, you may have gone to university.

The Northeast is now very cosmopolitan but when I was young, they were mining villages with tight knit communities. Back then the football scouts from different clubs, came to your house. I always remember Mr Thompson, my headmaster who was a Newcastle supporter was keen for me to sign to them. However, there was another scout called Jack Hixon working for Burnley and he signed a number of players from the NE including Alan Shearer. I've never met anybody quite as meticulous in my life, as Jack. He had a book and it had every game he covered, every boy he signed and all their birthdays. Every boy got a card on their birthday and he never ever forgot until the day he died.

Q. So you signed with Burnley?

I signed with Burnley at 15 and left the Northeast, going into digs in Burnley. I hadn't had any professional coaching, I just enjoyed sport and was a natural athlete. It was quite a learning curve looking back on it. I was on an apprentice wage and you were paid cash in a brown packet, around £7. From that you had to pay for your digs. It helps you grow up quickly but looking back it was quite young.

Q. Did you train every day?

We trained on a Tuesday and Thursday night, we didn't train during the day. The apprentices worked as the grounds men, sweeping the terraces, painting doors, cleaning toilets or whatever needed doing. The coaches took sessions in the evenings for us and the professionals trained during the day.

Q. What was your first job?

I took a job in case I didn't make it. It was as a TV wireless engineer, whilst still being an apprentice for Burnley. We had to clock in at seven o'clock in the morning, load up your vans and get up on roofs and put aerials up. They used to have a test card on TV in those days, a little girl and her dog, which came on at 10am.

Q. When did you turn professional?

We played in the Lancashire League which was all professional clubs. There were 62 professionals on the books and I turned professional when I was 18. If you played for the first team the maximum wage was £20 a week and you'd get £4 for a win and £2 for a draw. We weren't paid much more than a tradesman then. Burnley were one of the very first clubs to have their own training facilities which a lot of other clubs copied, they were probably one of the major clubs at the time in the 60s to produce their own players and sell them. When I went back to work at the club as a member of the coaching staff I was told by the Chairman, we had to sell a player a season to balance the books.

Q. What was it like being a professional in the first team?

Burnley is a provincial club and a very well supported Club. They were family oriented but disciplined, you

couldn't get away with anything. You were never allowed out on a Friday night, we couldn't have a motorbike, you couldn't go skiing and you had to get married during the close season which was written in your contract.

Q. Where did you meet your wife, Pauline?

Most people either met at school or in the dance halls. We got married at 21 at the end of the season, Saturday, 21st May 1966, but unfortunately, I had to go away on the Monday as the club had arranged a tour unknown to us. So, you can imagine how my wife felt.

During my time at Burnley, I got a bad Achilles injury and I played with it when I shouldn't have done. Then, at the end of the season, I moved to Bristol City, but the injury got worse and I never recovered from it. In those days they didn't have the medical technology they have today to deal with the injury. I finished playing at the age of 27.

Q. What was the highlight of your playing career?

Playing in Europe was quite an experience, and I remember playing in Naples. There was a riot during and after the game, the fans were throwing burning missiles at us, the army and police escorted us back to the airport because there were flats around the ground where people would throw plant pots down at the away team coach.

Q. What did you do after you're playing career ended?

Because I qualified as a coach early the manager at Bristol City asked me to set up the youth programme, I did all the coaching and scouting myself. Due to being away from home a lot, I gave my notice and went back to Burnley, so my wife could have support around her with having a young family. Whilst at Burnley I was offered the job at Sunderland as Deputy Manager and then moved to Leeds in the same position.

Q. Which player did you most enjoy working with?

The best part of coaching is the development of young players from the age of 16-21 and trying to make them a complete all-round person. It is important to get them across the white line in the best physical and mental state possible. Two players that stand out for different reasons are Alan Shearer with his sheer single mindedness to get to the top. The other was just a genius, Matt Le Tissier, who was happy to stay at Southampton as the fans loved him.

