



Risborough and District Model
Railway Club

Apr-Jun 2014 Spring

FOOTPLATE



Kirkmellington by Graham Bucknell.

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WELCOME

Risex was well attended this year (not quite a record but a full hall) and proved to be another excellent show, congratulations to Adrian and his team. We were visited by the Princes Risborough Town Mayor who was very impressed with the show and pleased we are attracting people into our town. Thanks to Ant for giving him a tour. Thanks to all who helped on the day, we had cleared up and were ready to lock the centre by 18.00, a very fast clear up indeed, allowing us all to get home in time for dinner and a beer!

Wheeltapper is a showcase for the talent we have in this club and this year's display did not disappoint in any way. Our judge this year was Tim Watson from The Model Railway Club who has been involved with creating the 2mm Copenhagen Fields. Tim is a 2mm modeller and brought along some of his incredible models. His talk was about his background in dentistry and the transferable skills he learnt.

We recently purchased a Dremel cordless drill and I have now added a collet

set of 0.8, 1.6, 2.4 and 3.2mm plus a keyless chuck (0.4 - 3.4mm) to the accessory box to give more versatility in drilling. I have also replaced the drill bits in the red metal box that have been used. Please let the committee know if items are worn out or broken so that they can be replaced before we run out.

And finally, a note from Rob Thompson:

The ScaleSeven Group will be holding their AGM at the club on Saturday 21st June and would appreciate it if part of the Okehampton layout could be displayed to show its development. It is understood that this is Finescale but many visitors would appreciate seeing what is happening in terms of another large 7mm layout. We usually start our AGM days at about 10:00 am and the AGM is then in the afternoon starting at 2:00 pm so it would be helpful if the display was available between those times.

Paul



Articles for publication in Footplate

Articles can be on paper or in electronic form (preferred) with minimal formatting, preferably doc, txt or rtf. Digital photos should be at as high a resolution as possible to allow editing and good print quality.

We would like to hear about your railway and modelling interests, places you have visited or models you have bought or made. Reviews of models, gadgets, books etc. are particularly welcome.

Articles should be sent at least 1 month before publication dates, i.e. beginning of March, June, September and December for publication in January, April, July and October.

Kirkmellington onwards and upwards

Kirkmellington featured in Footplate a couple of issues ago and much has happened since then. We have our first exhibition under our belt, RISEX 2014 was our debut, and now the dust has settled, we can look back on the journey and also at what lies ahead.

There has been considerable effort made over the past few months, some on a Friday at the club but a lot in my cold garage after Christmas. Track has been painted and ballasted. Scenery crafted from polystyrene and Polyfilla with my first attempts at Static Grass and Scenic Water. I have built a bridge, also a first attempt, using DAS modelling clay on a thin plywood former. The colliery buildings built by my Dad (and joint venture partner), were handed over for me to paint. A bit of trial and error ensued but many thin layers applied with a large flat brush have produced a reasonable representation of brickwork.

A few minor panics were had in February as RISEX approached. A couple of point motors (we were using SEEP) had stopped making full contact with the microswitch and were not altering the polarity of the frogs. Internet research (where would we be without this 24/7 resource) quickly pointed to the newly updated PECO motor as a drop in replacement. The key point was duly swapped out and the PECO motor performed perfectly throughout the show. The dilemma now is do we preemptively swap the rest or just wait until the SEEP motors fail? Presentation is an important aspect of exhibiting a layout. Drapes are necessary to hide the legs and other paraphernalia under the boards. A backscene is needed to close out the visual image and the real world, ideally drawing the viewer into the virtual reality of the model – we have not yet reached this stage but have ideas ready to turn into reality this year. Finally for me, a professional name sign rounds off the display. For Kirkmellington, I have gone for signs based on the once familiar NCB / British Coal colliery nameboards. They measure up at 600mm by 300mm and were produced by [GR Labels 4 Signs](#) in Oldham for £20 each (including perfecting the artwork I sent from MS word & autoshapes).

So onto the Friday of RISEX. Challenge no 1 was to get the whole layout, legs, boards, lighting, control / power and stock into my car, a very standard VW Golf. The boards had been designed back in 2004/05 to fit my then car, a Mondeo, so would it work now? Well, we had to make a quick adjustment to a pair of end protectors to clear the boot trim but other than that, everything fitted and was secure. Happy days. So how was RISEX and what did we learn?



