



TELFORD & IRONBRIDGE MECCANO SOCIETY MODEL REPORT NOVEMBER 2007

I arrived at a dark skied Ironbridge for the November meeting, not very inspiring but at least it was mild. I was cheered to see so many people turn up for our A.G.M. and what a dazzling display of models they had brought with them, all darkness lifted when I saw the hall. *Hugh Jenkins*

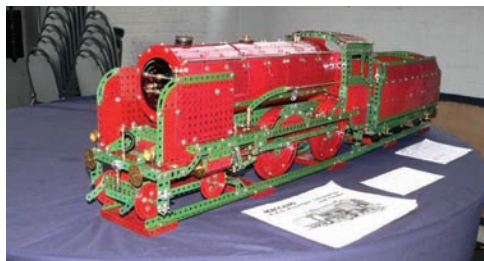
Dave and Marilyn Taylor had a mouth watering feast of goodies to buy for our next projects it solved a few Christmas present problems! Thanks to you both for all the hard work setting up a stand like that involves.



Rob Miller showed us a Dizzy Rider a Bernard Perrier design from a CQ and Hopper the Frog, both models had been shown at a Sydney meeting and the Melbourne exhibition which explained why Dizzy was dizzy as he had been upside down for so long.



Tony Wakefield had on display a 4-4-0 locomotive built basically from leaflet No 12 of the 10 set series, one of the more attractive of the set 10 models. Tony had made some modifications to the crossheads and various other areas. He said the model made an interesting challenge to build during the wet summer. (Every cloud has a silver lining!). The model ran very quietly and smoothly powered by an E15R motor.



A beautiful model of a Chaseside lifting shovel or crane was shown by **Dennis Backler**. This was based on a design by Pierre Monsullat shown in the NMMG's news letter No 72 July 1995 but incorporated some new features such as a power take off with two options (a) to be used just by itself or (b) to power the bucket or crane hook when the jib was fitted. A very attractive model.

Tony Clapperton is taking the meccanuity project very seriously this year but then he always does, with a fine 8 wheel rigid flat bed lorry built to approximately 1/10th scale. When complete it will feature fully floating rear axles both driven and steering on both front axles.

Daniel Naylor had built two new models, a clockwork powered dragster driven by a number 1 clockwork motor capable of both forward and reverse movement and a shaft driven 4 wheel drive vehicle with universal joint and transfer box powered by an electric motor. Daniel wishes to thank everyone for their friendly approach and for the parts that have been generously donated.



Dave Bradley had a heavy haulage truck built to a scale of 1:10 using action man jeep tyres. It incorporated Futaba remote control gear and looked very powerful in its 1970's Binns Road yellow/blue colours it has a two speed transmission operated from the remote control.



Tony Evanson had built a skip lorry to model plan107 by Tony James in yellow and zinc parts, he said the transmission worked well but he still had to complete the skip lifting mechanism. Also he had an Eric Baldwin design for a four gear box Meccanograph two gearboxes drove the table and the other two the pen. He is also building a four axle ridged chassis for a logging truck. A very nice display.

David Lacy brought along two buses. The first being a Midland Red S15 of 1962 this is really looking a superb model, finish it soon, David. The second was a model of a 1951 Leyland Tiger/ Harrington "Dorsal fin". The body work has almost all been removed to allow work to be done on the rear floor and seat area. New profile sides have been made but not yet been fitted, the difficulty is achieving the realistic curved profile of the original, says David.



Dennis Caiger had a wonderfully nostalgic set of aeroplane models from the Meccano aero sets. These were 1) a 1938 continental model with the then new shaped and corrugated wings. 2) A 1928 model biplane with early corrugated parts. 3) a 1938 model made from a no 1 special set. 4) A 1938 model made from a no 2 special set. 5) A Wellington style bomber from a no 2 aero set and 6) a biplane made from a 1930's no2 aero set. Thank you for sharing these

Mike Fallows had two nice Meccanographs. The first was based on a Konkoly design and incorporating adaptations by Les Nightingale. The second was a "T" form meccanograph, a basic Konkoly design modified by Mike himself.

