

March 2008

# Steaming Ahead

www.scmes.freemove.co.uk

March is here and sees the start of track laying on **Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th and Saturday 15th, Sunday 16th March** we need your help, please come down if only for a couple of hours it all helps. The track panels are all built thanks to a conscientious team who have been beavering a way through the winter making clips, sleepers and preparing ready to build panels, which they have built over the last few weeks. So **please come and help** lay the track with us the more help we have the less chance we have

of running over to the second weekend (weather permitting).

Due to the short notice of the track laying the Saturday 15th steam up may be restricted to the ground inner loop only, and the raised track which is not effected by the track laying.

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Don't forget Auction Night Tuesday 22nd April at Balleny Green, so make some space in your workshop and bring all those unused bits down it all helps toward club funds. We will auction of items for you on a commission basis

If you don't want to donate them.

## Stop Press

As at end of work on Sunday 9th March 24 new track panels have been laid and the track reconnected with only the ballasting and final adjustment to make so the track should be available for Saturday Steam Up.

**Well done All involved.**

## Events This Month—March

Sunday 2nd March Steam Up

**Sat & Sun 8th & 9th Track Laying All help required**

**Sat & Sun 15th & 16th Track Laying All help required**

Saturday 15th March Steam Up

Monday 24th March Easter Monday Steam Up

## Club News in Brief:

- **Updated** Provisional program for 2008 at the back of this news letter
- Track laying 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th March your help is needed.
- Signal upgrade progressing well despite the bad weather

## Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 20th April Birthday Party

Tuesday 22nd April Auction Night

Sat26 / Sun 27 Sutton Coldfield Railway  
Society's Exhibition

## This news letter will only work with your input

### Saturday 16th February Steam Up

What no 5" today only 7¼" on the ground now that make a change for a Saturday. There is something very pleasant about being at Balleny green on a Saturday with only a Steam up in progress the sun shining and no maintainance work going on, no masses of public, no nessecity for large numbers of track marchells, just people with an interest in Model engineering, it makes you appreciate the site and all the work that goes into maintaining it, a credit to you all

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### Sunday 17th February Birthday Party

Who would have believed the weather a lovely day for February and an excellent turn out of members a good time enjoyed by all.

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### Tuesday 26th February Paul Tracey on TurboCAD

This Tuesday meeting saw a

good turn out of members some who would not normally attend.

We had a good demonstration of the power and speed of CAD drawing and how, if like me you are used to the old board and pencil, you have to totally change the way you look at a drawing to be able to draw in a CAD package, but once written in CAD the ability to alter, modify and rescale is so much easier and quicker. With the ability to import and export in various file formats makes TurboCAD one of the cheapest cad packages available.

Those who attended were able to buy some versions of turboCAD at special prices and for those who did not attend I believe you will still get those prices.

Our thanks to Paul for his presentation an evening well spent.

## SEQLEC 2008

All Seven and a Quarter Gauge Loco Owners.

The Langford and Beeliegh (miniature) Railway just outside MALDON in ESSEX, will be hosting this years "Seven and Quarter Loco Efficiency Competition", over the W/E 19th/20th July.

Take your loco (standard or NG) and have the chance to see how well she goes on their 1/4 mile main line circuit. (60' radius curves, laid to Society Standards).

Situated in the gardens of a preserved Steam Pumping Station [www.museumofpower.org.uk](http://www.museumofpower.org.uk) so plenty to see and do besides running your engine and keeping an eye on the competition.

### Boiler Inspectors

The list of boiler inspectors is now posted on the notice board in the club house and will not be printed in the news letter.

Should you require the services of a boiler inspector, please contact one beforehand. Please do not simply arrive at the ground and assume that there will be one available.

### Copy dates for future news letters:-

Tuesday 25th Mar for April  
Tuesday 22nd April for May  
Tuesday 27th May for June

### This Months Quote:

Once a new technology rolls over you, if you're not part of the steamroller, you're part of the road.