Well, firstly the upside. We learnt that the layout works. That, as an exhibition layout, is a must to be able to justify an invite and please the public. Second, it was interesting to operate. Another must, this time to maintain the last ounce of sanity of the operators. Thirdly (and subjectively), from comments received, the layout and buildings have

presented well, which after so much work gives us the incentive and inner glow to press on and finish the layout. The wagons generally behaved, the odd random derailment and one or two sprat couplings to adjust but overall I was pleased with their reliability.



On the downside, we had cleanliness issues. The track was filthy by lunchtime and the shunting locos needed swift & regular turnaround for wheel cleaning. Electrically we had a dry joint on the mainline, one of the Dapol signals stopped working (including the LED) and we had a point motor bar throw itself out of the tie bar at 430pm.

So looking ahead, there is still much to do with September and Expo EM north the next major milestone:

- Winding gear & head frame brass kit & associated buildings to build
- Miners cottages to complete & install with fencing & gates
- Back scene to invent
- Point rodding & signal wires to experiment with.

Point levers & ground signals to install
Loco detailing & weathering to finish
Narrow gauge bridge to / from drift mine to design & install
RT Models Hudson tippler kits to assemble
Facia panels for lighting pelmet to buy.
PECO point motors to buy & assemble ready in case the SEEP ones
lose the plot.
Install fencing to BR and Colliery boundaries and generally add to
the scenic detailing.

Thanks must go to Adrian for inviting us and to everyone from the club
that helped out over the weekend. The show was great fun and was a
good advert for the club once again.



The trials and tribulations of building Kirkmellington are captured in a blog at:
<http://kirkmellington.wordpress.com/>
There is also a video of the layout at RISEX on youtube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLo2ALSWzBI>

Graham

Risex report

We had enough cakes! - not too many, but enough. We were a bit short of visitors to eat them, but better that way round than yours truly having to rush round to Tesco's to stock up.

Visitor numbers seem to have been slightly below last year – perhaps the weather had something to do with that, being the first decent day after a horridly wet winter. But hopefully that meant it was possible to get round a bit more easily than last year. We should still make a useful contribution to the club's bank account.

The layouts all turned up, as did the traders. Your comment or feedback (just to me) on any of these aspects will be welcome. In particular, a 'tools' trader would still be a good thing, I think. We may have to look for a replacement for one or two of them (but those who grumbled last year still came back this year). What do you feel about the 'Kelly and Keith' offer, for example (should we charge them for the tables they brought to increase their display)?

A special thanks to the demonstrators, to all those who backed up the caterers, and to Bob for getting the support team out. Not forgetting the cake suppliers, whom I can't thank directly, so please pass on our gratitude.

We also had a visit from the Mayor of Risborough, who clearly has some ideas about a bigger Community Centre, which may be of interest to us if they get to a project stage. The Bucks Herald also came and took some photos for a write-up – their Photo of the Week showed Rob Thomson still has that spark for pretty girls – pity she was only 7 and the spark was from the soldering machine!

We have a number of layouts booked for next year already (Dubly – Hornby 00, Fisherton Sarum – 00, Earls Court - 00, Sankei City - Z), but still need a couple of long (18ft – 20ft), thin layouts for the Main Hall, and a couple of smaller ones for the other two rooms – preferably N or 0 gauge. If you see any that take your fancy, please let me know.

Adrian Harford



Above: Dawes Creek is set between the years 1975 to the late 1980s, in Victoria State in Australia, on the 5' 3" broad gauge.

Below: Cocknoe by Jon Boot. This N gauge layout is a fictitious cross-country route in Northants, circa 1956-62, with ex-LMS, LNER and BR stock.





Above: Sandown by Phil Hutchins as it was in 1952/3.
Below: Lambeth Road by Dan & Tony Floyd 'OO'. layout is set in south London circa 1980 - 2000, and is based on the Lambeth Road Bakerloo line depot which is sunk into the ground around the houses.





Above: Our club's display cabinet showing a wide range of models. Sorry for the poor photo, however, I thought it worth including! The club stand is always an important feature of our exhibitions and we need to provide interesting things for people to see and advice, help, club info etc.

Rubbish and Recycling

Please remember to put a black plastic bag in the dustbin before use and empty it when full. There is a wheeled metal bin at the end of the community centre.

