

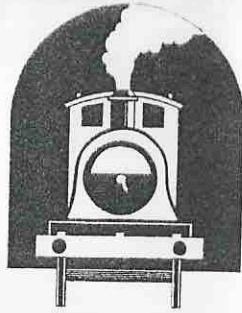
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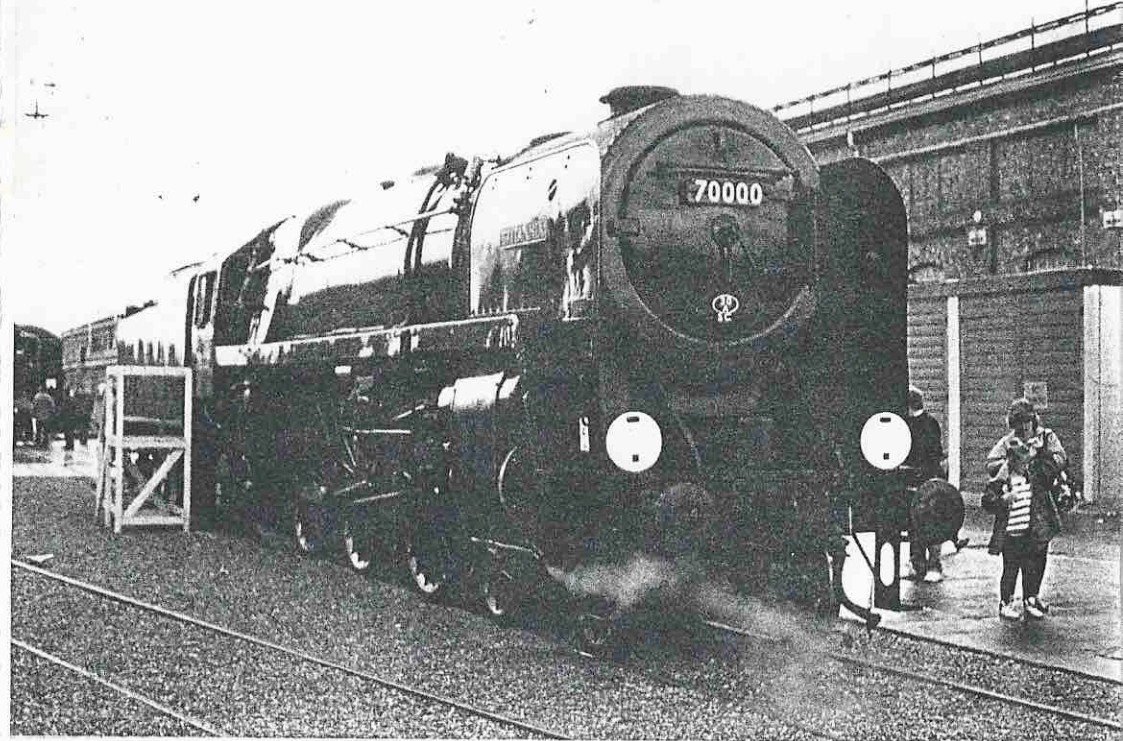
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## MILTON KEYNES MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY NEWS

No.21

December 1993



Britannia Pacific No. 70000 Britannia at the recent Wolverton Open Day

Published by Dennis Lovett, Chairman, Milton Keynes Model Railway Society  
c/o 4 Browning Crescent, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5AU.  
Telephone: 0908 376750.

QUIZ CORNER by SAGITTARIUSNEXT IN LINE

Who or what follows or followed the names in these groups?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. E Fletcher<br>A McDonnell<br>.....                                       | 7. J C Craven<br>W Stroudley<br>.....  |
| 2. King Henry III<br>King John<br>King Richard I<br>.....                   | 8. Longside<br>Newseat<br>Inverugie<br>.....   |
| 3. Honing<br>Stalham<br>Catfield<br>.....                                   | 9. Isambard Kingdom Brunel<br>Sir Daniel Gooch<br>.....  |
| 4. City of Carlisle<br>City of Lancaster<br>City of Stoke on Trent<br>..... | 10. Dorstone<br>Westbrook<br>Clifford<br>.....   |
| 5. S W Johnson<br>R M Deeley<br>.....                                       | 11. University of Surrey<br>The Romney, Hythe &<br>Dymchurch Railway<br>Kentish Mercury<br>..... |
| 6. Ashbury<br>Halwill Junction<br>Ashwater<br>.....                         | 12. Lord Roberts<br>Lord Kitchener<br>.....  |

All last month's names are to be found on BR class 60 locomotives.

