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The News Sheet

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The Chairman's Notes

Unfortunately I must start this month's Newssheet by reporting the death of one of our own; Ken West passed away at the end of January. I on behalf of the whole Society send our condolences to Ken's family. Ken was a very likeable chap; we who had the privilege of knowing him from the Council's perspective often referred to Ken as the 'voice of reason', praising Ken's ability to give us all the proverbial kick up the backside to remind us exactly why we were on the Council. All who knew him will miss Ken.

On to happier thoughts. It has been progressive months since last I wrote these notes; another massive leap has occurred for the Ground Level Railway with the MOT track bed almost complete to the 'new land' and it may even have been achieved by the time you read this. I must admit that it does look very impressive with two distinct channels running away from the toilet block.

The Boating Lake paving slabs are being re-laid and levelled at a fast pace and they are looking good. Another point that should be noted is the efforts of Brian Baker to remove rubbish from the site at Colney Heath, thank you Brian for setting a great example.

At HQ events have also progressed with the Video Group hosting the 'Triangle' competition with a good time had by all; in a similar vein but away from HQ the North American boys had a great time at Dartford displaying and running their 'Young Street Yard' layout.

Moving onto Council matters and as mentioned last month the Council has set a date for the Gala Weekend. Unfortunately no suitable date could be found this year following the postponement from the original date, so we have decided to hold the Gala Weekend on the 28th/29th June 2008.

The second point to be raised from the February Council meeting is that the Council, with the agreement of all members present, have decided to hold the Election process of the AGM in a slightly different manner to that which has gone before.

This year nominations must be received by 11th April 2007, in order for their inclusion in a special 'AGM Sheet'; details of what information is required and who to send nominations to appear elsewhere in this News Sheet.

Lastly a big thank you to Kieran for being the Society's Treasurer for the last few years and thanks to his replacement.

Donal Corcoran

Treasurer's Report

You will have read in last month's News Sheet of my intention to step down as Treasurer due to work commitments and seek an early replacement. Fortunately Mike Foreman has offered to step in *pro tem*; those of you who know Mike know that he works in the finance industry so I can safely say the books are in good hands. I believe Mike intends to stand formally for the position at the AGM. I also believe that a volunteer for a membership secretary would be welcome.

Can I also remind you that subscriptions are due on the 1st April; please send a cheque payable to NLSME, along with your membership card and a stamped addressed envelope (this last bit is very important to ensure you get your card and receipt back promptly).

The rates for the year 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2008 as agreed at the EGM in July 2006 are as follows: _

Full Membership - £52

Senior Citizens - £47 (available after paying Full Membership rate for a period of five years)

Country Membership - £20

Young Person/Student Membership - £6 or £1 per year of age (i.e. 16 years old = £16)

Kieran Corcoran

The February Loco Section Meeting by Roger Bell

It was announced that on the 9th March at HQ there will be a social evening to discuss the ground level track; this is instead of having the meeting at the track.

We watched three films during the evening; the first one Mike Chrisp produced entitled 'Yorkshire in spring', Yorkshire being the name of an LNER 4-4-0 tender loco number 2770. It was taken at the track and was of loco's being steamed up and running; it was a joy to watch, superb photography on our large screen. Work at the track this winter was captured on the next film; if you were there you are probably on it. It showed the radius gauge being used to mark out the radius of the ground level track. Covering earthworks, laying the track foundations, fitting the anti-tip rail and cleaning the screed on the raised level prior to track laying to name but a few.

The last film was of three Miniature steam railways namely the Fairbourne Railway, Fairbourne, Gwynedd, www.fairbournerailway.com The Moors Valley Railway, Ashley Heath, Hants. www.moorsvalleyrailway.co.uk, The Stapleford Miniature Railway, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. www.fsmr.org.uk.

I write the web links for those with a computer to have a look at; they certainly look a good day out.

Cover picture: Brian Baker enjoying an excuse to run *Violet*, his Foster engine, in the winter at the open day on Sunday 28 January at Notcutts Garden Centre.

Photo: Owen Chapman

AGM Nominations 2007

As you may have seen in the Chairman's Notes the Council have decided to run the Election process at the forthcoming AGM in a slightly different manner to that which has occurred previously.

The Council has set a deadline for nominations to stand for the nine elected positions on the Council of last post Wednesday 11th April 2007; unfortunately at this time it will not be possible to stand for election on the night of the AGM.

In order to be nominated, you must send a piece of paper with your name and signature, the position for which you wish to stand, along with the names and signatures of the members proposing and seconding you. You must also include a brief manifesto describing who you are, why you are standing and your vision for the future of the Society.

