

Lancashire & District Section



February 2001



Snow Fun!

Snow nearly stops the trains
at Mark Haydock's Sunday meeting

Sunday 30th December saw Mark Haydock stepping in and organising an extra excuse for the Lancashire and District Section (LADS) to have a steam up.

Unfortunately, the LADS' journalist was not present due to illness [*I'm all right now, thank you for asking...*] but our spies managed to supply enough details [*the rest we made up*].

Ian Lowcock, Dave Wilding, Mark Smith and Mike Ousby all did their impersonation of Good King Wenceslas and waded through the snow to the heights of Accrington [*incidentally, how does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza? - Deep pan, crisp and even! - Oh, never mind then*].

Despite the snow taking over at times, Dave Wilding and Mark Smith still managed to have a run.

The rest watched enthusiastically through the window whilst eating Mark's mum's homemade soup. Now, it's only rumour, but Mike Ousby quickly realised that the low numbers attending meant that there would be a lot of soup left over. Obviously wanting to reflect an atmosphere associated with high attendance, Mike managed to consume four bowls of soup all on his own (such dedication).

All in all, this was a welcomed get together over the Christmas period.

This is a new line that is simple but very effective.

The weather did Mark no favours, but the excellent hospitality more than made up for it.

Inside this issue -
"Carol" our
Page 3
Pin-Up

Better Late than Never...

The newspaper management would like to apologise for the lateness of this issue. This was mainly due to work commitments and trying to get the indoor layout "Timpdon Sheds" ready for the Bolton show (see "Diary Dates").

Of course this means that the day out to Barry Milner's line has already taken place at the time of going to press. However we're saving this for the next issue. All I can say is that those that missed it missed the event of the year! We only hope that we'll all be invited back again this Summer.

On the WWW

The LADS have now reached the twentieth century [*pity we're now in the 21st, but what do you expect from a load of old steam fans*].

Yes, we have a web site!

Those of you that have already invested in technology and have got a computer can get the kids to switch it on and then go to:-

www.narrow.gauge.btinternet.co.uk/lads.htm

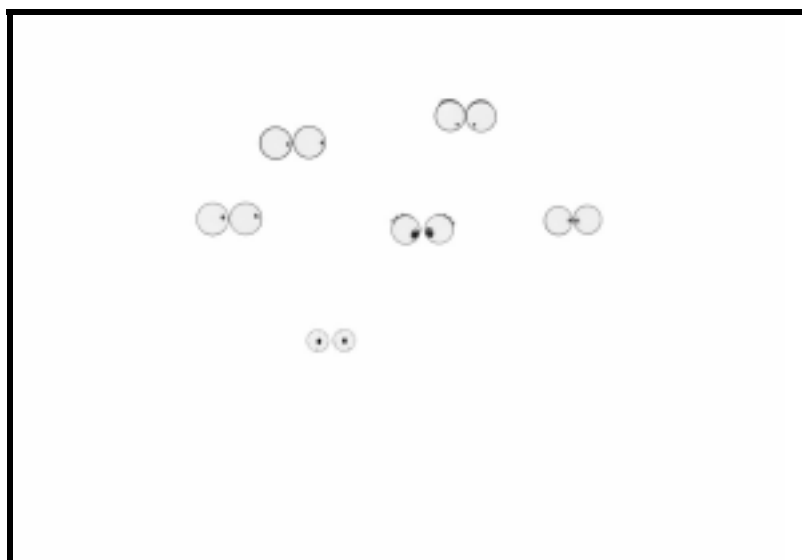
At the moment it contains nothing more than all our newsletters for new members to read. However, we have high hopes.

Whilst you're "online" (as us 'techies' say) why not have a look at Chris MacKenzie's Virtual Narrow Gauge Model Railway Exhibition. There are nearly 200 narrow gauge model railways featured in all scales and gauges and about 500 pictures - all expandable to a bigger, better image.

Have a look at:-

www.narrow.gauge.btinternet.co.uk

In addition, there are links to all the official real narrow gauge railway sites, association and suppliers. Have a play!



Picture above: Mike Ousby, Mark Smith, Ian Lowcock, Dave Wilding and Mark Haydock inspect the line before enjoying a run in the snow.