Answers next month

## MILTON KEYNES MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY

The club was formed in 1969 and is an Associate Member of The Model Railway Club and a Member of The Chiltern Model Railway Association.

<b>President:</b> Jim Wood	<b>Secretary:</b> Chris Hughes	<b>Committee:</b> Geoff Bell
<b>Vice President:</b> Les Wood	<b>Treasurer:</b> Gordon Etherington	Fred Collins
<b>Chairman:</b> Dennis Lovett	<b>CMRA Rep:</b> Eric Bowman	Colin Catley
	<b>Librarian:</b> Mark Wilson	Chris Garner

## BACK TO NORMAL

Due to publication timescales and work pressures this edition of MKMRS NEWS was produced before the exhibition had taken place. Final results will not be known for some weeks although we will have outline predictions by the time you read this.

There has been a lot of talk recently about exhibitions and much effort had to be put in by the Exhibition Manager and his team. I know from my own involvement that I was getting to the point where the exhibition was beginning to dominate large chunks of my life. The poor Exhibition Manager suffers even more!

I am often asked why we do not have Exhibitions every year. The answer is simple - we do not have the time or resources to organise it every year. We are better to organise a big, quality bi-annual exhibition rather than a small, tatty annual one! We are a general model railway club working in a variety of scales and catering from all tastes from the tinplate era to scratchbuilt excellence. We are not one of the growing number of clubs who organises an exhibition in a neighbouring town every couple of months and I trust we never will be. There is more to running an exhibition than raising money. There is more to club life than organising exhibitions!!!

With the exhibition behind us we can now get back to normality and enjoy an exhibition free year. The N gauge team have done well to meet their exhibition commitment and we at last have a new layout to use at other peoples exhibitions. We now need to continue progress on the O and EM layouts, although the latter is a long term construction project. We also need to continue the work on premises and give much needed attention to our toilet facility.

Whilst most of us return to normal club life the Exhibition Manager will be tying up the loose ends of the 11th Exhibition and laying down the foundations for the 12th. There is no room or time for boredom in MKMRS.



Dennis Lovett  
Chairman

## Club Notices

## WELCOME

Welcome to the new members who have recently joined us. We hope you will find plenty to interest you and that you will soon feel at home.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- 30 Nov Industrial Railways (illustrated), Phil Gilbert  
 21 Dec Christmas Quiz Night. Come along for a mince pie and our seasonal evening of friendly team competition.  
 25 Jan AGM/Competition  
 22 Feb Illustrated talk by Les Wood.

## NOVEMBER EXHIBITIONS

- 6 Dunstable  
 13/14 Hampton Court, Banbury, Scale Modelling, (Castle Donnington), Basingstoke  
 20 Oxford, Kettering, Railex (Aylesbury)  
 20/21 Watford, Ipswich  
 27 ExpoEm South (Christchurch), Royston, High Wycombe, West Sussex N Gauge (Horsham)  
 3/5 Dec Manchester

## OXFORD &amp; CAMBRIDGE

A slide show is taking place on Thursday 11 November at 7.30pm at Freeman Memorial Church Hall in Buckingham Road, Bletchley. The event is being organised by the Oxon & Bucks Rail Action Committee (OBRAC) and will also include a presentation on the Railway & Bletchley. Admission is 50p. Details Chris Wright MK 502473.

## HISTORICAL MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Historical Model Railway Society will meet at our club room on Wednesday 24 November when a "Modelling Workshop" will be held. MKMRS members are welcome to attend free of charge. Further information from Eric Bowman. Meetings commence at 7.30pm.

## BRITAINS RAILWAY

The 12 projector slide spectacular by Colin Garratt is being shown at the Open University on the evening of Saturday 13 November. Look out for publicity on where to get tickets. Highly recommended state of the art presentation on the current railway scene, before it changes for good (or bad) next April!!

## DECEMBER SWAPMEET

The next swapmeet will take place at Woughton Campus on Sunday 12 December from 1100 - 1530. Admission is 60p adult and 30p children/senior citizens.

## In the beginning (Part 19)

At the February Committee meeting it was reported that work was progressing on the club N gauge project and that it remained on target to appear at our club exhibition at the end of October. For the record it made it, but a lot of problems were encountered and the project was eventually scrapped. It was our one and only involvement in N gauge until the start of the Mandlebury project in 1991.

