

Lancashire & District Section

July 2000



What a Result! Sunday 3 : Wednesday 1

It was certainly 'Flaming June' for our group in June, with no less than 4 winning results.

If you include the West Lanc's event, there were three chances to steam-up on a Sunday afternoon. If this wasn't enough, there was also the new Wednesday evening event. There's certainly a lot of news from each of these get-togethers, so without any more references to football (who cares anyway?) we'll report on each event in turn.

One similarity amongst all the meetings this month has been the high number of new faces (supplementing the high number of rather old ones). This set some of us thinking that maybe we should have name badges to help new members settle.

What do you think? Should we give it a go, or is this getting all too official? What do the new members think? At the next work conference I attend, I'll rescue some of the clear plastic name card holders from the bin and bring them along. Alternatively, we're a society of modellers, so why don't we all have a go at making our own? There's no prizes for the best one, except for a 'mention in despatches'.

One other thing I heard mentioned, was the need for maps of each "Bring a Loco" event. It doesn't make much difference to me (I always get lost regardless) but many of our newer members would certainly see the benefit. Perhaps we could combine them all in a special edition LAD's (Lancashire And District) news supplement?

So now for the inevitable question: Could people holding an event please give me a map?

As always, you can send maps and articles to me at home (narrow.gauge@btinternet.com) or stick it in my mitt at any function. I'll even type it myself!

Chris MacKenzie



You're so kind...

Thank you all for your very kind comments in praise of our first newsletter.

We'll carry on producing a newsletter once a month for the foreseeable future, hopefully with lots of contributions from your good selves.

Mind you, I didn't realise what a difficult task this was going to be. Computers may make the written word look presentable, they even highlight words that don't exist- but they don't point out words that are used in the wrong context. Hence the deliberate mistake (*cough, cough...*) last month "The sun *shinned* on the righteous..."

I must be daft to attempt this with 4 teachers in the group (there's also a PE teacher, but we don't count them). Mind you, I've only just found out that there's a member who is a retired journalist. I won't name names, but we know who you are, Peter H.

With all this in mind, I found a little poem on the subject:-

Eye have a spelling chequer,
It came with my Pea Sea.
It plainly marques for my revue
Mistakes eye cannot sea.
I've run this poem threw it,
Eye am shore your plea's too no,
It's letter perfect in it's weigh,
My chequer tolled me sew!

Steaming up at Phil Pacey's: (Left to Right) Mark Smith's Mum; The good Mrs Harling; Peter Harling (tucking into a rather nice cherry trifle); Half a seated Mike Ousby; Sir Steve Colling (in radio control); Mrs Smith's little boy, Mark; and we think Andy Leather is the one hiding at the back (possibly because he'd sneaked out without Gail and the kids, and she didn't know he was there). John & Gail Sharpe must have been camera shy!



Midsummer Night's Steam!

The Wednesday evening event was a bit of an experiment that certainly paid off.

Many enthusiasts turned up, supported by wives and partners, to play trains run a railway.

Alex Milne, not one for doing anything by halves, dining table and laughing and joking more than sent out invitations, and then dined his guests on a everyone else.

superb casserole, followed by gateaux, and all washed down by an abundance of wine!

The only problem is that he's now set a standard that no one else can hope to match!

We were all pleased to see Bill Cook and his wife. Although I didn't see him steaming up, it never seems to be a "proper" get-together without Bill producing another engineering marvel, which purrs contentedly around the track.

It was also good to see Dave Rotheram and Mrs R (I must make a note of wives names - they're not on the list) putting in an appearance and having a run. He was on top form, jumping out of his chair to operate his engines, fighting his way to the

Did anyone notice the little diesel engine, based on a Fendike body, parked up in a siding at Alex Milne's event?

Alex, who is undoubtedly a master modeller, has converted this simple model into a realistic example of an industrial diesel. It even had a dirty windscreen, but clean where the wiper had been!

Repeating his attendance from Phil Pacey's event, Andy Leather again managed to escape without Gail or any members of his ever increasing clan (*she thought he'd popped out to buy some milk*).

He had obviously been giving tips to Neil Munro as, for the first time ever, Sheila wasn't with him. Apparently, she'd gone abroad with a few thousand men - but I'm sure it's nothing to gossip about...

It was also good to see Rob Guinness. Hopefully he will start to be a regular attender again.

