

B&DSME News

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The monthly club
newsletter for
Bournemouth &
District Society of
Model Engineers

Secretary: Dave Finn
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Chairman's Thoughts

I hope that all those who went on the trip to Swindon had an enjoyable day out despite the awful weather. The rain never let up all day and we had to almost paddle our way into the Museum. It was nice of David Delaney, who recently moved to Swindon, to meet us all at the Museum and I believe he has also been to the track recently. I took this photo at the Museum - it would be nice to be able impose the same fine on anybody in the Society who leaves our gate open.

It seems that there was a small misunderstanding with the Ladies at the November Meeting. I was informed it was Ladies Night, which was news to Dave Finn and myself, as we had not laid anything special on. Still, we made the tea and washed up! Next year it will be in the Newsletter and we will put on something special. Any suggestions, ladies?

As I mentioned at the Society's November meeting we intend to apply for another Awards For All Grant to put in a disabled ramp from the path way replacing the steps down to the steaming bays and the new carriage storage. We have to get permission for the carriage storage from Littledown, but by the New Year I will have some sketches of our proposals.

By the time you read this it will be only a few days until our Santa Special on Sunday 16th December. Please come along and help, it is usually very enjoyable and a worthwhile day for all.

The December Meeting is our annual Christmas Party. Please bring cakes, crisps, sandwiches and snacks, etc. as in previous years, for the party - no burgers this year. Prizes for the Christmas Raffle would also be gratefully appreciated.

Dave Finn will be taking names for the coach trip to the London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace on Sunday 20th January 2008.

The bookings for our Annual Dinner at the Crooked Beam Restaurant on Wednesday 23rd January 2008 are going well. If you want to come get your Menu Choices and payment into Dick as places are going quickly and there is a limit on numbers this year.

I wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

David Martin



Editor's Ramblings

Things are really progressing down at Littledown. White picket fencing around the traverser runway to protect against little feet tripping up and extensions to the 16mm Garden Railway - I did hear a rumour that they were seen eyeing up one of the windows in the end of the Engine Shed to get their tracks into the dry.

After almost five years of service with very little attention, the Bendy Beam is in need of some work and plans have been drawn up to completely overhaul it. This work entails new flexible leaves, extra diagonal bracing to correct the sag in the girder structure and checking out the pivot. This work will entail taking the Bendy Beam out of service and it is anticipated that this will happen towards the end of January.

The January 2008 Newsletter will be a very simple one - we are away over the entire holiday period, so it will only carry the bare essentials.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Dick Ganderton

Panic, No Lathe!

Recently a situation arose which highlighted the benefits of being a member of a society such as the B&DSME.

On Thursday afternoon I was working on my lathe when there was a bang and the workshop went black. The 3-Phase Static Converter had blown up. I decided that evening to cry for help and phoned Dick who was around the following morning to discuss the problem. His advice was to forget replacing the static converter with another one, but look at purchasing a Digital Phase Converter (inverter). This would give me variable speed and, Dick reckoned, make the lathe run smoother and quieter than the static converter.

A quick search on the Internet brought up a suitable 3HP 240V single phase in to 415V 3-phase out solid state inverter from Direct Drives. www.drivesdirect.co.uk

One of these was ordered on Friday afternoon and was delivered the following Monday.

That evening I phoned Dick, who arrived Tuesday morning to assist with the installation and programming and with his help we had the lathe running by the afternoon.

My lathe now seems to be a new machine, the vibration problem at high speed has gone and the speed is now infinitely variable. As the photograph shows the unit is amazingly small compared to the static converter it replaces.

I am very grateful to Dick for his rapid response to my request for help and his advice and assistance in solving my problem - and all as a result of joining B&DSME!

Michael Clay



Four-wheel Trolley Modifications

When the two 4-wheel trolleys were built it was thought that the folded aluminium bodies would provide enough flexibility to keep all four wheels on the track without the need for any form of suspension. In practice this didn't happen, particularly with no load on the trolley.

It was, therefore, decided to modify one of the trolleys using a form of simple compensated suspension used very successfully in the smaller scales for over 40 years.