The manifesto will be published to all members shortly before the AGM and will enable members to decide whether or not you should get their vote in an informed manner.

The manifestos will be published in a separate AGM Sheet; this serves a dual purpose, firstly it allows every member to know in advance of the AGM who will be standing and for what position, and secondly it enables members who are willing to stand the opportunity to show their vision for the future of the Society so that members can choose members who share their views and who would best reflect them throughout the year.

Nominations should be marked NLSME Nominations c/o Nick Rudoe and be sent to his address, which can be found on the back of this News Sheet, and received by last post delivery on Wednesday 11th April 2007.

Nomination deadline: Received by Last Post Wednesday 11th April 2007

The Council

IN MEMORIAM: KEN WEST



Ken West passed away in January aged 82. I first met Ken in the late fifties at the North London Model Railway Club in Kentish Town where he was instrumental in getting me started in British OO. He lived only a short distance from me then and we enjoyed getting together to build and operate our home layouts.

As those who attended last October's General Meeting will know, he was in the R.A.F. as a flight engineer in the war from 1943, flying Halifax and Lancaster bombers (his R.A.F. memoirs, an entertaining read, are scheduled to appear later this year in *The News Sheet*).

Ken's career was as a specialist typesetter. When he started, printing was done with hot metal type and Ken found this useful as he could heat up his pie for lunch on the hot machines. Late in his life he changed to computer based type setting - a big challenge that he was glad he had taken, but he regretted that the computer would not heat up his pie!

Ken had two daughters, Vivien and Gillian, by his first wife Barbara. After Barbara passed away, Ken then gained a third daughter, Vanessa, through his marriage to Audrey.

He has always been an enthusiastic railway modeller. It is said that on marrying Barbara he arranged his priorities in life as buying his first model railway layout, acquiring a dog and then starting a family.

(continued over page).....

year. He had also heard that the MEX will be at the Royal Ascot facility on September 6 & 7th. The April GM will be on Good Friday April 6th.

Our speaker for the evening was Tim Watson, his subject “Models, Microscopes and Molars.” He had four beautiful locos on display, three N and one O gauge. He has been involved in modelling for some 30 years. He lived on a farm in Bedfordshire and had a 10 x 5ft layout based on the line which used to run from Luton to Hatfield. He had concentrated on the Luton Hoo & Chiltern Green section. Among the photos was a perfect model of a cottage which is still there on that stretch of road known as the Lower Luton Road and contains such delights as the sewage works. (Even in a thick fog you could always tell when you were passing it!).

Having completed his formal education he obtained a position in the dental department at Guys Hospital as a Dental Student. He was closely connected with the confocal microscope, which was invented by Marvin Minsky in 1955. The department was on the top floor and had some fantastic views of London. Having pursued his career diligently, he obtained his BSc in 1977 with a paper on teeth fossils. Working with Andrew Baker on different ways of doing fillings using microscopes to observe the results. Tim also managed to find time to build an N-gauge Midland 2-6-4T; the model was passed round in a carrying case which was a work of art in itself. A colleague asked if any part resembled gold. Tim said that it had a brass safety valve cone, and since there were always odd scraps and filings lying about it didn't take him long to collect enough pieces to melt down and make a casting. This must have been the only model in existence with a gold safety valve cover!



Tim's 0-4-4 back tank. As used on the Midland suburban lines. Completed 1980, the model is less than 2 1/2in. long. Photo: Tim Watson

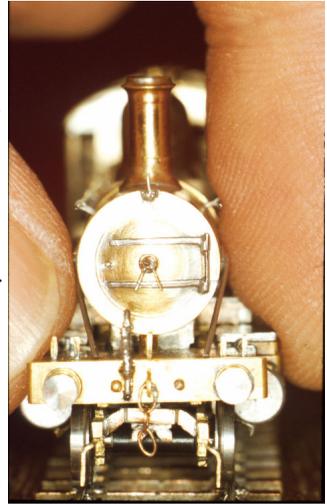
In 1980 he made an N gauge Dübs/Kirtley tank No.1211 followed by a Johnson Single, in 2mm scale, both Midland. These were passed round in their cases; they looked so perfect one tends to think 'glass case' but this is far from the reality, as they are all hard working locos. The mechanisms for the drive are further examples of ingenuity. Doing his illustrations using MS Powerpoint on the by-now almost

obligatory laptop, Tim was able not only to show stills but in several cases stills which magically turned into a moving image.