Recycling will be collected each club night, this includes card, plastic bottles and cans.

Okehampton Update:

For anyone at the club recently, I think it fair to say that for the first time, Okehampton is really looking like a railway in a landscape. The scenic work at the military end has paid dividends, bringing the railway to life. I know this is inspiring me to get on with my projects that relate to Okie, and I hope it is having the same effect on others.

Russ is now building the last section of track for the scenic area which will be on the left of the photo where the black foam is with the blue tape on it. The station building is the flat area at the front of the photo and you can see a number of the smaller building in place.

There is a lot of work still to do and one thing that has become very clear recently, is that the boards need to be better protected from being handled. The trolleys which I made to house the boards were only ever designed to house them up to receiving scenery. After that point, they were intended to house the fiddle yard.

As each board has a matching twin, each pair needs a trolley of their own. Each trolley will be different as each pair differs. The idea is that the trolley takes the two boards, track to track to protect it, with pegs to locate the boards the right distance apart. Rail edges will be protected either by end boards bolted on, or because the track faces down onto the trolley which will be rebated. The overall height of the boards on the trolley will be small enough to pass through a normal height door.

I'd like to know who would be available to assist with the design and build of the trolleys. Also let me know what jobs you'd like to tackle to advance Okie and help will be provided to make sure you get the materials you need and any help from the team.

Cheers, James.



Wheeltapper

Wheeltapper again provided the usual excellent display of models with 7 different members winning the various categories. The winners for each of the categories are as follows:

- 1 Steam Locomotives – Phil Baxendale with LNER 2-10-0 WD 4mm Scale P4



- 2 Diesel/Electric Locomotives – Mick Moignard with RGS Crew Speeder HOn3



- 3 Passenger and Non-Passenger Coaching Stock – Roy Norton with London – Paris 'Night Ferry' CIWL Sleeper Coach 4mm Scale OO Gauge



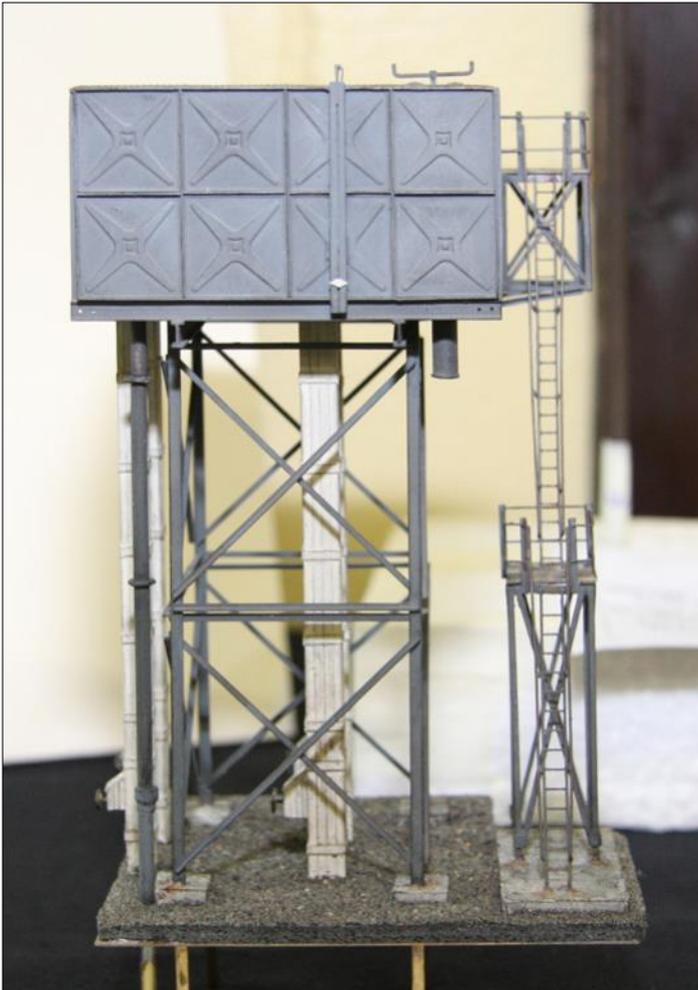
- 4 Freight and Engineer Stock – Richard Turner with Private Owner Coal Wagons 4mm Scale P4



