

November 2005

Steaming Ahead



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BONFIRE NIGHT AND BOTH SANTA SPECIALS SOLD OUT

Following concerns about ticket sales for these events Carol Whitson used her contacts to arrange a press release to the two Sutton free papers. This resulted in a small article appearing in the Sutton Observer and by Saturday Night we had sold out for all events and now have waiting lists. A special thank you must go to Roger & Margaret Timings who spent most of Friday & Saturday dealing with the onslaught by both phone and the queue at the front door. **WELL DONE !!!!!**

Events This Month—November

TUESDAY 8th

7:30pm Wylde Green Library—
Keith Hale from Cup Alloys

SATURDAY 12th

6:00pm Bonfire Night at Balleny Green

TUESDAY 22nd

7:30pm Wylde Green Library—
Auction Night

Items can be donated to raise money for club funds or will be sold on a commission basis.

Club News in Brief:

- **Help** required at Bonfire night & Santa Specials. Volunteers please contact :-
George Weedon on 01543 275106

If you haven't spoken to George please do - we can all do something.

Working Parties

Saturday 12th November All day

Bonfire night preparations

Sunday Mornings & Tuesday Mornings

KEYS AT BALLENY GREEN

Would any member who removes keys from the clubhouse please ensure they are returned as soon as you have unlocked the utility you want access to.

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 4th December Santa Special

Sunday 11th December Santa Special

Tuesday 13th December Christmas Social at Wylde Green Library

This news letter will only work with your input

Tuesday 11th October

Silversmithing for the model engineer

by Geoff Nicolson

Despite very inclement weather we had a good turn out with 29 members and 1 visitor.

Geoff gave us a very entertaining evening as always our main problem is remembering all the tips he gave us.

I can't help feeling these events should be videoed and kept for us to refer back to in years to come, maybe an action replay will be required in a few months time.

Well done Geoff and thank you for stepping in at short notice, I hope Leamington were as entertained as we were.

Ed

Tuesday 25th October

Bits & Pieces

A very disappointing turnout only 16 members made the effort, a shame as it was a good night and we had some interesting items to talk about. It always fascinates me how we all have different ways of getting the same job done and the ingenuity that people put in to fixtures and jig to do some of these jobs.

Don't know what I am talking about well you should have come!!!

Attendances this low mean we are running at a loss and that can't go on. As Carol said **"vote with your feet turn up."**

Our youngest member James on his first solo run on the raised track



After demonstrating a natural talent for the controls of this 040 electric loco.

James later the same day proved just as competent on the ground level track and is mastering the signals better than some adults. He was later seen doing his bit toward the track laying with Granddad, a wheel barrow and a lot of ballast.

And guess who got to test the first Section of new track ?



This Months Quote

We do not stop playing because we grow old;

We grow old because we stop playing.

For Sale

Castings and loco frames for LBSC 3½ gauge Mabel LNWR 2-4-0

Bill Hall 01600 719 600

Drawing Board on a stand AO size or there about 30x40ish

Offers or a good home

Bill Hall 01600 719 600

A big thank you to all the wives, partners & girlfriends of the track working party for giving their other halves time out over two full weekends in October, without their cooperation this work could still have been on going.

Chris Green.

Copy dates for future news letters:-

Sunday 27th November for December

Tuesday 27th December for January

Tuesday 30th January for February

Tuesday 28th February for March

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Have you sent any comment or requests ????

SUTTON COLDFIELD MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

OCTOBER TUESDAY "HORT" TEAM AND LOTTERY APPLICATION NOTES

I'm writing this early October because of commitments later in the month, so please accept my apologies if events have overtaken some of the notes.

HORT NOTES

How the site has changed since last months report; Autumn is here and instead of lush green everywhere we are now beginning to see bare branches and 'leaves on the line'. Horse Chestnut trees are usually amongst the first to start changing colour but did you know there is now a new word in the English edition of the lexicon? Its '**momijigari**', the traditional Japanese custom of watching the changing colours of trees in the autumn.

Well, how do I follow that? --- I don't, its back to the usual I'm afraid. With the pressure on mowing easing we have been able to catch up with some of the annual work. All the hedges have been clipped and we have started tidying the banks near the bonfire and other areas ready for Bonfire Night and the Santa Specials. Due to problems with the lawn tractor, it was out of action for some three weeks, we were not able to collect all the rubbish. So our apologies for the site being a little untidy with piles of cuttings for a couple of weeks and only limited mowing completed.

