

# Lancashire & District Section

16<sup>m</sup>  
N.G.M.  
The Association of  
16mm Narrow  
Gauge Modellers

May 2002



## Angell's Home the Rails of Glory

### LADS in Heaven with the Angells

**Monday 31st March (was it really that long ago?) saw many of us descending on John & Lorna's home to enjoy their superb (and different!) garden railway.**

The Angell's railway is most unusual for us LADS (Lancashire And District Section) in that it's the only line I can think of that is end to end, rather than the usual oval.

And this isn't through necessity! It would have been very easy to join the two ends, but instead, engine drivers are forced to drive their engines properly to a location, run round the train, and then reverse back down the line.

There are also little "extras" which enhance the driving experience - like a passing loop half way along the line. Not just your normal passing loop mind, it has sprung points so the correct path is always taken.

The large attendance was a reflection on the popularity of this line (or was it the famous Angell hospitality? - There again it could've been Lorna's home made Chilli!).

Many of the LADS enjoyed a run. Of course Derek & Philip Eaton steamed up (but there again, they always do) together with Mark Smith, Peter & Sheila Harling, etc.

It was also good to see Rob Guinness who finds himself limited to attending our Sunday Steam Ups due to work commitments.

Of course Chris MacKenzie could be found chatting away with Mike Ousby, Cliff Robinson, Dave Wilding and Phil Sixsmith. Did everyone see the new coaches Dave Wilding has been producing using his homemade CNT machine? It won't be long before he has to go into production as everyone will soon want some. Certainly when enhanced by Phil Sixsmith's painting skills they are something to drool over!

Phil & Dawn Gower could also be spotted at the event, together with Peter Hutton, Alex & Carole Milne, Phil Pacey, John & Jacqui Sharpe and Andy Lether.

Despite a slight shower, it was a fantastic get-together. Many thanks to John & Lorna.

*Pictured below, left to right:*

*John Fox - behind his much improved Roundhouse Lady Anne (see it to believe it!);*

*Peter Harling - behind his relatively new (to him) Roundhouse Argyll;*

*Phil Sixsmith - behind his Roundhouse Russell. All three now have whistles fitted.*

### New Area Co-ordinator

Andy Lether has decided to step down from the role of our Area Co-ordinator, and hand over to Cliff Robinson.

As far as nearly everyone in the group can remember, Andy has always run things for us. You may be wondering what the actual job entails, but I can assure you that there's an awful lot of work involved! For example, the events all through the year at each other's houses. He made sure that we all got the dates we wanted, whilst keeping a full diary.

Perhaps it's a testament to his work that we've never had a single complaint

So, many thanks to Andy. I'm sure Cliff will do a good job, but remember to help him.



Visit the LADS on the web, for back issues - [www.narrow.gauge@btinternet.co.uk/lads.htm](http://www.narrow.gauge@btinternet.co.uk/lads.htm)

# Big Macc Chokes Chris when he ordered a double

*Rest of LADS go to 2002 AGM & Exhibition*

A certain gentleman (I use the description loosely) spent the entire day crying in his tea as he steamed his loco round an Open Day at Timpdon Sheds layout.

He'd boomed and booked the layout in at the Macclesfield Model Railway Exhibition on the same weekend as the 16mm Association AGM at Stoneleigh.

In all fairness he was at a good do, but let's hope he writes that one up *[Ed's note: Certainly... "Went to Macc on my own. Ran trains on my own. Missed AGM. Some came on Sunday and gloated." What else is there to say?]*

The day was sunny if a little chilly, and started by collecting Mark H at Bank Quay Station before heading down the M6. The 16mm e-mail group warned of possible hold-ups near Stoneleigh but fortunately the roadworks gave us little trouble.

Entry was by the side as last year, said hello to Tag Gorton on the entry desk and had the first rapid tour of the two exhibition halls.

Bear in mind I had a list from the person crying, so went first to check the 2nd hand stall for track. No luck, thought will come back later.

*Story by our  
roaming reporter,  
Cliff Robinson*

I had by this time sprinted (well walked quickish) round the top hall, before descending to the larger lower hall, with the AGM room and 2nd hand stall. Also here was the CAD desk set up by Keith Bucklitch and Dave Watkins. I mustn't miss the clothing stand and that for the raffle and membership sign up (guilty as charged, I forgot – another senior moment!).

The traders were generally in their usual locations, and just about all traders were there. They sold a lot of stuff, the smaller ones selling out completely of some items.