At the March meeting it was announced that the Verney Junction team would commence work on Thursday evenings in addition to Tuesdays. Work was continuing on the new O gauge (Alverton) layout and John Symons requested assistance with building a goods shed based on Highworth/Culmstock for the branchline terminus. The Club Dinner was held at Cosgrove Hall on 16 March and was organised by Fred Collins. The LNER Study Group used our club room for its meeting on 23 March. Colin Stacey entertained us with steam slides on 26 March, whilst on 30 March, Dave Fearn's Watlington layout attended the East Beds Exhibition at Biggleswade and the old O (Ayot) layout attended Leamington Spa.

At the April committee meeting, Secretary Dennis Lovett gave notice that due to his involvement in organising the 1986 Cannon Street Exhibition for British Rail Southern Region, that it would be necessary for him to resign from office at the January 1986 AGM. The announcement was made in plenty of time to find a suitable replacement and ensure a smooth changeover. Following the QGM on 30 April, Gordon Eckersley showed a selection of railway videos.

The May committee meeting heard that locomotives had been test run on the new N gauge layout. There were however major problems when a train was attached and due to the severity of the gradients, trains uncoupled and ran back down the hill!! Work was also progressing on Verney Junctions refurbishment and George Barratt was upgrading the electrical system. It was reported that the outing planned for 2 June 1985 had been cancelled due to lack of interest and that an alternative trip to the Mid-Hants Railway was being evaluated.

At the June committee meeting, Editor Mike Thomas regretted that he had no suitable material for the next edition of The Link and publication would have to be delayed as a result. Work was progressing well on the October exhibition, although John Symons was unsure that the new O gauge (Alverton) layout would be ready in time to make its debut at the BR Open Day at Wolverton planned for August 17. Verney Junction was also being worked on for the same event and Chris Hughes reported that space was now requested in the main club room so that work could continue once the layout had been erected.

Over 40 members attended the outing to the Mid-Hants Railway (Watercress Line) held on the 7 July which had been organised by Gordon Etherington. The event had proved very successful.

At the July committee meeting it was agreed that work on the new O gauge (Alverton) layout should not be rushed for Wolverton and that Les Wood and Gordon Eckersley would exhibit their joint O gauge line as a replacement.

/to be continued.

## Profile

Doug Moorcroft (Honourary Member, MKMRS)

Doug Moorcroft was born in Chester in September 1929. His father was a well known local builder and contractor. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1947 and saw service in Germany, Korea (the forgotten war), Cyprus and Malaya. He left the Army in 1959 after 12 years service. After marriage to Grace he entered the hotel and catering business and they continue to run Crown Lodge in Taunton.

Doug came into railway modelling later in life than most. He was one of a family of 13 and that gave him little chance of owning any railway items, let alone a trainset!

In 1975 Doug joined the Gauge O Guild and that gave him the chance to get involved with model railways at last. In 1979 he held his first Guild meeting in Taunton and was shocked to find that there was no way that the hire of the hall or the cost of transporting the MRC test tracks could be covered from central Guild funds. He charged all present 25p, the first time such a thing had happened and this set the formula which continues to this day with Guild organised events.

In January 1980, Doug formed the Somerset O Gauge Group and built a test track. Shortly afterwards he met Roy Turner who signed him up for the Gauge O Guild committee to organise meetings and events. Within a short time Doug had become the Events and Exhibition Manager. Doug modestly leaves it at that, but it was he who took the Guild September Event into the big time and Bletchley Leisure Centre. Now it is too small and Telford has taken over! During this time he had also built a alyout 100' x 2'6" called Grace Road, which he shunted around various venues. On one occasion he found himself at an exhibition in Truro where a club from Milton Keynes were exhibiting one of their O gauge layouts. A couple of them, Messrs. Daly and Eckersley were looking a little unemployed so were borrowed to assist Doug from time to time. Over the next couple of days they despatched more flaggons of cider than trains and felt they had by far the best of the deal, until Doug made them pack the layout up and cart it down the stairs into his van. It was the start of Doug's relationship with MKMRS!

Doug heard about our hall and that was it. Gordon Eckersley was the Guild Trade Liason Officer at the time and from then on Bletchley Leisure Centre was more than a local model railway exhibition venue. Since then others have found it. Doug has always been grateful for the assistance we gave him during the Guilds Bletchley days even when he was feeling tired and emotional. In recognition of our mutual friendship, MKMRS invited Doug to become a honorary member, something he is very proud of. Since then Doug has formed the Crown 7 Society and is now active within Gauge 1 with The Gauge One Development Society.

Deep in Somerset, Doug can be found beating the drum for the hobby, persuading others to join in and doing his bit for his friends in Milton Keynes.

