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*This Month...*



# The News Sheet

**Chairman's Chatter, Treasurer's Report, Raised Track Report, Forthcoming General Meetings, Provisional Steward List, Ground Level Railway News, Mr. Grumpy, The February General Meeting, Steaming Bay Project News, Garden Rail News (G1), Marine News, Diary Dates, Nomination Form, Club Contacts.**



## Chairman's Chatter

Well that is another month gone whizzing by and many very busy Sunday Morning working parties have all been very well attended by the hardy few who persevere to keep our facility at Colney Heath in tip top condition regardless of the weather.

Work is progressing on both the Raised Track and the Cuckoo Line with replacement of rotten support sleepers and re-aligning the track. It is amazing to see how much work goes into replacing just one support sleeper on these raised tracks. A true work of art when completed by the trusty crews that have had to perform these transplants on numerous occasions over the years.

The grounds team are always beavering away clearing the dead undergrowth, fallen branches and the never-ending mass of dead leaves. On top of this they also have a non-stop battle with rabbits, rats and other troublesome pests.

A new set of wheels for the Raised Track passenger cars should soon be arriving which will involve a systematic strip down of each vehicle to replace the worn wheels, service each vehicle and ensure all braking systems are working efficiently. It should be remembered that these cars are not only used for hauling passengers on public running days but many members rely on these vehicles for use as their driving car when running their locomotive.

Thanks to another small but dedicated crew the replacement of the roof wings on Smallford Station is moving onwards with the materials now on site to complete this project.

The General Meeting at Headquarters on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 was very well attended on the topic of boiler testing. The meeting was very informative with many valid points raised by members and very interesting discussions bandied around the floor.

One point that was taken on board at the meeting was that members generally need to be updated in respect of the decisions made by both Council and the T.S.C.. This matter will be attended to as best we can.

We are welcoming the carers and their clients from MENCAP again this year and the date for your diaries for this event is SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016. We hope that as many members as possible will be available on that date to either run their locomotives or act as stewards to ensure that this very worthwhile event runs as smoothly as possible.

Our Boiler Testers have requested that a note is made to remind all members that require their boilers tested that they **MUST** make arrangements in advance and not just turn up on any day hoping that a tester **AND** witness will be available at the **DROP OF A HAT!** This practice must come to an end.

These same cheerful chappies also wish to remind all members that present a boiler for test must ensure that they are in possession of their own blanking plugs for the safety valves **AND** the pressure gauge and that also have suitable adaptors to connect their boiler to the pressure test equipment. The standard connection that you must provide is a 5/16" x 32 t.p.i. male connector. If you do not provide these items, the boiler testers have every right to postpone the test. It is not unreasonable that every member should have the above fittings as part of their locomotive tools and accessories. All previous certificates should be available at the time of the test also.

Well, that's my bit for this month.

**Robin Thorn**

Chairman N.L.S.M.E.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

**'Work in Progress.'**

**8pm at HQ.**

**Photo on front cover.**

Some of our working party members at Colney Heath. Photo taken on 7th February 2016. Ian Johnston.

## Raised Track Report

Work continues on repairing the condemned main beams with the first one re-screeded last Thursday. The shuttering will then go on the second one and the Cuckoo line replacement, followed by the section by Camps Cairn which only needs screeding, plus the track super elevation has still to be checked and adjustments made, then the Unloading Platform has to be finished, before May.

Not to mention elsewhere on site the worktop in the kitchen needs replacing and the workshop roof also needs finishing. This all keeps a few hardy souls out of mischief on a Thursday and Sunday mornings. Come along and join us.

**Mike Foreman**



This bench seat was donated in memory of Mike and Beryl Collingwood, both being long time members of the Society.

## **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. (General Meetings Organiser)

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Work in Progress.** Your last chance to show us what you were up to in the winter. So if you were not ready in November, now is the time to show the Club your prowess and progress. Locomotives please but this is a General Meeting so general engineering is welcome.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. David Render.** This evening David will talk about **Wartime Tanks**. David was the youngest tank commander on the Normandy Beaches and will give an absolutely fascinating talk both of his experiences and the Military Tank. I propose that the proceeds of the raffle should go to the widows of his group of Sherwood Rangers Tank Regiment.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. AGM. The Annual General Meeting.** This is a most important meeting where we summarize what great progress the Club has achieved in the past year. Where we plan for the future of the Club and where we elect members to take up various offices to run the Society for the forthcoming year. **Members only.**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. TBA**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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!!