Space & Time = Speed

**Article commissioned from the
Chief Engineer of the
New Ashton Forest Light Railway, John Angell**

Most model trains are driven much too fast.

Get to the end of the line too soon, or once around the circuit too fast, and your railway will seem even smaller than it really is.

Slow is realistic. Slow is prototypical.

Real small internal combustion loco's often had three speed gearboxes, equating to 5 mph, 10 mph and 15 mph. A report in the 'The Locomotive' for 1924 on the testing of a new railcar by Drewry comments that the engineers expressed themselves 'well satisfied' with a top speed of 18 mph.

The speed limit under the Light Railways Act was just 25mph (remember the scene in the Titfield Thunderbolt, when the enthusiasts were warned not to go too fast...?).

So how slow is slow? Speed is a combination of time and distance, usually expressed as miles per hour. A mile is 1,760 yards. Divide by 19 and you find that a scale mile is just 92.6 yards. I measured my line and it came to 59 yards end to end, which at 0.6 is just over half a mile. But what about scale time?

Well, No!

True seconds per yard:	Scale miles per hour:
1½	26
2	20
2½	15½
3	13
4	10
5	8
6	6½
7	5½

Our locos are 1:19 scale, admittedly, but they use real fire and real water to make real steam at real pressures, often at about 40psi.

Similarly, time is real. There are 3,600 seconds in an hour. Take a real speed of 10 mph. Divide 3,600 seconds by 10 and you will see it takes 360 seconds to cover each (real) mile at this speed. If it takes 360 seconds to cover a scale mile of 92.6 yards, divide 360 by 92.6, round it up to whole seconds, and you will see it takes four seconds to cover each yard at 10 mph for a model at 1:19 scale.

Keeping it very simple for those of us who don't like maths, if your line runs alongside the garden fence, and the fence comprises 6' 0" panels, then eight seconds to get from one fencepost to the next is a scale ten mph.

On my Ashton Forest Lt Rly., a loco taking four minutes to go from end to end is doing about 10 mph. Less than two minutes and it's going much too fast, and the driver can expect to be on the carpet in front of the Fat Controller!

Wickham Railcar

Have you seen the new kit from John Besley at P&J Models?

There are available shortly in both 32mm & 45mm and cost £79.50 for the 32mm, and £84.50 for the 45mm.

The photo below doesn't really do it justice. However, it is a detailed model that would look at home pottering around any railway, regardless of the image.



Membership Secretary

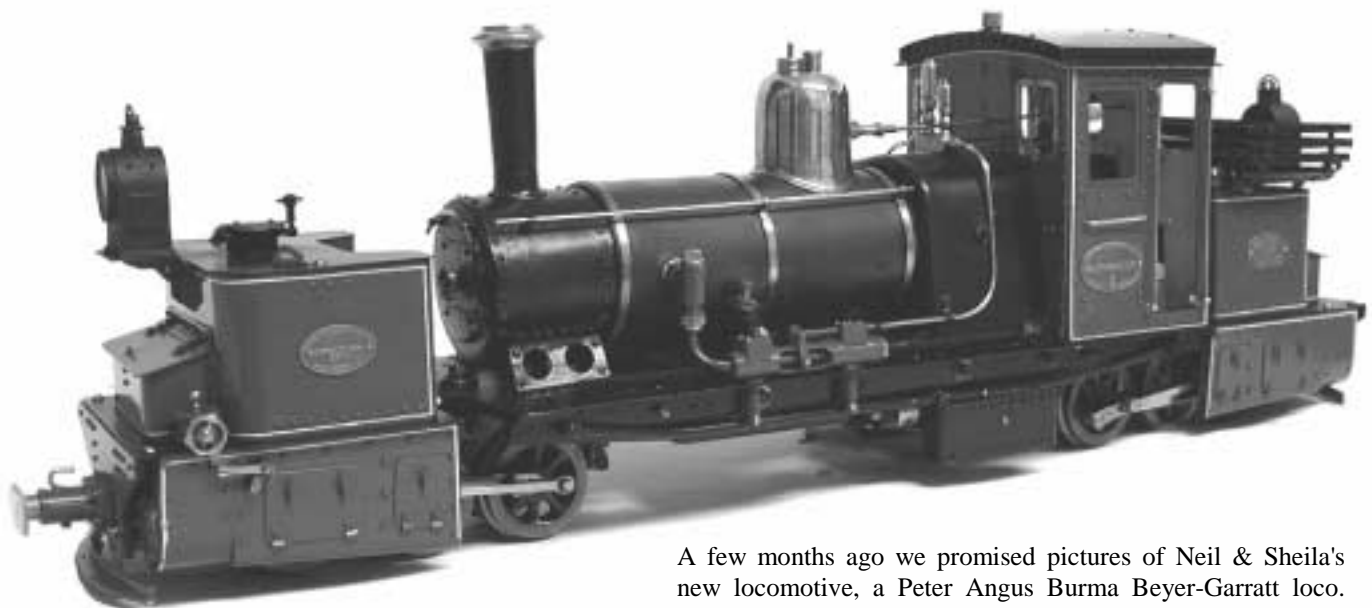
Last month we put out an appeal for someone to take on the new role of Membership Secretary for our LADS group.