**Stewart Brand**

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## FEBRUARY 2008 "HORT" MAINTENANCE REPORT

*Let's start this one with a bit of fun. On a recent BBC Gardeners Question Time a telephoned question was asked about a 'RHODOCHITON VOLUBILE'. This caused considerable amusement amongst the panel – do you know why. Answer at the end.*

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> saw the team continuing the work of cutting back the laurel hedges. Today it was the track side of laurel hedge in the south west corner ensuring that there is now little or no prospect of children reaching out to grab the leaves. Other than in a couple of places hedge sides are now about an arms length plus a foot away from the track.

Activities in the north east corner had a small group, lead by Garry, putting up a lining in the new shed to stop condensation from the roof. Meanwhile Bob (B) continues installing new LED signal lights; most of the ground level ones are complete and he's turning his attention to the high level track.

Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>. By the time I arrived Neal had carried out a two steam tests and Dave (M), with a good team, had started work producing track panels for the outer ground level. Four panels, each about 4 metres in length,

had been constructed by the time work finished. This was very good progress for the first session as each panel involves some or all of the following:- rolling three lengths of rail, cutting to length, drilling holes for fishplates, assembly using 16 pre-drilled sleepers, 32 rail clips, 96 securing screws and 6 fishplates secured with 6 nuts and bolts.

*Have you got the answer to the question at the start yet? Here's a clue -- 'BMW'.*

The second Tuesday was a beautiful day and work quickly commenced on the remaining few trackside laurels. With it being a fine still day it was ideal to start the bonfire without causing a nuisance to the villagers or members working elsewhere on the site. The opportunity was also taken to remove the tree near the signal box which was growing lopsided and affecting the good specimen tree behind it.

Bearing mind the change in the general weather pattern, we aimed and have succeeded in completing all planned winter work about one month ahead of last year. The one thing left to tackle is the conifer hedge by the level crossing, however, there is some disagreement over how and what should be done. Should it be the same

height as the short section the main gate side of the level crossing or a couple of feet higher?

The general rule which the ground team work to, for safety reasons, is that all general ground maintenance work should be possible standing on firm ground. Have a look next time you come to BG, you may just see the judgement of Solomon!!!!!!!!!!!! Whatever I can't win – would anyone like the job, the key to the tractors and all the maintenance equipment go with it?

The weather was so good that most of 'the workers' sat out in the warm sunshine and had lunch together with a mug of Ivor's very best soup. After lunch Stuart and John (W) continued installing the lights in the new shed and Bob (B) worked on the final signal lights. Dave (M) and his group including Chris, Peter, John, Allan (L) Mike (B), myself together with Dave's nephew etc., worked producing more panels -- my apologies to those I've missed. It's a pleasure to see so many turning up and enjoying these Tuesdays.

*Still not got the answer to the question at the start? Second clue – 'It's not a car'.*

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Alison Lane. Another brilliant day but with a very

frosty start and remaining pretty cold except in the glorious winter sunshine. The day went very well and a thank you to all those who drove, guarded, marshalled, manned points & level crossing gate, brought the tea round etc., etc. Again Dave (M) and a small group worked on new track panels until the start of the party.

Third Tuesday and the weather continues to be good with the site gradually drying but with a very misty and frosty morning we started in the warm club house with coffees all round. Having got most of the 'hort' work completed for the winter it was a matter of tidying up so Grenville, Vic and myself cleared the bonfire remains and tipped them in the lower copse. Then moved the heavy table from the copse behind the steaming bay to the maintenance area for Dave's group producing track panels. Final bit of 'hort' work was to remove the bench (with concrete supporting ends) facing the pond because of its poor condition with assistance from JH; in its place we have put the bench from the top of the tunnel mound.

Meanwhile Garry, Chris and David(S) worked on extending the new trailer to accommodate the long

metal side poles for the marquee and Dave's group Allan(L), Allan(D), Fred, Mike(B) and John(R) rolled rail and assembled further new track panels. This work is going very well and there should be enough panels assembled to reach the level crossing soon.

