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This Month...



The News Sheet

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Chairman's Chatter



Robin Thorn

And Another month rolls by and I am still sitting here in the 'hot seat' having not been voted out at the recent A.G.M., either I am doing it right or nobody else is interested in taking on this fairly onerous task.

The A.G.M. came and went at the start of May; which almost didn't happen as by 3 minutes to kick off we were struggling to achieve a quorum. However, with the aid of a few late runners we were able to proceed but I did not quite beat the track record of closing the meeting within 19 minutes, it was possibly due to my lengthy report that carried the meeting on for longer. A big thank you is due to all the Council members who

have assisted over the last twelve months and especially to the Treasurer and Secretary for all the work involved in keeping the accounts in order and keeping records of all the meetings that are held.

After the essentials had been completed, with no significant changes to the appointed officers, following a lubrication of tea; we were entertained by some railway based videos courtesy of Mike Foreman.

It is a little disappointing to see that only about 10% of our total membership attends this important meeting on the club calendar, but then it may be an indication that the remainder of the Society are happy with the current set up of Council members and the way that the Society is progressing.

At the time of writing we have now completed the first two public running days of 2016 and both events were very well attended by both the public and the members who provided the motive power plus those involved in stewarding duties. Many thanks to all involved, I hope that the rest of the running season runs so well.

The site at Tyttenhanger is looking in very good shape with all the flowers that are making a show and a big vote of thanks must go to Nigel Griffiths and his team for their unstinting works keeping the site in good order. Not to be forgotten is Nigel's wife Helen who has been quietly beavering away over many weeks sorting out all the garden area around the boating lake, well done Helen. Thanks must also go to our members who brighten up the carriage area on a regular basis by bringing their beautiful floral hanging baskets on a regular basis.

Whilst in thank you mode we need to send a big vote of thanks to Joe Featherstone for his very generous donation of a full set of machined wheels for all the raised track riding cars, thanks Joe.

The boys involved with sections based at Headquarters are all beavering away as normal and as far as I know there is nothing major to report. Ian Johnston is keeping us well entertained with his organising of Friday night General Meetings.

The Fetes and Fairs team are continuing to beaver away raising funds for all sections of the Society and are always in need of additional help even if only for a few hours, from any members who are willing and able to assist at any of the many events the section is scheduled to attend this year. Jim MacDonald is the man to contact if you want to help out.

It has been good to see Grahame Gardner out and about at Tyttenhanger after his recent spell in hospital, he even felt up to giving his grandchild a ride on the G.L.R. at a recent running day. Welcome back Grahame. [Now get on with the overcoat for that tunnel!]

Robin Thorn
Chairman N.L.S.M.E.

2016 Stewards list

The stewards list for 2016 has now been adjusted to accommodate the changes that some have requested and to remove some names that could no longer act. Please look at the list and check whether or not you have been affected by the changes, some new names have been added and some swapped.

If for any reason you are unable to do the allotted date please come to an arrangement with another steward to swap duties and inform the relevant senior steward of the swap. The onus is now with members to ensure duties are carried out and not with the senior steward or me.

Alan Marshall (Secretary)

Treasurer's Report



A very brief report this month. Now that the AGM has been and gone I can now give my attention to the end of year accounts for my other Society and of course begin to enjoy myself steaming up at Colney Heath, if it wasn't for my injectors being troublesome. My own fault really as having descaled the boiler during the winter, I obviously have not flushed it out well enough and I am getting funny gauge glass readings and said injector problems. Persevere I say.

Subscription renewals are still trickling in and I'm please to say that only 71 members remain outstanding. Next month I will publish the Postcode reminders..., so if you haven't paid yet please do so asap. Thank you.

Mike Foreman

Photo on front cover –

John Riches enjoying a run on the Garden Rail track with his 'G' scale models on Sunday 15th May 2016.

Photos on next page –

Three proud fathers took delivery of newborn GWR 14xx loco's on Friday 6th May 2016. Mike Chrisp gave them a thorough check over before sending them out on the track for the first time. All three performed extremely well even in front of some very senior onlookers, and the Loco's also performed just as well.

George Cannon.





Running Royal Scot models of 2 ½", 3 ½", 5" and 7 ¼" gauge, with an exhibition of other scales and part built locomotives.

If you wish to submit your engine to run, be part of the exhibition or if you have any questions, please email:

RoyalScotevent@outlook.com

Exhibitor camping available upon request.



Rugby Model Engineering Society
Onley Lane, Rugby, CV22 5QD
www.rugbymes.co.uk

9th- 10th July

10:00- 17:00

You are welcomed to our special commemorative event, to mark 50 years since the last Royal Scot was withdrawn.

