



CLUB UPDATE

East Bedfordshire Model Railway Society Issue No 8 May-July 2014

Introduction

Activity always seems to be reduced following the flurry for our show, and that 'flat' feeling is compounded by the year suddenly becoming 'barren' with the realisation the invitations to Ely and Spalding are withdrawn. This is apparently because of the cost of Sutton and its need for 8 operators, though in itself it may be a small blessing given the electrical revamp we've undertaken to give Sutton recently - would we have been ready?

Finchley is designed to function with fewer operators (and is obviously a way off completion), but the club then has the additional challenge of there being an increased membership - there will be more of us wanting to be involved when the next show comes around. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Ally Pally in March next year gives us the opportunity to show Sutton at its best, and being close by perhaps gives most of us the chance to be involved at some point.

Cheriton has been packed away, but things do still tick along...

Finchley work is picking up again and getting to a stage where the fruits of our early labours is becoming more tangible, and Bern has been enjoying building the signal box... See page 2.

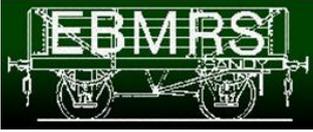
Sutton's electrical refit hit a sticky patch, and it turned out the main cause was a sticky patch. See page 3

The Picture

With no pictures of a 'true' Cheriton line to show, I've looked at the influences and the local lines that did exist. The station and goods shed are based on Moretonhampstead, and the engine shed is based on Ashburton.



Here is a view of Moretonhampstead as it was in 1921. The main building is immediately recognisable as reproduced on Cheriton, the only significant adaptation being the omission of the side screens of the overall roof (just visible above the carriage on the left)



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FINCHLEY ROAD ST JOHNS WOOD

For the first time we have seen the main scenic boards all connected, and mighty good it looks too.

Electrics	Structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board BBG requires plugs fitting and fault-testing to be completed. • Board BBK in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the final boards is in progress; consideration being given to arrangement and position of legs.
Baseboard Top (scenic, trackwork)	Operation, presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the pointwork for the fiddle yards is now built, only requiring testing to complete. • Question over whether it is practical to progress simple track laying on board tops and position bracing afterwards, accounting for point motor positions - this may also assist in speeding overall construction. Note - positions of point rodding to be determined before any further ballasting. • All the main railway-related buildings are now complete bar the signal box. Bern has been building this from the Churchward Models kit I purchased for the role and he has already thrown half of it away in disgust, found the window etches were too small for the front panel and then entirely re-written the instructions. On the plus side we have an old interior kit we can use which is an inheritance from Ron, so it's nice to see something of his on the layout. • Bern is considering how to build the cutting walls at the eastern end of the station - it's proving challenging! - and a selection of goods yard building oddments. • Backscene will be considered when baseboards are complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting is yet to be discussed - will need to be considered at the same time as any backscene construction • A pelmet was originally mooted, to be discussed later • The design concept allowed for a repeat signal diagram display at the front of the layout - consideration needs to be given on how to progress this. Andy's electronics took this into consideration I believe.

CHERITON BISHOP



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Cheriton performed very well at the show - seemingly plenty of life in the old girl!

Electrics	Structure
•	•
Baseboard Top (scenic, trackwork)	Operation, presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour-blending scenery to backscene needs considering several weeks before any further outing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert curtain to Velcro

SUTTON-ON-SEA

Board 3 & 4 rewiring has been completed and tested, and caused a bit of head-scratching. We have some structural work which could be done before the layout's next outing.

Electrics	Structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rewiring exercise reached something of a climax, as it has now covered all the major pointwork wiring up to board 4. So we had a test - and some parts wouldn't work. There then ensued a couple of weeks of head-scratching, pointing at Dave and so on, then a dry joint was found and repaired and a bit more worked. This sticky patch, in the end, turned out to be just that - dirty contacts in a motor. It now works. Onwards to boards 5,6 and 7 which will be much simpler. • Investigate current control panel provision for signal operation and determine how to set up their operation - Jim has now started some work on this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade bolts to dome-headed/wing nut/large washers: spec to be agreed and items sourced, costed and approved for purchase - Nigel has supplied some items for evaluation • Replace end boards : spec to be agreed, material sourced, costed, approved. • Control panel covers required to clear switches and be sufficiently strong to bear other items on top for transport: spec to be agreed, material sourced, costed, approved. • Provide a ledge on control panel mounting boards, making it easier to align and fit the control panel • Docks extension and support arrangements to be scoped, designed and costed
Baseboard Top (scenic, trackwork)	Operation, presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repaint roadways - a start has been made at the country end of the layout, and the roadway by the engine shed. This now requires blending into the remainder of the goods yard. • Platform roof glazing bars • Assess remainder of layout board by board for repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label switches to points for diagnostics, produce an overlay illustrating point numbers, ensuring matched to naming convention under the boards • Investigate practicalities of installing a control panel-powered push-button mic system • Investigate improved clips for retaining lighting units to baseboard legs • Convert the curtain to be mountable by Velcro instead of drawing pins



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TIMETABLE

EBMRS SHOWS		Other events, local shows etc (nominally within 30 miles)	
17 May 2014	Ely <i>invitation withdrawn</i>	17 May	THE CATHEDRALS EXPLORER 60009: Durham-Peterborough-Victoria
8 & 9 Nov 2014	Spalding <i>invitation withdrawn</i>	22 May	THE CATHEDRALS EXPRESS 60009: Kings Cross-York and return
7 Feb 2015	Biggleswade	24 & 25 May	Aylesbury show
29 & 30 Mar 2015	Ally Pally (Sutton) TBC	12 Jun	Toy Fair, Theydon Bois
15 Sep 2015	Grantham (Sutton) TBC	12 Jun	CATHEDRALS EXPRESS 60009 Chiswick - Cambridge - Norwich
		14 Jun	THE WHITE ROSE II 60019: Kings Cross - York & return
		14 Jun	Trinity Church, Biggleswade
		25 Jun	Toy Fair, Hoddesdon
		28 Jun	Enfield show
		28 Jun	THE EAST RIDING 70013: Kings Cross -Scarborough & return
		12 Jul	Train Collectors Society, Biggleswade
		12 Jul	Hoddesdon show
		19 Jul	Northampton show
		26 Jul	Chingford British Legion show
		31 Jul	Toy fair, Hoddeson



NOTICE BOARD

- Oerlikon units - We have purchased copies of underframe drawings from the HMRS. We now have a full set for a 3 car Oerlikon unit, with the suggestion that the drawings we have obtained are actually for the earlier Siemens units but are believed to be almost identical.

A review of the details of the parts required has begun and we will look to see if London Road Models will consider manufacturing them with the information we now have. Pete Stanton has been looking at some roof profiles from LRM, and we wait to see what they're like.

- Suggestion for a mini layout for testing? This is a genuine suggestion as an additional project to run alongside the major build of Finchley - but it would need to be of 'micro' proportions as we already have storage issues with the three layouts we have.

The following questions remain since these newsletters started, no debate has taken place yet...

- Jim asks if there is any working plan for maintenance at shows (If it breaks, mend it ?)
- Operating sessions required to teach new members how to operate the layouts
- Question over availability of suitable stock for layouts should Bern or Alan B be unavailable.