The other usual attendees (Dave Wilding, Mark Smith, Steve Colling, Chris MacKenzie, Peter Harling) all assisted in making our new Wednesday night soirees a great success.

Mike Steams the Lid Off the TLRs

The TLRs (Tramway and Light Railway Society) asked Mike Ousby to be the guest speaker at one of their meetings last month. He chose as the title of his lecture to be "Steam Driven Model Trams: The Only Effective Means of Propulsion".

Although being the sole steam fan in the midst of numerous modellers of 'electric mice', as Mike calls them, his lecture was very well received. Not known to mince his words, by including a bit of humour he was able to entertain for over one hour. The audience obviously thought the lecture very educational (*Ed: because as they left they were heard to say "well, that taught me a lesson"*). Mike even reckons that he has a few budding converts in hand!

Due to the success of this lecture, Mike has been asked to take his models to the large-scale tram event being held in Lancaster this month.

What a Month for Timpdon

June was certainly a great month for Timpdon (Chris MacKenzie's railway).

Chris took his indoor exhibition layout "Open Day at Timpdon Shed" to the West Lanc's Railway on Sunday 18 June. Then the following Sunday, it was his garden line's open day (the "Timpdon Lake Railway") - details of which will be next month.

West Lanc's was a great success. Andy Leather helped out all day (*Gail had obviously caught up with him, as the full clan were in tow*) and Derek & Philip Eaton showed us how a Roundhouse Millie can behave herself, running superbly around the track.

It was also great to meet member Tony Turner from Longridge. In addition to a fantastic home-made engine, Tony brought along some excellent coaching stock. People were amazed at the superb running of these bogie coaches around the tight Mamod curves.

Phil Pacey steamed up a couple of times (*what is that loco Phil?*). Alex Milne then finished off the days proceedings with his beautifully detailed Russell.

Dear Diary...

"Bring-an-Engine" Events:-

Sun 9 July 1pm - Steve Colling's Garden - 01254 883200 (Rishton, Blackburn) (32mm)

Wed 12 July 6pm - Mark Haydock's Garden - 01254 232248 (Accrington) (32mm)

Sun 30 July 1pm - Cliff Robinson's Garden - 01925 762455 (Culcheth) (32mm)

Sat 12 & Sun 13 Aug - 10-5pm - Pateley Bridge Steam Show, Memorial Hall, Pateley Bridge (this side of Harrogate) Organised by the Yorkshire Group.

Wed 16 Aug 6pm - Andy Leather's Garden - 01772 713849 (Fulwood, Preston) (32mm)

Sun 20 Aug 1pm - Ian Lowcock's Garden - 01282 812842 (Barnoldswick) (32mm)

Other Events of Interest:-

Sat 8 & Sun 9 July 10-5pm - Festival of Model Tramways, M'cr Museum of Transport, Boyle St., Cheetham Hill, M'cr.

Sun 9 July - 10.30-3pm - Swapmeet Sales Fair (*small event, not necessarily 16mm*) Crag Bank Village Hall, Carnforth

Mon 10 July - 7-9pm - Swapmeet Sales Fair (*small event, not necessarily 16mm*) Dunkenhalgh Hotel, Junct 7 / M65

Sat 15 12-5pm & Sun 16 July 10-5pm - Tram Weekend Mini Exhibition, Milton St Community Centre, Blakiston St, Fleetwood (*all scales & gauges*)

Sat 22 & Sun 23 July 10-5pm - Model Railway Exhibition, Eirias High School, Colwyn Bay (*all scales & gauges*)

Sat 29 & Sun 30 July 10.30-5pm - Gauge O Guild Meeting Railway Exhib., Millom, Cumbria (*O Gauge (standard gauge) only*)

Diary Changes:-

Chris MacKenzie has had to swop his open day with Dave Wilding due to the building of a new kitchen extension. So, **Sun 27 Aug '00** is now at Dave's, and **Sun 26 Nov '00** is at Chris's.

Select Gear



Give the LAD's a first look. Free adverts here!

WANTED:- Chris MacKenzie asks if anyone's got any Roundhouse whitmetal lampposts he could buy? They don't have to be complete or able to work. Contact him on 0161 980 7804

Asda Supermarkets have a new range of 16mm scale action figures for sale. Although they're articulated and in various uniforms, they're only 99p each, or £1.99 for two with a motorbike.