## G.L.R. NEWS - 18th February 2016.

### Light at the end of the Tunnel.

Sorry for the poor quality of the picture, just had to take this on my phone as I did not have my camera to hand. The scene shows the crew moving the former



along under Ted's instructions, ever eager to lay the next section of bricks for the steel fixers to do their bit. This was the first time that I had walked inside the tunnel since the three sections above have been concreted and it is really beginning to feel like the real thing. We could have built a straight tunnel more easily but the cutting over which it is built lent itself so nicely to incorporate the 's' shape and was well worth the extra effort to ensure the full effect of echo and darkness. Tunnel vision Ted (our bricky) has really got the bit between his teeth and is now romping home, clear odds on favourite to win. Having completed well over half of the beautiful brick arch construction, my money is on him to finish bricking up this coming summer. A fantastic construction of endurance and workmanship by all involved, I shall have a word

with Ma'am; nothing less than a Knighthood for the crew I hope.

Sleeper Replacement goes on at a rattling pace, even the old boys seem impressed by the work that is being achieved, helping to cement the good feeling between the raised track and the Tyttenhanger G.L. crew.

The picture on the next page shows Orchard Junction with new sleepers and ballast that has lifted the whole three ways out of the station and around the Cuckoo Line; this was done to lessen the gradient at this place hopefully to assist the less powerful locos when passenger hauling exiting the station.

It has been a very busy winter at the track this year and much has been achieved on the G.L. I am so grateful to all who have helped through the not so nice days weather-wise and to balance it up some of the most beautiful sunny days, I really cannot think of any other place I would rather be when the weather is nice, this time next month spring will be well on its way, let's hope we can get all the work done before the start of the season.

As ever in the muck.

**P.A.K. Funk. G.L.R. Section Leader.**



Orchard Junction with new sleepers and ballast. Feb. 2016.

## Steaming Bay Project News



On Saturday 20th February, six select and perfectly formed muscular (believe that if you will) concrete mixers met under the leadership of Alan at the Tyttenhanger site to carry on with the next phase of the steaming bay project. This phase was to complete the installation of the concrete base which will allow a complete train of loco and carriages to be swiftly moved onto the raised track having been formed up on the access line once steam has been raised, or batteries connected, in the new steaming bays (a future phase of the project).

Having sworn the pledge on the correct ballast to cement ratio the team moved swiftly into action, knowing that the weather forecast promised rain by early afternoon. The concrete mixers were expertly handled by Mike, **cont'd.**

George, Roy and Phil with Alan and yours truly - Nigel, cajoling the delivered mix into the appropriate areas of the shuttering before tamping and leveling off. Alan, not being content with ordinary tamping and leveling, decided to exercise his right as leader to do a bit of body surfing on the raised track – the picture tells all!! With the rain having started the team managed to finish and cover the area before the heavens opened.



This completes an important phase on the redevelopment of our steaming bays. Future phases include completing the foundation for the workshop which will then be moved from its present location, the construction of the new traverser to go on the base just laid and the access line to go from the new steaming bays. There will be plenty of opportunity for all to be involved in this development work which will allow easier access and removal of trains from the raised track, doing away with the current bottle neck we have all experienced getting our locos on and off the track from the current steaming bay arrangement.

## **Mr. GRUMPY'S BIT**

This point may be raised elsewhere in this News Sheet, but better twice than not at all.

### **Water supply to Site**

Would all members that visit at Colney Heath be aware that, when leaving site during the winter months, the water supply must be turned off at the Main Stopcock, which should have been opened only a maximum of one turn. The coach supply must also be turned off under the sink in the kitchen and the pipes drained by opening all taps and the RED drain valve beside the bothy sink, shutting them after draining has finished. Similarly, the Steaming Bay Workshop water supply must be turned off and drained completely using outside drain valve, etc., to avoid a repetition of the burst pipes from a few weeks ago. Our onsite handy plumber has just repaired two burst pipes and two compression joints that had been forced apart due to the freezing temperatures.

Amazing effort has been made by again, a dedicated few, to clear space. Hopefully by the time that you receive this News Sheet all the unwanted items stored on site will have either been removed by the owners or deposited in the skip. Rant over.