Another victim next month.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the requirements of the club rules, I am giving in excess of the 21 days notice needed, to notify you that the Annual General Meeting of Milton Keynes Model Railway Society will take place on  
**Tuesday 25 January 1994** commencing at 8pm.

The nomination form for club officers and committee positions will be circulated in due course and will be available in mid - December. Further copies will be available in the club room and should be completed before the AGM commences and handed to myself before the start of the meeting.

Chris Hughes

Secretary

October 15th 1993

## Competition Rules

As usual the club modelling competition will be run in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, so finish of your projects in good time.

The classes of competition will be as follows;

- 4mm or less Scratchbuilt locomotive (For G Barratt Memorial Trophy)
- 7mm or more Scratchbuilt locomotive (For T. Wilson Trophy)
- 2mm or less kit/modified R.T.R. locomotive (For P & D Marsh Trophy)
  - 4mm or less kit/modified R.T.R. locomotive
  - 7mm or more kit/modified R.T.R. locomotive
- 4mm or less Scratchbuilt rolling stock
- 7mm or more Scratchbuilt rolling stock (For The Moorcroft Shield)
- Scenic items (to any scale) (For Rail Trophy)

The rules of the competition state that:

1. No entry shall have been entered in a previous club competition
2. The person entering shall be a paid up member of the club at the time of entry.

C. Hughes, Secretary.

A NEW RAILWAY FOR MILTON QUAY(S) or 'EM is that a slug on the line!

By Chris Lester

Firstly I thought I ought to explain the opening title. This is a work in progress type of report on the latest MKMRS 4mm scale project, which has a working name (and possibly a final one) of Milton Quay - and yes the pun is intended. We can thank Eric Bowman for that one! We feel that the name does suggest the location and type of layout quite well. The layout we have been building for the past couple of years is a quayside terminus station with associated facilities, whilst incorporating the name of the club. The second part of the title might need some explaining too. Whilst many club members model in 4mm/00 scale, we decided to go a little more finescale and model the layout to EM gauge. This was strange as no one in the team was modelling EM at the time! Unlike P4, EM does not call for compensated chassis. EM stands for Eighteen millimetres which causes further confusion as we are working to 18.2 the EM Gauge Society standard!

Most ready to run or kitbuilt rolling stock can be easily converted by dropping in EM gauge wheelsets. These are made by Jackson/Romford, Kean/Maygib and Gibson to name but three. Locomotives are a little more difficult. If you have locomotives with Romford wheels in them you can swap their OO axles for EM ones quite easily. Diesel locomotives are quite straight forward too. Ultrascale make replacements for Hornby and Lima locomotives. This brings me to 'slug'. We are planning to base the layout on the ex London & South Western system in BR Southern Region days in the 1950's. The layout has been influenced by Southampton Docks and Weymouth Harbour and it would have been possible, by extending the date a little, to see Class 33 diesels working (BR & CW Type 2's). Back in the early 70's when I first taking photographs, my father took me to Reading General Station, which was close to where we lived, to try my camera out. I had gradually stopped taking pictures for numbers and I saw several Class 33's either working on the old South Eastern line into Reading or on the Berks & Hants line where they worked through trains from the North to Bournemouth, Poole etc. These trains reversed at Reading and as a result were affectionately known as 'slugs' by local trainspotters. This was probably a corruption of the Sulzer engines that powered them. All this explains why we are using an EM converted Class 33 to test the trackwork and electrics on the parts of the layout so far. This amounts to the inset trackwork on the quayside section. The track is scratchbuilt on copperclad sleepers and has its own control panel which is more or less complete. We can now run trains on this part of the layout. We are hoping to use the Alex Jackson coupling and their associated electro magnet uncoupling devices which have also been installed on this part of the layout. We can now practice our shunting.

The completed layout consists of six 5'6" x 2'6" baseboards, giving a total length of 33'. We shall be shortly moving it all downstairs where we can erect all six boards together after the excitement of our exhibition has died down! This will enable us to start work on phase 2 the passenger quayside section. We are hoping to use C & L trackwork components, so any volunteers for helping to make the 20 odd points for this phase will be more than welcome! There is plenty more work to be done, but by working in phases and getting one bit working before we start the next, we hope to reduce the problems one normally associates with a major project such as this. We would also welcome assistance with buildings and scenery and a warm welcome awaits all those of you who are keen to help. Make yourself known to one of the group which includes Eric Bowman, Bernard Worden, Tim Davey, Colin Catley, Phil Gilbert and myself. Our long term aspirations include getting the Secretary to build some bridges and the Chairman to start putting EM wheelsets in his Class 47!

MKMRS - EM GAUGE LAYOUT

