



TELFORD AND IRONBRIDGE MECCANO SOCIETY

REPORTED BY HUGH JENKINS
PICTURES BY DAVE HARVEY

Model Report

February 24th 2007

The February meeting of TIMS showed the fantastic spirit in the club. There were so many models on display and by the afternoon a large number of the public were showing great interest. My favourite comment was from a lady who said "I didn't realise you could build such a variety of things with Meccano." I thought that was a great tribute to our display of models and the exhibitors' talents!

The Iron Bridge built by **Tony Clapperton** and **Keith Way** was shown in its nearly complete state and a very large and fine representation it is. It only needs about 300 handrails to complete it! These are in the process of being made. The model will now be left at Enginuity for them to display.

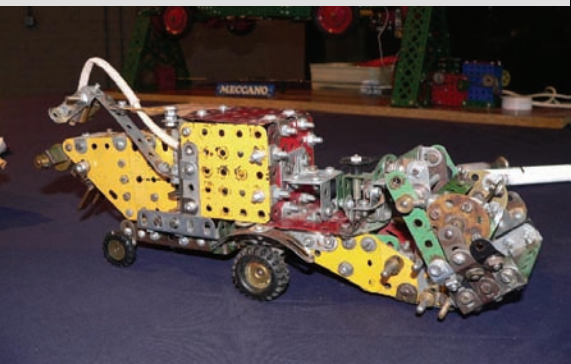
Tony had also brought one of the Coles mobile crane models based on the Number 10 set model modified to carry its own power supply.



TONY WITH THE ICONIC IRONBRIDGE

Don Boycott brought a nicely detailed for its small size, Combine Harvester which included a revolving beater and a swivelling chaff chute. A great little model.

DON'S SUPERB COMBINE MODEL



Keith Way and his son **Stephen** had brought 8 models of the Coles mobile crane with a variety in size from a 1" wheel base to a 9" wheel base and a variety of mechanisms, little movement in the



THE COLES CRANES BUILT BY KEITH & STEPHEN WAY

smallest to manual power in the middle size to full electric power and steering in the larger model. The largest model was based on the Number Ten Set Model Plan and worked faultlessly during the day. All the models were as near to scale as possible based on the tyre or wheel size. A fine display.

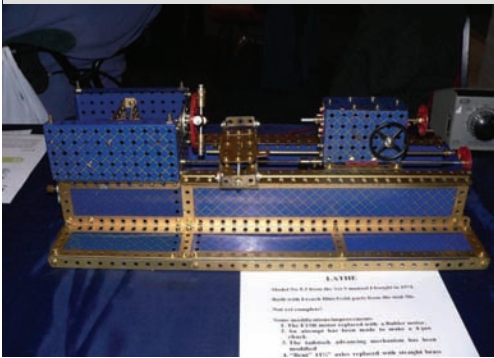
Keith (does the man ever sleep?) had also built a fork lift truck from the special leaflet 9.3. He has changed from an E15R motor to a modern electric motor and the cab controls provide steering, power to the fork lift and forward and reverse motion.

Denis Caiger brought along a car chassis based on the 1950's Meccano Magazine Model of the Month series. Denis said he had bought the model to save it from being dismantled. The chassis was mounted on a revolving frame so that its mechanisms could be seen. These were steering, clutch, gearbox, brakes and differential. The engine runs but Denis says "only on four star".

DENIS'S CAR CHASSIS



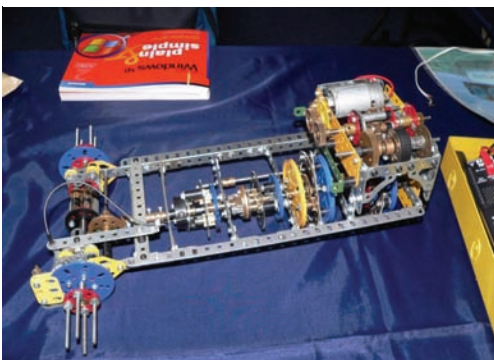
JOHN'S NEAT LATHE MODEL



John Evans showed us his unicyclist built from an original model by Jean-Max Esteve from Paris, this worked very realistically. He also had a Lathe from Meccano Manual model 9.3 built in French blue and gold colours. The model was not fully completed and some modifications were being incorporated.