He went on to show some of the new techniques starting with the 'neolithic' drills that the older of us remember, through the first of the high-speed air-turbine drills which

made fillings so much more bearable, despite the rather scary noise. They now have even faster drills and diamond cutters and burrs at £2000 a throw. They can also get into much smaller spaces and use the microscopes via miniature endoscopy to observe and record the cutting action in slow motion. Tim showed some movies of cutting and grinding in progress which was really fascinating, (providing one doesn't have an appointment on the following Monday!).

Meanwhile, back on the model front was a US loco started in 1982, a Baldwin 2-6-0 with bar frames finished 12 years later plus a PhD and FDS. We then had some pre-war shots of the Caledonian (Cally) Market and Belle Isle on the mainline out of Kings Cross, also views of the Airship R34. All this was leading up to "Copenhagen Fields", that wonderful N-gauge layout with which Tim has been so closely involved. There can be few of us who have not seen and marvelled at this masterpiece. Tim showed a copy of the Blue Peter film made of it using electronic trickery to show the presenters appearing to be in the layout, walking down the high street etc, most impressive. Tim is still working on a Stirling Single started in 1998, No.547. Since the valve motion is quite visible on this loco it all has to be there, quite apart from all the other details.



Above: the Baldwin 2-6-0, as used on the Great Northern Ry. Features working inside valve gear. Completed 1996.

Photo: *Tim Watson*

Since all of Tim's N gauge locos run on two rail systems he has the usual problem of insulation. On the Stirling this is increased due to the details of the valve gear etc;

there are tufnol bearings aplenty and so much overall insulation that the loco is almost virtually split longitudinally! (Made my head hurt just thinking about it).



The only non-N on view was an 0 gauge A4, "Mallard", built from a Martin Finney kit. When one is as well known in the model railway fraternity as

Tim, who is President of the Model Railway Club, your name is bound to come to mind for certain tasks, so when the kit makers wanted someone to build a kit to top class standard and then review the kit and describe the building in the Railway Magazine, Tim's name was well up the list. He agreed to do it provided he got to keep the loco. I strongly suspect that if it had been circulated round the audience at HQ it would have mysteriously vanished. It has two motors, one to drive it and a smaller one to move the valve gear to the appropriate position. (This is not standard for the kit but a bit of Tim's addition). It was beautifully painted and lined out; Tim had opted for the dark blue (Great Eastern?) finish because he wanted it without the side plates so that the motion was visible. He assured me that the plates were removed when the colour changed during BR's colour experiments.

His current project, recently completed, is 4in scale Burrell traction engine from the Modelworlds kit. His only disappointment was the shape of the chimney which was too narrow. He has got over that problem by rolling up a steel cover of the correct shape and diameter, fitted over the existing chimney with a stainless steel saddle fitting and suitable copper top. A bit of a change from N-gauge! The audience showed their appreciation in the customary fashion.

(You may remember my mentioning a member presenting us with a box of mince pies on Xmas Eve whose face I knew but not name. It was Tim, thankyou Tim. JimR.)

Derek Eldridge admires Tim's superb A4 locomotive in gauge 0

Photo: Mike Chrisp



COLNEY HEATH SITE: REPORT BY THE MANAGER

I write this article on a Sunday afternoon after a most pleasant and rewarding morning's work with my colleagues at Colney Heath on the various winter projects. However, it prompts me to describe the role that I now undertake as Site Manager.

First of all, I am not responsible for any aspects of the Ground Railway, Raised Track, Garden Railway or Marine Pond. I am responsible for the site as a whole, its general buildings (eg coach, toilets, workshop, etc) and I am also responsible for general safety and security matters as well as service supplies.

Well, how does all this work? In the first instance I made several lists of defects that needed action - without being too pedantic, there were 27 items listed. For example, my wife said that if I was going to do that job, I should have a look at the tap in the ladies' toilet - it has been dripping all summer. Easy - equipped with tools and a selection of rubber washers I had a look. No, it wasn't going to be that easy, the seating had cracked. I mentioned it to Nick Bone and Peter Brown. A new tap was required. Nick (who works for a plumber's merchant) said that he would get a pair (for the gents as well). Lo and behold, the next Sunday the job had been done before I arrived! That same day Paul Bexfield and myself removed a punctured wheel from a wheelbarrow. By the following Sunday, that too was back in action.