Q. How has the game changed in your lifetime?

The biggest difference is the financial aspect of the game today. Where once the club had total domination over the manager and the players, now the players have the total domination over the club and the manager. It's reversed itself to some degree. One thing that hasn't changed is the diversity of the people you come across, one day you can be mixing with royalty the next helping people in the community who have fallen through the net and have become dysfunctional and need help and support

Q. How did you come to work at Southampton Football Club?

I went out of the game for three years and worked in the probation service which was a great experience. It was a learning curve between dealing with a highly motivated individual to people who, for one reason had found themselves on the other side of the law.

Lawrie McMenemy rang me and said the game is changing, he said it's concentrating more now on players education and coaching development. Lawrie wanted somebody who could handle senior professionals and the younger players from 16 to 35 and their education.

I moved my family to Romsey in 1985 where my kids settled and went to local schools and we became part of the Romsey community. One of the things I've learnt in life is if you give people your time, they really appreciate it and because of that I have always had a good rapport with the fans.

Q. How do you spend your retirement?

Working part time at BBC SOLENT gave me precious time with my family, children and grandchildren. I have recently started to play bowls with a young family member, who plays for England, I have enjoyed learning a new sport and love the camaraderie and friendships. Outside I enjoy gardening and the odd game of golf. I have been a committed Christian for many years and attend the Totton Baptist Church.

Q. What's your thoughts on Romsey Show?

Being asked to be your President is a privilege having lived here for 40 years. I was so impressed with the volunteers who freely give their time and dedication to this event. The work that goes into making Romsey Show happen is quite amazing. Without the volunteers and sponsors it would not be possible, full marks to them all. It is a notable day in the Romsey calendar and fantastic day out for all the family with something for everyone. I wish all those attending a wonderful and happy day out. Every blessing to you all.

The 2025 equine & livestock entries are closing soon



There is still time to enter the livestock and equine classes at the show this year.

View the Equine Schedule: [Click here>>](#)

View the Livestock Schedule: [Click here>>](#)

Enter/view classes on showing scene: [Click here>>](#)

New for the 2025 Show: Juggling Jake Circus Skills

Discover if you have a hidden talent worthy of joining the circus with our have a go circus skills area. Great for all ages, with an expert on hand to show you how to use the equipment.

Visit the circus area opposite the Member's Entrance.



The Hampshire Fare Skills Kitchen Returns



We're delighted to welcome Hampshire Fare back to The Romsey Show this year as they once again host the ever-popular Skills Kitchen located within our Food Zone.

Championing the best of our county, Hampshire Fare supports local food, drink, and craft producers through events, campaigns, and connections across the region.

This year's Skills Kitchen will feature an exciting programme of live demos from top local chefs and producers, showcasing the rich and diverse larder of Hampshire. From seasonal cooking tips to producer stories, it's a celebration of flavour, skill, and local pride.

Don't forget to visit the Hampshire Fare stand to pick up your free copy of the Local Produce Guide and discover even more ways to shop and support local!

The Romsey & District Railway Modellers Society First Exhibition at the Show



In September 1825 the world's first public railway, the Stockton and Darlington Railway opened, revolutionising travel. To celebrate the 200th year anniversary this September, we are welcoming the Romsey and District Railway Modellers Society to the Show with their own tent.

Their display tent will showcase a variety of models built and run by the members. The interests of their members are wide and varied. Ranging from N gauge to live steam garden railways, British Rail, all the Big

Four, narrow gauge plus continental. Many members have an interest in railway preservation of some form.

The Romsey Signal Box team will also be in the tent with a small signalling box as part of their display.

Visit the tent on Show day between the Members Enclosure and Secretary's Tent.



Photo credit to Clive Richardson.

Main Ring Attraction: A Display of Modern Agricultural Machinery



At 1:35pm in the President's Main Ring on Show day we will have an impressive parade of modern agricultural machinery. The display will include tractors, a drill, a self-propelled sprayer, combine header trailer, a grain trailer and the star of the Show, a JD tracked x9 1100 combine harvester.

