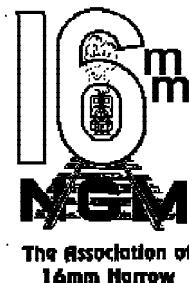


Lancashire & District Section



Guinness *Was* good for us!

Rob's First Open Day was Pure Genius!

A small band of LADS (Lancashire And District Section) trekked across to Merseyside for the first open day of Rob & Eileen Guinness's Muddledale Railway.

Despite a poor weather forecast, the rain stayed away and the 'Vale of Clutter' saw services of an unusual intensity.

Mark Smith and Dave Wilding teamed up with Phil Sixsmith for the visit. Local Merseysiders Derek & Phil Eaton also lent support.

LADS 2003 Programme

In my new role as Co-ordinator I'd like to thank first of all Andy and Gail for their sterling work as my predecessor. They and Philip Pacey before them set up a very nice group for which we should all be grateful.

I am thinking, with your co-operation, of introducing the odd change. Nothing too drastic.

I feel that a move to a regular 2nd Sunday in the Month would be beneficial – for a start it would not make a muck of Bank Hols which tend to be a focus for other family events, we would not miss the AGM or hopefully Welshpool or Narrow Gauge North.

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At first, the visitors were a little daunted by the single track dumbbell formation with fixed one-way pointwork, but soon became used to trains coming back the way they went, and no head-on collisions occurred. The bi-directional single return loop did see some near-misses, but things soon settled down.

Two Russells, Millie and Excelsior provided steam haulage with a number of battery locos for back-up. Towards the end of the session, as traffic reduced it was good to see Derek's manual controlled Millie running non-stop up and down the line.

We cannot leave without commending Eileen for the excellent catering arrangements.

Rob now believes his line has "come of age" since other LADS trains seem to run well on what he describes as "rather rough track with tight clearances and sharp curves".

It is hoped that this venue will become a regular diary entry. [Ed's note: I hope so! With a surname like that I've already got a few years worth supply of headlines!]

Thanks again to Rob & Eileen.



You could be looking down at 12" to 1 foot size



The line contains many scenic features



Millie waits for Russell to clear the return loop



The LADS get involved at the top of the garden

CHRONICLES VI

An occasional extract from the diary of Alex Milne

Caption Competition

The time is rapidly approaching when firm decisions must be made.

Exactly what do I want from the railway and what form should it take? Should it be continuous or end to end, or a mixture - what are the pros and cons of each?

This is a process that everyone building a layout must consider, even if only fleetingly as an error at this stage can be very long lasting (and expensive to correct).

I know what I want.

- * I want to be able to run trains from one place to another.
- * I want to be able to run trains continuously
- * I want to have a small goods yard for shunting in.
- * I want to have siding space for coaches and wagons
- * I want to have a separate steam up area.

I want, I want, I want - very selfish I know, but in a relatively long term project like this, if I am not happy with it, it will provide no satisfaction or fun. As that is the ultimate aim I make no apology for setting out all the "I wants".

There is however, in all schemes, unless they are extremely grand with unlimited space and finance, a greater or lesser degree of compromise. I can see that, given the available space, it will be impractical to have two terminal stations with all the facilities these enjoy. Therefore it seems to me a reasonable compromise for a train to leave a station and after the passing of a suitable period of time, to return to where it started. This will probably mean a bay platform in a through station.

The major implication of this of course, is that the train somewhere has to be able to turn back on itself to return engine first.

There is one other (only one!) major decision to be made. This garden is a little larger than the one in Southport but the area where the railway will go is still quite modest. Do I go for a longer meandering plan and use tight radii or a shorter route with larger radii?

This is an urgent decision - I must give up procrastinating - maybe tomorrow!

G Wizz! 1st Prize!

Well! Who'd have believed it!

Chris MacKenzie, Mike Ousby & Cliff Robinson took the "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" layout to the Lytham Garden Rail show - and came away with the first prize!

The prize was "Best in Show" and was decided by the public having to fill in a voting slip for their favourite layout as they left.

"I'm a bit embarrassed by this win" said Chris yesterday hurriedly packing away a portable photostat machine and trying to set fire to some surplus slips of paper. "Normally, I say that model railways shouldn't be a competitive sport, judging layout against layout - but for some reason I've suddenly changed my mind. We should have more competitions like this".

The excellent show was organised by the G-Wizz Group (basically a bunch of G Scale modellers who live in the Fylde coast area).

This months picture needing a suitable caption comes from the weekend away at the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway Gala (& Garden Rail Show).

For reasons not yet discovered, Howard Jones (left) and Mike Ousby decided to put their pints of bitter on their heads just as the snap was being taken. Oh! The things we do when we're drunk!

Thinking back, though, (my memory is somewhat fuzzy) I seem to recall that this was hilarious. It's a good job I'm tee-total (ahem...!).

