

Lancashire & District Section



April 2003 - No. 34



Wedding Special!

Alex & Carole Milne tie the knot

Before you even think it... This is not an April Fool joke. Alex & Carole actually did get married on Friday 4th April 2003!!!! Honest!!!

So there was Chris MacKenzie at the AGM moaning to Alex about needing things to write about, when Alex holds up one finger and says "Write about that!"

After Alex explained the misunderstanding, Chris was gobsmacked to see a brand spanking new gold band on Alex's left ring finger. Chris was then seen scurrying off in search of Carole, whilst licking his lips, to maintain traditional custom.

Apparently, the newly weds had only got married on the day before and were spending the first day of their honeymoon at the AGM!! Now that's what I call an understanding wife!

Mike O, Cliff R, and of course Chris M were extremely disappointed (they wanted to be page boys) - but perhaps that alone was a good reason to keep the day secret.

Alex and Carole, both keen church goers, intend to have a church blessing this Summer. (*Ed: I'll dust off my velvet suit now, then...*)

We were also wondering if either of them would've liked some "advice" before the big day... (*Ed: Now that is a thought... We could have an Agony Aunt in this newsletter and offer the benefit of our wisdom to such youngsters. In fact we owe it to our readers! See Page 2*)

Although I've never had so much potential for humour in writing an article, I want to be serious and convey all the best wishes from your friends in the 16mm world, especially the Lancashire And District Section.

You both deserve a lot of happiness and a wonderful life together.

May all your best years be in front of you.

Best wishes from all the LADS members and I'm sure all our other readers.

LADS
Favourite
is a
Mature
Guinness

Rob's Birthday Steam Up

by our Culcheth Correspondent

Yes! It was the appointed day for Rob's open day and also his birthday.

Being a gentleman I couldn't possibly reveal how many (unless bribed with tea and cake... see me later!).

My journey to Halewood was uneventful (I don't usually get lost the second time around). The day was beautiful, and the heater shown in the photo wasn't needed, the sky's radiant ball doing such a good job.

Rob has been rather busy developing his railway, the most notable addition being a new aluminium overbridge. It is a very interesting layout which had Neil bemused as he tried to figure out where his train would come out as it entered the tunnel under the shed! The trackwork has some interesting features with self sprung points enabling the passage of trains through loops without "assistance" from a pointsman (person?).



A very good start to our 2003 Spring and Summer programme, thanks to our hosts for their hospitality and arranging for the glorious weather.

Not a single engine in sight - but plenty of food & drink!

Dear Uncle Agony...

Dear Uncle Agony,

I'm keeping this letter anonymous as we're planning a secret wedding.

As my intended is taking an oath to obey me, is there any guidance you can offer on the rules I should make for her?

Yours in much anticipation,
Mr X

Dear Mr X,

Many people think that there's no easy answer to your question; the secret of a happy marriage still remains a secret.

However, fortunately for you, I have a lot of experience on the subject. My wife and I were happy for twenty years (then we met).

With this in mind, I have drawn up some rules which you can serve on your wife (preferably served on her by post only. Trust me on this one.)

Uncle Agony

Uncle Agony's 'LADS Rules for a Successful Marriage'

- 1) If you think you might be fat, you are. Don't ask us blokes. We refuse to answer. Just get your chubby cheeks down to a gym.
- 2) Learn to work the toilet seat: if it's up, just put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us moaning about you leaving it down.
- 3) Birthdays, valentines, and anniversaries are not quests to see if we can find the perfect present... again.
- 4) Sometimes, we're not thinking about you. Live with it.
- 5) Sunday = Steam Ups. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides, let it be.
- 6) Shopping is not a hobby or a type of stress therapy. And no, we are never going to ever think of it that way.
- 7) Anything you wear is fine. Really.
- 8) Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one: subtle hints do not work. Strong hints do not work. Obvious hints do not work. Just ask for it!
- 9) Face it; peeing standing up is more difficult than peeing from point blank range. We're bound to miss sometimes.
- 10) Most blokes own two to three pairs of shoes, so what makes you think we'd be any good at choosing which pair (out of thirty) would look good with that particular dress?
- 11) 'Yes', 'no' and 'mmm' are perfectly acceptable answers.
- 12) Check the oil. It is an essential part of car maintenance.
- 13) Anything we said 6 or 8 months ago is inadmissible in a subsequent argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.
- 14) It's not the dress that makes you look fat. It's all that chocolate.
- 15) If something we said could be intended two ways, and one of these ways makes you sad and the other angry, we meant the other one.
- 16) Let us ogle. We are going to look anyway; it's genetic. If we don't look at other women, how can we rate how pretty you are?
- 17) When I look tired means that I am tired - and definitely doesn't mean that I want to discuss the relationship.