Stuart and John (W) were just finishing off the repair of the hose reel, damaged by frost, when Bill arrived to have lunch and some of Mike (B)'s soup with us. He's getting on well; the surgeon has told him that he was making such good progress he did not want to see him for three months. That's good news - we've now got someone back on the team we can blame for trimming the conifer!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Sorry Bill.

Tuesday 26th and the weather is good, if a cold wind, and we started with coffees all round. Hort work has no major project at the moment, merely continuing tidying. Vic and I got the tractor tyre repaired and then sorted out some slabs to commencing relaying the path from drive to club house which is far from satisfactory. After which John (R) joined us and helped levelling out some of the tipped material in the lower copse and then cleared a few old rotting shrub/tree roots by the copse. Out of the wind and

sun Stuart and John (W) worked on installing/ altering and improving the safety cut-out system on one of the machines.

Garry, Chris and David(S) carried on with the work fitting out the new shed and sorting the scrap metal and other bits IN and AROUND the maintenance store. On the ground level track Dave's main group Allan (L), Allan (D), Fred, Peter and Mike (B) produced the last few panels to reach the level crossing. It's just over two weeks since the work commenced and is excellent progress.

Time to finish and meet the Editors submission dead line.

*By this time you gardeners should have the answer or haven't you an A - Z of plants book?*

*The answer:- 'Black Mans Willy'.*

*Eric Davies 26<sup>th</sup>  
February 2008*

## Subscription Renewals

The Board have decided that this year Membership Subs will only be increased for Junior Members £11.00 to £15.00. All other types will remain the same as last year, namely:-

Seniors	£45.00
Full	£55.00
Associate	£15.00
Friends	£15.00

Please remember that subs which are unpaid by the time of the A.G.M. in June will render such members ineligible to vote on any issues arising.

If any subs renewals are outstanding after the A.G.M. they will carry a surcharge of £10.00 to cover the administration costs of reminder letters, etc.

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## STEAM OIL

Your society has obtained a quantity of steam oil which is available to members at a 'special' price of just £1.50 per pint.

There are two grades: Grade 460 for 2½", 3½" & small 5" gauge locomotives, and Grade 680 for large 5" gauge locos, and all 7¼" gauge locos.

If you wish to purchase any of the above, please contact Neal Harrison.

## N.E. CORNER CLEAR OUT.

The N.E. Corner building is currently being cleared out, and all the 'useful' equipment that has been deposited therein is being thrown out.

If any member wishes have any of the discarded items, please contact either Garry Tyso, Chris Greene or any other member of the Board BEFORE removing it from site.

Any member who has any items that they feel would be of use to the Society should in the first instance contact a member of the Board BEFORE bringing it to site, as the above clear out is as a result of many items being 'dumped'.

## TRACK REPLACEMENT.

Phase 3 of the track replacement programme is to take place over the weekends 8/9 and 15/16 March 2008. If you can help on either Saturday, or Sunday on either of the above weekends, your

presence would be appreciated.

## Garry Tyso

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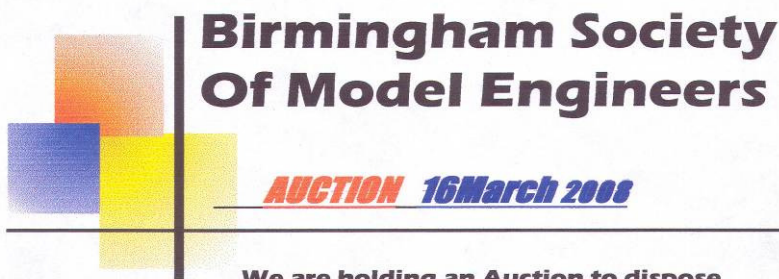
## For Sale

I have for sale a partly finished 5inch G Peckett 0-4-0 saddle tank. Completed chassis, saddle tank and plate work. Plus all the relative drawings

Also a partly completed Sentinel 0-4-0 Dockside shunting engine.