Anyway. Suggestions for a suitable caption should be sent to Chris MacKenzie (see begging article elsewhere for address, email, tel no.).

The winner, as always, gets a years free subscription to this drivel.



There were trams, scale layouts, 16mm (of course), 7mm and 4mm scales. And if you missed it, then you should now be kicking yourself! It was brilliant!

One thing that surprised our three musketeers (apart from winning) was the number of people into 16mm who talked to them, and were from the Lancashire and District Section - but hadn't made contact with our own group! Our reps couldn't understand this.

When they asked the newcomers why they hadn't been in touch, answers varied. Some said that they only had a loco and no track (Answer: All the more reason to come to our events); They had track and no loco (Answer: All the more reason to come to our events); They had no track and no loco (Answer: All the more reason to come to our events); They ran on 45mm rather than 32mm (Answer: ...well you get the gist).

One chap was asking technical questions about bridge designs as he was currently laying a new line in his garden. It turned out that he lived not half a mile from our resident expert in such matters, Dave Wilding. He was also just a couple of hundred yards from Mark Smith! So why don't more people come to steam-ups at our member's houses and especially, to run a loco on our layout at exhibitions? Come to think of it... why don't you?

Steam Trams make an Exhibition of themselves

Punch & Joggle

It was trams, trams, and more trams this month as the National Steam Tram Museum were invited to the Birkenhead Tram Show, October 6th.

The museum's reputation must have spread to Merseyside as Mike was invited to display at their premier show.

For new readers, the National Steam Tram Museum is a collection of beautifully constructed national and international steam trams. They have a web site and are becoming well known in both tram and steam circles.

Unfortunately what Mike Ousby (Curator, Chief Engineer, Head of Restoration, Chief Wheel Tapper, Head Cook and Bottle Washer) fails to make too clear is that all the trams are 16mm scale. His wife Jean lives in constant fear of a coach full of Japanese tourists one day arriving on the doorstep ringing the doorbell.

Of course his were the only steam trams in the entire exhibition.

But as Mike himself said, all those 1:1 Scale trams operating between the Woodside Ferry

Terminal, the Pacific Road Museum and the Taylor Street Workshops, were being powered by 'the wrong kind of traction'.

The large crowds of punters which thronged all the facilities on offer at Birkenhead that day might have disagreed with him on that point!

It was amazed at how many people didn't realise that steam pre-dated electric on the tram lines of many cities. I think Mike looks on it as missionary work.

Pictured below is the steam tram display stand with (L to R) Mike Ousby, Chris MacKenzie and Cliff Robinson.

(Many thanks to Eddie Bellas for the original photo)

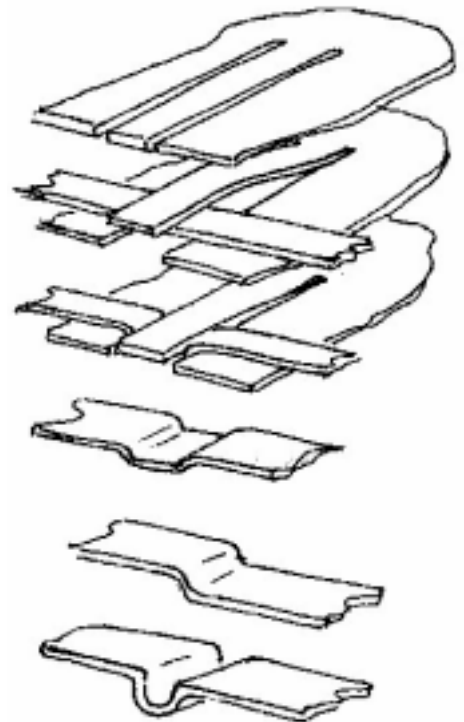
One of those awkward jobs is putting small joggles in a piece of strip as in making lamp irons or the double joggle in flat handles, or the pocket on the back of a lamp.

These can easily be done by cutting two slots in a piece of scrap of the appropriate thickness, bending the resultant tongue slightly, slipping a strip in place crossways and squeezing in the vice.

Hey presto, 'tis done.

A slightly wider slot and the use of wire as a tongue produces the rounded joggle.

Colin Binnie



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

Everyone knows that for a good soldered joint you have to clean the metal and the iron's tip. However, have you ever cleaned the solder itself? The large solder especially attracts all sorts of "tarnishes".

Dave Wilding

LADS 2003 Programme

Continued from page 1

I haven't made it to all events this year but last year I went to most steam-ups and some were a little sparsely populated by visitors. I would initially like to arrange for 11 or 12 monthly meetings. Instead of sending out the sheets as previously, I shall contact known layout owners with a view to arranging it. Hopefully this will be a little speedier than waiting for the lists to come in (never could remember mine!!).