Continued on Page 4 (Yes!... there's more!)

All Gone Midlands

The 16mm Association's AGM at Stoneleigh was another not to be missed fantastic show.

The limited newsletter space here doesn't allow me to list every LADS member who attended, but needless to say we were all hard pressed to think of any apologies or absentees.

The LADS members were also making their presence felt at the show in other ways.

Chris MacKenzie's layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" was there. Cliff Robinson and Mike Ousby had helped him cart the thing down and set up, although other LADS members gave them a break by assisting with the running (thanks especially to John Angell).

Mike Ousby was in a bit of quandary. He had been asked to judge many of the Model Of The Year categories, but on the day found he had to suddenly declare a "conflict of interest" - Chris MacKenzie and Dave Wilding had both entered the Mamod Class (in case any new readers aren't familiar with Dave "Doctor Railway" Wilding's standard of engineering, there wasn't really any competition - Dave takes the standard of shaping metal to new heights ...well higher than Chris's modified Mamod Stationary Engine!). In the end Dave walked away with a first prize (of course) and Chris a "Highly Commended"; and Mike had to help judge other categories.

Mind you Mike had also entered a loco in the competition himself - the "Master Class" for previous "Jack Wheldon Trophy" winners. He walked away with a proud Highly Commended.

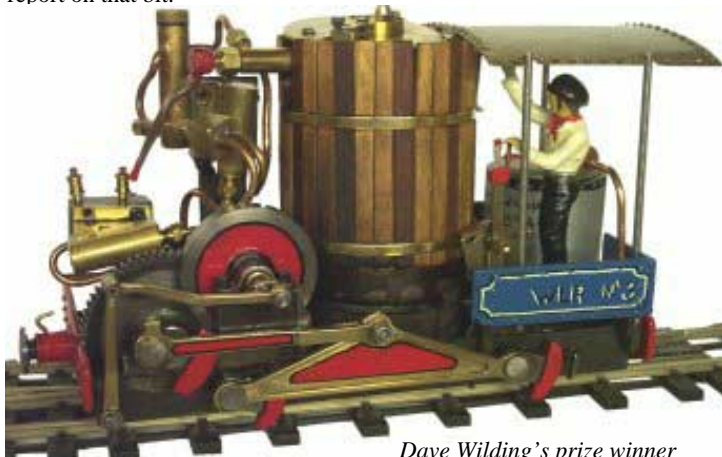
The only surprise award was the "Stephen Lamb Trophy" awarded to Chris MacKenzie for services to the Association. Our Association Chairman, David Rhodes, had plotted with some LADS members to get Chris in the association meeting to spring the surprise on him.

"I was absolutely gob-smacked!" said Chris. "I do what I do because I enjoy it, that's all".

"I also feel a bit of a fraud" he added. "The layout couldn't go out if others didn't help. It's Mike Ousby & Cliff Robinson who are always there to hump the layout in and out of the van. Also the newsletter - I don't write most of the articles, I just photostat it".

"The trophy is therefore more of a reflection on our LADS group, rather than one individual", he added modestly.

He was then seen running off with the trophy shouting something like "Yes! It's mine!, all mine!... Haaaaaa!" - but we decided not to report on that bit.



Dave Wilding's prize winner

Are you Lawful?

Don't fall foul of the new regulations

When Parliament passed the Act that made the provisions to privatise the Railways, they made it an offence to Operate Trains; Operate stations; Operate Railway Infrastructure (Network); or Operate light Maintenance Depots without a Licence or a Licence exemption.