Many folk have helped over the past weeks. The Ground Railway gang removed a fallen tree near Dingley Dell station, and Brian Baker has cleared out the area behind the workshop. Malcolm Read has offered to cut the grass in the summer, using the sit-on mower which is to be repaired by John West. Peter Brown and Nick Bone have volunteered to clean out the workshop and ultimately install the new air compressor donated by Dick Payne. They will be assisted by Mike Hodgson with the three-phase electrics. Peter Weeks and Ian Johnston have painted the toilets and Peter is now painting the centre section of the coach.

The main defect on the list is the Car Park. There are ideas how to tackle this job but a solution may be costly and long term.

A lot has been going on. Out of the original 27 defects listed, 17 have been completed or are in hand by various folk. This is most encouraging and I am pleased to have the unstinting support of so many friends.

May I offer my thanks to you all; you have made the Site Manager's role very worthwhile.

David Harris

LNER Invitation Day Saturday 5th May 2007

The NLSME is holding an LNER day on 5th May at Colney Heath. Several clubs have been invited to bring along locos of LNER (or constituent companies) origin.

Naturally all members of the NLSME also are invited to attend and if you would like to run a loco on the day please contact me so we can confirm intended numbers. Please remember the day is for LNER locos only and hopefully it will be possible to display LNER locos as static exhibits as well.

The gates will open at 9.00am and running will end at 5.00pm. No food will be provided but liquid refreshments will be available.

I do need help, please, so I would be grateful if members who would like to help on the day could contact me. We have to man the gate, serve teas, and perform track stewarding duties. Hopefully, I will be able to draw up some sort of rota so that any volunteer will only have to perform these duties for a small part of the day.

I have ordered good weather, so I hope this will be an enjoyable and memorable day for both club members and invited guests.

Grahame Ainge

XX

FOR SALE

Filing machine with reciprocating attachment and single phase motor.

Asking price of £20

Ideal machine for profiling, etc

Contact: Roy Lowe

GARDEN RAILWAY UPDATE by Malcolm



Left: Chris Dean tends to the fire of his coal-fired Ivatt Atlantic

Photo: Tony Guerrier

The garden railway continues to go from strength to strength, with regular attendance on Wednesdays, and occasionally also on Saturdays or Sundays. Last autumn we erected a wind-barrier made from plastic netting, which has made a significant difference, particularly when raising steam – gauge one loco fireboxes do not like excessive breeze!

We have made quite a few changes to the track, the main one being conversion to dual-gauge of the O-gauge circuit which rings our two G1 lines, which gives us gauge one-ers a third oval, necessary now that so many folk turn up wanting to steam on a Wednesday. At the same time we've taken the opportunity to improve the layout of the carriage sidings, improve access from the steaming bay to the inner track, and to re-lay most of the O-gauge track. All three G1 tracks are interconnected by double sets of points in appropriate locations, including a special dual-gauge point made by Bob Gamble – nice one, Bob!

In the lead-up to Spring we plan to carry out necessary repairs to the track supports and



NLSME G1 steamers (left to right) : Geoff M (guest visitor), Nick Rudoe, John Bartlett (guest) their locos arranged around the steaming bay.

WAY SECTION ATE

y m Read

Right: Bob Gamble's
meths-fired GCR 4-6-2T
lets off steam after a
successful run

Photo: Tony Guerrier



Mogg, Chris Dean, Bob Gamble, John Judson
(best visitor), and Malcolm Read line up with
Photo: Tony Guerrier

battens, and also to remove the mildew from the track support timbers and coat them with preservative. Most of this will have been completed by the time you read this.

The section were well represented on the G1MRA stand at the London Model Engineering Exhibition which took place at Alexandra Palace on 19th to 21st January. Some of us even stayed on after closing time on the Friday to be filmed, live, during the ITV 6pm News with our engines in steam plus suitable rolling stock running round the track. The ITV weather girl, Chrissie Reidy, did the voice-over, having been briefed beforehand by several of us. She was very enthusiastic and spoke very positively about model steam locos – all good publicity for both the model railway and model engineering hobbies!

My thanks to: Dave Metcalf, Tony Guerrier, Bob Gamble, Nick Rudoe and Geoff Mogg for their help during the year, and to the Harlington Locomotive Society (John Bartlett and Geoff Vines) for their contributions of spare track etc.