Dick sketched out the idea and with John Hoyle worked out a simple method of achieving the desired effect with the least effort.

The unbraked wheel unit was removed from the trolley and John took it home to carry out the mods. With the modified unit fitted back onto the trolley, tests were carried out to see how well it now rode. As John had sprayed everything, including the wheel treads, with primer we were able to see how the wheelset performed against the railheads. As expected, there was no evidence of contact between



the inside of the flanges and the rails. The only extra mod needed was a pair of stops to limit the total movement of the rocking unit to just that required to negotiate the largest amount of twist in the track.

With the modifications proved to be successful, the second 4-wheel trolley received the same treatment, giving us two useful two-seat driving trolleys.



Dear Dick

Just a comment or two regarding the Society's rebuild of Speedy.

In the last couple of Speedy Progress Reports in the Newsletter, Brian Merrifield has pleaded for volunteers to make six connecting rod and coupling rod bushes and, possibly, the pins to match. As yet there has been absolutely no response! It would take no more than four hours, spread over a month or so, to make these components – not very much to ask.

Now I do realise that not every member is interested in the railway side of model engineering, but a bush is a bush and a pin a pin, no matter if it fits a locomotive, boat, clock or anything else. At the moment there are just six people doing bits and pieces for Speedy. Compare this with the number of members who turn up to the Monthly Meetings. Do I need to elaborate?

A summary so far is that the wheels have been re-profiled, the horns re-machined, new axle boxes made and fitted, cylinders under way being refurbished with new valve liners, valves and pistons and the boiler is nearly finished.

Perhaps this letter will encourage some more members to phone Brian to offer help – I do hope so.

Merlin

Santa Run - Catering

Peggy would like some cakes, please, for Afternoon Tea on Sunday 16th December. She will be providing a Bacon Butty Breakfast and a Mince Stew Lunch for those members who are helping. As usual, tea and coffee will also be available.

Direction of Running

Sunday	16 th December	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	19 th December	Clockwise
Sunday	23 rd December	Clockwise	Wednesday	26 rd December	Anticlockwise
Sunday	30 th December	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	2 nd January	Anticlockwise
Sunday	6 th January	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	9 th January	Clockwise
Sunday	13 th January	Clockwise	Wednesday	16 th January	Anticlockwise
Sunday	20 th January	Anticlockwise *	Wednesday	23 rd January	Clockwise
Sunday	27 rd January	Clockwise	Wednesday	30 th January	Anticlockwise

* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

B&DSME Diary Dates

16 th December	Santa Special
19 th December	Christmas Party at Muscliff Community Centre.
3 rd January 2008	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Venue to be decided.
16 th January 2008	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre.
20 rd January 2008	Coach trip to London Model Engineering Exhibition, Alexandra Palace. Book through Dave Finn.
23 rd January 2008	Annual Dinner Crooked Beams Restaurant. Menus and full details on back page.

Other Events

London Model Engineering Exhibition
18th - 20th January 2008
www.meridienneexhibitions.co.uk/

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Luscombe Valley Happenings

Humbug Day 2008	22 nd December
Cobweb Run	12 th - 13 th April
Steam Enthusiast Weekend	3 rd - 4 th May
Gala Weekend	26 th - 27 th July
Autumn Running Weekend	6 th - 7 th September
Steam Enthusiast Weekend	27 th - 28 th September
Humbug Day	20 th December



Secretary's Notes

At the recent Committee Meeting, having undertaken a risk assessment regarding clockwise running at Littledown, it has been decided that No reverse running (that is backwards) shall be permitted, other than that required for shunting purposes.
This will be reviewed when the track signalling is installed.

Members who attended the last Meeting will be aware that we are running a coach to the London Model Engineering Exhibition in January. We have booked a 55-seat coach and anyone who has not already put their names down, but wishes to do so, should let Dave Finn know as soon as possible.

Drivers who have offered to drive Santa Specials will find a Duty Roster, giving times when they are to be ready to start their allocated duty, posted in the Engine Shed on Sunday, 9th December. I will also try to phone everyone in advance. For the first hour, from 11 o'clock, it is expected that two steam locos and one battery electric loco will be in operation.