A volunteer and his colleague have come forward to complete the painting on the Orchard Junction Signal Box and as soon as it gets a little warmer, so that the painting will be a bit easier than smearing on treacle, I am sure the signal box will look pristine again.

Courtesy of Ron a further set of doors has appeared at Tyttenhanger to fill the remaining space between the containers. With all three spaces now protected work can progress with casting concrete.

Replacement of sleepers on the G.L.R. is progressing very rapidly again thanks to the dedicated crew involved.

If it has not been mentioned elsewhere in the News Sheet, members are requested not to take any vehicles onto the grassed area from the 'Narrows' towards the carriage and workshop. A sleeper has been placed across the narrows in an effort to prevent this because of recent damage in this area by vehicles.

The winter is once again taking a heavy toll on our access route to Colney Heath, all the efforts made so far are greatly appreciated by all members and visitors to the site. We need to try to not only to fill the many potholes in the lane but try to regrade the area by the gate where vehicles making a tight turn through the gate have, over the years caused the top surface to slide away. This area I think will take a lot more effort than just filling on top. Any expert and experienced views will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again to everyone for their very hard work, all is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Grumpy.  
Tyttenhanger Site Manager.  
[A.K.A. **Robin Thorn**]

### **Society Activities.**

Every Wednesday; Garden Railway Section at CH (11am – 4pm), also O, OO and H0 Model Railway Groups and Video Group meet at HQ (evening)

Every other Wednesday; Slot Car (Retro) meet at HQ (evening).

Every Thursday; Working parties at CH (all day) and Slot Car section meet at HQ (evening).

Every Saturday; Working parties at CH on GLR, including Junior section (all day).

Every Sunday; Morning working parties at CH (start 9am).

## Garden Rail Report – January & February 2016

Our section Christmas lunch on 23 December was very well attended; the fish and chips were washed down with glasses of grape juice and a wee dram – very welcome as it was cold outside! Thanks are due to Brian for organising the event.

Although we normally congregate at the track on a Wednesday, in principle the track can be used 24x7 which means we can change the meeting day at short notice. An example of this occurred in the last week of January, when the weather was wet and windy on the Tuesday and Wednesday but was forecast to be better on Thursday. So a brief email was circulated on the Tuesday informing the section that we would meet on Thursday. The weather did indeed improve on the day and a good steam-up was had by most; I say “most” because some of us – myself included - suffered problems with maintaining boiler pressure due to the chilly wind, but at least it didn’t rain. (Falling snow however does not present a problem; I can recall that about 10 years ago I was steaming at a GTG in someone’s back garden when it started to snow quite heavily; after a while I had difficulty seeing my engine but it steamed on regardless, seemingly oblivious of the snow!).



Norman's model overbridge-type station takes pride of place and since the autumn he has completed many of the platform sections which will accompany the overbridge and staircases that provide access to said platforms. For photos of the station overbridge without the platform extensions please see the August 2015 issue of the News Sheet. We look forward to seeing the complete model *in situ* when the weather gets better.

In the February News Sheet David referred to the new metal over-track bridge which the section obtained last November. Following Nigel's pressure-wash it is looking better; thanks, Nigel. When the weather improves we can start constructing the wooden shuttering required for making the concrete base; the height needs to be set so as to give adequate clearance between the underside of the bridge walk-way and our track, to allow trains to pass unimpeded. Then we can start thinking about how to manoeuvre the bridge into position. A simple way to do that could be to lift it up so it sits on one end adjacent to the track, and then to lower the other end so that the bridge sits over the track. But we may need to call on some mechanical assistance.



And finally a brief note about Norman's loco shown in my second photograph; it is a model of a Great Eastern Railways Class T19. This particular engine, no. 760, was constructed in 1890 and named *Petrolea* because it was the first of its class to be converted to oil firing as a result of a coal shortage. The experiment was probably not a success as the locomotive reverted to coal firing when coal became more freely available.

That's all folks, for this month – happy steaming to everyone!

Photo captions:-

- 1 David's LBSC H2 Atlantic makes light work of our track.
- 2 Norman's GER T19 *Petrolea* steaming past the new overbridge.  
(Norman built the coaches as well as the engine).