5 Road Vehicles, Boats, People, Animals etc Robbie Robinson Award – Paul Wright with Diesel Tug Boat N Gauge 1:160



6 Scenic Models: Buildings, Trees, Signals etc. Jack Kline Trophy – Tim Peacock with Aylesbury Water Tank – Braithwaite Design 4mm Scale P4



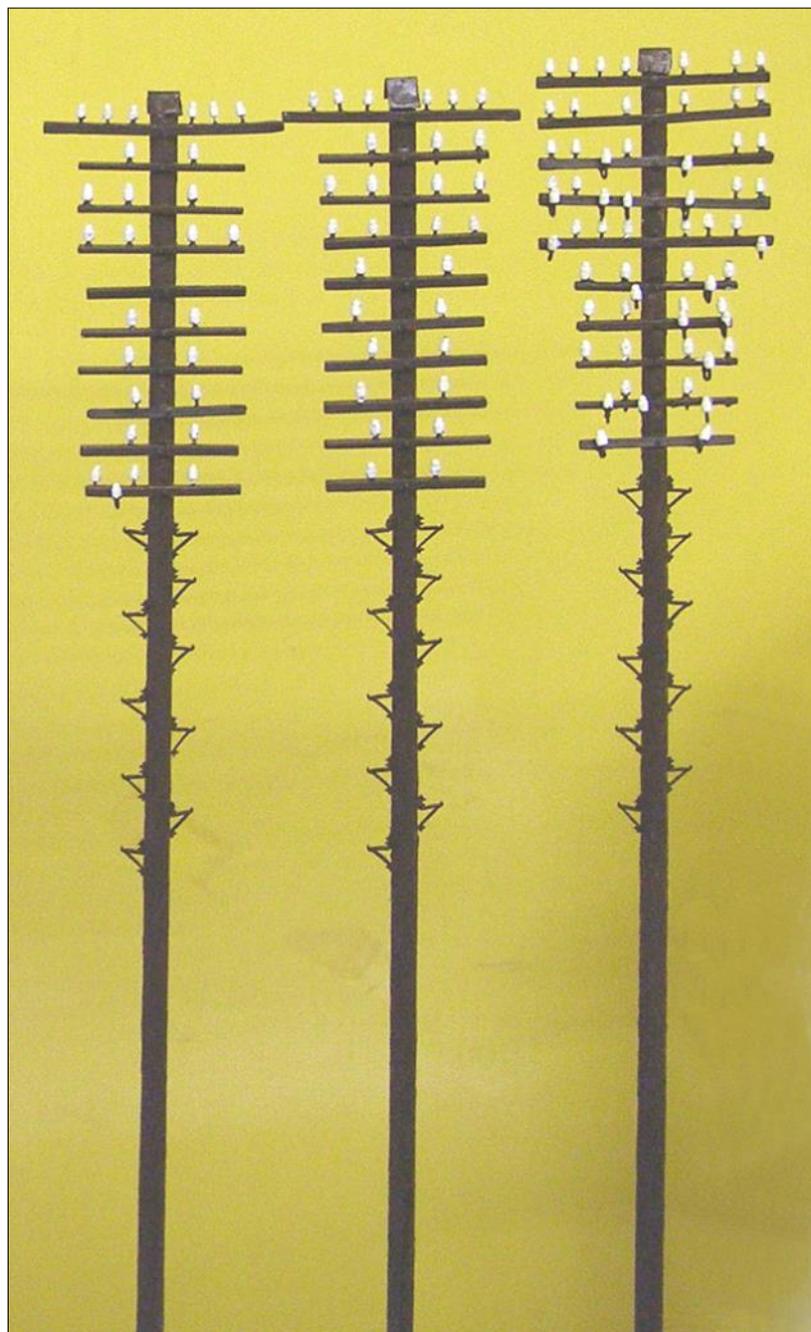
The overall winner of Wheeltapper was Roy Norton with his London – Paris 'Night Ferry' CIWL Sleeper Coach 4mm Scale OO Gauge, see back page.



- 7 Diorama – Graham Bucknell with 50149 Undertaking Powerunit Repairs 4mm Scale OO Gauge, (above)
- 8 Okehampton 7mm Wagon Project, Derek Tuner Trophy – Ian Gearing with BR 12T Pipe Wagon O Gauge, (below).