The Festiniog Rly ride (I refuse to spell it the other way), had a stand in the foyer, and the early run is now fully booked.

If memory serves me correctly there were 3 layouts in the lower hall and 2 in the upper, with Brian Caton and his 009 live steamers in the same room as the CAD / 2nd Hand stall

As per usual Barbara Ponting had arranged a fantastic day out (sorry Chris) for us and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The only comments I would make regarding changes I would like to see are the lighting in the second hand stall area. OK if the sliding wall / screens are open, but they are run closed so that the judging can take place.

As previous years this can only be viewed as you pass into the AGM. After, they are on their way home.

I missed a lot of the AGM as I was trying to take a few snaps whilst it was quieter.

All in all, a brilliant day out.  
(sorry again Chris)

*Cliff Robinson*

## ...but later "made it Large"

**Chris MacKenzie and Mike Ousby** packed up the van with the Timpdon Lake Railway, and made their way to Leamington Spa for the Large Scale Model Rail Show on the 20 & 21 April.

For the ones who missed the thousands of adverts in every railway magazine, this was a new event for all scales over 4mm.

In just its first year, the show definitely made its mark.

The exhibition was entirely devoted to the larger scales and a total of twelve layouts were operating constantly throughout the weekend.

For the first time ever, not one but two large Gauge One layouts were side by side in the 20,000 sq. ft. exhibition hall and at any one time some thirty or forty Gauge One locomotives were either in steam or waiting their turn. When you looked at the two Gauge One layouts working together, standing in the right position you could see four trains running on the main lines with other engines either moving off shed or shunting in the background. It was quite a sight to see so many locomotives running.

The Gauge One Model Railway Association tell me that it was the first time that our Gauge One layouts had been presented together because, in addition to the two large Gauge One layouts, there were smaller layouts in operation.

When we could tear Mike Ousby from discussing engine design with his new found friends (yes, Mike has joined the Gauge One Society - apparently it happens when you get to a certain age) he came back into "our" hall.

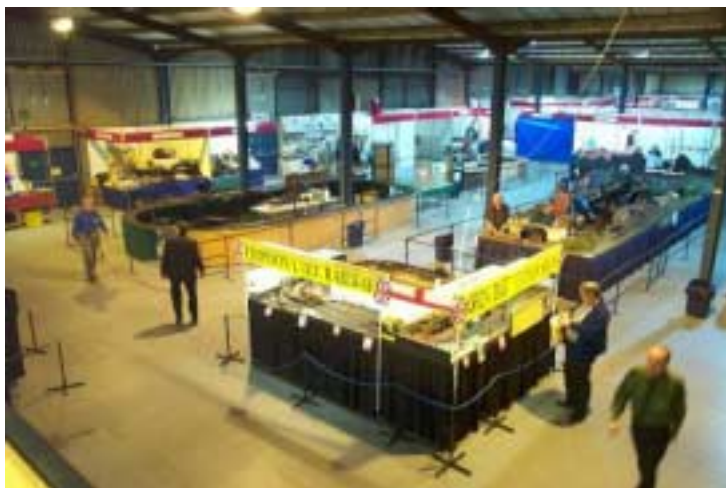
This second part of the hall was virtually the realm of the 16mm gauge, with no less than five (yes, five) 16mm layouts in operation.

To complete the picture was a superb fine scale 0 Gauge layout on display and to remind visitors of the early days, John Penteny presented an extremely large Hornby historical layout, whilst Imp Models showed a large number of items from their extensive Lionel collection. Mike "Auntie Wainwright" Mobley was very pleased with the response from the visitors and is keen to present a working Lionel layout next year.

Everyone who participated in the exhibition, including the 35 companies, thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and all are keen to be present next year. For the visitors there was

so much to see and do that everyone went home highly satisfied.

With nearly 2,600 keen garden railway enthusiasts at the show it clearly fulfilled a need and the organisers have agreed to repeat it with an even bigger show next year!



*Part of the Large Scale Show, with Timpdon Lake Rly in the foreground.*

### Contributions?

Heard a whisper?

Heard a rumour?

Or even a bit of gossip?

The public have a right to know!  
(your secret's safe with me) (ahem...)

Keep your news & stories coming.

Send anything to

Chris MacKenzie

2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,  
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 7SY

0161 980 7804 or e:mail  
narrow.gauge@btinternet.com

# In Brief

## Homebase Screwdriver

Homebase stores are currently selling a cordless electric screwdriver in their blue coloured "cheapo" range. This one though, is only £4.99 (yes, less than a fiver).