We are gradually planting new trees, mainly young ones at this stage because of the cost. This month trees have been donated by John and Rosemary Hadley, including Chestnut, Acer and Oak. If you would like to donate a tree or trees please talk to me before bringing them to Balleny Green. Please note they should only be 'Old English' types; the last thing we need are more Silver Birch, Sycamore or Coniferous trees. Also, they should be

straight with a single stem, ones from garden centres usually have had the top removed to keep them low and make them bush early and are therefore, unsuitable.

HLF AWARDS FOR ALL

In last months report I told you that we were near to completing an application for a H(eritage) L(ottery) F(und) grant but I didn't say what that project was. Well it's the Carriage Project, which with help from Jim and information from Neal, Garry, Steve, Roger etc.; I completed the application and presented it to the Board on Tuesday 4th October. Jim decided to go on holiday instead of being present but I know it wasn't intentional --- was it Jim?????

One important aspect of the application was that the HLF require a referee. Obviously it's important the person we selected was someone who knows, understands and can argue the societies case if necessary. After discussion it was agreed that I should asked Mike Ballinger.

I've known Mike for some thirty years and other than being the senior partner at our accountants, he's also a longstanding rail enthusiast with a particular interest in light rail systems and has known the society since the days of Dick Pearce. For those reasons alone he should be able to represent us well in the event the HLF Awards for All has any questions and has to call on 'The Referee'. I took the application to him on Monday 3rd October and after reading the document he was happy to sign two copies, one for the HLF and the other for Neal Harrison our Company Secretary.

The application is made up of various questions, here are just two answers (you can work out the questions):-

"The building of new carriages and rebuilding completely those suitable (in current use) on the principle passenger carrying 7 1/4" gauge; a mix of open and closed carriages for use in various weather conditions. The project is necessary because of increased demand, to meet new Health and Safety

requirements and because, in the passed 15 years or so since the original carriages were built, people's weight and size has increased. These factors make new and completely rebuilt carriages, with improved braking systems, essential."

"The society members will be responsible for the research, design, purchasing of materials, construction/rebuilding, testing and the ultimate operation of the completed carriages. The Lottery Grant will enable the project to go ahead by meeting the financial shortfall otherwise the project would have to be planned over a very much longer period. A longer period would significantly add to the present costs and problems with the existing equipment, e.g. maintenance, capacity, meeting new and revised Health & Safety requirements etc."

The Board accepted the application as presented and it was posted to the HLF on 5th October.

Eric Davies

Tuesday Hort Team --- October 2005

SANTA SPECIAL

Well folks, its that time of year again, when I come begging. Yes it 's Santa time in a very few short weeks and I am asking, have you any items to donate for the tombola table, if so please get them to Balleny Green marked up for Betty **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PLEASE**.

The Tombolas usually bring in about £200 for the society, so you can see it is all very much appreciated. 1st Santa is 4th December.

BETTY WINCOTT

WELL DONE - NEW TRACK LAID IN TWO WEEKENDS

ITS NICE WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

After many months of hard work by **Dave Moseley** and his team, tooling and jigs were made, component purchased for bending rolls to be constructed, and tests carried out. A lot of this work being done on Sundays and Monday evenings and just as much work carried out in members own workshops in any free time they had. The end result was that by the last birthday party on the 9th October Dave and his team had bent and assembled all the track that was needed for the next three weekends work.

were originally planned.



FIRST SECTIONS DOWN

The existing track is a credit to those who laid it and it has served the club well, and they laid it without some of the resources we enjoy today.

Some parts of the old track had settled that much that there was no ballast under it.

But time has taken its toll

Look at the picture below.



FOR ANYONE WITH ANY DOUBTS ABOUT REPLACING THE TRACK THIS SECTION SHOWS A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN



It is a credit to the track building team that each panel went down as marked with only minor adjustment this was a major factor in how the laying team were able to proceed so quickly.



AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY

Garry Tyso who originally proposed the track replacement headed up the track laying team. Blessed with good weather and the efforts of all the members who made the effort to come and help, some staying both days, on both weekends some half a day or even a few hours, **all helped**. Without their commitment the job would not have been completed in the two weekends it took or even the three that



LAST SECTION DOWN

I should point out at this stage that there were a few members who were common to both teams a factor which aided consistency through the whole program. Well done to all members who helped in any way its nice to see so many members working as a team for the good of the society.