Another Coles Mobile crane but this time built to a scale of approximately 1/10 from Plastic Meccano was shown by **Matt Goodman**. This model showed considerable ingenuity as it incorporated the movements of the actual crane operated by handles, the elevating jib driven by a Plastic Meccano worm wheel! The model was fitted with a grab and could lift ½ a kilogram of marbles. The model was strong enough to cope with Matt's two children playing with it for long times. (Picture on page 1)

Dave Bradley showed us a magnificent and complicated experimental automatic transmission he had designed and built. It consisted of 3 rows of epicyclic gearing and a reverse. These give a total of 7 forward speeds and one reverse. The ratio selector is to a design by Paul Joachim which was in a Daimler Fleetline bus built by Paul. This selector will operate a cam to select the ratios via selector forks. If it works well it will be incorporated in a 1:7 scale bus Dave is building.



DAVE'S TRANSMISSION

Geoff Brown's display was as usual eye catching. It included a model of the narrow gauge locomotive "Countess". The locomotive had been built by the late Chris Nicholson of Suffolk. Geoff had bought it from Chris' widow and was displaying it as a tribute to Chris. It ran beautifully all day.

The travelling circular crane he brought was from a pre war design which was often used in Meccano advertising.

The Hornby O gauge layout was made up of locomotives Geoff had bought off e-bay and he had restored them to running order. Keep up the good work Geoff it is lovely to see these old models.



GEOFF SETTING UP HIS DISPLAY

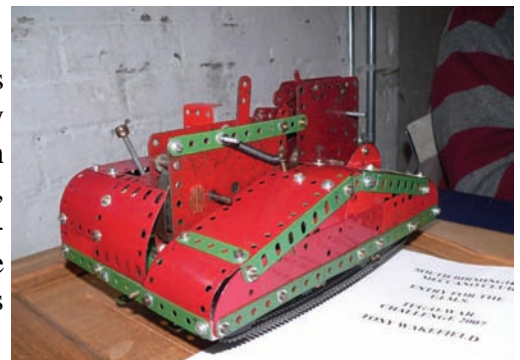
HOLLY & TONY EVANSON BOTH SHOWED MODELS



Tony Evanson brought two nice models, the first was an Optare Solo Midibus built from Model plan 167. It was very attractively presented in yellow. The second was a set nine Meccanograph which ran well and very smoothly during the show producing a variety of patterns. Rivalling her Father's efforts daughter **Holly** had built a delightful set three racing car, a very attractive model.



Tony Wakefield showed us his entry for the Meccanuity tug of war challenge which was powered by, at present, two very old number one Meccano clockwork motors. I hope there were not too many spies about!



TONY WAKEFIELD'S MODEL

George Illingworth continues to build to his favourite 1/12th scale. This time he had two delightful models of Fire engines. The first was a Bedford WL Heavy Unit the prototype being of 1939 vintage. The actual engine was utilised as an emergency fire pump as used by the auxiliary fire service. The second model was a Shand Mason twin cylinder steam fire engine the prototype being of 1894 vintage. This model was drawn by two horses neatly reproduced in the model.

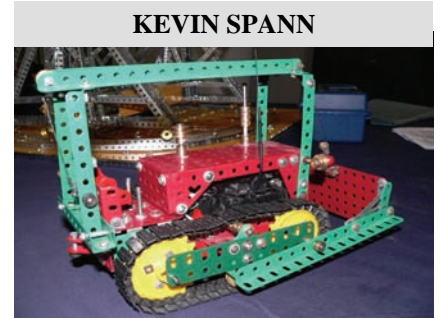


GEORGE'S SHAND MASON TENDER

John MacDonald had forsaken his army models and brought along an approximately 1/5th scale model of a 1937 Auto Union racing car. The model which was painted silver grey incorporated trailing link front suspension, swing axles at the rear, drum brakes, steering, clutch, three speed gear box integral with rear axle, a dummy engine with superb detail and a differential gear. The overall effect of this model was excellent especially with the engine cover removed to show the engine detail.