Track Steward Rota 2007				
Date	Senior Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward	Track Steward
08-Apr	Maurice Cummins	Ron Price	Graham Price	Guy Ellerby
15-Apr	David Harris (1)	John Amoss	Mark Braley	Jeffrey Bolton
22-Apr	Mike Chrisp (1)	Adrian Newson	Derrick Franklin (1)	Keith Ashman
29-Apr	Brian Apthorpe (1)	David Jones	Brian Hall	Michael Gibbs
06-May	Tony Dunbar	Jack Edwards	Kevin Wilson	Adam Gorski
13-May	Grahame Ainge	Peter Foreman	Jeremy Deans	John Johnston
20-May	Nigel Griffiths	Alan Marshall	Grahame Gardner (1)	David Buman
27-May	Peter Davies (1)	Michael Dear	Richard Castle	Geoffrey Mogg
03-Jun	Les Brimson (1)	Roy Hall	Roger Brown	Anthony Mason
10-Jun	Keith Hughes L	Victor Burgess	Philip Rowe	Peter Sheen
17-Jun	Jim Robson (1)	Ian Buswell	John Riches	Frank Adams
24-Jun	Ian Johnston (1)	David Snellgrove (1)	John L Morgan	Naughton Morgan
01-Jul	Mike Avery	Jonathan Avery	John Winson	Nick Rudoie
08-Jul	Roy Chapman	Mike Hodgson	Peter Badger	John Beesley
15-Jul	Ian Clift	Peter Lancaster (1)	John West	Bob Gamble
22-Jul	Keith Bartlam (1)	John Cattle	Gerald Moore	Peter Fraser
29-Jul	Peter MacDonald	David Foster	Paul Godin	Chris Reynolds
05-Aug	Mike Foreman (1)	Brian Baker	Lawrence Steers (1)	Brian Kennedy
12-Aug	Mike Ruffell	Peter Berkley	Mike Franklin	David Broom
19-Aug	Donal Corcoran	Kieran Corcoran	R. Thompson	Alex Chapman
26-Aug	Stephen Smith	Colin Thomson	Owen Chapman	Matthew Stallard
02-Sep	Brendan Corcoran	Dave Green	Martin Ginger	Steven Don
09-Sep	Jim MacDonald	David Marsden	Paul Bexfield	Tony Guerrier
16-Sep	Adrian Reddish	Nicholas Bone (1)	Peter Brown (1)	Peter Fox
23-Sep	Robert Oldfield	Tim Clementson	Paul Lacey	Ian Reddish (1)
30-Sep	Chris Vousden (1)	John Firth	Michael Smith	Keith Bartrop
07-Oct	Les Brimson (2)	John Sandwell	John Mills	Richard Hesketh
14-Oct	Terry Baxter	Gavin Lang	Ron Todd	Malcolm Reid
21-Oct	Dick Payne (1)	Peter Weeks (1)	Derek Smith	Derek Eldridge (1)

NB: For any selected date/row, please read across both pages to obtain the names of all designated stewards.

Steward Rota

Please find above the initial issue of the 2007 running season. It is not yet finalised so adjustments can and will be done for the April Newsletter. As you can see there are a lot of spaces. A thank you goes to those who have already been prepared to fill some spaces by doing a second duty. Those of you who have not yet put your name forward for a second duty, please contact me as soon as possible.

The duties of Track Stewards in order of priority are as follows:

Steward one: Raised embarking station.

Steward two: Raised steaming bay

Date	Track Steward	Track Steward	Tea Steward	Tea Steward
08-Apr	Frank Hills		Ron Thorogood	Mrs Thorogood
15-Apr	Grahame Gardner (2)	Roger Bell (2)	Mrs Harris	R Lidzey
22-Apr	David Snellgrove (2)	Nicholas Bone (2)	George Case	Derek Perham
29-Apr	Dave Chisnall	Derek Eldridge (2)	Mrs Apthorpe	William Mason
06-May	Reg Piper	Keith Bartlam (2)	Raymond Goss	David Metcalf
13-May	Mike Foreman (2)	Peter Brewster (2)	Ray Smiles	
20-May	Peter Precious	Chris Vousden (2)	Mrs Griffiths	Mrs Marshall
27-May	Peter Weeks (2)		Mervyn Smith	
03-Jun	Peter Brown (2)		Frank Inman	
10-Jun	Ian Reddish (2)		Dave Lawrence	Mrs K Reddish (2)
17-Jun			Peter Prior	
24-Jun	Derrick Franklin (2)		John Morgan (M)	Mrs J Morgan
01-Jul	Jack Sanson		Colin Bainbridge	
08-Jul			Mrs Badger	Graeme Brown
15-Jul			Mrs Cliff	
22-Jul			Harold Barrow	
29-Jul				
05-Aug			Mrs Foreman	Chris Dean
12-Aug	Peter Lancaster (2)		David Morgan	
19-Aug	Richard Cross		Peter Funk	Lawrence Steers (1)
26-Aug	Timothy Watson		Ian Johnston (2)	Mrs Smith
02-Sep	Peter Davies (2)		L Brooks	Mrs P Corcoran
09-Sep	Barrie Davies		Mrs. MacDonald	Julie Davies
16-Sep	Dick Payne (2)		Mrs K Reddish (1)	Mike Chrisp (2)
23-Sep				
30-Sep	Grahame Gardner (3)			Richard Hall
07-Oct			Rai Fenton	Mrs B Fenton
14-Oct	Peter Brewster (1)	Jim Robson (2)	Mrs Baxter	Jenny Baxter
21-Oct	David Harris (2)	Brian Apthorpe (2)	Roger Bell (1)	