Free admission.



Ian Johnston

Forthcoming General Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated General Meetings begin at 8pm at our Legion Way Headquarters in North Finchley, usually ending at about 10pm. All members are welcome and we are always happy to see friends and family attending. We hope for a good attendance to support speakers. Please remember that many of the meetings depend on the club to provide the catalyst for a stupendous evening.

For more information please ring Ian.

Friday 3rd June. Chris will carry on from where Mike Gibbs left off at the recent 'Work in Progress' evening. Chris has been the senior restorer and rebuilders of the powerful ore and coal hauling 2-8-2T locomotive from the Woodham's Yard to Quainton Road and on to almost running order. Come and see what a determined team can achieve when the spirit is willing.

Friday 1st July. First Aid Evening at Colney Heath. Now the evenings have drawn out again we hope to entertain Verity Maclachlan at Colney Heath with our knowledge of **First Aid** and of course to be corrected by her expert opinions. Please make an effort to visit the track and see what goes on there. You never know when you will need that knowledge in an emergency; you could save a life!!

Friday 5th August. BBQ at Colney Heath. This year instead of tomato soup it is to be vegetable with sausages as before. Please come along and join in but try to let me know how many sausages you will need! Come for a nice sausage and soup. Bring the missus to see what you get up to.

Friday 2nd September. Do you fancy driving from Singapore to Bangkok in a MG TD and also using railways? You can find out all about it from **Colin Gent** who did it as a young RN Officer in 1961. Remember he gave us two fantastic talks some time ago to sell-out audiences about the Merlin Engine and the Type C Destroyer.

Friday 7th October. You will all remember the fantastic talks that **David Render** gave about his part in Motor Racing before WWII and as the youngest tank commander at D Day plus 2. David has volunteered to give a talk entitled '**Something Concrete**'.

Mr. Grumpy.

Another month has slipped by and the Thursday and Saturday teams seem to press on regardless of weather or time of year resulting in a Ground Level Railway that has had almost all the sleepers replaced and the track relayed. This has greatly improved the ride quality and reduced derailments. Well done team.

The Garden Railway boys are, as ever, enjoying their regular running days in the week and; whilst there are; tending to keep that area in good order.

The 'Sunday morning working parties' are still attended by the hardy few, even though traditionally the Sunday morning working parties normally cease during the summer. However; if anybody feels the need to come and do a bit during the summer months; please feel free. All efforts by members will be greatly appreciated.

Smallford station roof (photo on top of next page) is progressing rapidly along with the painting of the G.L.R. signal box.

Grass cutting is now coming back into fashion along with all the weeding and associated tasks. Well done by all the grounds team.

The whole of the site is now looking very presentable with just a few items lingering on site that need to be removed by their owners; as has been previously mentioned many times in the past.

Whilst the warmer weather is with us Derek Perham and his team are looking forward to painting the G.L.R. bridge; over the soon to be filled lake; before their brushes get cold from doing a wonderful job of painting the main gate to our site.

Just a short tome this month, I will catch up in the future, and as always a great big thank you to all those who untiringly give up their time to keep our facility in good order.

Mr. Grumpy, A.K.A. Robin Thorn, Tyttenhanger Site Manager.



MENCAP DAY, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH 2016

Ladies, Gentlemen.

This year our annual invitation to The St. Albans Mencap Group has been arranged for **Saturday 10th September 2016.**

This is normally a wonderful day out hosted by our Society for many of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Volunteers for DRIVERS, GUARDS and STEWARDS are going to be required for this day, a day that brings so much pleasure to all these visitors, both the patients and their carers.

It is planned for the event, weather permitting, to run from 14:00 to 17:00 on that date but may start earlier as final details are confirmed. The visitors normally arrange all their own catering and use our coach for the making of drinks etc.

Actual numbers of visitors are not yet known but this event is normally very well attended. I understand that they tend to arrive and leave as and when they wish so there will possibly be a steady turnover of visitors all afternoon.

If you are available and would like to be involved please email me.

Thanking you all in advance,

Mr. Grumpy.

Public Running at CH 2pm - 5pm.

To those of who are not cognoscenti, that phrase 'Public Running at CH 2pm-5pm' will be a mystery and not mean very much, but to those in the know it spells an afternoon of delight. Especially delight and pride to those who were major players in the building and restoration work carried out over the winter months. And all the more so on a sunny and warm afternoon at CH (Colney Heath).