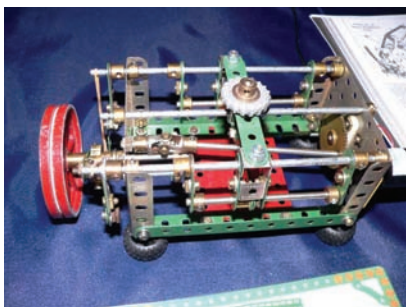
Ken Senar had a display of some excellent fun models. 1) Willie the worm was a simplicity clockwork model. 2) Spiffy the spider has 8 prototypical legs and can walk forward and backwards driven by a monoperm motor. and 3) Dumble the dragon unusual in that he has 6 legs and so is not Welsh. He? has two wings and his head and tail oscillates sideways as he walks with its mouth opening and closing (perhaps it is female after all, apologies ladies). Its legs and feet operate in sequence the weight being taken off the moving limbs by bell cranks driven by push rods activated by eccentrics. There are four pairs of helical gears inside and two main drives. Dumble looked very handsome as Ken had used as many colours as possible. Power is provided by a geared down monoperm motor.

John Nuttall's contribution were two nicely designed and built geared units, one a differential unit designed for 2" pulleys and tyres. The other was a heavy duty front wheel drive unit with a 5:1 hub reduction gear designed for 6" ashtray tyres. The gearing and drive were very robust but still free running. The drive will be used in a Scammell 8x6 gritter.

Mike also had a dealer display board with examples of mechanisms built in Meccano. A side cam drive, normal drive to an eccentric, a cam drive, a pulley drive, a friction drive, a bevel gear drive and a universal coupling drive.



The Wobble shaft variable speed gear shown by **Roger Burton** appears in the 1929 book of new models or the Hornby companion series vol 8. This fascinating mechanism varies the speed by moving a 1/2" pulley and tyre. The motion is somewhat erratic because of the double pawl and ratchet drive at the flywheel but I found I could smooth it out by damping the flywheel (rubbing my finger against it).



I was interested to see **John Evan's** Field Marshall tractor as the prototypes always fascinated me, John had incorporated a 6 volt motor with gear box and a forward and reverse gear box together with a driven winch at the rear, a lovely little model. He had also got his hands on the new Mechanical Workshop set and had built the F1 car from the instruction manual.

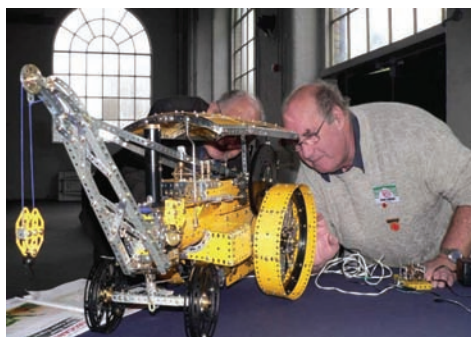


Paul Hubbard's display included his twin cylinder steam engine from the 1930's supermodel plan it ran well through the day, powered by an electric motor. An orange racer from a radio control set. A helicopter gunship of Paul's own design and an off road motor bike.

Ken and Ben Newbon showed us a number ten set railway break-down crane and dock crane two very nice models.



Hugh Jenkins had built the Burrell crane engine from Model Plan 100A in yellow black and zinc colours. This model is pleasing to look at and is a big improvement on earlier set 10 traction engines. It was a bit fiddly to make with some part sizes written incorrectly in the plan, especially axle rods and some bearings and the crank shaft could do with "beefing up" but I enjoyed building it and



Don Boycott had part built a trailer to hitch to his Volvo snow plough he has shown us before. This is designed to carry a roller. The frame is strongly constructed using channel sections as cross braces. Don had used attractive colours of blue and zinc with a yellow plate for the under surface.



Colin Bull showed us the Fishguard Titan Block setting crane built from the model plan 169. This was modified in several ways. 1) The roller bearing is also a slip ring, 2) The crab winding drum is 1 1/2" cut from a wood roller part 106. The crab track is 4mm rod, from a DIY store, glued to 1 1/2 " nar-