Steward three: Ground Level car park station

Steward four: Gatekeeper & car park management.

Steward five: Raised disembarking, carriages & boating area.

Steward six: Ground Level Henley Halt & toilet Area

For us to carry out our **“Duty of Care”** for our members and visitors it is imperative that all Stewards turn up **or make alternative arrangement.**

- If you cannot attend on your allocated slot for whatever reason, **arrange a swap with another member. BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW** so I can amend the published list.
- If you appear on the list and you do have a valid reason why you should not. **PLEASE LET ME KNOW**

(Continued over page.....)

- If you notice someone who has left or has a valid reason not to be on the list **PLEASE LET ME KNOW**
- Most importantly if you do not appear on the list and should be **PLEASE LET ME KNOW**

We also ask that **TEA STEWARDS as well as TRACK STEWARDS SIGN THE RUNNING BOOK** for monitoring and insurance purposes.

It is not much to ask to do your duty, **but to just not turn up is unreasonable**. It is your responsibility to yourself and your club to make sure this season runs smoothly, so we can carry out our responsibility for health and safety for all those that visit and enjoy our wonderful facility. The Tyttenhanger Committee thank you all, in advance, for your help.

Loco Section & Tyttenhanger Committee News

Winter Working

Stirling work is being done each Sunday and the ground level is progressing in leaps and bounds with the extra all-day Saturday sessions. Work is going on in all areas and those of you who have been coming each week deserve a great thank you from the rest of our members. Without you the club would suffer greatly. Well done. It is never too late for you to come and join in. Enjoy the great camaraderie and the satisfaction that you have put something so valuable back into this great club.

Loco Events

DO NOT MISS. Nick Rudoe our busy editor has found time over the last 6 months to research and put together a talk on the suburban lines local to him: “the Alexandra Palace, Barnet & Edgware Branches of the GNR”, containing some ‘never seen before’ photos. Come along on Friday 16 March and find out the real reason why the Ally Pally branch was closed. This is open to all members and even your friends. So if you are interested in railways let us fill the hall for Nick Rudoe, our very own editor.

Have you something to share with us all at a loco section meeting? Do you know someone who has something we will all enjoy to hear? Any ideas?

Fri 9 Mar G/L Section Meeting. HQ 8pm – Ground level discussion
 Fri 16 Mar Loco Section Meeting HQ 8pm - Illustrated talk on the Alexandra Palace, Barnet & Edgware Branches of the GNR, by Nick Rudoe
 Fri 20 Apr Loco Section Meeting HQ 8pm - Work in progress

Adrian

(Loco Section Leader)

DAS ENGLANDER BAMBOOZLES CAR PARK

Saturday 27th January

Eat you heart out John Wyndham, what a triffid day we had?

The decision had been made and the old G/L shed had to go and go it did, but this action was not taken lightly. It was discussed at committee meetings back in August; everybody I could think of with an interest was asked for their opinion! The result being it was easier to remove the shed to get the right alignment for the GL Cuckoo line to be re-connected. Notes were posted in the carriage of our intentions, so if anyone is still upset you have my sympathy, but we must move on.

Almost all of the materials in the old G/L shed will be re-used in the building of the new shed. Our scribe Roger Bell painted the resultant scar on the back of the toilet block and to look now you wouldn't even know it was ever there.

A very large clump of bamboo (largus triffida) was removed, divided up & re-planted in the car park; some people have been heard to say it looks better than a bit of blue string - well done Laurie. The old apple tree was nudged over & taken away; part of the trunk will be made into a new base for the anvil by M. Hodgson. This will enable the track-building team to straighten out the kinks in the newly-delivered black bar.