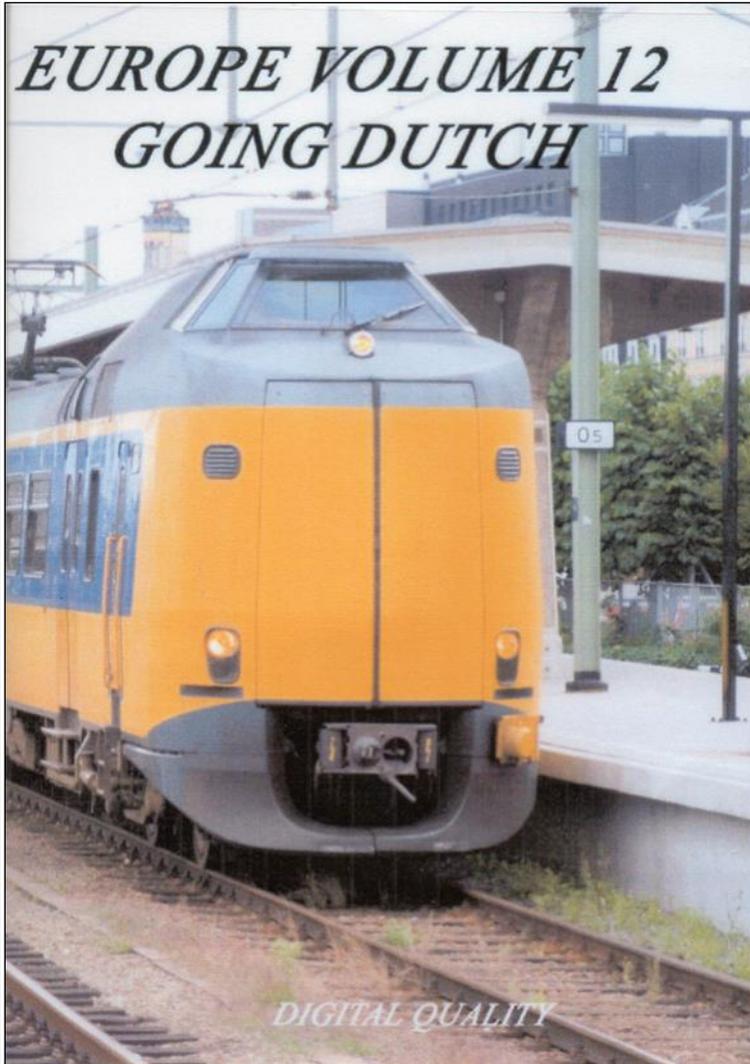


The Chairman's Cup was won by Michael Lane with Telegraph Poles for Okehampton 7mm Scale O Gauge.



Railway Memories

Europe volume 12



While browsing around Risex I found a DVD on Dutch trains on the Railway Memories stand in the main hall. The cost was only £7, so I thought I would have a copy. The quality of the video and sound is good and it lasts a reasonable 61 minutes. There is no commentary and better yet no annoying sound track that you can get on some DVDs. It is just watching the trains go by from a number of locations. Including Rotterdam, Hoorn-Medemblik,

Madurodam, Den Haag, Gouda, Delft, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Maastricht. This is quite relaxing as well as useful to see the typical train formations, the weathering, graffiti etc. Well worth the asking price.