If you have e-mail facilities it would be helpful if you could drop me a message. I will then set up a mailing list to send reminders or changes in arrangements, and then do the remainder of the members by phone.

I would also like to explore the possibility of trying the odd Saturday event to see if this fits in better for some people.

Please let your editor or myself know your views on any or all these points. If you have a particular month you want to hold a garden

meeting don't be shy, you have my phone number from the list (which I will update and add e-mails where people don't mind). I'd better give you a form to fill in with the necessary legal Data Protection Act bit on it in due course - watch this space.

Your Dragonless (*the 3-wheeler's gone to a good home*) Culcheth Co-ordinator - Cliff Robinson

email : cliffrobinson@btinternet.com
Home Tel : 01925 762 455

Dear LADS...

Proper letters from you

Dear Sir,

Can I just write a note to say how much I enjoy readings the articles by Phil Sixsmith, John Fox, Cliff Robinson and Steve Colling amongst others?

It would really be great if they could be encouraged to write more articles.

Could I ask you to pass on my respect and admiration and the request to write more.

Many thanks.

A Fan

Dear 'Ed Hitter

As many of my friends know, my wife has to keep travelling to America & Canada on business, leaving me at home to paint pictures and run my railway.

Can I through your newsletter please dispel the rumour circulating the LADS members?

My wife has NOT been going abroad to model as Walter's wife in your new comic strip "The Toy Trunk Railroad".

Any resemblance is purely coincidence.

Thank you

A LADS Member

Sat 14 December 2003
G-Wizz Christmas Show
Assembly Rooms,
Dicconson Terrace, Lytham

This newsletter has been sponsored by:-

Brandbright Ltd

Everything for the
Garden Railway

Richard Longley

The Old School House,
Cromer Road, Bodham, Holt,
Norfolk, NR25 6QG

Phone: 01263 588755

steam@brandbright.co.uk

New catalogue out (no.12)
- it has everything in

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

Redundant business cards have many uses, including:

- Making notes while working on the lathe. Can be propped up in a convenient place for reference;
- Mixing two-part glue on;
- Protecting machined faces while holding work in a vice.
- Measuring. Insert cards under track, bridges etc until you achieve the level required. Remove all the cards & measure the total thickness. This indicates the amount of packing required.
- Can be used as templates for small items. Cut to required shape/size, check it fits and then use as a template for the proper part. Saves adding costly materials to the scrap-box.

David Rhodes

16mm AGM

Next years 16mm Association AGM /Convention is on Saturday 5th April 2003.

The doors open as usual at 11am.

Surely THE EVENT of the year, this is not one to be missed.

Okay, thinking about Spring may seem a bit far off when we've yet got to suffer whatever winters going to throw at us, but at least the date can be placed in your diary. Holidays can be avoided, business trips cancelled, layout double-bookings avoided (take note Chris).

Contributions?

Have you ever dreamt of being a journalist?

Ever dreamt of having your written work published?

Ever wanted your name to appear in print?

Well, now at no cost to you we can make it happen.

Chris'll fix it!

Simply send your text to:-

Chris MacKenzie

2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA157SY
0161 980 7804

or e:mail narrow.gauge @btinternet.com

Dear Diary...

16mm Association LADS Events

- Bring an engine & have a run

Any Wednesday evening - Wakefield
Ring Calvin Green on 01924 281169

WOT NO STEAM-UP'S?

There are no dates organised!!

We need Garden Steam-ups!

Please see story on first page and then send your details to Cliff Robinson.

Sun 12 Jan - 11am - Culcheth

Cliff Robinson's volunteered to start off the new year - note earlier time.

Give him a ring on 01925 762 455

16mm Exhibitions:-

Sat 14 Dec (10am) - Lytham

The G-Wizz Christmas Show, Assembly Rooms, Dicconson Terrace, Lytham
Small show - G Scale & 16mm

Sat 22 & Sun 23 Feb 03 - Lincoln

Lincoln Garden Railway Exhibition, Lawns Visitor Centre, Lincoln
Medium Show - mainly 16mm, some G

Other Exhibitions:-

Sat 23 & Sun 24 Nov (10am) - Wakefield

Thornes Park Athletics Stadium, Horbury Road (A642), Wakefield
Large exhibition - probably not any 16mm

Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec (10am) NEC

The largest show in the UK has moved to new dates. The Warley National Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC.
Over 60 Layouts & 100 Traders
There are one or two 16mm layouts

Swapmeets / Trade Fairs:-

Sun 24 Nov (11am) - Manchester

George Carnall Leisure Centre, Urmston (at Junction 9, M60) 150 stands all scales

West Lancs Railway Events-

What's happening?

Any "special days"?

Is it a secret?

Can't someone email me details so I can advertise them here?



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