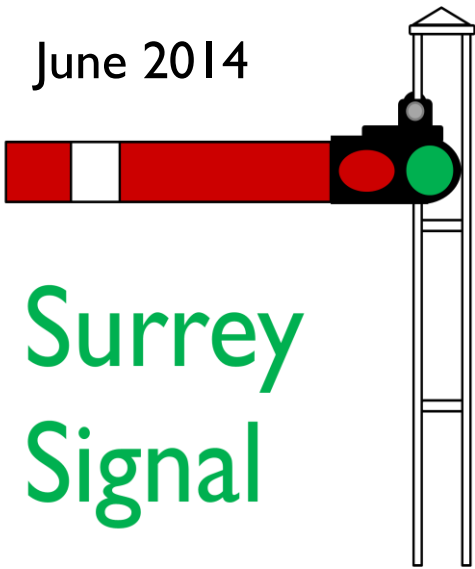


June 2014



An occasional newsletter
for the G1MRA Surrey Group

Guildford is coming

The first weekend of July is the Guildford MES rally, and we shall be running the Surrey Oval on both days. We have been invited to the 16mm Group barbeque on the Saturday evening (*please make sure you have told Adrian if you want to attend the BBQ: there is a small charge to cover food*).

You can get a sense of the scale of the event from the aerial photograph of the site above: I have marked the position of the Surrey Oval in red. Further information at www.gmes.org.uk/rally.

Initial setup for track levelling will be on Wednesday 2 July, starting at 10.00. Peter Jackman, Mike Hensor and Adrian Johnstone will be there for as long as it takes - if you'd like to come along and help please let Adrian know. We probably won't get as far as running anything that day, but we shall also meet on the afternoon of Friday 4 July for a full dry run.

The public are in from 10.00-17.00 both days, but in practice can start a little earlier so we shall be there from 09.00.

The track is now stored above the GMES workshop (see the green arrow on the picture) so at least we don't have too far to transport things... Extra hands would be very welcome at the end of the Sunday session to get everything knocked down.

Please encourage G1MRA members from other groups to come along and bring an engine. Boiler certificates will be required: Peter will have his test rig on Friday for last minute checks.

Trip to Graham Colover's

Graham Colover, the interim G1MRA chair, invited us over to his magnificent new track on June 1. About a dozen of us attended in very fine weather. The track has been rebuilt on a new site following flooding, and comprises a large double-track oval with a reverse curve and a large summer house built in the style of a Southern Art Deco station.



Michael Wrottesley ran this lovely, umm, French engine (class unknown to me since I am pretty ignorant, but I'm sure we shall now be told). It has a rather fascinating external valve gear which works.

Elizabeth ran her J38 with a full complement of 'chocolate' trucks. In spite of one high speed accident that sent some trucks flying, the engine ran beautifully. Adrian's engine failed with dodgy wicks...

Royal Holloway Garden Party



Many thanks to everybody who made the Garden Party afternoon at Royal Holloway on June 8 such a success. It was a much more gentle setup than the Science Festival in March, with all of the transport being on the level. It was pretty hot, so much so that the track on the back straight expanded and made a miniature roller coaster. The university was very pleased with our contribution.

Reading show

I'd never attended the Reading show but had heard good reports, so this year I trekked off into Berkshire. The show is run by the Association of Larger Scale Modellers (alsrm.org.uk/about) and featured Anglia Roads. Quite a few Surrey members were there. I met Peter Jackman almost as soon as I arrived, and he steered me to the Bring&Buy stall where a pristine Class 66 in blue Malcom DRS livery was on offer for £250. I snapped it up, even though my first love is small live steam tank engines.

I also spotted this rather nicely turned out electric B4, no doubt built from the Tenmille kit. I have a Playmobil chassis waiting to be turned into just such an engine.



A new demonstration engine



You might have noticed Dick Moger offering the above engine and coaches on the Gauge One Railways Yahoo Group for only £500. The idea was that he would sell to an appropriate owner - appropriate meaning somebody young who would get many years' benefit from it and thus enhance the hobby.

None of us is particularly young, but I am at least shameless, so I suggested to Dick that he let me buy it as a demonstrator engine which we could use to teach newcomers the art of firing an engine, without anybody worrying that their pride and joy might be damaged.

Dick agreed, and I popped over to Charing to do the transaction. We ran the engine at Graham's and at the Garden Party. The lubricator could do with some slight modifications, but it is a strong engine which makes a very satisfying chuff.

