

Lancashire & District Group



June 2000



WELCOME!

Welcome to the first issue of our regional 16mm Assoc newsletter.

This is a bit of an experiment for a couple of months. If it's a success and welcomed by most of us, then we'll carry on.

I suppose the main purpose of the newsletter is to keep everyone in touch, encourage attendance at Sunday and Wednesday get-togethers, whilst supplying information a little bit more relevant to our area than the national magazine.

My initial thoughts were of a monthly production. I know we meet every two weeks in Summer, but I don't want writing this to interrupt my modelling!

I would really welcome as many contributions as possible. Typesetting is fun - but it'll be boring for me to write everything myself (not to mention you having to read it all...).

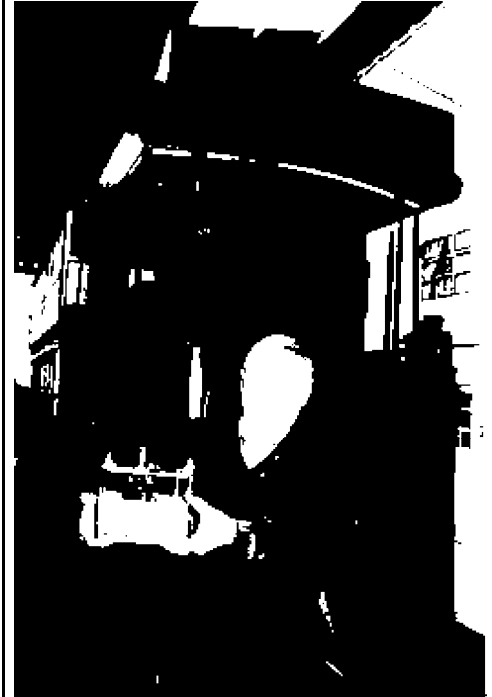
Articles on any subject are wanted (well, as long as they have a rough railway theme), from a couple of words to serial articles. It's up to you. Although random jottings on disk are preferred, I'm quite prepared to type hand-written notes rather than inhibit enthusiasm. Failing that, simply suggest something to me.

I know we have a few people out there who are "cleverer than what I is" when it comes to the written word, so I'll apologise now for bad grammar, bad spelling, and anything else I might do to offend. Of course, if there's anybody who thinks they can do better...

You can send articles to me at home (narrow.gauge@btinternet.com), at work (chris.mackenzie@gmp.police.uk) or stick it in my mitt at any function.

Here's looking at a long and productive run!

Chris MacKenzie



"Honey I Shrunk the Tram!"

Mike Ousby was recently invited to visit the National Tram Museum, as an honoured guest, to show staff the completed prize winning model he made of their Beyer Peacock, (Wilkinson Patent) Tram (see also "Prize Winning Trams" article).

He was given an extensive tour of the museum and several official photographs were taken by the museum for use in press releases. Staff remarked that Mike had done a good job of modelling their full size tram engine and he was asked if he wanted to join their volunteer group who restore trams.

Whilst the photographs were being taken Mike refused to repeat the prompt "CHEESE!", but kept muttering that Steam trams are better than electric ones!

The **Telford Garden Rail Show** (3rd & 4th June) was a great success. Chris MacKenzie took his indoor layout, "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds", and was ably assisted by Mike Ousby and Alex Milne.

We hope that this will become an annual event. Meresham is too far for most of us and this event "fills that gap".



A brilliant time was had by all at Dave Wilding's railway on Sunday 30 April. Once again the sun shined on the righteous whilst trains ran round the extensive loops and spirals. A variety of stock was seen and the world again seemed a much happier place!



New Turntable & Service Area

David Wilding had now installed the new turntable, points and service area he's constructed for Neil and Sheila Munro's Mersey Valley Railway.

The design, whilst being simple, is incredibly practical and functional. Apart from the fact that the turntable completing revolves so that both sides of even Neil's Garretts can be easily serviced, the turntable track lifts off to form an easy transport cradle for loco's.

However, it doesn't stop there!

To prevent a loco overrunning the track and falling into the turntable's well, a buffer bar automatically lifts up from between the rails. As a road is selected the buffer collapses!

The service bay also has it's fair share of gadgetry! Sections of the track fall away for the emptying of ash-pans etc.

The design and construction is nothing short of a great engineering structure. From now on it's David "Isombard" Wilding!

Prize Winning Trams

Another 1st in the Group

Mike Ousby entered his two home made trams into the AGM 'Model of the Year' Competition. Much to his surprise, but no one else's, he came away clutching the 'Jack Wheldon Trophy'.

The two engines originally had to be entered separately, but the judges decided to class them as one entry and award the prize to them both.

I'm sure you all congratulate him on this accolade, and will help encourage him to enter the Masters Trophy next year with a coal-fired steam tram he's got planned. So, who's going to enter and win next year, then?

Belgian, "Vicinal" Bicabine type 8 "De Antwerpen"

The original locomotive was built by 'Societe La Meuse', of Liege in 1912.

- Horizontal boiler, gas fired by butane;
- Radio controlled;
- A working steam whistle;
- Running time is about 40 minutes;

'Beyer Peacock "Manchester Pride"

The original tram now resides at the Tram Museum in Crich, Derbyshire.

- It has a vertical boiler fired by butane, but using a home made ceramic burner
- An axle driven water feed pump is fitted. This will allow the engine to stay in steam for a long time;



Select Gear

Have you got any items for sale?
Any Wants or Swops?
Give your Group a first look.
Free adverts here!

New IP Engineering Coach

Sales are rocketing for IP Engineering's new coach - all for £30 complete (yes, that includes wheels, axle-bearings & buffers!).

The wooden sides are "etched out" with panelling. The chassis is whitmetal.

Chris MacKenzie has already bought three and should soon be on the rails.



Kerr Blimey!

Peter Harling, who is now becoming a regular member at our soirees, brought along his recently finished 0-4-0 Kerr Stuart 30hp Diesel Loco.

This excellent model (pictured above) is made on an IP Engineering chassis, scratchbuilt plasticard body and Ron Grant whitmetal castings for the detail. Using radio-control, Peter demonstrated the excellent slow running capabilities.

In short, a beautiful looking engine that is incredibly controllable.

Dear Diary...

"Bring an Engine" Get-togethers:-

Sun 11 June 1pm - Phil Pacey's Rescheduled Event
01772 729203 (Fulwood, Preston)

Wed 14 June 6pm - Alex Milne's Midsummer Night's
Steam - 01704 214614 (Southport)

Sun 18 June 10.30 - 5pm - West Lanc's Railway
(hopefully two 16mm indoor layouts there!)

Sun 25 June 1pm - Chris MacKenzie's (inside layout
if raining) - 0161 980 7804 (Altrincham)

Sun 9 July 1pm - Steve "Sir" Colling - 01254 883200
(Rishton, Blackburn)

Wed 12 July 6pm - Mark Haydock's Garden
01253 885377 (Accrington)

Other Events of Interest:-

Sat 17 June - 10 - 4pm - Purely
Narrow Gauge Model Rail Show,
Frodsham, Cheshire (J12, M56)

Sun 18 June - 11 - 3pm - Giant Toy &
Model Swapmeet, George Carnall
Leisure Centre, Urmston (J9, M60)

24 & 25 June - 10 - 5pm - Morecambe
Model Rail Show, The Platform,
Marine Road Central, Morecambe

Mon 26 June - 7 - 9pm - Swapmeet,
Jarvis Leyland Hotel, (J28, M6)