Well, the applicants were short-listed and then in true "Popstars" style, we held auditions and asked one to come back the next day [*ask your kids*].

It was a close contest, but in the end we have to strongly advise the members of the group to support Mike Ousby's application.

He already has plans to create a Welcome Pack, name badges and many other ideas.

Thanks Mike, or should I say "Mr Secretary"? (and no Cliff, you don't want to ask him to sit on your knee and do dictation...)



A few months ago we promised pictures of Neil & Sheila's new locomotive, a Peter Angus Burma Beyer-Garratt loco. It's "Buthidaung", the smallest B-G ever built.

Look and drool!

Carol and the Directors' Coach

Carol is now a favourite with the Directors

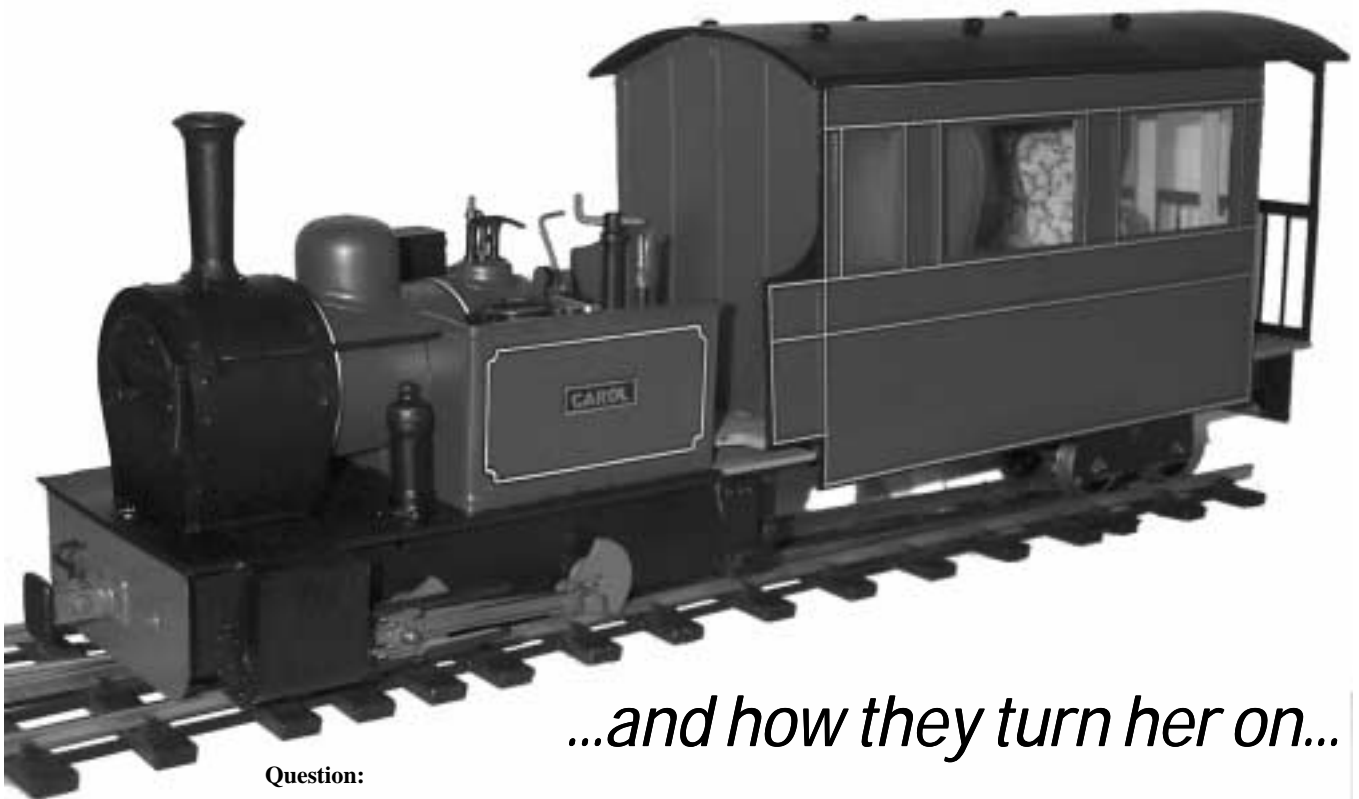
This is not some seedy expose about someone and their Personal Trainer - interesting as that might be - but rather a look at how the Directors can inspect their investment in comfort.