GIMRA Spring meeting at Shepshed, Loughborough

This bunch of GIMRA worthies were caught at feeding time...



Shepshed turned out to be a jolly good venue. A few traders were missing (such as Northern Finescale and Cliff Barker) but the Bring&Buy stall saw plenty of action. I picked up a Tenmille B4 platework kit (see Reading Show). Time to finally get proficient with the Resistance Soldering Unit I bought recently.

We went off to the Great Central afterwards, but it was absolutely solid with war-on-the-line attendees so we sadly headed south without the benefit of coal smoke.

Track painting and site prep



In preparation for the Guildford Rally, Peter was very keen to get a second coat of Sadolin on the tops of the boards. On Monday 23 June, he and Mike Hensor managed to ship all of the boards from the GMES loft to a local smallholding owned by Mike's friend Christian, who you might have met at Peter Howland's meeting in May.

The boards were set up in a polytunnel (see above) and painted all in a single day. All of the track location blocks were removed before painting.

On the Wednesday, Mike, Peter and Adrian shifted about 0.4 tonnes of bricks and slabs to Guildford which we are going to need to level the track. We then collected the boards, screwed all the blocks back on and did some experiments with five boards and a laser level.

It turns out that the track site drops two bricks in height across the width of the oval, and is roughly level lengthwise.

We plan to make 2x2 brick piers for each trestle leg down the back straight, and then pack the curves accordingly. Ian Russell has prepared a quantity of plywood packing pieces, and if all else fails there is a B&Q five minutes away from the site.

This is what £2,200 worth of track looks like...



Not a very big pile is it? The roll of stainless steel track sections is pretty heavy, as you can imagine. The boxes are full of sleeper units. Peter Jackman has specified gauge widened sleepers for the curves which in combination with our rather generous (for a portable) dimensions should allow very free running.

Sadly Cliff wasn't at Shepshed, so I drove over to Southend this weekend to collect the materials. Peter will take charge of them this week, and organise track laying activities as well as the construction of the 16 custom turnouts.

Our first goal is to have two basic ovals of track running in time for the AGM in October.

Of banks and constitutions

You'll recall that in order to cash in our grant from the G1MRA committee we needed a bank account; in order to have a bank account we needed a constitution; and in order to have a constitution we had an inaugural AGM at Peter Howland's in May.

Having received your unanimous mandate, Mike Bland leapt into action and after some pretty tiresome exchanges with the bank we do now have an account. We're extremely fortunate that Mike has agreed to look after the financial side of things; I certainly wouldn't have the patience.

Postscript

Alan England is at home and building up his strength - I took the demonstration engine round to show him and found him in good spirits.



SURREY G1MRA GROUP

2014 fixture list as of 1 July 2014
Surrey group meets second Tuesday afternoons
Please refer to your membership list for venues



Tue 14 Jan	Sutton MEC	13.00	
Tue 11 Feb	Ken Lowes	13.00	
Sat 15 Feb	Bacon Butty Bash, Durrington		
Sun 23 Feb	Surrey Oval dry run day		All day
Sat 1 Mar	Royal Holloway Science Festival		All day; setup Friday
Tue 18 Mar	Mike Bland	13.00	Note third Tuesday
Tue 8 Apr	Michael Wrottesley	13.00	
Sat 10 May	ALSRM show with Anglia Roads, Reading		
Tue 13 May	Peter Howland	14.00	
Sun 1 Jun	Graham Colover	14.00	
Sun 8 Jun	Royal Holloway Garden Party		Setup from 9.30; public 13.00-17.30
Tue 10 Jun	Ken Lowes	13.00	
Sat 14 Jun	G1MRA spring meeting, Shepshed near Loughborough		
Sat 28 Jun	Stonehenge Summer Solstice Sausage Sizzle, Andover		
Sat 5 Jul - Sun 6 Jul	G1MRA rally Guildford		Setup Friday; public all weekend
Tue 8 Jul	Mike Bland	14.00	
Sat 19 Jul	Bekonscot		
Tue 12 Aug	Bob Boorman	13.00	
Tue 9 Sep	Peter Jackman	13.00	
Tue 14 Oct	Peter Howland	14.00	
Sat 25 Oct	G1MRA AGM Woking		Setup from 8.00
Tue 11 Nov	Sutton MEC	13.00	
Tue 9 Dec	Bob Boorman	13.00	
Fri 12 Dec - Sun 14 Dec	Model Engineer Exhibition Esher; setup Thursday from 9.30		

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