Dave Finn

December Tech-Chat Meeting

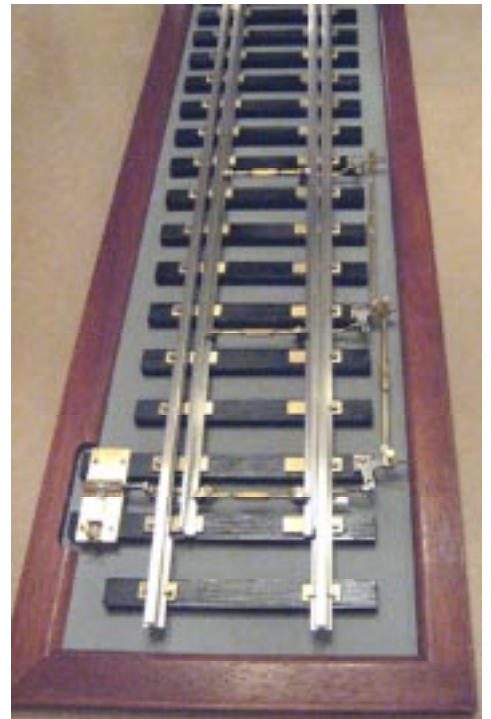
John Hoyle played host to the December Tech-Chat Meeting and five members braved the very inclement weather to attend. However, the small numbers didn't stop those present having a very informative evening.

Bob Devereux brought along the fourth of a series of eleven demonstration flat-bottom points that he is making. Built to a gauge of around 4¹/₂" these show exactly how the point blades are moved, locked and held to gauge and how the mechanism is adjusted.

John showed the chassis for a simple electrically powered 0-4-0 vertical boiler 16mm narrow gauge loco he is building to run on the Garden Railway at Littledown.

At the previous Tech-Chat Meeting Dick had brought along the raw Diane Carney etched nameplates for *John Milton*, the 5" Gauge Metropolitan 'Growler' he is completing, to discuss ways of simulating the separate fancy end castings. Now he had the finished nameplates together with the body to show the method he has devised for fitting the droplight windows and some experiments with painting and lining the outside framing.

Dick Ganderton



16mm Narrow Gauge News

Visitors to the Littledown Miniature Railway lately will have noticed some additions to the 16mm Garden Railway. Firstly, when the Railway's steaming bay was installed we did not anticipate the interest shown by members and visitors, hence the grass in the area of the steaming bay began to resemble a 'moto-cross' track. To solve this, the area is being paved.

Again, due to our under-estimation of the popularity, we are increasing the area set aside for the steaming and marshalling area by a further 21ft. of sidings track.

During the 'Santa Day' (16th. December), weather permitting, we propose to run the 16mm trains to entertain the children. This does depend on the number of helpers on the day. The main priority must be on the 'Santa Run'. Only if the labour required is met for that, will Gordon open the 16mm track. So, followers of 16mm. who may be attending the 'Santa Run' please bring your locos, etc. Let Gordon know and we will see if we can entertain the youngsters.

We would like to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gordon Miles & Dave White



Newsletter By E-mail

If you want to receive your copy of the Society's monthly Newsletter as a .pdf file, attached to an e-mail, then you **must** let Dick know, by e-mail, sent from the computer you want to receive it on.

Richard Knott unearthed some very interesting old black and white photographs, some of which are reproduced here. Most of them were taken at the Kinson track, which predated the Kings Park track.



Above: Dougie Mates driving his 3 1/2" gauge Heilan Lassie at Kinson. Young Knott is sitting immediately behind him.



Above: A very youthful Richard Knott driving his 3 1/2" gauge Maisie at Jim Perrier's Ringwood track.

Below: The Rev. Long with his 3 1/2" gauge LMS Duchess on the B&DSME's Kinson track.



Above: Dougie Mates again with his 3 1/2" gauge Heilan Lassie at Kinson. The cars should give some idea of the date.

Below: The driver of this 3 1/2" gauge LNER locomotive is unknown and Richard would like to know who he is. Again taken on the B&DSME's Kinson track.

