

Introduction

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all and your families. I hope you all get something railway-related from Santa; and if not from Santa, support your local model shop.

In this issue:

Club Notes: Not long to the EBMRS show - again! - so we've been having a bit of a chit-chat about organising ourselves and particularly the catering. Paul Clifton keeps the web pages up to date for show information, but I've included the latest information on layouts and traders in these pages as a taster. Supported by a few notes from recent discussions.

Cheriton Bishop: preparation for the show, what and when.

Finchley: track and electrics ticking along (sort of), plus point rodding

Aylesbury: pushing along with a full test set-up of boards, what next?

Sutton: invitations and signals

Timetable: forthcoming railway events and local steam trains

Traffic: a few notes on the local rail scene, a mention of Aylesbury, and London buses

Notice Board: Other ramblings, including Oerlikons



The Picture

A few of you may recognise this view, but not all of you I'm sure. This is Finchley Road, looking north in the 1960s. Just above the Jaguar's bonnet, behind the bus stop, is the rebuilt Finchley Road & Frognal station, a hideous plain brick abomination. Behind the photographer is Grand Parade, which Bern has been building recently.

This view is included to study the view up the street, something we will need to incorporate into our backscene at some point. A good challenge methinks, almost time to sharpen the crayons.



CLUB NOTES

We generally accept that most visitors come to us having seen adverts in the model railway press, but it helps to advertise by other means too. The club's poster is available on our web page to download - can you contribute by placing posters locally, or in parish magazines and such-like? Even better, if you are going to a show please take along a handful - most shows allow club advertising somewhere.

Dave (Sutton) has approached the local Scout group to agree the possible borrowing of some catering equipment for a nominal donation (I hear he's offered his step-son in exchange), whilst Dave (Humphries) has come up trumps with a 2-ring electric hob; Hurrah! You should all now have seen the list of equipment we need for the show, so raid those cupboards.....

Paul Moss has put his hand up for car park co-ordinator and generally it seems we have a good supporting group that can move between that, looking after the layout and stints in the canteen or on the tea trolley.

Layouts

Canons Lane Scrapyard (EM)

A shunting puzzle situated in Bristol in 1977

Silkstone Junction Shed (7mm)

Fictional shed location at the junction of L&YRC and GC in 1950s

Sidmouth (P4)

An accurate model of an East Devon location in Summer 1959 or 1960

Bishops Lane Brewery (7mm)

A 'pointless' layout which mirrors operation of Canons Lane Scrapyard

Ballyconnell Road (3mm)

It is 1955 in County Sligo on the Great Northern Railway of Ireland

Arlingham (EM)

Fictional town in East Anglia on GER Branch Line in 1950s to 1960s

Malix & Lenz (HOM)

Fictional location on the metre gauge Rhaetian Railway in Switzerland

Oxford Road (OO)

NSE & Bakerloo line somewhere in West London in 1980s to 1990s

Twa Dale Estates (O-14)

A 2ft narrow gauge industrial layout

Cheriton Bishop (OO)

A fictitious location in Devon in steam/diesel days from EBMRS club

Happisburgh Goods (7mm)

Ex-Great Eastern goods yard in BR era of 1950s to early 1960s

Cheltenham South & Leckhampton (OO)

(tbc)

Tower Pier (EM)

(tbc)

Gouttieres (HO)

La Gare de Gouttieres Puy de Dôme in France in 2008

Fowlers Lake (On30)

(tbc)

Blake Hall (OO)

(tbc)

Other traders and societies:

Ian Shave

Modellers Mate

Beds & Bucks NG Modellers (tbc)

Book Law Publications

Model Roads & Tramways

H & A Models

Smallford Project

Sandy Transport Society (tbc)

Friends of National Railway Museum

EBMRS Second hand Emporium

Elaine's Trains

Fawn Electronics (tbc)

CHERITON BISHOP

Cheriton is having a deserved airing at our show, so it requires a set-up, electrical test and a spring clean after Christmas. There will be only 6 weeks to set up/refresh/re-pack.

The particular things we wanted to tend to were -

Scenic Work

- Colour-blending scenery to backscene. There is quite a harsh contrast between colours and tones, especially across the middle part of the backscene. I propose the scenery itself is left pretty much as is and we'll have a go at toning down the colours on the backscene. In the main this should be only the ground-level greens, but we'll see how well the more distant tree line shapes up. Brushes at the ready, I want to see who in the club will join with me in this to go through some basics.

Presentation

- Convert curtain to Velcro; there is possibly too little time to organise this along with all other things, unless anyone wants a nice little challenge in the lead to the show?

