



Risborough and District Model
Railway Club

Spring 2006

FOOTPLATE



President	David Powell
Chairman	Paul Wright 01844 275748 rdmrc@btinternet.com
Secretary	Richard Neil richard@mris.freemove.co.uk
Treasurer	Peter Miller pjm.modelmaking@ntlworld.com
Members Reps.	Anthony Mead David Lane Ian Gearing
Membership Secretary	Robin Lane
Railx Manager	David Lane
Risex Manager	Ian Roll/Donald Rintoul
Webmaster	Anthony Mead

At the last committee meeting, held on 6th February 2006, the following items were discussed:



Risex and Railx were the main topics of discussion.

Also more modelling workshops are planned.

Wheeltapper, this was a great success and Richard will be asked to organise it again next year. We also plan to have a novice trophy and a junior trophy to widen the appeal as well as the new categories successfully introduced this year. See the website for photos.

Baseboards for the P4 layout are available free of charge, a good way to get started.

A summer barbeque was also suggested.

WELCOME

Welcome to the relaunch of our Footplate magazine, which is intended to reflect the news and views of all the members.

This is **your** magazine, it needs your support if it is to be successful.

We are looking for regular writers and contributors, maybe a news page, a gossip section....here are some more ideas:

- **Chairman's letter**
- **Following a new layout construction from creation through to end**
- **Regular update of club layout construction projects**
- **FACE TO FACE: occasional profiles of selected members. (pre-set questionnaire)**
- **Exhibitions attended—members reports**
- **New products tested and reviewed**
- **Reviews of Books/videos/DVD's**
- **Something to sell? Then tell the editor**
- **Modelling Tips and hints from members**
- **Diary of forthcoming events**
- **Contents of magazine**
- **Members' advertisements—FREE!**

If you think you can help, or have any other ideas, please contact the editorial team, John Coles and Paul Wright.

Obituary

Neville Grandison—sadly we have to report the recent death of Neville who passed away peacefully on Thursday March 16th after a short illness. Neville worked on and helped to exhibit Chiltern Parkway our N gauge project on a regular basis.

Front page: the winner of this years Wheeltapper competition, Richard Turner's model a 1:48 scale 16 Tonne Vertical Boiler Shay

2mm swans

One of the essential features of our waterways is the wildlife, which in 2mm is quite a challenge. However, the larger birds such as swans are possible. Since 2mm swans were not available the solution was to start with 4mm ducks (available from Dart Castings) which have the right type of body shape and size for 2mm swans. Now cut off the head and use a track pin minus the head to form the characteristic long curved neck and head. The pins bend quite easily as you know if you have tried hammering them into trackwork. A little bit of shaping may be needed to blend the body and neck. Then paint the model white and you have a swan. It is not necessary to have a great deal of detail as the swan is normally viewed at a distance of at least 50cm. The eye sees a white blob with a long slim neck and the brain says, "it's a swan"! Simple when you know how!



Since making my swans some time ago, I have now found that Langley produce them in white metal. These swans have the characteristic upward pointing wings but being white metal have very thick necks which I don't think represent the characteristic shape of the neck and head at all well. They could be used as the basis of the above conversion to give more variety. It will of course depend on your own preferences and where the swan is to be sited on the layout.

Paul Wright

Railex—



By the time you read this Railex will be only a month or so away. Ever since I became Railex manager my idea was that we would stage one of the best shows in the country. I think the results we achieved last year proved we were well on the way. The new venue gives much greater scope for presentation of the best layouts and trade in the country.

Personally I have spent a great deal of my own time visiting shows, writing letters arranging meetings etc to ensure that we do have layouts, traders, demos etc turn up on the weekend without snags, and ensure all infrastructure is in place, tables, barriers, accommodation booked etc. There have also been other members who have helped me along the way in regards to contracts and other things I do not feel confident in doing myself. One thing I learnt last year is that it would make my job easier if some jobs could be done by others, Kevin

A Vision

has agreed to work with Anthony do sort out manpower issues.

To stage a show like Railex we need to make sure there are plenty of people to man the door, marshal the car parks etc. That is why last year and this year there have been no club layouts. This may change next year but any club layouts do drain the available number of people available to do the essential work needed to run the show. Therefore, I expect everyone who is available over the weekend to give Anthony and Kevin their full co-operation. Remember if every member can do a couple of hours each day then this will help everyone and give plenty of time to enjoy the show itself. There are also jobs outside the hours of the show like collecting and returning the barriers in the van, making sure we have the correct type and number of direction boards and the deployment of these on the roads.

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European Travels

Below: DDM unit on the right and the very stylish VIRM unit on the left depart at the same time from Utrecht Central station. The DDM units were built from 1984 to increase seating capacity on some routes. They were originally hauled by class 1700 electric locos but more recently have been fitted with a dedicated motor coach (mDDM). The newer units (left) were built from 1993 as 3 or 4 car units designated DD IRM-1. They have recently been extended to 4 and 6 car units as well as some new units being built and are now known as VIRM units but also nicknamed “bisons” due to the shape of the cab roof.

Right upper: Belgian class 11 pushing the Benelux train out of Schiphol station towards Amsterdam. There are only 12 of this class of 1.5 and 3kV (3150kW) locos but they are closely related to class 12 (3 and 25kV, 3150kW), class 21 (3kV, 3000kW) and class 27 (3kV, 4150kW).

Right lower: 4 car electric unit (ELD4) on a stoptrein service at Utrecht Central station. These unit date from the early 60's.