**Nick**

### Workshop Meetings at HQ

Other section meetings seem to have faded away one by one, but Workshop meetings continue, at least till April.

The meetings are a general discussion group. Bring a problem, and everyone will give you a different answer. Each time it is "work in progress". We have so far dealt with, a parting tool which does not "dig in", a better key to set your four jaw chuck with, and a single handed electric nibbler. Watch this space for a demo of CNC milling.

One of the hard lessons of running meetings is that you have got to have a TEA BREAK. This is provided by our splendid tea boy Dave. So it is worth coming, all are welcome.

Meetings are always on the fourth Friday of the month, from September to April with a break in December. All welcome.

**Mike**

## Marine News – March 2016

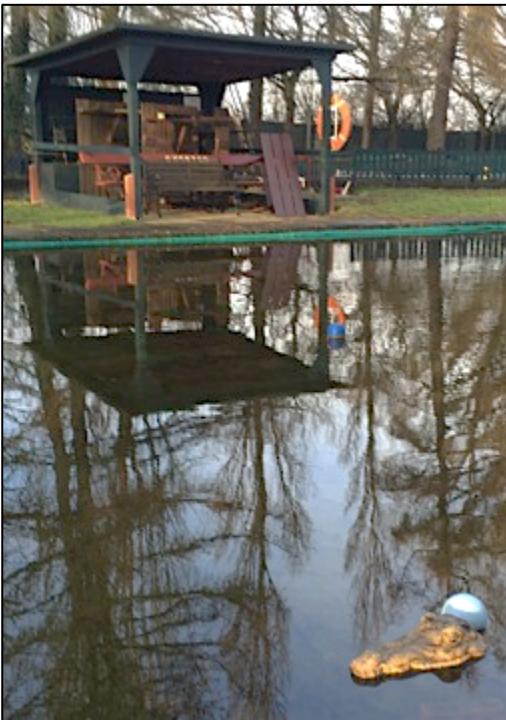
We have had some nice days for this time of year but it would be no fun standing around the lake which has been frozen over at times. So not a lot of news to report from the marine section other than -

Whilst you all still have a nice clean / clear diary, paper or electronic, I have this year's dates for the Toy Boat Society visiting our waters. I am sure many have seen before over the years but for you again and those that have not then it is well worth coming to our Colney Heath site 10:00 to 14:00 ish on the following dates. (bit more detail nearer the time)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016**



Letting the weather settle a bit I reckon mid April we need to start working on the lake area and equipment so will be grateful for any help physical or knowledge based (no fun struggling and someone on sidelines laughing “yep we tried that years ago”). In the meantime I am still on-site most Thursdays and Sundays helping ground and raised track teams repairs ready for open season. Great bunch of people and although my skills currently are only lift, shift, and hold, it lets others keep going whilst I fetch and carry and I am learning a lot from them all, most having been involved with marine section at some time in the past.

Pop along, say hello, the kettle is always warm.

Photo above – A Crocodile guarding the lake.

**George**

## Dates for your Diary

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>2016</b>
Tues 1st Mar.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 4th Mar.	General Meeting 8pm at HQ. 'Work in Progress'.
Sun 6th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 13th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 15th Mar.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 18th March</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for April News Sheet.</i></b>
Sun 20th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Fri 25th Mar.	Workshop evening 8pm at HQ with Mike
Sun 27th Mar.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2016</b>
Fri 1st Apr.	General Meeting at HQ. David Render – 'Wartime Tanks'
Sun 3rd Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 5th Apr.	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Sun 10th Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Sun 17th Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
Tues 19th Apr.	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 22nd April</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for May News Sheet.</i></b>
Fri 22nd Apr.	Workshop evening 8pm at HQ with Mike
Sun 24th Apr.	Working party at CH. 9am – 12:30
<b>MAY</b>	<b>2016</b>
Sun 1st May	First Public running at CH. 2pm – 5pm
Tues 3rd May	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 6th May	AGM 8pm at HQ
Sun 15th May	Public running at CH. 2pm – 5pm
Tues 17th May	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 20th May</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for June News Sheet.</i></b>
Sun 22nd May	Toy Boat regatta at CH

NB. Please notify Alan (Secretary) of all meetings and other Society events for inclusion in the Society Calendar. Approval for special events still rests with Council and/or the Tyttenhanger Site Committee.

**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.