Special thanks to the Cook Family for supporting the Show with the machinery and to Access Care for sponsoring the display.

Main Ring Attraction: Coaching Class & Marathon

Follow its popularity last year, the coaching class & marathon will be taking place at the Show again this year, with the pre and post marathon judging taking place in the President's Main Ring.

Don't miss these magnificent coaches, pulled by four immaculately turned out horses at 11:30am and 2:30pm on Show day.



Trade Stand Applications are Still Open

If you are interested in promoting your business or selling products to a large audience at the Show we would love to hear from you. We welcome a range of existing and new exhibitors to the Show every year. Please visit our website for more information or to book a space. We have several areas including the outside stands, Shopping & Craft Marquee and the Food Zone. Spaces are limited this close to the Show, with applications accepted on a first come basis. For food/drink suppliers, please email info@romseyshow.co.uk first. We are full for public catering.

www.romseyshow.co.uk/trade-stands/booking

Sponsor Spotlight: Footner & Ewing LLP

Footner & Ewing have been long term sponsors of the Show and celebrated their 200 year anniversary this year. In this newsletter Amanda Warren, the Practice Manager & Partner talks about the business and their links to the Show and Romsey area.

"Footner & Ewing LLP are honoured to continue supporting The Romsey Show with its fantastic efforts in providing the local community and surrounding areas. Not only does the Show provide a wonderful day out it also allows the younger generations an insight into traditional way of living and farming blended alongside our current ways with the exhibitions and shows provided by local producers and exhibitors.

Footner & Ewing LLP are proud to be able to continue serving the residents and businesses of Romsey and beyond and are now one of the oldest continuing businesses in Romsey alongside the public houses.

The Law Society are able to trace the Firm back to George Bright Footner who was admitted as a Solicitor in 1823. Interestingly, the Law Society itself has very recently celebrated its 200 year anniversary, so Footner & Ewing LLP actually pre-dates the Law Society and have been in the Town for over 200 years which is incredible.

It was with a heavy heart we moved from our former office in Romsey, which we had occupied since the 1800's, to new premises on The Hundred last year however we have still tried to retain the charm and character of occupying an historical building in the heart of Romsey.



Footner & Ewing LLP pride ourselves on remaining a traditional Firm and will always focus and prioritise putting the personal needs and requirements of our Clients first."

Thank you to Footner & Ewing LLP for sponsoring the Popell Barns Mobile Farm again this year, located opposite the sheep area towards the top of the Showground.

Win a family ticket to 2025 show

We are excited to welcome you to The Romsey Show soon, but perhaps you have family or friends that would like to join you?

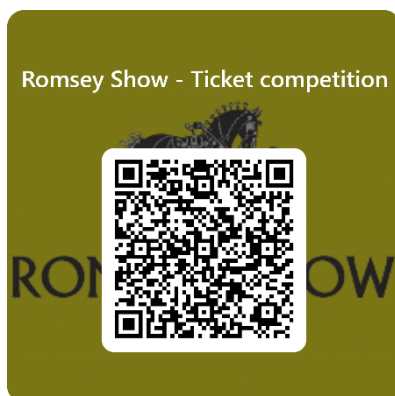
We are running a competition for people to be able to win a free Family ticket (2x Adults and 2x Children).

To enter, sign up to our newsletter using [this online form](#) to provide us with an email address. As you are receiving this newsletter via email then we already have your details, and the competition winner must be a new email address - however please do help us promote the competition amongst your local family or friends, perhaps your work colleagues or those on your sports team.

Entries must be submitted by the 31st August 2025 before a winner will be drawn at random the following day. Entry to the competition is free to enter, but entrants must be over 18 years old. If you are entering on

behalf of someone else, please ensure you have their permission as the winner will be contacted via email. Further T&Cs can be found on the competition form.

Alternatively, scan the QR code below :



For more information on What's on at the 2025 Show, visit our [website](#) today.

Timetables will be updated closer to the Show.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to contribute towards future newsletters, please email us. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition.