



The Official Newsletter of The Bedford Model Engineering Society

*The* **Coupling**

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Summerfields  
Railway Miniature  
21 YEARS  
1993-2014

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### EDITORIAL

We are now well into the running season which has seen some quite variable weather. It seems that lately the weekdays have been fine and hot whereas Sundays have been spoiled by a few rain showers. However, the public do not seem to mind so mostly we have been kept fairly busy. With the fine weather the picnic areas both at Haynes End and Hammer Hill have been well used and appreciated by families.

There have been two excellent events organised by members for both us and visitors to enjoy. Firstly our annual Traction Engine Rally run by Stephen Lee and then the revised Small Loco Rally run by Huw Williams. BMES thanks them for their hard work on behalf of our club.

A visit by a preschool group was also a great day. Large numbers of young children and their families arrived around 11am and spent the next 4 hours enjoying train rides, games on the field and family picnics.

Over the next couple of weeks we have the annual Mencap visits which are always enjoyed by those who are less able than others. Anyone who can help run these days will be most welcome. The busiest day is Thursday 7th August .

The annual visitor weekend is nearly here and Matt and Gilly need to know your meal requirements as soon as possible. If you cannot make the evening then call in on any of the days and enjoy a chat with our guests from other clubs. If nothing else, you can always put the world to rights. Whatever you do have fun and enjoy the summer.

Tony Bullock

## DIAMOND WEDDING INVITATION

Betty and Malcolm Freestone will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding on Thursday 14th. August. They will be delighted if club members will join them to celebrate this occasion at the club on Saturday 16th. August at 15:00 hours. It is hoped that the weather will be as kind on this day as it was for their Golden Wedding 10 years ago.

Malcolm Freestone

# BMES 21ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday 10th August, BMES are celebrating being on the current site for 21 years, with a party and club running day. The details are currently being finalised and an invitation will be sent out shortly. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

## **LETTER TO THE CLUB**

Dear Huw Williams, Alan Beard and Members

We would just like to thank you all very much for making my husband and I and my cousins from New Zealand most welcome at your small loco day on Sunday 29th June. Everyone was so friendly and helpful and we felt privileged to see the Club members and their engines working on a non-public day. The rides that we had behind the LNER 3005 and S & L.R.R. Squamish & Lillooet engines were certainly highlights and it was interesting to see behind the scenes in the container storage and work sheds and the signal box. We were also impressed by the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the younger members who, hopefully, will continue to contribute to the Club and Summerfields Railways

We look forward to returning on a public open day in the future.

Yours sincerely

Dave and Jen Waller and Alison and Cyril Fifield  
Wootton Christchurch  
Bedford New Zealand

## **FROM THE JAWS OF THE VICE**

At our club night meeting in July we had a most interesting presentation about the Leighton Buzzard Railway. This railway is a little larger than our own but is a near neighbour. Some members have expressed an interest in making a private visit there some time. Exactly when and how is for future discussion between the two societies. However, this will be complete waste of time if there is no commitment from our own members. To this end, if you are interested in this please let me know and if there are enough people we will see what can be arranged.

Andy Warren

## COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE

1. Talk to Andy Warren reference Leighton Buzzard
  2. Send your Visitors' Rally Booking Form off today if not done so.
  3. Contact Malcolm Freestone to tell him you will be at their anniversary.
  4. Speak to Peter Wilton about your stationary engines.
  5. Offer to help at the Visitors' Rally.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS**

May Meeting

Loch Treig is in need of other major work so if Dick Billington, ML & MC can do a quick fix on the present problems then we can have four or five months running and this was approved along with withdrawing the locomotive from running in October to give more time for the next work to be completed.

The brochure is on hold with better photos still needed but Secondhand Alley has agreed to having an advert. In addition one side of the events inserts will also be an advert. The photo of the workshop will be removed and replaced by explanatory text. Alan B reported that after Sunday's running the toilets were left open with the lights on, field entrance cones not replaced, fuel and water tower cupboards open. It was said that after a day's running members were tired and locking up did not matter but Peter said he would add to the rota sheet the role lock up person and if the regulars took it in turns they would only have to do it a maximum of twice in a year.

## COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS (Continued)

Problems remain with Barclays' handling of the transfer from David to Peter. A letter has been received from Companies House claiming that the submitted accounts do not balance. PC has identified the error and will deal with the matter.

The daily roster of members for running days was proving effective.

The battery charging box will be moved as discussed at the April meeting with only SO objecting.

The RSC will be asked to widen awareness of faults so that more members have the opportunity of helping. Funding will be on a job by job basis. Martin made the point that not enough members are taking part and an appeal will be made in the next newsletter. Mark undertook to compile a job list.

Charlatan has its new gears and work is progressing.

There is a shortage of rolling stock with a need for new wide bodied sit-in wagons identified. If bogies are purchased it will be expensive and it was thought that they could be made by members. Alan B will seek suitable working drawings.

There is a problem with the storage of locos on 2-day weekends but no immediate solution appears possible.

The matching of locos to wagons needs to be further defined. Mark would like a set of matching wagons for Lewis.

Peter made the point that on busy weekends the route followed by trains should be kept as simple as possible with no permitted deviations. There was complete agreement with this and it will be enforced for the remainder of the season. The occasional appearance of scale goods trains was applauded and will be encouraged although it was appreciated that on busy days they could only be on static display.

Signalling at Springfield is being planned by GM. Detailed planning and costing will be necessary before major work is done but some expense was expected during development.

A catering report was accepted without further discussion other than thanking buffet staff for their efforts.

Following comments on the unattractive appearance of the rubbish bin in its present location it will in future be placed in the compound and brought out on alternate Tuesdays when emptying occurs.

Further to the discussions that had taken place during the evening Peter asked all committee members to produce a list of what maintenance work is required within their area and add, if necessary, a wish list of things to be done. This should be done by involving the general membership who turn up on a regular basis so that the Committee can set about prioritising the work.

### **June Meeting**

The Balance sheet is still not reconciled but getting closer. Expenses are matching income. Peter would like to have a bigger reserve at the year end. A major expense has been fencing and the new picnic tables.

Catering sales continue fairly well although light traffic on recent running days has meant lower sales. The last event left a small amount of wastage. Toys also continue to sell and some of the low cost items are running low.

**Gordon M** gave a detailed description of his proposed signalling scheme for the crossovers between the three circuits at Springfield. He was able to clarify points when questioned and will incorporate suggestions before asking for committee approval.

The sum of £200 was agreed to further the development of the project.

A Wish List prepared by Peter had been circulated and he invited members to comment on it and add further items.

Health & Safety – accident report 8/6/14. A child, despite being told by the driver John Harrison to keep still, managed to cause a derailment on the raised track. Mother and child not injured, no damage to track or rolling stock.

Traction Engine Rally (20-22 Jun) Steve Lee will have overall control of the event.

Small Loco Rally. The shuttle service will use the J1 loco. Huw has requested some form of permanent shading at Winterfield for when the weather is warm and bright.

Visitors' Rally. Supply of beer and drinks is in hand and Gilly will obtain the necessary licence. Mark has organised publicity through his use of Facebook. Gilly asked that as there could be many people staying overnight could an alarm be set up in case of fire?

7½" Society AGM 2016. Members were asked to think of the pros and cons of organising the event ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Further detail will be requested from the Society.

Dick had made a case for the construction of a workshop in the immediate future to enable restoration of Loch Treig and easier maintenance of rolling stock. This was not considered to be feasible but Alan B offered the use of his workshop to enable Loch Treig to have an early return to service. Accepted.

On the Wish List was revarnishing of the exterior of the Clubhouse. Alan B will undertake the work using the same material as before.

## PRESIDENT'S PATTER

### **TRACTION ENGINE RALLY**

Again Steve has organised an excellent day and we were blessed with reasonable weather. I walked around chatting to many of those present and enjoyed a blast on Richard Shepherds latest design, the little tractor. I drove this small beast and having just spent two months slaving over the repair of a hot steam loco I offered to swap LT for four little red electric tractors-----.

Seriously, all those I talked to were enjoying themselves and the rally was very enjoyable

*Dick Billington*

## **SMALL LOCO RALLY**

This rally was organised by Huw Williams and others. It took place on the Winterfield section of our railways and whilst not blessed with terrific weather it was very enjoyable. With the help and assistance of Tom and Mark I was able to bring and run my little American loco and its coaches for the first time in over a year. It was in steam for six and a half hours and driven by many. I had to go and sneak it back at one point. There was a 2½ inch gauge Royal Scot flying around the raised track and many visiting five inch locos on the ground level track.

Whilst the raised track 5", 3½" and 2½" tracks ran OK the ground level 7¼" and 5" track only suited the 7¼" locos as many of the visiting 5" locos derailed on our points.

*Dick Billington*

### **BEDFORD MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Visitor Rally Weekend 29 -31 August**

We are again organising the visitors' rally weekend and whilst we have a small dedicated team to assist us, we are looking for club members to help out over the weekend. If you could spare an hour or two to help with the following jobs it would be greatly appreciated.

1. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, help with the orders and to fill the rolls
2. Making and serving the visitors' lunches on Saturday and Sunday
3. Running the bar on Friday and Saturday nights
4. Selling raffle tickets on Saturday night at the meal
5. Extra hands to look after our visitors
6. General help tidying up of mugs etc. after the evening entertainment in the clubhouse.

If you can help, please let us know, even if you can only do, one day, an hour or two. We have a very successful rally and our visitors enjoy the friendly atmosphere that is created. Let's make this a year to remember.

I am sure you understand the need for the request, and your help is appreciated.

Thank you,

*Gilly & Mat Rainer*

*BMES Visitor Rally Organisers*

#### **Caravan & Camping Information**

The number of electric hook ups for caravans, mobile homes and tents is very limited and to enable as many as possible to access the electricity supply we need to limit the usage. Please only use the electric power supply to run fridges, lights and caravan/camping kettles. Please do not use for TVs, water heaters, microwaves, domestic kettles etc. as this will cause the system to overload and the circuit breaker to trip.

I am sure you understand the need for the request, and your help is appreciated.

*Thank you, BMES Rally Organisers*

#### **A PLEA FROM A MEMBER**

The club has about 150 members at present, but the majority of the work on site and staffing on running days is carried out by very few members. The club now has some fantastic facilities, such as the clubhouse, the station canopy a Summerfields and the refurbished station at Winterfield, an ongoing project.

There is a constant requirement for maintenance, grass cutting and general tidying up, as well as more projects in the pipeline.

Members meet on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings starting at about 10.00am. If you can spare a few hours on either of these days then you will be very welcome and there is always a cup of tea or coffee to kick start proceedings.

Your club needs you!!

#### **LOCH TREIG.**

At the locomotive boiler test day in March the Society steam loco Loch Treig failed badly its steam test due to severe corrosion of the backhead fittings. The cause of this corrosion is unknown, but was sufficient for a decision to be made to replace most of the fittings. At the same time it was decided to incorporate a valve for an additional injector to enable the existing layout of one injector, one axle pump and a hand pump with a modern arrangement of two injectors. This required modifications to both the loco and its tender. It was also decided that due to the general grotty appearance of the loco we will rebuild and repaint the loco

This decision was later reversed and it was decided that the repairs and modifications to the backhead would be done but the tender mods and rebuild/repaint would take place over the coming winter, thus allowing Loch Treig to run in service for the remainder of the season.

Loch Treig has now completed two public running days and appears to be going well. The new backhead layout met with approval and most who drove the loco are looking forward to the completion of the modifications.

This rebuild to the backhead occurred between mid April and mid June using a specially built support frame in the dirty workshop. The loco was successfully passed for service just before the last running day in June.

It became very apparent during the modification that the dirty workshop was totally unsuitable for loco build tasks, grinding sparks in the face at the same time as the build of delicate pipes. The work loading in the new workshop was also observed to be heavy and not suitable for the loco rebuild.

At committee it was agreed that the overwinter rebuild of Loch Treig would take place in Alan Beard's workshop whilst the provision of a new workshop solely for loco and coach maintenance would be investigated by the committee

*Dick Billington*

#### JUNE BOILER TEST

Towards the end of June a specific Wednesday was laid on for the testing of Loch Treig which was conducted successfully. On that day we conducted tests on six locomotives, four of which passed both their hydraulic and steam tests. Two others passed their hydraulic tests. This was an excellent day both weatherwise and enjoyment for all concerned. Unfortunately it did show up our test pump as becoming very tired; it has been in use by BMES for around fifty years and we are investigating the purchase of a replacement. Suggestions have been made that we look at commercial pumps sold for the testing of underfloor heating and water based solar panels. If anyone has ideas, or can assist with such a pump in good condition will you please contact me.

*Dick Billington*

#### SMALL LOCO RALLY

The time had come when the Society decided to revive the Small Loco Rally. This was held at Hammer Hill and it all took place at the top without the need to run down to Haynes End apart from the occasional comfort train. Our weather was its usual unpredictable self and was mostly overcast with a couple of showers. Tea, coffee and soft drinks were provided for all and were available throughout the day. Several of our members arrived to enjoy the day and they were joined by some visitors from Royston and a couple from Bedford who brought along their friends from New Zealand. Cyril Fifield had built locomotives in New Zealand and was keen to show off photographs of his work. Various locos, including a 2½", were soon using both Winterfield and Springfield tracks.

For people who run on garden lines the Bedfordshire Area Group, Papplewick Green, brought along their 16mm layout which was set up under the station canopy of Hammer Hill station. This just fitted, kept it sheltered from the odd shower and was in use all day.