Paul

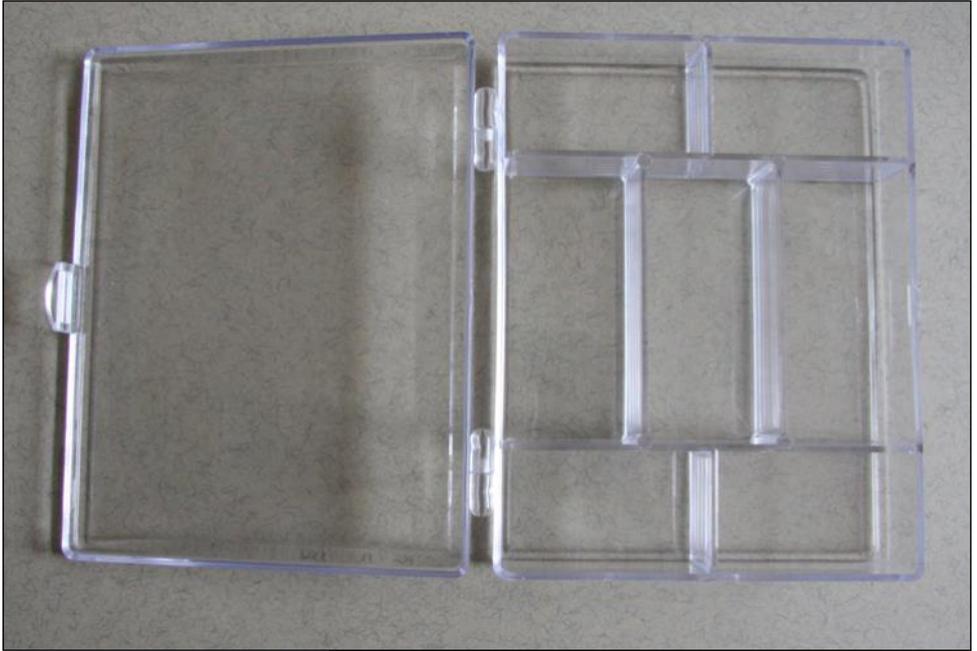
Queenbeads

Queenbeads in Princes Risborough is, as the name suggests, a bead craft shop. Located in Bell Street, almost next to M&S. However, it does sell a range of containers for small items as well as some tools such as pliers and wire cutters. The photos show some of the range of containers:



Above: set of 24 40mm diameter x 20mm high pots now containing weathering powders.

Left: 80mm diameter x 20mm high 6 section rotating container with N gauge parts.



Above: multi-section box
120 x 95 x 20mm, £2.50

Individual containers:

40mm diameter x 20 or
50mm high.

25mm diameter x 20mm
high

Stack of 5 pots 40mm
diameter x 20mm high.



Modelling Saturdays

The following dates have been booked 09.00 to 17.00

Apr 12, May 10, Jun 14, July 19, Aug 9, Sept 13, Oct 4 (Open day),
Nov 8, Dec 13

From the Internet

Take a trip on a Norwegian model railway

<http://vimeo.com/77269520>

The Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Circa 1935

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epW1OaP3gcE>

Bulleid electric locos

[http://www.bulleidlocos.org.uk/\(S\(ykygxmn1prdra5yaszo0myp\)\)/_oth/coCoElectric.aspx](http://www.bulleidlocos.org.uk/(S(ykygxmn1prdra5yaszo0myp))/_oth/coCoElectric.aspx)

Huge model railroad layout

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkLHt5dKwUk>

45699 Galatea blasts up Wilpshire on a loaded test run, 29th January

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xFNwaa1ct8#t=14>

A selection of films about the Southern Railway

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SouthernRailwayFilms>

A scan of the N section of the new Dapol catalogue can be found here

<http://www.ness-st.co.uk/N-gauge-catalogues.html>

Please note it is reproduced with the full permission of Joel Bright of Dapol.

Dapol O catalogue is here.

<http://www.ness-st.co.uk/O-gauge-catalogues.html>

Indian Steam Railway Society

<http://indiansteamrailwaysociety.in>

Severn Valley Railway, March 2014

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=LuGj6mtY1yl>

Club Diary

April	4	DCC Talk covering DecoderPro by Mick Moignard
	12	Modelling Saturday
	25	Test Track
May	10	Modelling Saturday
	23	Railex Set Up
	24 - 25	RAILEX 2014 Exhibition, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury
	31-1 June	DEMU Showcase, Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent
June	6	New Members Welcome Day (Friday Evening)
	14	Modelling Saturday
	27	Test Track
July	19	Modelling Saturday
	25	Test Track
August	9	Modelling Saturday
	22	Test Track
September	1	Start of R&DMRC Financial Year Subscriptions Due
	13	Modelling Saturday
	19	Test Track
October	4	Club Annual Open Day, Community Centre, Princes Risborough
	4	Beaconsfield MRC Exhibition, High School for Girls, Beaconsfield
	11	Tad-Rail 2014, Cottesloe School, Wing
	17	Railway Talk by Geoff Plumb "That was the Year that was - 1963"
	24	Test Track

Test Track Nights

Here is the list of proposed test track nights. If you want to make use of the test track then you need to get it out and set it up. Don't wait for someone else to do it. We will also have the small meeting room booked to provide more space.

Apr 25, June 6, June 27, July 25, Aug 22, Sept 19, Oct 24, Nov 21 Dec 12



Back page: Roy (left) receives the Wheeltapper Trophy from Tim Watson