Railex does not happen by itself, and last year thankfully produced a surplus for the club. We cannot take any profit for granted, this year the cost of the hall hire has increased by at least £1000 as well as most other costs to us, therefore it is vital that we do the best to promote the show, be it by word of mouth, putting flyers/posters out on local notice boards, super markets etc, or visiting shows and spreading the word. The biggest negative feedback we had last year was that we need to have more and clearer signage. SMS and the Council have a plan to improve this in time but until then it is up to us.

We have around 20 layouts again this year; many of them rather large and all I think are outstanding. The important thing is to invite layouts based on quality but also try to get variation in scale and gauge. We also have some new traders this year. All details can be found on the club website.

For both exhibitors and traders I supply a list of places to eat or drink on the Friday/Saturday night for those staying over. This proved extremely popular last year and the Bengal Blue Indian restaurant (on the Aylesbury Gyration) became filled with Railex people (even Pete Waterman) with an excellent reputation for its food. As a thought if anyone is interested in booking a table and having a meal around 7.30-8.00 here on the Friday or Saturday night after the show let me know and maybe we could arrange something.

David Lane

Useful internet addresses:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| CMRA: | www.cmra.btinternet.co.uk |
| Paint conversion charts: | www.models2u.co.uk/
paint_conversion_charts.htm |
| Painting figures: | www.brifayle.ca |
| Decoder comparisons | www.tonystrains.com/productcompare/
decoder_comparison.htm |
| AWG conversion chart | www.tnt-audio.com/clinica/awg_e.html |

Alexandra Palace

This was attended by Saffron Street (our P4 layout) with Pete on a demo table, Clive White on the MRC demo tables and Paul on Schloss Wolfental (“**Schloß Wolfental** BAY. STS. B.” to give it its full title) a Bavarian N gauge layout set in the 1920s.

Pete spent the weekend working on 4mm station buildings and talking to the public. The buildings are excellent and compare very well to the photos on display. The construction techniques are actually quite simple when you know how, so maybe we can twist Pete’s arm to do a workshop for us!

Saffron Street ran well and is an excellent example of urban modelling. Operation is a little restricted being an end-to-end layout but this will be corrected with the new layout now being planned.

Schloß Wolfental is a small layout by Michael Watts who has exhibited his previous layout at Railex. It is not yet finished but is interesting for its light weight monocoque construction in MDF.

This technique was described in European Modelling and an example can be seen at Victors model shop.

The exhibition itself has a good selection of layouts several of which will be at this years Railex, although trade was disappointing, this may be due to the London prices putting off the small specialists. The major manufacturers were present with their latest models on display as were the larger retailers.

Exhibition 2006

Saturday Modelling

We have now had a few Saturday meetings and they are proving very successful. We can setup on Friday evening with modelling on Saturday until 18.00hrs which allows much more modelling to be done. Free tea and coffee with biscuits are also provided throughout the day. These sessions have allowed great progress on the Drive-a-train layout and some personal projects.



Scale & Gauge

If you are under the impression that N gauge is 2mm scale, then you are mistaken, although the two terms are often put together.

Scale is the ratio between the real thing and the model while gauge is simply the distance between the tracks. There are 3 different scales but all are called N gauge.

British N gauge is a scale of 1:148 with 9mm track which works out at 2.06mm to the foot and a gauge of 4' 4.4"

Japanese N gauge is 1:150 with 9mm track which works out at 2.03mm to the foot and a gauge of 4' 5.1"

Continental N gauge is 1:160 with 9mm track which works out at 1.9mm to the foot and a gauge of 4' 8.6" which is correct for the prototype.

This just leaves 2mm finescale, which uses 9.42mm track and has a ratio of 1:152, again a correct scale/gauge combination.

Notes from the sofa



With a new chairman in position and a revised committee meeting it is clear the club is taking a new

direction. It is an exciting time. We have also been blessed with a clutch of new members over the past 6 months whose interests cover most gauges. Club projects are progressing and new projects are in the planning stages. The introduction of the Saturday modelling days and the workshops are proving popular and more are planned. We have had two talks from outside speakers so far this year and refreshments are being provided at club events with free tea and coffee. All this is paid for by the money we raise at exhibitions.

Anything to sell?

Shed too full? Loft untidy? Too many unused rail bits?

Then let the club second-hand sales team convert it to cash for you.

Just get in touch with the editor

Toolbox: We are slowly building a good collection of tools for layout building which are paid for from the bar profits. If any items are damaged/broken/worn out please report this to the committee so we can replace them. If you can think of anything else we need then let us know.

Test track evenings

May 12th
June 2nd
June 23rd
July 14th
August 4th
August 25th
September 15th
November 3rd
December 15th



Club Diary



Railx setup	May 26
Railx	May 27 & 28
Openday	Oct 14th
Hornby day	Nov 11th

Back page

Photos of the drive-a-train layout which made great progress during one of our Saturday modelling sessions.

Club workshops.



Following the very successful workshops on weathering and plastic kit construction we are planning more workshops either on Friday night or an all day event on Saturday. Subjects to be covered are: making models from plastic sheet and strip, brass models and soldering, scenic modelling and resin modelling. If you have other ideas then contact the committee.

Have you logged on?



rdmrc.nildram.co.uk

There's all you need to know about the club.

Details of future exhibitions and other events, the full club diary and photos of previous events.

There is also a good list of links but if you have any more do contact Anthony our webmaster.