FINCHLEY ROAD ST JOHNS WOOD

Following the show we will take the opportunity to erect what we can of Finchley to allow Jim & team to measure up the required cable lengths between boards and control panels.

Baseboards

At this time there is enough going on to distract us from the last few boards, but it will come round very soon. We will need to see how things lie in the new year, alongside developing the trestle theme proposed by Dave Sutton.

Electrics

Electrics continue steadily; Jim & Dave working together is making progress, with bits and bobs of involvement from others.

Track laying

Oh dear. No sooner has Bob finished fixing various bits of track, we take a step back and see an issue at one area where tracks are a little closer than we should like. A test with some BR Mk1 stock showed that coaches would virtually touch and so we have taken the decision that around 2 feet of line will have to be replaced, to the correct alignment.

We have started to look at point rodding design, as it needs to go in before any ballasting, and we'll be investigating the vagaries of the equipment used on the ex-LNW lines.

Consideration to be given to the right approach with the 3rd and 4th rails as a test showed certain diesels were slightly fouling it.



Scenic work

- The main railway buildings are complete. There will be a few outbuildings for the yard to consider. We don't yet know whether the Electricity Works will be a practical feature.
- The sub-structure for the raised scenic end of Finchley requires building, with the final positioning of buildings to be considered.
- We have yet to work out how trains will exit stage 'Willesden'.
- A backscene will be required, demonstrating Finchley Road (as per this issue's main photograph), a garage, the council yard and housing and sports field beyond.

Presentation

- Lighting and pelmet is yet to be discussed - will need to be considered at the same time as any backscene construction
- The design concept allowed for a repeat signal diagram display at the front of the layout - Jim has been reviewing this alongside the main electrics, and John Jenkins is assisting me in sorting out how we may present it.

AYLESBURY TOWN

At the time of writing it was hoped that laying of cork would be a bit further advanced, but it has at least started with the cutting to (awkward) shape of the cork sheet.

There's still a Tuesday until Christmas, but we shall need room for Cheriton after Christmas, Finchley after the show and Sutton to test before Ely when confirmed before we are likely to see Aylesbury together fully again.

Baseboards

- The full set up allowed the opportunity to test the design, and it has shown it works well but with the inevitable teething issues to resolve.
The stability needs to be attended to, by adding a bracing strut between the board and trestle, and baseboard joins have had to be sanded level.
The current task is to resolve gaps between boards, a couple of which are larger than can be accepted, a smelly job of applying filler.

Electrics

- DCC control, allowing laptop and smartphone operation.

Track

- Track to be code 40 in the scenic sections.



SUTTON-ON-SEA

Sutton is, subject to final confirmation, lined up to attend the Ely show on 30 May. With Finchley being lined up for a quick set up after our show we shall need to erect Sutton for a test and check for repairs.

Baseboards

- The protective ends are being considered for renewal, but remain usable for now.

Electrics

- Investigate current control panel provision for signal operation and determine how to set up their operation - Jim has started some work on this.
Equally the signals require review, we know some require removal for repair which Bern has said he will undertake, plus one to be built for exit from the loco shed.
- 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; Jim is considering this at the same time as the signals, causing some degree of brain meltdown apparently!

Scenic Work

- Layout to be dusted, track cleaned, check paintwork.
- Platform roof glazing bars need a continued watch.

Presentation

- Investigate improved clips for retaining lighting units to baseboard legs
- Convert the curtain to be mountable by Velcro instead of drawing pins