A 20 foot long jig has been set up to build sections of rail outside the workshop and by the time you read this I will expect my track team (G. Moore, B. Baker, P. Davies & M. Hodgson) to have produced their first section.

Anyone is welcome to view or join in this activity on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Thanks to Gerry Moore, Laurie Steers & Adrian Reddish for help unloading the 2 ton plus of track in the pouring rain.

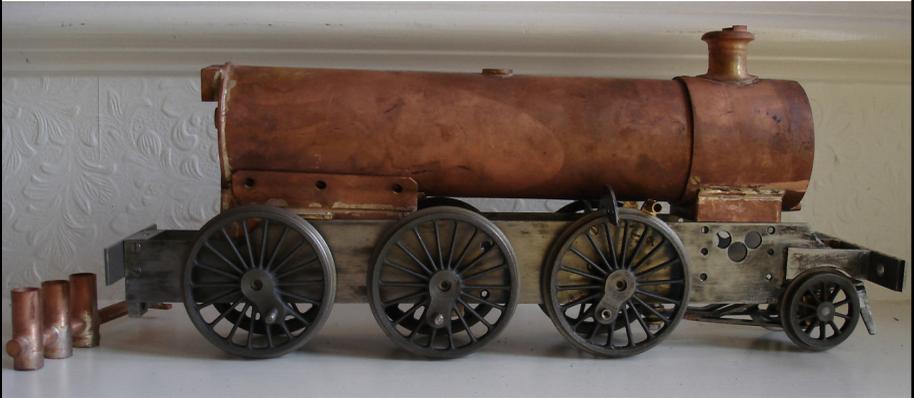
GROUND LEVEL MEETING

A date has been set for the first G/L meeting at Headquarters on 9th March, 2nd Friday of the month at 8pm: various topics to be discussed, video of progress made & any questions, Raffle & Freebie. All are welcome; please come to the first of hopefully many more congenial evening events at the clubhouse.

Peter Funk

FOR SALE

- Part built Gauge '1' GWR 53xx locomotive
- Complete Gauge '1' GWR bolster wagon
- Issues 186-207 (Summer 2000 - Autumn 2005)
GIMRA Newsletter and Journal (bound in 3 Volumes)



All models were built by the late Alan Harmer and are being offered on behalf of his wife Helen.

Offers and enquiries:

General Meetings Update by Mike Chrisp

Unless otherwise indicated, all our General Meetings are held 8 – 10pm at NLSME Headquarters in Legion Way, North Finchley.

Ron Thorogood kindly takes time out to prepare and dispense coffee, tea and biscuits at around 9pm; all donations to cover costs are welcome. A raffle has become a customary feature, any prizes for which are also much appreciated – all profits from teatime and the raffles help towards club funds.

Any ideas you may have for meetings are gratefully received, and if you feel you can contribute in any way to the enlightenment and/or entertainment of your fellow members, please call me so I can make the necessary arrangements.

Our meeting hall can comfortably seat about fifty; for various reasons our regular attendance has dwindled over the years – I can remember occasions when it was ‘standing room only’, but that was some time ago. In view of this, I hope you will forgive me for asking you to make a particular effort to attend meetings when we have a special Guest Speaker, and I see no reason why you shouldn’t bring friends and/or family with you as guests to enjoy our General Meetings. We look forward to your company ...

2 MARCH 2007 – FORUM: PAINTING OUR MODELS

At a recent General Meeting, it was suggested that we should revisit the topic of painting and finishing our models.

Basic painting and finishing techniques apply no matter what our special modelling interest – detail may differ according to whether our work is in a scale of 2mm to the foot, or half size, but the principles remain. That said, the successful painting of our models can, and indeed has, brought many an otherwise strong modeller close to tears!

Chris Vine has recently published his excellent book: *‘How (Not) to Paint a Locomotive’*, prompted by the experience of finishing his superb Gold Medal winning LNER B1 locomotive ‘Bongo’ in 7/4in. gauge. This work could be considered required reading for tonight’s meeting when we shall have an opportunity to review painting techniques and hand on valuable hints, tips and wrinkles that have helped us when seeking that elusive perfect finish on our own work!

(Continued over page....)

6 APRIL 2007 – MALCOLM HIGH: LASER CUTTING FOR MODEL ENGINEERS

Preparing sheet and plate material for our model engineering projects requires expertise and can be awkward, time consuming and frustrating. Once one set of frames for a locomotive or hornplates for a traction engine, have been hacksawed and filed, the prospect of repeating the process for the next model may not be viewed with much enthusiasm!

