

Hampshire area Garden Railway Group

(incorporating the Hampshire area of the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers, and the Southdown Railway Co.)

Associate members of Fareham & District Model Railway Club



August 2009

Hello yet again,

Well, I still haven't run a train, unless you can count pushing the new Pickerings around part of the line to check clearances. I have made real progress on my dual gauge points though, having completed both of them now. I now have very little excuse for getting the dual gauge section of my railway laid, as my mark 3 railbender now works a treat, being 4 times as strong as the mark 1, which it needed to be, considering the rigid Accucraft rail.



I mentioned last time that all my Sierra Leone stuff is now at Locomotion at Shildon. Paul has sent a photo of some of it on display there, which was reassuring for me, as the museum curator has still not even acknowledged receipt of them, and considering their value, that's a worry.

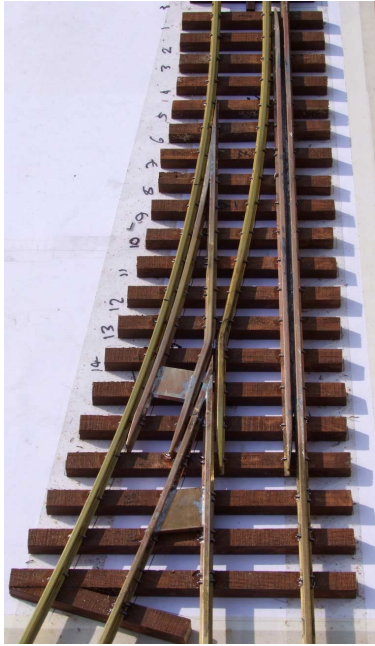
Another of my photos is "not letting Geoff off the hook" as it is a pic of the very same device I showed last time, but modelled in 7 ¼ inch gauge! I also have one pic especially for David, as its a part built gas turbine loco in a somewhat larger scale than ours... I'm not trying to give you any ideas David (well, not much, anyway!)

I completely failed to get to David and Susan's open day on 19th July, but I have received a few photos of it, and one of them is shown below.

Bob Petch reminds us it is his open day on 31st August, the (very) late bank holiday. I am determined I am going to get to someone's open day this year, and Bob and Susan's will probably be it! A flyer for this is attached to this newsletter, as is a copy of a "for sale" list from Rod Blakeman. Rod's collection of exquisite Regner stuff he has built is growing, so understandably he is wishing to sell at a decent price, some of his little used, and very well maintained 1:20.3 and Gauge 1 stock. I know one of numbers seems to have ideas about one of the locos, but we are under strict instructions not to let his domestic management know of this idea. The right hand header picture above is of Rod's latest completion, a TSSD Mallet (I'm sure

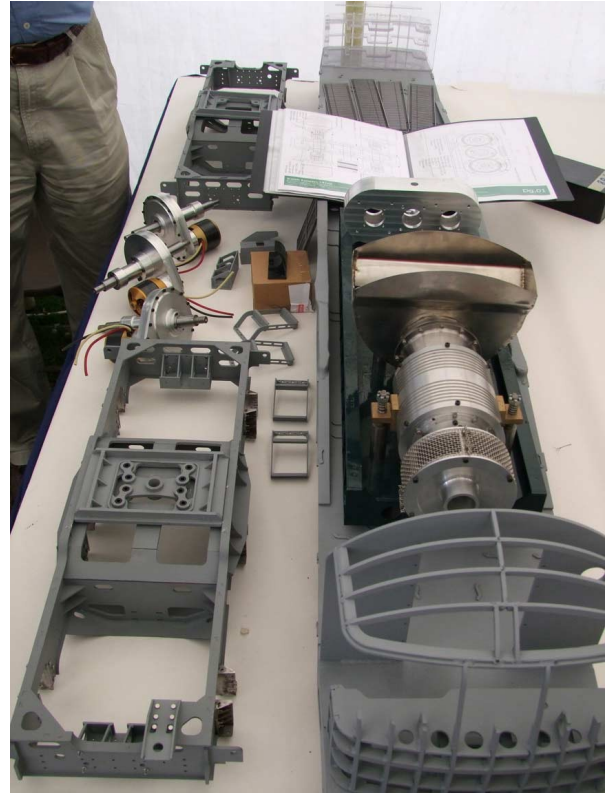


its a Mallet, suddenly I'm doubting myself here... well, it articulates, anyway!) loco, built and somewhat modified from a Regner kit



Don't forget the list of Tony Lee's open days mentioned before, and also the Reading area open days, and the G scale society's open days as well. Further details from me, by email or 023 9226 3462.

I will not be at this coming Friday's meeting, as I will be a fair distance away, and the Great Garratt gathering, at MOSI, Manchester. I was hoping to eventually meet Col. Steve Davies, who supplied me with all my Sierra Leone photos, but like another museum curator, he hasn't answered his email... (what is it about Museum chaps?)



On our following meeting, I will just have returned from another long weekend away, this time to the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, to their annual Gala, where we have tickets to travel in the newly refurbished first class Sierra Leone coach, with its cream leather armchairs... It will be my last opportunity to see no85 hauling a proper Sierra Leone train, as her boiler ticket runs out next April. I will of course make a visit up to the model show there as well, as apart from the temptations offered by certain retailers, rumour has it there may be a special guest on Southdown, which is running there.

As regards actually getting on with modelling activities, I know Paul has been converting one of small battery locos to use a Li-Po pack, meaning it can fit inside the loco, rather than in a trailing car. I've been point building (see above), and Rod has been TSSD building, and various other things too complex to grasp! I dread to think what David has been up to... I'd like to think that Pete W has been reassembling something, as I'd love to see it intact, running round my garden, but I have a feeling I'm in for a disappointment. Go on, prove me wrong, Pete! I need to get on with bridge designing and building, once that damn elusive bricklayer has done his bit. The bricks have been stacked there ready, since May... Someone else must have been doing something, surely? Do let me know, its stops me rattling on about what I've been doing, and there's a limit to what you can say about grinding point blades.

For those visiting our Portchester venue, please remember what I said last time about parking in the car park, not the road. For those who have not visited there, and wish to, feel free to contact me preferably by email, or by phone, for the precise location (its at the Eastern extremity of Harbour View).

william.bickers-jones@ntlworld.com

PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 14th August, 11th September, 9th October etc., on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm.

Details of Southdown's show attendances are here: <http://www.cslr.co.uk/southdownshows.htm>

Thanks to Paul Betts for hosting that information.