Despite the weather a good day was had by all. My thanks to all who helped make the day a success.

*Huw Williams*

#### CLUB EVENTS

##### **August**

Wednesday 6th.	School Holiday Running	Monday 18th.	Committee Meeting
Sunday 10th.	Site 21st. Birthday Celebration	Sunday 24th.	Bank Holiday Public Running
Wednesday 13th.	School Holiday Running	Monday 25th.	Bank Holiday Public Running
Saturday 16th.	Diamond Wedding Invitation—Freestone Family	29th.—31st.	Visitors' Rally Weekend, Pub. Running Sunday.

##### **September**

Monday 8th	Items of interest	Monday 15th.	Committee Meeting
Sunday 14th.	Club Running	Sunday 21st.	Public Running

##### **October**

Monday 7th.	Club Night	November	
Sunday 19th.	Public Running—last of the season.	Monday 10th.	Club Night
Monday 20th.	Committee Meeting	Monday 17th.	Committee Meeting

## MONDAY EVENING MEETINGS

### August

No meeting as the second Monday is the day after the club running day.

### 8<sup>th</sup> September

The evening will be an opportunity for members to bring along “items of interest”. The program does say “Bring along an item of interest from your workshop” but in order to broaden the scope please bring anything of interest. Personally I will be bringing several items from the workshop including a Clockmaker’s Screw Plate in the hope that someone can show me how to use it. Also a Victorian medical appliance !!.

See you there.

*John Parmenter*

### FOR SALE

70 feet of multi-gauge steel raised track in a straight run of 2½", 3½" and 5" gauges in 10 sections with concrete block supports. The assembled track is approx 17" to the top of the rail. Makes a good home test track. Needs some minor refurbishment. £100 and collection only!

Roger Mills 01767 680160 or 07702 606796

I am clearing some Model Engineering parts and literature and wondered if the Society would be interested. I am not looking for any money, but if the parts would help members of the society so much the better. There are bound copies of the Model Engineer (around 1970-5), castings for various models and small boiler sets made by my father. Various tools and a Myford ML10 Lathe. Please give me a call on 01908 613684 if you think they would be of use.

Ian Norman

### FOR SALE

Vernier Height Gauge 0 – 15" or 0 – 39cm. £10.

Contact via Alan Beard

### WOODEN ROCKET

There was much interest by all ages in my wooden Rocket. It occurred to me that a 7¼" version trundling up the track would make good publicity. If the club bought the boiler and cylinder blocks the rest of the engine could be a club project. Who would take on the roll of the driver, dressed in correct style with a top hat I'll leave to the committee. The riding trolley could be a fancy carriage of the period or a typical goods wagon.

*Peter Wilton*

### STATIONARY ENGINES

Visiting stationary engines that deserve a run are very welcome to my little show. I can't be the only person who favours stationary to train engines

*Peter Wilton*

### DIGGER AND DUMPER

It is the responsibility of all drivers of the dumper or digger to check the fuel and oil before starting the engine. If you cannot remove the fuel cap do not use force—ask for help.

*Peter Palmer*

### USEFUL TO KNOW—CLUB MATTERS

**BMES WEB SITE**      [www.bedfordmes.co.uk](http://www.bedfordmes.co.uk)      [www.summerfieldsmr.co.uk](http://www.summerfieldsmr.co.uk)      [www.summerfieldmr.co.uk](http://www.summerfieldmr.co.uk)

Website—Alan Beard—Contact details inside front cover

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**      Held on the third Monday of the month in the Clubhouse.

**CLUB MEETINGS**      Held on second Monday of the month—check in *The Coupling*.

**WORKING PARTIES**      Wednesdays from 10am. Workshop and Library open.

Sundays from 9.30am—check if aiming to attend.

**‘The COUPLING’ PUBLICATION DATES**      **Next copy deadline is 17th. September please!**

**SOCIETY SALES**      The following items are available in the Clubhouse

Toys, Drivers' Hats etc.      BMES Fridge Magnets—BR Totem design

Books—Still Steaming, Little Puffers and Tiny Trains

Club Clothing available to order—contact Tony Bullock 01494 439098

## USEFUL TO KNOW—CLUB MATTERS



### BMES WEB SITE

[www.bedfordmes.co.uk](http://www.bedfordmes.co.uk)

[www.summerfieldsmr.co.uk](http://www.summerfieldsmr.co.uk)

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John waits for a green



Dick Billington

## SMALL LOCO RALLY

Huw Williams



## TRACTION ENGINE RALLY

*Dick Billington*



Brian waits at Hammer Hill



Boiler Test Day