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*This Month...*



# The News Sheet

**Chairman's Chatter, Treasurer's Report, Forthcoming General Meetings, Steward List, Garden Rail (Gauge 1) Report, Marine news, The August General Meeting, New Boiler Testers & New Senior Stewards List, Mr Grumpy, Diary Dates, Club Contacts.**



## Chairman's Chatter



The months are rapidly sliding by this year and we will soon be thinking of changing the clocks, wrapping up to keep warm and winter working parties.

However, in the meantime, I notice that many of you already have; or soon will be; sliding off for your well earned hollibobs. So, however, wherever or whenever you get away it is hoped that you all have, or had, a marvellous time with a chance to indulge in your favourite hobbies albeit at a different location.

Those who frequent headquarters will not have seen much change apart from the normal progress to enhance and use the existing layouts there, including the resident layout in the main hall. 'We've got to get a bigger building!'

At Tyttenhanger, work is progressing with the 'overcoat' for the tunnel brickwork and a coat or two of waterproofing mastic. [A bit like painting with treacle!]. The new traverser for the raised track is taking shape and on top of the current projects there is also an amazing amount of work being done by Nigel and his team to keep the site in good order.

The public running days are proving to be as popular as ever and both lines have been well used. The success of these busy Sunday afternoons is certainly down to the gallant efforts of the catering teams, the stewards and of course all those who turn up with their various locomotives to entertain the visitors.

We were very fortunate recently to play host to the local 'Platypus Swimming Club for the Disabled'. The aims of the Club, based in Hatfield, are dependent on the needs of each member, instilling confidence in the water and providing advice and encouragement where necessary. This also includes those in need of remedial treatment such as people recovering from strokes and accidents and can involve one-to-one sessions with Advice and Information. The disabilities of this energetic group are many and varied. It was a pleasure to be involved in the running of this day and I am sure all those members involved on the day were more than happy to provide a service for those less fortunate than the majority of us.

On a separate point, many thanks to all those who have volunteered to help out at the Mencap Day on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016. George has offered to act as host on this day as I have a previous engagement.

That's all for this month.

**Robin**  
**Chairman, N.L.S.M.E.**

'MENCAP DAY' Saturday 10th September 2016 at Colney Heath

**Photo on front cover.** A busy scene at the July 2016 Toy Boat Regatta.  
Photo courtesy of Steve C.

## Treasurer's Report

As I write this report I am wondering if Summer has left us for the year? Tomorrow I am Senior Steward at Colney Heath for the Sunday afternoon, so I hope not. Next week I depart to Germany, taking 'Rob Roy' for his annual holiday to the International Steam Meet at DBC Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart. This is always an enjoyable event, meeting many fellow engineers from around Europe. Their track is in a municipal park, ground-level for 7 1/4", 5" and 3 1/2" of a size comparable with our lines at Colney Heath.



The picture of 'Molm' (below) an 0-4-0WT used for passenger hauling the public, taken on a previous visit, in front of their workshop and storage facility. Not content with this three day event we will be including a few days around the Harz mountains and its narrow gauge lines with 2-10-2T the size of British 9Fs.



The last Council meeting welcomed one new member to the Society;

**Sadly this will be the last issue that those members who have not renewed their subscriptions will be receiving.**

I was unable to get any photos of the engines running at the Bob Todd Memorial event in early August, suffice it to say that amongst other engines there were three B1s, an L1, a V3 and an A4 'Quicksilver'. A good time was had by all and the surplus catering was much appreciated by the Thursday gang, the next day and at the BBQ General Meeting on the Friday.

Please note a change of address and telephone number for





The two photos are of the new build construction of an LNER Gresley P2 2-8-2 locomotive in 12" to the foot, taking shape at the Hopetown Works, Darlington. Of particular importance is the smokebox being erected on the frames for the first time, being sponsored by the Gresley Society. Nice detail shot of the rear frames for anybody (i.e. me) building a Gresley engine with same style of foot plating, boiler and cab.

**Mike**

### **Visit to Fareham Saturday 10th September 2016**

A reminder that the North London Society visit to Fareham & District Model Engineering Society has been arranged for Saturday the 10th of September 2016. Could members contemplating going please let me know so that I have some idea as to numbers. Thank you in anticipation.

**Mick**



## 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 J.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**'. It will be about the part he played in the survival of a concrete firm in Ware. David will also bring his 'Legion d'Honneur' medal for those who wish to see it. Due to time restrictions at David's last talk he is also prepared to answer questions about the part played by his Regiment in France and Germany.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.** Our own Geoff will inspire us with tales of daring do in a talk entitled "**The Metropolitan Railway northern extremes Brill and Verney Junction**". You will remember the short fascinating talk that Geoff gave recently sketching the Brill Tramway; well this is to be an interesting expansion of that talk and will be a 'must' for all members from all section to visit HQ for an informative evening.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.** Club Christmas Gathering. **THE** Christmas party for all sections. Please come along and have an evening of Christmas fun. New cuisine again this year and meet folk you do not usually see in such convivial surroundings.