It's qualities as a screwdriver may be debatable, but just think what's included...

You get a 3v motor and gearbox, two re-chargeable batteries, a mains charger and a switch. The batteries alone could cost that!

Who will be the first to make a loco?

## Who's the fool now?

Ehrrr.... The jokes quickly turning.

Intended as an April Fool joke (April issue's "Festival of Hobbies", it now seems the story was a bit too plausible.

Chris MacKenzie has now had five responses from people wishing to run on the camera's 45mm line around the running track. (!!!!)

Perhaps we made it a bit too believable. (Yes, "we" - I'm not taking the blame on my own! Hopefully John Fox will own up for suggesting such a wicked and malicious story) (Ooops!) (Who said there was honour amongst thieves?)

So, a big "sorry" to anyone it misled. Sorry.

*(The trouble is, at least one member has already got his own back on our Editor)*

## Get your Tips out for the LADS

Thanks to everyone who filled in the form with the last newsletter, passing on their hints and tips (all three of you).

Come on! Someone else must have something for the "Things I wish I'd know..." section?

Ah well, at least it was a good excuse to use that headline!

# "CHRONICLES 1"

An occasional extract from the diary of Alex Milne

## EXODUS

I **make** no apology for the use of the Bible for the choice of title for this series. I am definitely thinking Old Testament.

March saw the 'Exodus' from Southport and the leaving behind of the Garden railway.

It was started in 1996 as the "Great Retirement Project" and although the general track plan really never changed, a dog bone folded back on itself, it was in fact built twice. The track was Brandbright rail and chairs built on deep wooden sleepers, ballasted and with building blocks cemented in as a base. Vigorous root growth in several places started to unsettle the base and too much running time was spent on maintenance.

Two years later the whole thing was lifted and a new base, this time with plastic drainpipe supporting raised plywood was installed. This proved to be extremely successful and it provided a good (almost) level surface for (almost) reliable running. It probably would have been more reliable if the curves had had a larger radius than 3'.

## LAMENTATIONS

The house was sold in March and the railway left behind. None of the track was lifted as it had all been bent to the required curves and would be of little use to me. A sad but fond farewell was said, the stock packed away and pastures new sought.

## GENESIS

The hopefully, will be part two of the saga next month.

## Notice of Closure

To any persons having an interest in, notice is hereby given of the proposed closure of the **Farm Close Light Railway**, Southport, Est. 1996 (as amended 1998) to take effect immediately.

Objections to this proposal should be forwarded, with the appropriate fee, to the registered office.

Stock has been removed until a further location can be obtained and planning permission granted.

All other enquiries should be directed to Mr A Milne at new premises in the Ribble Valley.

## Things I'd wish I'd known years ago...

Fix loco headboards (especially the free 16mm Association one) with Peco fish plates to the rear. They can be squeezed in or out to fit a variety of lamp fittings.

*James Gilchrist*

# No outside running at Chris MacKenzie's Event

**Sunday 2 June** is Chris MacKenzie's steam up event over in Timperley. Unfortunately there is no outside running - except for light diesels.

Of course the exhibition layout is up and running fine in the workshop, and there should be video tapes to watch, tea to drink, pies to eat, etc, so this is not an excuse for none attendance!

For those who remember Chris's line, it is basically a squashed oval down the left-hand side of his garden. The track nearest the fence (up) is Peco SM32 laid on brick and concrete blocks set in the soil and gravel. The outer side of the loop nearest the lawn (down) is Mamod track set in a weak mix of concrete and peat (to encourage moss growth). This method was also used around the pond.

Well, unfortunately quite a bit of this Mamod-in-weak-concrete track has not survived the winter - it's lifted. Whereas this would not normally be much of a problem (after all, it can easily be re-laid) Chris decided to take the opportunity to relay it with Peco track

whilst also extending the line. (Of course this due for completion in early May!)

There will be an extra line branching off at the top of the garden and coming back towards the house down the other side of the garden where the drive used to be. A new bridge over the new steps from the widened patio will join the line up to the old railway track.

By making this new section to a minimum 4' 6" radius, it will mean that larger engines and longer bogie coaches can enjoy a run. The old inner return of the loop will then be repaired with Peco track (the old Mamod track being re-used on the exhibition line extension - but that's a long term plan!).

So, all this means that the back garden looks like a building site!!