Future Plans

- Docks extension and support arrangements to be scoped, designed and costed

TIMETABLE – 2016 events not updated on some websites at time of issue

Date	Time	Organiser	Event (nominally within 35 miles of Sandy)
19-Dec		Steam train	THE YORK YULETIDE EXPRESS 60009 Victoria - York via Bedford
05-Jan		LCGB	175 years of Wolverton Works and the Royal Train Phil Marsh
13-Jan	14:15	NLRHS	More Recollections of a BR Manager - Bill Davies
15 to 17-Jan		Model Event	London Model Engineering Exhibition, Alexandra Palace
16-Jan		Model Event	Sat 16th - Brambleton Model Railway Club - Harpenden
16 to 17-Jan		Model Event	Chiltern Model Railway Association - St Albans
19-Jan	19:30	RCTS-C	Signals, Stations & Structures - Robert Warburton
20-Jan		Collectors event	Joe Lock Model Railways - Hoddesdon Toy and Train Collectors' Evening
21-Jan		Steph. LS	c2c, East Ham Depot and its trains -Brian Lees
27-Jan		STS	Wheels around Willington - Mervyn Askew
28-Jan		Stev. LS	Regional Railways - Chris Green
02-Feb		LCGB	Cromford & High Peak Railway pt 2 - George Sullivan & Tommy Tomalin
04-Feb		Collectors event	Joe Lock Model Railways - Train & Toy Collectors Fair Theydon Bois
13-Feb		Steam train	WHITE ROSE - 60009 & 70000 Kings Cross - York & return
13-Feb		Model event	Milton Keynes Model Railway Exhibition
16-Feb	19:30	RCTS-C	Mardling along The Joint - Chris Youett
18-Feb		Steph. LS	The Changing Face of Railways - Blink and 50 years have passed presented by Doug Fairhurst
20-Feb		EBMRS	Cheriton Bishop at EBMRS show
20-Feb		Model event	Saffron Walden Model Railway Club Exhibition
20-Feb		Model event	Risborough & District Model Railway Club - Risex Exhibition
25-Feb		Stev. LS	That was the year that was - 1966 - Geoff Plumb
03-Mar	19:30	RCTS-MK	'China & Tangula' - Ivor Warburton
05-Mar		Model event	Gauge 0 Guild - Spring Show Kettering Leisure Village
11-Mar	18:45	NLRHS	Tickets and paperwork of the North London Railway - Jim Connor
12-Mar		Model event	Sawbridgeworth Model Railway Exhibition
12 to 13-Mar		Model event	St Neots MRC - East Anglian Model Railway Exhibition Wood Green Animal Charity Centre, Huntingdon
15-Mar	19:30	RCTS-C	5 & 9 The Brighton Line - Ron Hart
17-Mar		Steph. LS	ColourRail - Paul Chancellor
17-Mar		Steam train	CATHEDRALS EXPRESS - 46201 Kings Cross - York & return
30-Mar		STS	Cruise Ships - Alan Pepper
19-Apr	19:30	RCTS-C	Railways to the Seaside - Adrian Wright
07-Apr	19:30	RCTS-MK	'Chiltern Railways & East-West Rail' - Graham Cross
05-May	19:30	RCTS-MK	'Blue Diesel Days' - Mike Robinson, RO Editor
30-May		EBMRS	Sutton at Ely MRS

TIMETABLE – 2016 events not updated on some websites at time of issue

Date	Time	Organiser	Event (nominally within 35 miles of Sandy)
02-Jun	19:30	RCTS-MK	'B & W Steam in the 50s & 60s South of the Border' - David Kelso
07-Jul	19:30	RCTS-MK	'The Regional Railways Story' - Chris Green
28 & 29 Jan 2017		EBMRS	Sutton at Erith Model Railway Show
27 & 28 Jan 2018		EBMRS	Cheriton Bishop at Erith Model Railway Show

Key to Organiser

EBMRS	
NLRHS	<p>North London Railway Historical Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen House in Calshot St, just off Pentonville Road, close to Kings Cross. These are on a Friday evening or Wednesday afternoons. We normally invite a speaker and the meetings are informal and in a sociable environment. We welcome guests
HMRS	<p>Historical Model Railway Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whaddon Way Church Centre, West Bletchley, MK3 7JS, meetings at 19:30 unless stated. No charge to visitors
Stev. LS	<p>Stevenage Locomotive Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, Stevenage SG1 1XN, Meetings start 7.30pm and finish around 10.15pm. Refreshment break included. Visitors & Guests are welcomed on payment of £2 Day membership (no charge if Stevenage Arts Guild Member)
RCTS -H RCTS -W RCTS - C RCTS - MK	<p>Railway Correspondence and Travel Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hitchin meetings are held at Walsworth Road Baptist Church, Walsworth Road, Hitchin Welwyn Garden City - afternoon meeting meetings are held at Methodist Church, at the junction of Ludwick Way and Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3PN, commencing at 14.00 (doors open 13.30) Cambridge meetings are held at Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Primary School, Galfrid Road, Cambridge CB5 8ND, commencing at 19.30 Ample free parking is available at the Community Wing. Milton Keynes meetings are held at The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford MK11 1BE, commencing at 19.30
STS	<p>Sandy Transport Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservative Club, Bedford Road, Sandy, doors open 19:10. Non-members welcome, entrance £2.00 includes refreshments
LCGB	<p>Locomotive Club of Great Britain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings are held at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at St Johns Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford MK42 0DL
Steph. LS	<p>Stephenson Locomotive Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. John's United Reformed Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet, Herts:, EN5 1RH. Contact: Roy Mears, 164 Brunswick Park Road, New Southgate, London, N11 1HA. e-mail roymears@btinternet.com
Model Event	See UK Model Shops Directory
Steam Train	See Steam Tours UK
Collectors Event	See UK Model Shops Directory

TRAFFIC NOTICE

Aylesbury

Alastair has bumped into an ex-Aylesbury engineman whilst out on his travels (at the LCGB in Bedford) and aims to boost the club's knowledge of train movements for the model by getting what he can from him! Following that I'll pin Alastair down to give us a full and proper review in a forthcoming issue.