Tonight's speaker will have travelled from Doncaster to explain the art, science and technology of preparing intricate components to streamline the production of our model engineering projects and enhance their fidelity to prototype.

A recently retired lecturer, Malcolm is an excellent speaker with considerable knowledge and expertise in this and other aspects of modern technology. Doubtless he will bring many examples of his work to a meeting which is one definitely not to be missed!

4 MAY 2007 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM has returned to our usual first Friday slot, since the Harrogate Exhibition will be held 13-15 May 2007.

From an administrative point of view, the Annual General Meeting may be considered the most important of the year. It provides an opportunity to review the recent past and to look forward to the future. It is also the time when those involved in the day-to-day running of our Society are elected to office.

If you have an interest in Society affairs and the way they are managed, you owe it to yourself to attend the Annual General Meeting to air your views.

INVITATIONS RECEIVED

The Society has received an invitation to attend the Chingford and District MEC Club Open Day on Saturday, 2 June, from 9.45 am at their track at Ridgeway Park. Their contact is Keith Catchpole

The Harlington Locomotive Society is holding a 'Maunsell in Miniature' day on 28 April at their track.

The Vale of Aylesbury MES are holding their annual Miniature Traction Engine Rally on 2/3 June at Quainton.

All these details are in a folder at the coach at Colney Heath.

For sale, surplus to requirements:

2 sheets of 20 SWG brass 24" x 23³/₄"

24" x 24", 1 off

1 sheet of 18 SWG brass 24" x 27¹/₂", 1 off

3 sheets of 16 SWG brass 23³/₄" x 43³/₄"

23³/₄" x 21¹/₂", 1 off

2" x 36", 1 off

1 sheet of 13 SWG brass 24.1/8" x 21¹/₄", 1 off

All this material is half hard quality, ideal for tender water tanks or any side tanks on locos, and is priced on current Maidstone Engineering sale prices. Buyer collects, or I will deliver locally.

Contact: **Derek Perham**



28 January: Ian Reddish and *Sadie* make the first train ride on the temporary track at Notcutts while Brian oils up *Violet* (or possibly just has tea).

Photo: Owen Chapman

CHUCKLE

WARRNER

Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist!! (true story)

Scientists at Rolls Royce built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners and military jets all travelling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

American engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the American engineers.

When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Yanks sent Rolls Royce the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the British scientists for suggestions.

You're going to love this.....

Rolls Royce responded with a one-line memo: "Defrost the chicken."

Some painful puns....

1. Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.
2. Two eskimos were sitting in a kayak. They were cold so they lit a fire, and the craft sank. It only proved, once again, that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

XX

NB: Please remember to notify all meetings, events & exhibitions, in advance, to Owen and Rachael Chapman, our Events Co-ordinators.

📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

Friday 2 March	8.00pm General Meeting; Forum -Painting our Models; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Monday 12 March	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 16 March	8.00pm Loco Section meeting; “The Alexandra Palace, Barnet & Edgware branches of the GNR”, talk by Nick Rudoe; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 23 March	8.00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 23 March	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for April News Sheet</i>
Monday 26 March	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee Meeting; 23 Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 8AX
Friday 6 April	8.00pm General Meeting; Laser cutting for model engineers; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Sunday 8 April	Easter Day/first public running day at Colney Heath
Monday 9 April	Bank Holiday - members’ running day at Colney Heath
Monday 9 April	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Saturday 14 April	Birthday party (help required)
Friday 20 April	8.00pm Loco Section meeting; Work in Progress; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 20 April	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for May News Sheet</i>
Monday 23 April	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee Meeting; 23 Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 8AX
Friday 27 April	8.00pm Workshop Evening; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 4 May	8.00pm Annual General Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Saturday 5 May	LNER Invitation Day; contact Grahame Ainge
Monday 7 May	Bank Holiday - members’ running day at Colney Heath
11 - 13 May	National Model Engineering show, Harrogate
Monday 14 May	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 18 May	8.00pm Loco Section meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 18 May	<i>Deadline for copy to Editor for June News Sheet</i>
Sat/Sun 19/20 May	Steam Fair 2007 at Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey
Monday 28 May	8.00pm Tyttenhanger Site Committee Meeting; 23 Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 8AX
Monday 28 May	Bank Holiday - members’ running day at Colney Heath
Every Wednesday	Miniature Railways, British and American and Video Group at HQ; Garden Railway section at Colney Heath
Every Thursday	Slot Cars Section at HQ
Every Sunday	Morning work parties at Colney Heath (start 9.00am).