Please still try and come along. Mind you, Chris says that knowing his luck with the weather, this will probably be the first steam up event at his house for several years where it's not rained!

# Dear LADS....

*And the complaints flood in...*

Sir

I am in receipt of instructions from my client, who wishes to remain anonymous at this stage due to the sensitive and embarrassing nature of his grievance.

My client, hereinafter referred to as "my client", wishes to pursue civil redress and action against you and your "newsletter" for the deliberate and misleading cover "story" relating to the model railway involvement at the M2002 Commonwealth Games (1st April 2002 edition).

Although he can see that humour and joviality is a fundamental part of any hobby "magazine", he wishes to seek compensation for the costs and inconvenience incurred when he booked leave of absence with his employers so as to ensure that he could run on the 45mm railway track designed for the TV camera to film the athletic track events. His wife and two daughters were extremely disappointed and experienced considerable upset and stress when informed of the hoax.

My client, hereinafter referred to as "Gullible of Cheshire" informs me that this is not the first time that he has been subjected to a deception by your "magazine" (how was he to know that Roundhouse were not producing a nuclear powered "Vale of Ffestiniog" engine? - April 2001 issue). In this instance it was only when telephoning Roundhouse Engineering Ltd as to enquire as to the price that he discovered the deceit.

I am therefore left with no alternative but to request details of your solicitor so that we can send letters to each other so that we can over-charge you for the privilege represent your specific views forthwith.

*Yours sincerely*

Messrs Friskem, Flecem and Scarper  
Commissioners for the Oath

You! Newspaper Chap!

Blady cheek, what!

Her Majesties commonwealth - and making fun, what! Blady cheek I say! Blighters should be shot! Treason, that's what I say!

April Fool? Blady fool what writes the paper I say! Hang people for treason. No appeal then! Let out after five minutes! None of this when we had conscription...

India, had to shoot a chap then. No blady crumpets! Treason? As good as!

45mm track for the camera? No blady fool'd believe it! What! I did! At the Commonwealth Games too! In front of HRH! No standards these chaps you know. Write anything. Shoot the beggars I say.

So don't do it again! Queen's jubilee an all!

Colonel Possenby Smythe  
Indian Army (Retired)

Sir,

I must object most strongly to your attempts to move hard earned railways about parts of North East Lancashire whose territories I frequented more frequently as a young man and lad.

Our friend and fellow railwayman Mark Haydock whose telephone number was given more than once last year on the Blackpool telephone exchange has now had it properly inserted on that of Blackburn. However, you have moved his town of residence from where he lives, Accrington, to that of Burnley in your most recent scandal sheet.

Fortunately you have a couple of months to put it right.

*Mystery Tour Makers Assistant,  
The Old Territories of S Lancs (now Cheshire)*

PS: Should you publish this letter, I wish to remain anonymous.

*Your Editor replies:*

*Thank you for bringing this to my attention. In my defence I asked on several occasions via this newsletter for Mark's correct details. It is only now I have received correct details. (now you're Area Co-ordinator, we shouldn't see mistakes like this) (Oops!)*

# Dear Diary...

**16mm Association LADS Events**  
**- Bring an engine & have a run**

**Any Wednesday evening - Wakefield**  
Ring Calvin Green on 01924 281169

**Sun 2 June - 1pm - Chris MacKenzie**  
Altrincham - 0161 980 7804 (32mm)  
**Outside line closed!! - see story page 3**  
*However, come along for a run on the indoor line - it's harder than you think to run slowly!! Enjoy a natter over a brew!*

**Sun 16 June - 1pm - Mark Haydock**  
Accrington (?) - 01254 399 388 (32mm)

**Sun 30 June - 1pm - Andy Lether**  
Fulwood, Preston - 01772 713849  
(32mm)

**Sun 14 July - 1pm - Steve Colling**  
Rishton - 01254 883200 (32mm)

**Sun 4 Aug - 1pm - Calvin Green**  
Wakefield - 01924 281169 (32mm)

**Sun 25 Aug - 1pm - Ian Lowcock**  
Barnoldswick - 01282 812842 (32mm)



**Better late than  
Never!**

This May edition has been late coming out. This was due to other commitments by our Editor (outdoor line rebuild, 2 exhibitions for the indoor line, work commitments, - and a baby!)

We'll be back on schedule with the next issue which should be only several days after this one. In fact, some of you may have to receive the two together.

*This newsletter has been sponsored by:-*

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