The definition of a train / railway, is such that even a film or TV camera operating on tracks would need a Licence.

In 1994 a general exemption order was made by the Secretary of State. The order exempted all standard gauge lines that were laid and operational and not owned by British Rail as of the 1st April 1994; Film and TV cameras; all non-standard gauge railways whether built or not except under certain circumstances, and certain other types of railway, eg ones in private gardens, associated stations and maintenance depots etc. from the need to have a Licence.

Therefore all railways, extensions to railways; stations; light maintenance depots; train operations, brought into service since the 1st of April 1994 need a Licence or a Licence exemption.

To obtain an exemption all that is necessary is to write to the Rail Regulator, and state that you wish to apply under section 7 of the Railways Act 1993 for an exemption to hold a Licence as required by section 6 of the Railways Act 1993. Such exemption to allow the said railway to operate railway assets as defined in section 6(2) of the 1993 Act.

Namely:

- any train being used on a network, whether for the purpose of carrying passenger or goods by railway or for any other purpose whatsoever;
- a railway network whether constructed at the time of the application or not
- any station whether currently constructed, or to be constructed in the future.
- any light maintenance depot whether currently constructed, or to be constructed in the future.

You will also need to:-

- Enclose a map of your Network (Railway), including all the proposed / possible route.
- Enclose a list of your directors.

So! It may not be in 'the spirit of the law' to need a licence to operate a 16mm garden railway, but it's certainly to the 'letter of the law'!

If you consider yourself a law abiding person then you will have to submit the application before continuing to run.

Does anyone have any thoughts about submitting a joint 'LADS' application to the Rail Regulator? Mike Ousby has volunteered to include other applications with his (for his proposed line) as well as Cliff Robinson's and Chris MacKenzie's application for exemption of their existing lines.

If you want to be included, send the brief details to Mike by either email or traditional post.

If nothing else, a licence for your railway would look pretty impressive when framed on your parlour wall!!!

Checking Coupling Rods

When fitting a pair of coupling rods it is customary to find a tight spot and even to ease the holes a bit to make them work. So what is causing the tight spot?

Remove the coupling rods from one side of the loco and after ensuring that the wheels move freely, look at the other side. Referring to the diagram, put one crank on dead centre (A) and waggle the other one. Is it tight?. If it 'bumps' over centre the rod may be too short - but don't alter it yet.

Put the other crank on dead centre (B) and waggle end A. Is this one tight?. If this one bumps over centre the rod may be too long. Again, no action yet.

Now put the rods on the other dead centres (invert the diagram as I am too lazy to draw it again) and waggle the rods again. Does the diagnosis agree with the previous test? If so go ahead and modify the rod. If the diagnoses do not agree then one of the crank has a greater throw than the other and needs fixing.

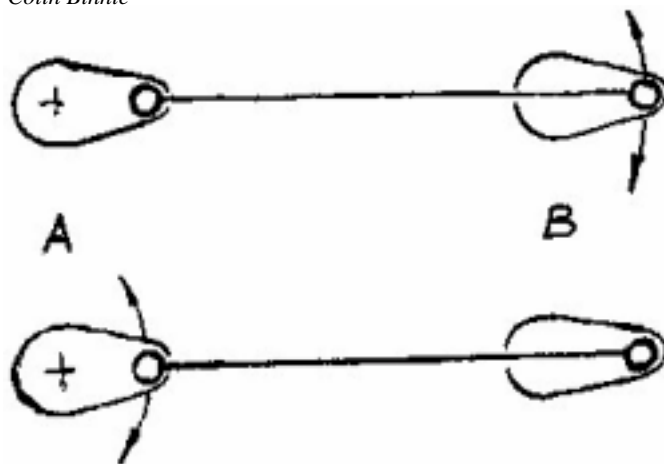
Remove rod and refit the one on other side. Repeat tests and carry out any mods.

Replace rods; chassis should now run freely. If not, then the quartering must be out.

A six coupled chassis is a bit more long winded. Calling the axles A, B and C and installing the rod so that it is connected between two axles only, check A-B, A-C, B-C as above.

Sanguinary obvious really.

Colin Binnie



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Dear LADS...