## Garden Rail (Gauge 1) Group

The Garden Rail (Gauge 1) Group have continued to enjoy running days on their track on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, although the weather has not always been in their favour. Members have been flexible in their running days as weather forecasts have dictated, in fact it is not unusual to find group members at the track several days a week.

The new steel overbridge, which has stood next to the track since its acquisition and will have been seen by members visiting Colney Heath has been rubbed down and repainted. The problem of installing the bridge over the tracks has been taxing our members' minds, many suggestions were put forward, some sensible others bizarre.



That's it lads we are there. The new bridge installed.

A simple solution was eventually adopted and the bridge was safely installed in a matter of minutes. The plan involved placing tables (strong ones! built by David M) either side of the track adjacent to the bridge.

Baulks of timber were placed across the tables to straddle the tracks, the bridge was tipped onto the outer table, swivelled through 90 degrees on the timbers then carefully tipped into position over the tracks. Easy-peezezy - all done in 5 minutes and no lifting involved, followed by a celebratory cup of tea. Thanks to those who helped with the installation. The old wooden bridge was subsequently removed and returned to the narrow gauge track opposite the coach. It just remains for concrete pads to be laid to permanently support the new bridge.

The group have entertained two other Gauge 1 Area Groups so far this season, the first being East Midlands Group under the leadership of John S (well known among NLSME members) who came on 6<sup>th</sup> July and East Anglian Group on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Both days were blessed with good weather enabling guests to have good runs and enjoy 'al fresco' fish & chips lunch.



Adjourned for 'Gourmet Lunch' served in the traditional way.

Our new station with its long platforms, recently completed by Norman B, was admired by all. We did have a slight gauging problem when one of our guests tried to run his American '*Big Boy*' through the station, but this was

quickly overcome by routing him through the outer loop.



Aster Gas fired American 4-8-8-4 'Big Boy'. 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale

Visits from other Gauge 1 Groups are a highlight of our summer season, enabling us to admire different locos and rolling stock, especially the 2-8-8-4 *Big Boy* and its train of box cars and tank wagons and the original 'Project' locomotive built over 50 years ago. The *Project*, based on *LMS 0-6-0 4P* locomotive is a simple single cylinder meths fired gauge 1 loco designed by Rob Hines & Ron Poulter for amateur construction and an introduction to Gauge 1 live steam. Rob's engine has covered hundreds of miles in its life and still able to give a spirited run. The engine was run by his son Howard under the watchful eye of his father. (See photo on next page).

Both Groups expressed their gratitude for our hospitality and their enjoyment of running on our track. We hope to see them back next year.

The site maintenance gang headed by Brian, Malcolm & David have been busy and together with grass cutting by Nigel has ensured that our area of the site has looked superb for our visitors.



Rob Hines and the original 'Project' locomotive.

**Wanted.**

A 7.25" gauge driving trolley, in any condition, preferably braked.

If you have one going spare, or know of one, please contact me, thank you.

Keith B.

## Marine News

Oh well, here is where I get myself into trouble again.. I attended the council meeting for the Hemel Hempstead model boat club formation and to be honest I am not much wiser now than I was before, so I am sure my interpretation will get me in trouble but.. The site for the boating lake is the large end nearest Debenhams with a fountain in the middle. It's one of them gushing type rather than wide area soaking so should be easy to avoid.



Considering this was supposed to be a formation meeting it was assumed we all knew everything already and details had to be fought for. Two organisers and five of us, with lots of chat re how it was in the old days six members who did not need organising as such a small group etc. but I think, in my opinion, with costs of boats including controllers only a few pounds, Health and Safety, Public liability, Blame culture, an open lake area could be quite a challenge.

A man from the St. Albans club nearly frightened them off when he mentioned steam boats and an area away from public to light them and certificates, who issues, who checks, but thankfully we managed to convince the council it's not as hard as it sounds just before they said oh! Best we don't allow steam then.

Not really sure it's for me, fetching from a car park and sitting on public path but it's good to see Hemel are at least building the lake into the regeneration plans which could nurture potential future NLSME members. Hopefully it opens later this year and I will try and keep you informed.

### **Back home.**

Another successful Toy Boat Regatta (see photo on front cover of this issue), over 30 in attendance and the highlight for me was the grey warship pop pop boats belonging to David B (photo on next page). I hope to get him to pen a few lines for us in a future issue regarding these.

See what you are missing or enjoyed as the case may be. Youtube search Colney Heath Toy Boat Regatta July 2016 or key the following in your browser thingy  
<https://goo.gl/8FPhSe>

**Next Regatta is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Book your seat early.**

On an open day where many are tied up with loco's it's a bit quiet on the lake but always a few each Sunday in the peaceful setting we are so lucky to have.

Never wanting to break a habit, I got it wrong again last issue and Derek's *Panache* in the July issue is not for sale but the one published this month is. Let's hope to see it in new hands lakeside soon. Derek's letter follows my report.

(P.S. Shirley has been an ordered a loco from Ride on Railways but I have reminded her, the same rules apply, we take boats on Sundays).