It's based on "Sirena" a model featured in Model Engineer in the early sixties. I doubled the size to suit 7¼ track. The plate work is almost complete as is the internal water tank & vertical boiler. I would like the models to go to someone who would enjoy finishing them.

Please contact- Ken Knowles e-mail [kenatmbh@talktalk.net](mailto:kenatmbh@talktalk.net) or on phone on 0121 449 0272



**We are holding an Auction to dispose of the contents of the workshop of the late Don Crisp.**

**The Auction will commence at 10.00 am at the Society's Clubhouse. Illshaw Heath Road, Solihull, West Mids., B94 6DN**

**Conditions of sale. Cash only unless by prior arrangement. All purchases MUST be removed on the day of sale.**

**All enquiries to Peter Flavell, President BSME 0121 745 7479**

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR 2008

(All meetings are at Balleny Green unless otherwise indicated)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Co-ordinator</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sun 02 March 2008	Steam Up		10am onwards
Sat 15 March 2008	Steam Up		1pm onwards
Mon 24 March 2008	Easter Monday Steam Up		10am onwards
Tues 25 March 2008	NO MEETING DUE TO EASTER		
Sun 06 April 2008	Steam Up		10am onwards
Sat 12 April 2008	Steam Up		1pm onwards
Sun 20 April 2008	Birthday Party		2-4pm
Tues 22 April 2008	Auction Night	Steve Whitson	7pm
Sat 26 April 2008	Sutton Coldfield Railway Society's Annual Exhibition	Peter Mc	10am-5pm
Sun 27 April 2008	At Bishop Walsh School, Sutton Coldfield	Peter Mc	10am-5pm
Mon 05 May 2008	Bank Hol Steam Up		10am onwards
Sat 10 May 2008	Steam Up		1pm onwards
Sun 11 May 2008	Birthday Party		2-4pm
Tues 20 May 2008	Steam Up with Faggots & Peas supper		6pm
Mon 26 May 2008	Bank Hol Steam Up		10am onwards
Sun 01 June 2008	Steam Up		10am onwards
Sun 08 June 2008	Barber Shop Slingers		
Sat 14 June 2008	AGM & Steam Up & BBQ		
Sun 22 June 2008	Erewash Valley MES Visit		All day
Tues 24 June 2008	Traction Engine Night with Jacket Potatoes		6pm
Sun 29 June 2008	Birthday Party		2-4pm
Sun 06 July 2008	Steam Up		10am onwards
Sat 12 July 2008	Steam Up & SCRS Visit		1pm onwards
Tues 22 July 2008	Stationary Engines with Bring & Share buffet Tea		6pm
Sun 03 August 2008	Steam Up & National 2½" Gauge Rally		10am onwards
Sun 10 August 2008	Garden Party		
Sat 16 August 2008	Astronomical Society		1pm onwards
Tues 19 August 2008	Steam Up & BBQ		6pm
Mon 25 August 2008	Bank Hol Steam Up		10am onwards
Sun 07 September 2008	LBSC Memorial Trophy		10am onwards
Sat 13 September 2008	Steam Up		1pm onwards
Tues 23 September 2008	Steam Up with Fish & Chip Supper		6pm
Sat 27 September 2008	L&NWR Visit		All day
Sun 05 October 2008	Steam Up & Birthday Party (2-4pm)		10am-4pm
Sat 11 October 2008	Steam Up		
Tues 21 October 2008	Speaker: TBA	Shenstone	
Sun 2nd Nov 2008	Steam Up		
Sat 8th Nov 2008	Bonfire Night		
Sat 15th Nov 2008	Steam Up		
Tues 27th Nov 2008	Speaker: TBA	Shenstone	
Sun 7th & 14th Dec 2008	Santa Special's		
Tues 16th Dec 2008	Christmas Party	Shenstone	