Get your crayons out

Dear Ed,

I used to really look forward to reading your letters page. It was interesting to share the thoughts and concerns of members who couldn't be bothered to write a full article.

Unfortunately I've noticed a distinct lack of letters recently.

Can you please remind your readers to send in more letters?

Many thanks,
Anon

Dear Anon

Yes I will pass on your request. I also would welcome some more letters.

Editor

Dear Ed

I recently attended a model railway show for the larger scales and was shocked and dismayed to find out that items could not be purchased from the LADS display stand. As you are aware, this stand was at the side of one of your member's layouts.

Can you tell me the reason for this?

Ivor Loadsamoney

Mr Loadsamoney

No sorry, I can't tell you here. See Chris, Cliff or Mike me at a steam-up though....

Editor

Contributions?

"So Huggy Bear...

What's the word on the street?"

(Starskey)

"Whassssup?"

(Budweiser Advert)

"Nothing to report, Captain?"

(Navigator of the Titanic)

What more can I say?

Simply send your text to:-

Chris MacKenzie

2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,

Altrincham, Cheshire, WA157SY

0161 980 7804

or email

narrow.gauge@btinternet.com

Uncle Agony's Problem Page

Continued

18. If you want some dessert after a meal - have some. You don't have to finish it. You can just taste it if you like but don't say "No I couldn't / shouldn't" and then eat half of mine.
19. If you're on a diet it doesn't mean my meals should be rabbit food as well.
20. A man's four essential food groups are: white meat, red meat, good wine and beer. Please ensure all meals contain a good balance of the above in acceptable quantities - everything else falls under the category "garnish".
21. Do not question our sense of direction. If you can learn this, then man and woman can co-exist on a level based on love and mutual respect. Christopher Columbus did not need directions, and neither do we.
22. Crying is emotional blackmail.
23. We don't remember dates. Mark birthdays and anniversaries on a calendar. Remind us frequently beforehand.
24. Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what girlfriends are for.
25. You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it.
26. All men see in only 16 colours, like a computers default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a colour. We have no idea what mauve is.
27. If it itches, it will be scratched. We do that. It's genetic.
28. We are not mind readers and we never will be. Our lack of mind-reading ability is not proof of how little we care about you.
29. If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing", we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.
30. Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as a minimum radii, fluff in your belly button, setting the timing and the art of picking your nose, or the benefits of drinking real ale.
31. You have enough clothes, and too many shoes.
32. I am in shape. Round is a shape.

Dear Diary...

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

Sun 18 May - 1pm - Phil Pacey
Fulwood, Preston - 01772 729203

Sun 1 June - 1pm - David Wilding
Chorley - 01257 416294

Sun 15 June - 1pm - Chris MacKenzie
Altrincham - 0161 980 7804

Sun 29 June - 1pm - Steve Colling
Rishton - 01254 883200

16mm Exhibitions:-

Sun 13 July - Telford

Garden Rail (Narrow Gauge) Show

The Moat House, Telford

Our Timpdon Sheds layout will be there.

Come down for a run. Please?

Other Events & Exhibitions:-

Sat 17 - Sun 18 May - Merstham , (Surrey) Model Steam Show

Our Timpdon Sheds layout will be there.

Sun 18 May - North Turton Gauge 'O' Group - Running Session

Barlow Institute, EDGWORTH, BL7 0AP.

11am to 4pm Running session on 'O'

Gauge 38' by 15' oval 2-rail finescale

Sat 7th June - The Gauge 'O' Guild - Summer Convention 2003

North Bridge Leisure Centre, North

Bridge, HALIFAX, 10am to 4.30pm

Sat 7th - Sun 8th June - Corris Railway & NG M/Rly Exhibition, Corris School, & Corris Railway Station, 10.30am to 5pm

Corris Railway **Grand Reopening Gala**

with Original Steam Loco No.3 & Corris

Carriage Operating, courtesy of the

Talylyn Railway. Narrow Gauge Model

Railway Exhibition featuring 8 layouts

plus displays from other Welsh Narrow

Gauge Lines. ALSO - Children's Ride on

Train, Fairground Organ, Vintage

Vehicles, Refreshments.



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