JOHN MACDONALD



KEVIN SPANN

Kevin Span again showed us what could be done with the R/C gear from cheap models. This time he had built a pre hydraulic bulldozer which by incorporating two electric motors could be steered by stopping one motor, which could not be back driven thus locking the track and the other track turns the model. It worked faultlessly and was highly manoeuvrable.

The complicated box of tricks brought by **Chris Shute** was an automatic calendar which had been inspired by George Gombert's mechanical calendar from the April 1977's Meccano magazine. This machine shows the date, month and year. A small motor advances the date onto the first day of the next month, all Meccano switches allow the machine to "know" the correct number of days in the month, including February. The mechanism does not account for the lack of leap year each 100 years unless the date is divisible by 400 Chris says he has 395 years to sort this out so it's OK. Chris also showed a model ball roller made from the contents of the recent Ferris Wheel kit, which attracted the attention of many visitors. Chris's amazing automated matchbox machine was also shown.



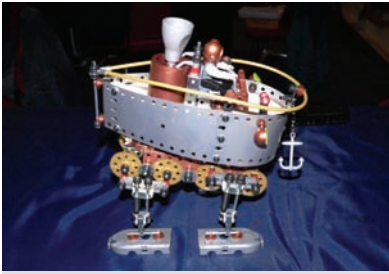
CHRIS SHUTE'S BALL ROLLER

Dennis Remnant brought a model of the Single Fly-boats built from the 1929 supermodel leaflet number 33. It is powered by an 80 year old E6 electric motor. The cars are painted in bright colours and incorporate bottoms to prevent the figures, rescued from charity shops, from falling out.



DENIS REMNANT

Reg Hall built the walking boat from the crazy inventors series of model sets and built to the manual instructions it walked very well. His second model was of the "Mad Mullah" - built from a speed play robot set, but it has been extensively modified to enable long term reliability such as using standard Meccano nuts and bolts and collars. The order of the components making the four castor wheels has been changed and the head arm action has been strengthened. The model worked very well. (Picture on next page).



REG HALL'S WALKING BOAT

Dave Harvey's model building talents were shown yet again in his Burrell Scenic Showman's engine. The detail and working motions built into this model defy a short description and Dave's photographs hardly do it justice. The detail is there from the two cylinder engine, governor, differential, main dynamo and exciter generator and the dished, spoked wheels all showed the might of these great work horses. He also showed his model of the Sinclair Harding navigation clock full of delightful mechanism including the linked balance arms of the prototype. Dave is still developing his impulse

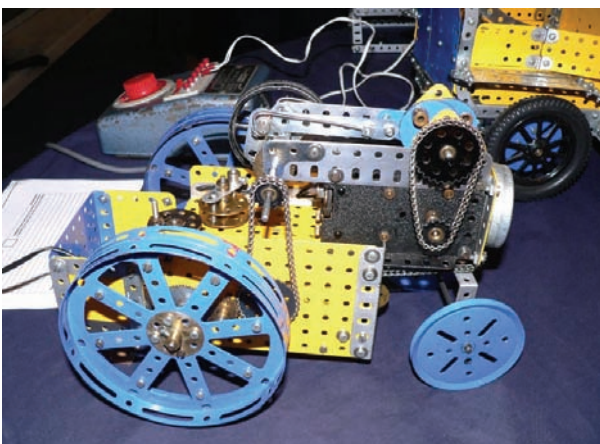
inching clock whose movement incorporates a one second impulse which inches the second hand by one second per pulse. It also includes an hourly striking mechanism, all incorporated in a pleasing layout. The automated scenic elevator by Dave was built as teaching aid to help learn the Mechanisms Motorvator programming language. The elevator is most realistic in operation even slowing down before stopping at each floor and all done automatically.



DAVE HARVEY'S TABLE FULL OF MODELS

Bill Gardiner had a display of eight models. He says he likes the visitors, especially the children, to be able to work his models. He certainly succeeded in this as he was rushed off his feet during the afternoon helping happy smiling children (and adults) work his bagatelle table, box ball alley and gantry crane. He also had a Meccano steam tractor design from a 1927 manual driven by a 20 volt motor. The model had reverse and forward drive.

