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The News Sheet

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Plus...

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Marine Mumbles (Rides Again)

I know I should be reporting on our first meeting of the year, but I'm not! Dave and I had to make an executive decision to cancel the meeting due to inclement weather. The dreaded ice and snow. We telephoned the regulars, but if we missed you and you turned up- sorry. I think in future if the weather is bad, and you are not sure if the Marine Meeting is on, just give Dave Lawrence or I a quick telephone call to check.

Not much to report on the pond status this month. Dave and I haven't fully mastered diving under the ice, dragging a net behind us. Anyway the water is cold.

We hope to have a re-scheduled HQ. Marine Meeting on the second Friday in March at 8.00pm. See you then.

Peter Stern

Front cover: Taking you back to warmer days last Autumn: members of the Garden Rail section enjoy another good day's steaming at the track. From right: Malcolm Read, Norman Back, Geoff Mogg, Martin Kennedy, David Metcalf and David West
Photo: Nick Rudoie

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Council then accepted one new member into our Society,
Peter Jenkin, He is interested in Locomotives and Stationary Steam.

Mike Foreman

G.L.R News

I have just got home from a cold and wet day at Colney Heath and sitting in front of a roaring log fire reflecting on the days events we must either be stupid or very passionate about our hobby, I favour the latter. Most of the crew were there trying to get on with things and jobs in hand when young Robert Woolsey called down that lunch was ready just as a heavy downpour set in. Baked tatties and onions with garlic thrown in, our resident chief Mike served Tomato soup and Bacon rolls for starters needless to say there's never a lot left. Even on a cold wet day there's still something good to be enjoyed at Colney Heath. Thanks Chef and helpers.

The week before much to the pleasure of the juniors we were knee deep in the white stuff. The pond was in its solid state and what a fun day we had with snow ball fights. (I had quite forgotten what a snowball down the neck felt like, looks like I will have to wait till next year to get Stanley back) The juniors were ploughing their way around the track on their locos. We just about managed to keep warm.

The P line area is now nice and clear, overgrown bushes have been cut back and as soon as the weather breaks a second line will be installed along side the existing P line to allow the parking up of rolling stock. It is hoped to use the discarded track that will be cut from the replaced sharp bends that approach the narrows.

Robin Thorn has built a nice box from the scrap heap to protect the electrics that will amongst others control the three way point around Orchard Junction. David Rose has been up and showed us the box of motor controls he is finalising for the three way point.

IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER BOYS.

Man of the match this month must surely be my old mate Roy Hall. He spent all day Saturday in the wet digging and chopping out a very large rotten old tree root that had fallen down and is in the way of the new land development. Well done Roy, you are a valuable asset to the club.

Thanks also to Graham Gardner for taking delivery of the black stuff at such short notice.

Now that I have warmed up and put pen to paper, pressed the button for the editor to print, its time to go down to the workshop to turn up my smoke box door. Bliss, pure bliss. What more can a man ask for, see you soon.

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

GENERAL MEETINGS 2012 – FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise indicated, General Meetings are held 8-10pm at our Legion Way Headquarters in North Finchley. Peter Davies usually presides over our raffle - for which all donations of suitable prizes are always appreciated, while Dave Lawrence provides us with tea and biscuits at around 9pm. Our thanks to Dave and Peter. Profits from meetings go directly to club funds. All members are welcome at any of our General Meetings and we are always happy to see members' friends and family, too. Hoping for a good attendance to support our speakers, we look forward to your company.

Suggestions (and volunteers) for suitable General Meeting topics are always welcome.

2 March 2012

KEN BRERETON – THE INFLUENCE OF EFFLUENT A History of the Tottenham Sewage Works and the associated Wood Bros Beam Engine

Tottenham was one of the first areas of Middlesex to take powers under the 1848 Public Health Act to establish in 1850 a permanent Local Board of Health with financial powers. This enabled the Board to set up a public water supply and a sewage works at Markfield Road, Page Green, now part of South Tottenham. The Wood Bros Beam Engine is a fine example of Victorian engineering, commissioned in 1888 and is located in its original engine house. It has been fully restored and can be seen operating under steam power on specified steam days.

For more information about the beam engine visit the www.mbeam.org

6 APRIL 2012 – Archive NLSME Films

An evening of films and other reminiscences of past years of the North London SME.

4 MAY 2012 – Annual General Meeting

1 JUNE 2012 – Tony Dunbar Reminisces - Part 2

February Loco Section Meeting

By Roger Bell

The restart of the Loco Section meetings commenced with Tony Dunbar in the chair and assisted by Ian Johnson, Mike Foreman and Dave Lawrence who arrange the meeting content.

Tony asked about progress at the track, Mike Chrisp reported that work has been slowly proceeding through the inclement weather. The spoil heap in our neighbour's garden has nearly all been moved, this movement has been very successful, Mike thanked those involved. The site is looking very much better; the earth embankment by the toilets has now been cleared. The roof over the containers has now started. Fencing work carries on, there is a lot more going on, basically things are making good progress.