Local Rail News: East-West Rail

An occasional update; trains are now scheduled to run from Marylebone to Oxford Parkway via a new chord at Bicester.

The Hendy Report has confirmed East-West is still to progress, the next section of work (to Bletchley/Bedford) to be started by around 2019. The central section to reach Cambridge still seems some way off, with a definite route still to be decided. The preferred routes are through Sandy or via Hitchin, perhaps with a new chord at Wilbury to join the Letchworth line.

London Buses for Finchley Road

We have some space to consider some road traffic for Finchley Road, and it won't be London without a London bus or two, will it?

If you want to know a lot more about the buses, have a look at londonbuses.co.uk - a fantastic piece of work in my view.

In 1959 Finchley Road was covered by both Central London (CL) and Green Line (GL) bus routes, as follows:

CL or GL	Route No	Route	Garage	Bus type
CL	2	Golders Green to Crystal Palace	Stockwell Cricklewood Cricklewood	RTL - 11 RT - 11 RM - 7
	2A	Golders Green - West Norwood	Stockwell	RTL - 23
	13	Golders Green - London Bridge	Hendon Peckham	RT - 22 RT - 10
	113	Edgware - Oxford Circus	Hendon	RT - 34
GL	712	Dorking to Luton	See notes	
	713	Dorking to Dunstable		
	716	Chertsey to Hitchin		
	716A	Woking to Stevenage		
	717	Woking to Welwyn		
	726	Romford to Whippsnade Zoo (summer only)		

We know from this that Finchley Road saw mostly RT and RTL buses, plus some newly introduced RM.

For the Green Line routes I've not managed to source any garage information as yet - does anyone in the club know where to look? - but the general notes I've seen say these routes were pretty much exclusively worked by RF coaches.

The RT

The original was built in 1938, the vehicle based around the AEC Regent chassis with bodies built by Park Royal and Weymann.
About 4,700 further examples followed.
Some of the early ones were built with roof boxes, but they were susceptible to tree damage apparently.



The RTL

The RT - but with a Leyland chassis. 2,100 built from 1948.
Bodies built by Park Royal and Metro Cammell, with the original and a handful of others provided with roof boxes as and when bodies were swapped.

The RM

The experimental RM1 was introduced in 1955, but the main production started in 1959 with a few allocated to Cricklewood which were used on route .



The 700 series were an eclectic mix of north-south routes, but seemingly almost exclusively used by Green Line RFs. This type was introduced in 1951.

NOTICE BOARD

Continued from No 10 - updated

- Oerlikon units -Not only do we have copies of a full set of 3 car underframe drawings from the HMRS, we have learned that London Road Models is (rumoured?) to be producing underframe parts to support its body etches. This is exceptionally good news, and we hope that roofs and bogies may be being considered too.

Continued from No 9 - updated

- 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. In tidying up we have donated an old baseboard to Jim - this is likely to be the embryonic test layout.

In addition to this I have a couple of boards with some OO code 100 track that would make up to 8' by 2' suitable-for-a-shunting-type layout. Let's see how things progress.....

Continued from No 9

- Question over availability of suitable stock for layouts should Bern or Alan B be unavailable. Suitable means of the right region, wheel profiles and back-to-backs and couplings that will enable the layout to operate smoothly.

To this I'll add the right period, loco crew, lamps and other details will all help lift the layout beyond a train set appearance. Then there's corridor connections, passengers, wagon loads.....

- Jim asks if there is any working plan for maintenance at shows (If it breaks, mend it?) I propose this is raised at a forthcoming discussion group
- Keeping our members involved as and when they can / want to be is vital to the club and should be on the discussion group agenda regularly. Equally, members are encouraged to speak up to join in

MEMBERS' MATTERS

Members' Matters invites you all for your contributions - any modelling subject, within reason!

Unfortunately a lack of contributions - and time - means we have no contribution this month.

I have been challenged to write something about my WW2 diorama, so that will follow in the next issue, plus I may finally write up something about my own layout progression.