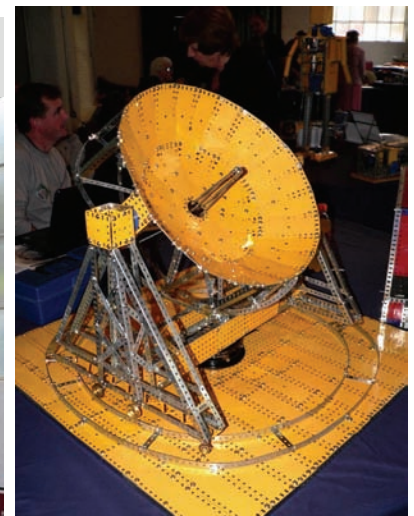
His model of the 1905 Rolls Royce from the 1964 Meccano Magazine worked faultlessly through the day driving its rear wheels through a clutch, gear box and differential gear. His final two models were G520 series racing car and the Number 10 set Robot which walked beautifully.



BILL GARDINER'S 1929 MANUAL MODEL TRACTOR

Hugh Jenkins showed two models, a model of the Jodrell Bank Telescope which hopefully will be complete for Mecanuity. This is built to Alan Partridges design in Model Plan 64. The second model was from the 1945 to 1954 set 9 manual and was the "penny in the slot" Theatre. Inflation explained why the pianist and violinist worked when two pence coins were inserted in the model and the short run from a 2 pence coin. Hugh supplied four 2 pence coins for people to work the model and ended up with eight!, a tidy profit. (Perhaps we ought to think out our models more carefully!!).

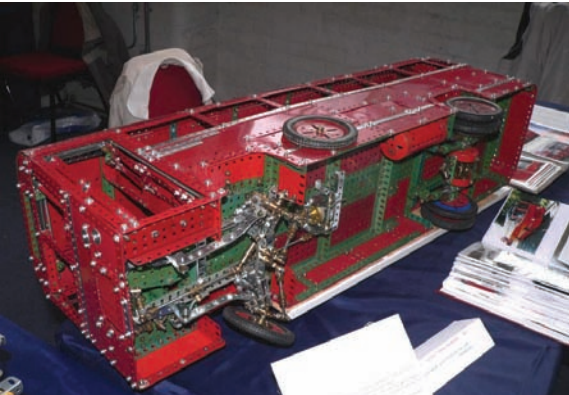
COLIN BULL'S IMPRESSIVE LUFFING CRANE



JODRELL BANK, COURTESY OF HUGH JENKINS

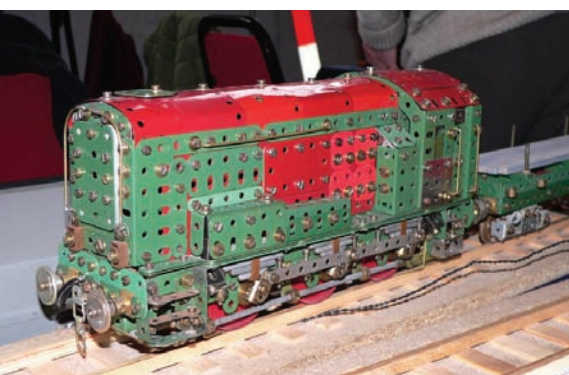
Towering above us all was **Colin Bull's** level luffing crane. This is based on the late Eric Taylor's Supermodel with a few alterations. Colin had a remote control console to enable the crane to perform during the exhibition.

David Lacy's model of the 1962 Midland Red S15 D.P. coach is progressing, the steering system has been modified with the inclusion of miniature thrust bearings in which the front wheel stub axles are fitted. A compact clutch and a four speed and reverse gear box are being fitted. The body work and seats are now really showing the model to full advantage.