The fifteen of us were then asked if we need a Loco Section meeting once a month, less the social barbeque ones held at the track, also was a Friday at eight o'clock start convenient. It was agreed to stick with what we have. One question raised was should we redefine the difference between the General and Loco Section meetings for instance both have a 'work in progress' meeting. It was thought that those who attend the Loco Section meeting are likely to be builders making things. Tony will have a chat with Mike Chrisp about this.

Another comment was there are no locos at Loco Section meetings, whereas the Society of Model and Experimental Engineers always have work on the table with members questioning how each one was made, bringing our work to meetings is an excellent idea.

We then had a Quiz on railway knowledge; the highest mark was achieved by Mike Foreman who won four cans of Speckled Hen, runners up secured bottles of Budweiser. Your worthy Scribe was bottom of the class with the lowest mark.

We were advised that there has been a Marine Exhibition at the Science Museum, South Kensington since 1963, without lottery funding it will shortly be closing, visit while you can.

Members of the St Albans South Signal Box Preservation Trust receive e-mails of interest, 196 signal boxes are up for sale, purchasers must take them away.

The next Loco meeting will be Friday, 16 March.

Track Stewards - 2012

It has been recommended that for the forthcoming summer, stewards are only required for public running days.

Track Stewards unable to make your scheduled duty are asked to find a replacement and to notify Sue Rose in good time to update the published rota for publication in the next News Sheet. If the change is at short notice, please also inform your Senior Steward,

Senior Stewards are asked to contact your team beforehand to confirm their attendance. Please also contact the Senior Steward for the next public running day to remind them of their duty and to pass on any helpful information.

A new Duties Sheet has been prepared to indicate the jobs to be done before, during and after the site is opened to the public. These sheets, which we hope will be helpful, have been duplicated and will be found in a folder in the lectern in the workshop.

Track Stewarding will be monitored by the Tyttenhanger Site Committee and amended as necessary. Constructive suggestions are welcome and will be considered.

The following are scheduled for the start of the public running season.

6 May 2012: Senior Steward - Brian Apthorpe

Peter Badger	John Beesley
Peter Brown	Dave Jones
Peter Lancaster	Dave Lapham
Derek Perham	Peter Weeks
John West	Phillip Woodward

20 May 2012: Senior Steward – Keith Bartlam

Gerald Ackroyd	Paul Bexfield
Jeffrey Bolton	Maurice Cummins
Lesley Dobbs	Jack Edwards
Rai Fenton	Steve Jones
Graham Price	Ron Price

Garden Railway

It seems a fair time since we last did an article for the newsletter, however that does not mean that we have not had a busy and enjoyable winter running, working on, finishing and improving the G1 track at Tyttenhanger.

We have also, of course, been running every Wednesday, average turnout being 14 members present, although we did on one occasion (Wednesday before Christmas) have 21 club members present. This of course was for our annual Christmas get together, as in previous years we all bought along some food & goodies to put on the table and share around. We started with soup, hot sausages in rolls, mulled wine and mince pies to finish. Now this was very nice, however next year we will organise ourselves a bit better as I have never seen so many packets of Sainsbury's "luxury" mince pies before all together in one place.

The track itself is bedding in well, the design and materials used have so far withstood the rigours of the winter weather, in fact, so far, we have run every week since we commissioned the track into use. Fine tuning as we go along meaning we have moved some sets of points and altered some of the stock sidings etc.

One of the nice things to see is the regular appearance of the larger loco's. These run so much better on the greater corner radii on the new track compared to the tighter ones on the old GR track. Also to be seen is a far greater array of rolling stock. Most members now bring along their own carriages and goods wagons, a great variety. The three complete circuits lead to more running as we are also able to double run, so it is not unusual to see six loco's in steam pulling quite long workings around.

We still have a variety of jobs to complete before the track is fully finished off, the major works to be undertaken being:

1. Fit new top steps either side to underpass.
2. Build & fit large shallow drawer to underside of track, on the inside, next to the steaming bay to take the station clock and "white" running board etc.
3. Finish off construction of the small store, fabricate & fit the new top, fit the inside shelves, re-hang the doors and fit a hasp & staple.
4. Place store to underside of track, jack up and level in place, security fit to track underside support beams.
5. Collect & deliver to site & store further two loads of paving slabs.
6. Cut & fix new tops to chrome steel "steaming box" stools.
7. Dig out and level the area to inside steaming bays (around turn-table). Install ground cover and level in paving slabs.
8. Dig out and level area to outside steaming bay, compact, lay ground cover

and level in paving slabs.