A 'Bug Box' would certainly give them privacy but it lacks status, convenience (and they need one of these, you should see all the empty bottles) and the facilities which such grandees take for granted.

An IP Engineering 0-4-0 diesel was used as the basis and made steam outline with the addition of various whitemetal bits and pieces from GRS. Both the loco body and the coach are Plasticard, painted BR 'Blood' red and lined yellow and black. The loco is controlled - start /stop and forward/reverse are lever operated switches and the regulator is Araldited to a speed controller located on the fire box.

The Coach has an open bogie at the rear with four wheels, the front rests on the loco and forms part of the footplate. Batteries are under the coach to give some extra weight. Dolls House furniture adds the luxury touch. In all, a quick and easy build - no plans to slow me down.

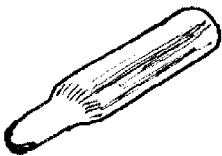
And the name? I needed a name that would convey authority, sophistication, taste, style and grace. What a coincidence, I found these name plates for a £1 at an exhibition.



...and how they turn her on...

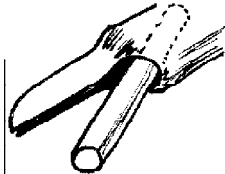
Question:

How can you hide those small, bright, chrome plated, toggle switches? If you can't see them, you can't get to switch on / of or change direction. They have to be easy to reach so are often in full view. Soldered in place will give you a very railway like lever.



Stage One

Take a short length of brass tube that is a push fit on the toggle switch and squeeze one end very firmly in a vice.



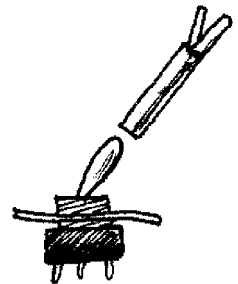
Stage Two

Carefully cut a 'handle', insert some brass rod at an angle, solder up and paint to suit.

Stage Three

Make a small paper or plasticard washer.

Smear some Araldite on the inside of the 'lever' with a cocktail stick. Put the washer over the switch to protect it from the Araldite as it cures, then ease the 'lever' into place (too much adhesive and you will have a piston effect; you will push the lever on and it will pop up on its own - don't ask how I know this!)



Dear Sir...

Dear Sir,

I must again put pen to paper to raise your reader's level of awareness over the blatant and sexist gutter-press comments to which this newsletter has again stooped.

The front leader advertisement stated "Carol: Our Page 3 Pin-Up" [Page 1, Feb 2001 issue] which was obviously contrived to titivate male readers in thinking this lewd innuendo promised female promiscuity within. Do you have to condescend to such levels to make people interested in poor Alex Milne's railway modelling skills? Carol herself must have been highly insulted at seeing this insulting and degrading abuse of her name.

I demand a full and frank apology on behalf of all degraded w'imen.

Yours,
Millie Tant

Ed: Sorry Millie, sorry Carol.

Dear All,

I've been invited to attend and run engines at the well known International Steam Meet, "Live Steam in Miniature", from Thursday 24 May to Sunday 27 May.

It's being held for the 28th time at Nienoord in the Netherlands.

I was wondering if any of the LADS are interested in going along with me?