**George, Marine Section Leader.**

Hi George, Here's another Workshop winter project, the *Hobnoblin* yacht that was built by me in 2002-03 as the sail numbers indicate. The model is to the plans of the famous designer Vic Smeed, as was *Panache* yacht that you inserted in the July Marine News Sheet. This model is a round bilge hull and sails very well with two channel radio fitted and has spent many hours sailing on our water at the track site.



The idea of another marine project was instigated by the late member Tom Luxford who bought his *Hobnoblin* along to the workshop meeting in the autumn of 2002 and Frank Inman supplied some drawings which were immediately pounced on and borrowed by interested members. Mike Hodgson who was the leader of the workshop meetings and still is (thank you Mike) supplied templates of the bulkheads and keel plate. Several of these yachts were started but only a couple to my knowledge were completed. The construction was plank on frame using 1/4-ply frames and strip balsa wood planking, I glass fibred mine to give it a hard finish, but one could paper and dope

to seal before painting which was the old way of dealing with balsa wood models. The hull is very buoyant so lead keel weights were added to bring the free board to an acceptable level, I cut keel weights out of chimney lead flashing of around 1/8" thickness and added them as required by the wind and conditions at the time when sailing. The sails were purchased from a kite and banner shop in old St. Albans (no longer in business) and were cut using a small soldering iron with the tip sharpened to a knife edge, which seals the edges and stops fraying and the material is none absorbent so was ideal for the job. That's about it for this month's marine model that George requested us to send to the magazine so I'm sure there are others who could write a short story of interest to help an enthusiastic Marine section leader. ?

**Derek P.**

## **The General Meeting held at the track on Friday 5th August 2016**

### **'BBQ at Colney Heath'**

In this mixed summer, the gods must have been looking down on our Society Annual Barbecue at Colney Heath, for the clouds dispersed, the sun shone, and a balmy westerly wind blew warm air on us as we sat under the canopy at the main station. Around thirty Society members and their guests enjoyed a sumptuous supper of home-made vegetable soup and Cumberland sausages. 'Afters' were fruit cake and cherry cake, all provided by Brian and his many helpers.

Three steam locomotives and one electric unit transported our guests on an exploratory ride around our amazing site, many of whom had never visited before. Another group enjoyed a period of model boat sailing on our pond.

There was plenty of time for 'eats', chat and the viewing of site activities provided by Jim's DVDs and other still photographic records.

All in all, it was a most delightful evening - it was a pity that more members did not come. Our thanks to Brian for his superb efforts, and to everyone who came to make it such a worthwhile Society activity. Good food, good fellowship and good fun for a fabulous evening!

**David H.**

## **Mr. Grumpy.**

On Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to the team who investigated and subsequently repaired the blocked drains from the B.Z. carriage. Well done guys.

It is possible that the damage had been caused by vehicles driving over the buried drain pipe and crushing it so to prevent further damage it is likely that we will have to put a ban on any members' vehicles being driven past the garage workshop.

It is appreciated that a team had taken the time to trim the undergrowth and overgrown bushes alongside the G.L.R. but please remember that there is a dedicated area for bonfires at the top end of the site.

In spite of the Sunday working parties, generally going into hibernation during the summer months, we should show appreciation to the dedicated few who still turn up regularly on Sunday mornings armed with paint and brushes, gardening implements and a host of other tools to press on with the never ending maintenance tasks to keep our site in good order and a safe condition. Well done to you all and I apologise for not mentioning you all personally.

All the hard work on Smallford Station refurbishment has given us a substantial station building for the future. Many thanks team, perhaps you would consider looking at the leaks in the main station canopy next. Just so that you don't get bored.

Keep up the good work every one.

**Mr. Grumpy.**  
**Tytenhanger Site Manager.**

## Dates for your Diary

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>2016</b>
Fri 2nd Sept	General Meeting HQ, Colin Gent 'Singapore to Bangkok'
Sat 3rd Sept	Gravesend visit to CH, Brian A.
Sun 4th Sept	Public running at CH. 2pm – 5pm
Sun 4th Sept	F & F at Capel Manor, contact Jim
Tues 6th Sept	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Sat 10th Sept	Mencap Day at CH, contact Robin
Sat 10th Sept	Visit to Fareham, Mick organising
Wed 14th Sept	G1 visit to Hepworth
Sun 18th Sept	Public running at CH. 2pm – 5pm
Tues 20th Sept	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 23rd Sept</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for October News Sheet</i></b>
Sat 24th Sept	Derek P private party for Derek E family
Sun 25th Sept	Toy Boat Regatta at CH, contact George
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>2016</b>
Sun 2nd Oct	Public running at CH. 2pm – 5pm
Tues 4th Oct	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 7th Oct	General Meeting HQ, David Render 'Something Concrete'
Sun 16th Oct	Last Public running at CH. 2pm – 5pm
Tues 18th Oct	TSC Meeting at St Mark's Church Centre. 8pm
<b><i>Fri 21st Oct</i></b>	<b><i>Deadline for copy to Editor for November News Sheet</i></b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>2016</b>
Tues 1st Nov	Council Meeting. 8pm at HQ.
Fri 4th Nov	General Meeting at HQ. Geoff 'The Metropolitan Railway northern extremes Brill and Verney Junction'
Sun 6th Nov	Working party at CH, 9am – 12:30

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.