DAVE LACY'S MIDLAND RED BUS

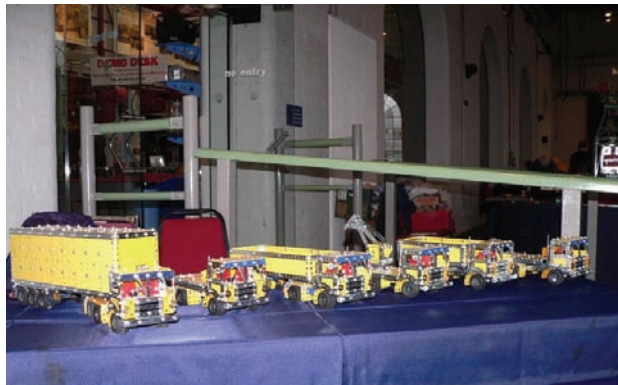
John Sinton displayed railway rolling stock in red and green colours and very attractive they looked. They were a BR 0-6-0 350HP diesel shunter, a bogie bolster wagon tank wagon and a BR brakevan forming one train. A Lancashire and Yorkshire railway 0-4-0 ST (pug). These were all built to 1:24 scale and ran on home-made wooden track.



JOHN SINTON BR 0-6-0 DIESEL SHUNTER

Peter Pyefinch returns to his big models again. This time it is a model of a Unipower Heavy Haulage tractor that was built for Alstom for transporting heavy generating equipment to and from power stations. The model incorporates a five speed and reverse gear box, double reduction axles with spur gear differentials, axles two and three incorporate inter axle differentials with a further one mounted in the transfer gear box. All wheels have hub reduction gear. The steering is power assisted and the winches work. The trailer for this model is based on the Goldhofer design and is regularly used in Sweden for moving generators. The model is just two of the modular units that make up this very large trailer. (Picture next page).

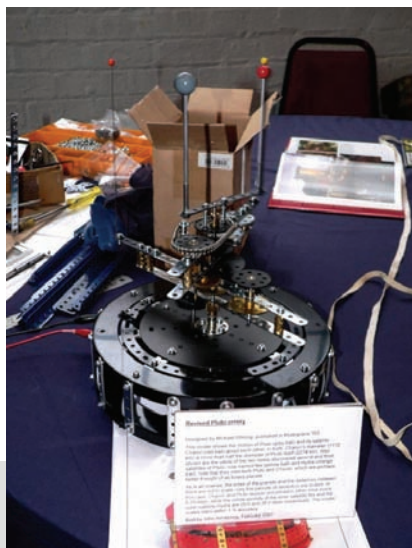
Robert Curling showed us 6 lorries the same as the ones he had at the last meeting but with some detail improvements and with the addition of another 4 wheeled flat bed. The fleet could be expanded again as Robert has obtained another 14 rubber wheels!



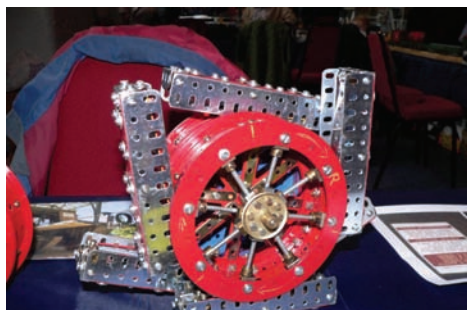
ROB CURLING — MORE TRUCKS THAN EDDIE STOBART!

A revised Pluto Orrery was built and explained by **John Armstrong**. The Model was designed by Michael Whiting and is the modified version which includes the recently discovered satellites called Vix and Hydra. This is John's first black model and he recommends a look at Michael Whiting's Model plan 163, 5 set 10 Orreries.

JOHN AMSTRONG'S ORRERY (LEFT)



Ken Senar had brought along a model of a dreadnought wheel. This wheel is the forerunner of caterpillar tracks and a Meccano model of a design by Frank Botterill of Australia will become part of a model trailer to go behind a huge ungainly tractor called "Big Lizzie". Ken's model of Big Lizzie is nearly complete and hopefully will be shown at Meccanuity and later at Skegness. We are all looking forward to seeing these monster models Ken.