Please contact Mike Ousby, for more information.

Regards,
Mike Ousby

Dear Editor,

I loved the reference to me being a Page 3 Model (front page, Feb 01 issue).

I always wanted to be a model! I was just disappointed that the picture was of Alex's other love - his railway engine.

Carry on the good work,
Carol

Contributions?

Send to Chris MacKenzie at
2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,
Altrincham, Cheshire,
WA15 7SY
0161 980 7804,
or e-mail
narrow.gauge@btinternet.com

We've had 4 pages for two months now. Remember though, we can only keep it up if you send the stories.

Signalling the Layout

Many of our layouts have some type of signalling equipment. But what do prototype signals look like? What size is everything?

Signalling equipment was sometimes made by railway companies, but mostly it was made by contractors.

These contractors often used the same standard gauge parts. So, when a narrow gauge railway wanted signalling equipment, no special 'little' signals were made (after all, off-the-peg is always cheaper than bespoke).

This means that you can use the dimensions of standard-gauge equipment without sacrificing narrow-gauge atmosphere.

- ◆ Height = 15' to 45' in 5' steps;
- ◆ Post (timber) = 12" square at base; tapering to 6" square at top (usually white except bottom 3' in black);
- ◆ Post (steel tube) Bracket support = 10.75"
- ◆ Doll = 5.5"
- ◆ Arms Main = 10" x 5' to 2'6" in 6" steps);
- ◆ Subsidiary = 6" x 2';
- ◆ Stripe on arm = 7" wide, 12" from tip;
- ◆ Angle inside fishtail (on distant arms) = 60 degrees.

Dear Diary...

Sat 10 & Sun 11 Feb 10am-6pm **Aintree**
The Racecourse, Aintree,
Medium model rail show (all scales), not necessarily 16mm scale.

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Feb 10am-5pm **Liverpool**
Dovedale School, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.
"Rowland's Lodge", the Cheshire, Merseyside & East Clwyd Group 16mm layout will be exhibiting.

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Feb 10am-6pm **Bolton**
Bolton School, Chorley New Road (A673)
Very large Model Rail show (all scales)
Chris MacKenzie's 16mm indoor layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" will be exhibiting. Call him to pre-book a run. (Live steam is allowed at this event)

Sat 24 & Sun 25 Feb 10.30-4.30pm **Lincoln**
The Lawns Visitor Centre, Lincoln
16mm & G Scale Event.
Chris MacKenzie's 16mm indoor layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" will be exhibiting (that is if Angela is still holding on to her bump).
Call him to pre-book a run or help out. (Live steam is allowed at this event)

Sun 4 March 11am - Cliff Robinson's Garden - 01925 762455 (Culcheth)
Bring an engine & have a run (32mm) - Watch videos if raining

Sat 10 & Sun 11 March - 10.30am-4.30pm
Narrow Gauge North
Lawnswood School, Headingley, Leeds
16mm, G Scale, 7mm n/g & 009 n/g.

Sun 25 March 1pm - Bill Cook's Garden - 01704 535170 (Southport)
Bring an engine & have a run (32mm)

Sat 31 March 11am-5.00pm Stoneleigh
The 16mm AGM - the event of the year!
Are we organising a car share? Will Cliff "3-wheels" Robinson co-ordinate again for us?

Sun 29 April - Peter Harling's - Settle The Grand Opening!
Bring an engine & have a run (32mm) (More details nearer the time)

Sat 29 & Sun 30 Sept 11.00-4.30pm
Elsecar Heritage Centre, Barnsley
The 16mm Assoc Autumn Convention - support it or lose it!

Chris MacKenzie's has got some photocopies about the construction of live steam locos - in 1:240th scale - that's just 1.25 mm/ft!!!! Ask him for a copy.

This newsletter has been sponsored by:-

JBM Repair Services

Barry Milner

Greenfield, Brearley,
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HX2 6JD

Phone: 01422 886078

Fax: 01422 881056

e:mail jbmrepairs@uk.packardbell.org

Please support them like they support us

Want to Make an Exhibition of yourself?

Chris MacKenzie is exhibiting his layout at Bolton Show again. If you would like to bring a loco and have a run, then just turn up.

If you want it to be covered by the exhibition insurance, please give Chris a call with the details before the event.