9. On inside of track, dig out pathway at worn area's, level, compact, put in ground cover & lay slabs (area's to be decided as wear designates)
10. Remove 7 existing tree stumps from inside area of track, make ground good and re-seed with suitable hard wearing grass type.
11. Dig out and level area in centre of track, level and lay ground cover, lay slabs (this area to be used for the placing of the existing pair of picnic tables) base to be big enough to take 2 x gazebo's during summer months.
12. Prune back lower branches on existing trees to raise base canopy level.
13. Shelter opposite steaming bay: Base To be dug out, shuttered, consolidated hardcore on DP membrane & 75mm styrene foam insulation.
14. Shelter to be built insitu, construction to be all timber, post corners, plywood sides & suitable roof. Detail finishing to suit site existing.

As soon as the weather improves, working parties are going to be organised once a week, not on running days.

David Metcalf.

Next Issue of the Newsletter

Owing to a much needed holiday the new issue of the newsletter will be a combined April/May edition published 2 weeks before the AGM. Please note the deadline date in the diary. *Ed.*

February General Meeting

By OMAH II

Impresario Mike Chrisp welcomed a surprisingly modest group of sturdy members who had braved the freezing cold to attend the second General Meeting of 2012.

Mike reviewed past activities of the Society which included their stand at the recent London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. Ian Johnston intimated that the successful display was due to the marvellous and enthusiastic co-operation of Club Members from all sections. Even the return and storage of the heavy display boxes above the 'crush hall' at Headquarters had been accomplished anonymously, almost like magic.

Further afield Mike Chrisp reported that the *Brighton Model World Exhibition* this year is to have a heavy accent on the sort of model engineering that the Club enjoys. It was reported that James Mc Donald had hosted the BBC at 'his' St Alban's Signal Box; that the Peterborough ME Club would visit Colney Heath on Wednesday 11th April and that there would be a club visit organised by Brian Apthorpe on 11th August and another from Chelmsford on 25th August.

Then it was time for the offerings intended for the subject of the meeting; that of a Model Engineering Forum. Mike Chrisp was first off with the problem of shaping locomotive chimney bases. Naturally Mike had shaped his by use of CNC but true to the fashion of NLSME about four other solutions to the problem were discussed, the most popular being simply grabbing hold of the poor inoffensive lump of metal shoving it in a vice and filing the living daylight out of it with a round file.

Next came the stuffing of material into stuffing boxes; graphite yarn still remains popular but PTFE in all its forms appears to be gaining status. Then followed a short dissertation by Mike Hodgson on the painful birth pangs of PTFE from an overnigheted can of tetrafluoroethylene observed by Roy Plunkett. (It was in 1938 so it must have been before he discovered the existence of Desert Island Discs)

An excellent mug of Earl Grey tea with bourbon biscuits was dispensed to all and sundry by David Lawrence; Peter Davies's raffle prizes were distributed to the lucky winners.

Mike Hodgson again held the group in suspense with his description of life on the parquet floors of GPO telephone exchanges followed by descriptions of centring on a four jaw chuck, knurling tools, wobblers and a video presentation without the help of Edward the Compressor.

📖 Dates for your Diary 📖

Friday 2 Mar	8.00pm General Meeting; Ken Brereton: The Markfield Beam Engine and Museum; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Saturday 3 Mar	2.00pm EGM; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 9 Mar	8.00pm Marine Section Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Monday 12 Mar	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 16 Mar	8.00pm Loco Section Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Tuesday 20 Mar	8.00pm TSC meeting; Colney Heath
Friday 30 Mar	8.00pm Workshop evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Monday 2 Apr	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 6 Apr	8.00pm General Meeting; Archive Films; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Tuesday 10 Apr	Deadline for copy to Editor for April/May News Sheet
Wednesday 11 Apr	Peterborough ME Club visit to Colney Heath
Tuesday 17 Apr	8.00pm TSC meeting; Colney Heath
Friday 27 Apr	8.00pm Workshop evening; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Friday 4 May	8.00pm Annual General Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, Nth Finchley
Sunday 6 May	2.00pm Track open to the public; Colney Heath
Sunday 13 May	Toy Boat Regatta; Colney Heath Pond
Monday 14 May	8.00pm Council Meeting; HQ, Legion Way, North Finchley
Friday 18 May	Deadline for copy to Editor for June News Sheet
Sunday 20 May	2.00pm Track open to the public; Colney Heath
Tuesday 29 May	8.00pm TSC meeting; Colney Heath
Every Wednesday	Garden Railway Section at Colney Heath (11am - 4pm); OO and HO Model Railway Groups and Video Group at HQ (evening)
Every Thursday	Slot Cars Section at HQ (evening)
Every Saturday	Morning working party on GLR including junior section.
Every Sunday	Morning working parties at Colney Heath (start 9.00am).

All too soon it was time to thank Mike Chrisp and his accomplices for a jolly interesting evening before the attendees sought the solace of a warm hostelry nearby.

NB: Please remember to notify all meetings, events & exhibitions, in advance, to Owen and Rachael Chapman, who act as Keepers of the Society Calendar and Tyttenhanger Site Events Co-ordinators.