KEN'S DREADNOUGHT WHEEL



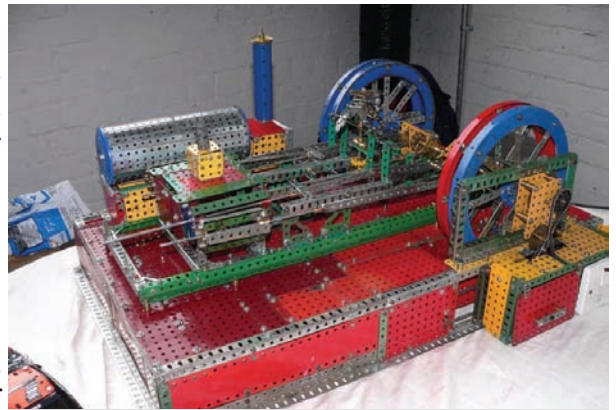
PETE PYEFINCH'S UNIPOWER HAULAGE TRACTOR

The Sleaford family were out in force with a very large and colourful display of models. **John and Joyce** had a Piper Cub Aeroplane from Bernard Perier's design in CQ 75, a recovery truck from the Number eight set manual again built in yellow, a Scammell Show tractor with chain drive to the rear axle and lastly a ride-on Motor Mower in blue from the 20 model set. **Peter and Tina** showed a Meccanograph built from CQ 35 producing beautiful designs and 5 Red arrows inform the Marks and Spencer sets in Gyro formation. **Steph** had built a number of very attractive R/C models and small models from plastic and steel kits.

**THE SLEAFORDS MODEL TABLE (BELOW)
PETER AND TINA SLEAFORD WITH THEIR
MECCANOGRAPH (FAR BELOW)**



Paul Hubbard had built a twin cylinder steam winding engine. This large model incorporates the pistons and valve gear of the prototype as well as the



PAUL'S TWIN CYLINDER ENGINE

two large flywheels. The model ran well driven by a 230 volt electric motor which had been carefully checked for triple insulation and protective earthing. He also brought his Twin Ferris Wheel which he has improved with some lights, a cover over the steps and a stabilizing outrigger to hold the A frame steady.

Also included in Paul's display were a series of small models built from one model sets These were a microlite aircraft, a go cart, a quad bike, an off road motor bike, a helicopter, a helicopter gunship, a racing car and an orange R/C car.

The Nightingales (Anne, Les senior and Les junior) display was full of action the two Meccano graphs based on Andreas Konkoly designs with modifications going on and on and on, were hard worked producing beautiful patterns all day. The fascinating marble roller was based on Mike Cuffs design but modified to have two lifts and joined by a track. Altogether a model to stop and watch, and be mesmerised with! The Scammell Scarab shows that models do not have to be big to be very good.



THE NIGHTINGALES MODELS WITH LES SNR. ADJUSTING ONE OF THE MECCANOGRAPHS

The Beard Family made a welcome return to us after a long absence due to illness. They showed us several models made from the current series multi-model sets. Great to see you all again!



THE BEARDS MODELS

Rob Miller showed us a Konkoly crazy clock which he had bought from the late John Brown. It is finished in zinc and nickel and has the Iron Bridge on top. Three small Meccano men “wind” the clock which is driven by a Synchronous motor. **Wendy Miller** had built two Coles mobile cranes one in modern metal Meccano using zinc and black parts, was from a design in the December 1956 Meccano Magazine, and the second was in plastic to the metal model in de- was produced by Wendy this was based on the Monopoly game but used Meccano as the properties etc and Legoland as jail !!! The game is ingenious and well worth a second look.



ROB MILLER SHOWED US THIS CRAZY CLOCK, FROM THE LATE JOHN BROWN



WENDY MILLER'S MECCANOPLY BOARD GAME, PLEASE COLLECT 200 COLLARS WHEN PASSING GO!

Meccano to Wendy's own design and is close sign. A fascinating game called Meccanopoly

Lastly but far from least was **Dave and Marilyn Taylor's** mouth watering stand of all sorts of Meccano parts. My eyes always light up when I see this and then realise I do not have bottomless pockets so I have to slow down and carefully stick to my list of needs and not always what I would like to have. A big thank you to both of you and we always admire the efficiency with which you set up and dismantle the stand .



DAVE & MARILYN TAYLOR AND A STALL FULL OF GOODIES!



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOP END OF THE ENGINE SHED, AND THE MECCANO PEOPLE SETTING UP THEIR MODELS. OUR MEETINGS JUST KEEP GETTING BETTER!



PETE PYEFINCH AND TONY CLAPPERTON DISCUSSING THE FINER POINTS ABOUT THE TIMS IRONBRIDGE.

**HUGH JENKINS & DAVE HARVEY
FEBRUARY 2007**