So the scene was set - A warm calm sunny Sunday. A ground with immaculately mown grass, spring flowers blooming, a tunnel almost complete and all tracks repaired, ready to go; accompanied by a boating lake with clear water and no flotsam and jetsam.





While the team of stewards arrived several established members were proudly preparing and steaming up their locomotives and waking them from their winter slumbers ready to do a pleasurable sequence of duties carrying passengers young an old and thin and not so thin on either the raised track or the ground level track.



Soon interested members of the public started to arrive at Park Corner to be met by two stewards who felt as though they had drawn the short straw being stuck out on a limb. These stewards welcomed the eager drivers and told them where to go - usually to park on the drive to the ground but when the drive was full they were asked diplomatically to go elsewhere to park. At the gate was another steward whose duty it was to welcome visitors and direct them further into the grounds.

On the steaming bays we find another steward who makes sure that members have signed the book with their locomotives name and certificate number.



Photo courtesy of Owen Chapman.

By the time the visitors have reached the station they will be wooed by the smell of freshly brewed tea made by members of the Gauge One section. And to the smell of steam and smoke at the stations. The visitor will have the choice of travelling on the raised track or the ground level track or both; but not at the same time. The astute visitor will have noticed that the stations are also

manned by stewards who look after the safety and comfort of the expectant travellers.

Two stewards are on duty to control the crowds but best behaviour is the order of the day so they pass the time reminiscing with members of the public and by taking teas to the parched and dehydrated drivers and guards.



All too soon it is five-o'clock and time to pack up. Visitors have got the message and are homeward bound, the tired drivers return to the steaming bays and blow down their locomotive's boilers and clean up. The Gauge One folk get the cups washed and the stewards collect the signals and tidy the site. It is now time for the crew of stewards and tired drivers to return home with that feeling of having done a good job of work and having made many young people happy.

Ian Johnston.



Marine News

Been a long time waiting over winter especially for me as it was my first winter as section leader but the wait was worth it. Public running day marked the start and we had seven members with an assortment of boats on the lake, steam, sail and battery powered.

Great to see the lake used for its rightful purpose and not a duck pond, which a couple of mallards had their eyes on.

There were quite an assortment of boats from kits or handmade, some made of plastic, wood and even one entirely from brass. Why not send me a picture and a few lines description of your boats, its history, build material, methods used etc. for future issues.

By the time this issue goes to press we will have been to the Doncaster Show, had our first Toy Boat Regatta and the Wicksteed Mayhem on the Bank Holiday weekend. So we should have more relevant bits to write about next time, along with your pictures and descriptions, which I hope to receive in due course.

George



George Cannon. Marine Section Leader.

Photo on previous page,

"This picture saves a thousand words. Family boating at its best".

Photo reproduced with kind permission of John Davy.

G.L.R. News.

June 2016.



Having been away from the track for some six weeks now it was nice to come back and see the changes that have taken place on and around the G.L. Railway, most notable being the nearly completed brickwork on the fantastic Tunnel Project, only six foot left to do of which Ted assures me will be finished in the coming months, The flora and fauna at the track have done their very best this spring and as always everything looks so clean and fresh. Recently Ted whilst laying bricks told me in a moment of weakness that he has seen a Golden Oriole? I not being one to take the mickey thought! he's been at the cooking sherry he must mean Oracle in reference to the tunnel being our place of worship, maybe he needs a rest from laying bricks. Well done to all who look after the site and do the work, I can't wait to get back and help finish what we started even if it takes the next twenty years God willing If I am spared.



The first day public running was quite a busy affair with not too many hiccups other than the usual missing stewards, people walking up the new land not wearing VISY VESTS and one derailment, these are issues that we the members just need to think about during public running to hopefully make it a safer and better day out for all.

Two years ago I sowed the RT bank with some Forget Me Nots, this season they are beginning to look stunning what a difference to just a few years ago when the bank was under construction and this bridge did not exist, all well worth the effort. Unfortunately for those of you not looking at this picture on the web the black and white print in the newsletter will not do this picture justice. Many thanks to Nigel for weed killing the track, not an easy task but one job that goes unnoticed.



In reference to Ted's the Golden Oriole, like some of our members it is a rare summer visitor, arriving from its central European home to breed in the relative comfort amongst our woodlands only to leave again when the brood is fledged in early autumn, not paying any taxes, eating all our insects, and not adding anything to the coffers, I ponder this!

As ever in the muck, **P.A.K. Funk. G.L.R. Section Leader.**

**NORTH LONDON SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS
Officers, Council Members & Section Leaders**

The views expressed in this News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Chairman or Council of the NLSME.