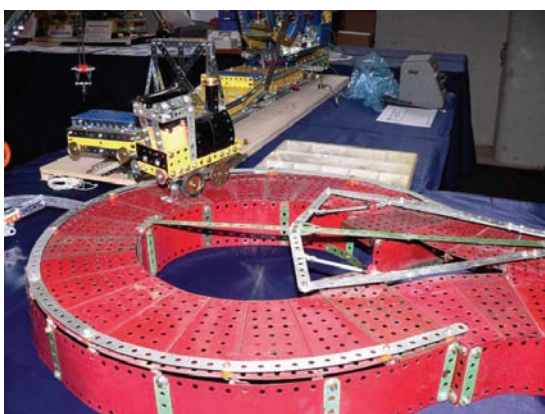
Geoff Brown had a transporter bridge with a long and interesting history. It was built by Vic Stavely and was shown on the cover of volume 64 of the Meccano Magazine, April 1979. After Vic's death the bridge passed through various hands and was at one time "stolen" by the partner of one of its owners! The model needs restoration but it runs well and is nicely proportioned. The Hornby locomotive display included several "new" locos on display and running.. Old locos need exercise! says Geoff !



John MacDonald once again thrilled us with his freelance 6-wheeled drive truck based loosely on a mighty Antar and carrying a Russian rocket. This model featured a 6 wheel drive, 3 speed and reverse gear box, clutch, suspension, elevating rockets, rocket train, rockets launch for 6” and working lights, a delight to see.



Chris Shute had built a modified version of Keith Cameron’s novelty locomotive Little Joe and tricky track. The power drive motor was inclined, to use a pinion and contrate wheel drive instead of a worm drive and this considerably extends the battery life. A switch beneath the loco stops it at a set position on the track and spectators have to restart it by pushing a button at the track side. The track uses 48 flanged sector plates (some of us said “ at last a use for these abundant parts!”).



Steph Sleaford had 15 small models from plastic and steel Meccano kits. What an encouragement to other young ladies to have a go. *Steph’s models are pictured right...*

The Nightingale Family. What exhibition is without the very varied display of this family? This time they showed a very much modified Konkoly meccanograph with ongoing modifications by Les Senior. A robot from umpteen model sets, battery powered by Anne with little help from Les junior and lastly an automatic motor switch consisting of a square framed track insulated at each end from the rest of the model. A steel ball runs down the track to the bottom where it connects to the powered section completing the circuit and switching a motor on, the ball is then carried up to the top by a screw lift and passes over an insulating section switching off the motor. I’m sure there must be a simpler way of automatically controlling a motor, Les but it would not be half as interesting or fascinating to watch!



John and Joyce Sleaford showed us a selection of models from Marks and Spencer’s starter sets, these were the Helicopter, jet plane and a motor bike, these sets when combined produce the Robot man. A larger set from M and S built a WW1 Sopwith Camel. The F1 car came from the new mechanical workshop set and the Renault F1 car from set 0503 of 2004. The Big Brother Dodge was fitted on a Nikko RC chassis, this is a Bernard Perrier design from CQ78. A number of other small models was also included. A fabulous display from modern Meccano.



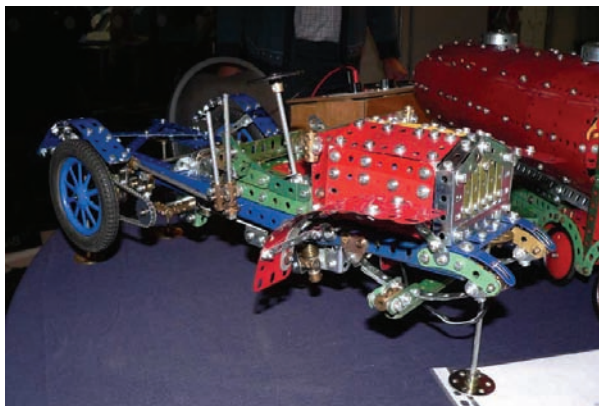
Peter Sleaford’s 9 M&S Red Arrows were shown in an eye catching diamond 9 formation. There was also a modified CQ Meccanograph and an interactive basic Meccanograph enabling children to produce their own designs.

Keith Way As always Keith had come up with a large display. Four of the models were for the Meccanuity 2008 4 axle rigid lorry project. These range from a miniature to model 8.19 (1954) instruction manual Foden plus a couple of concept models at the planning stage, one as a chassis and one as side view profile.

Fascinating to see working was Keith's Veteran 1910 Lacre Van from Model Plan 108 designed by Jeffery Boswell. The model has a gearbox, clutch, all spur gear differential and two brake systems, a hand brake and a prop shaft foot brake He says that he has had to rework the plan but feels it might be his own deficiencies rather than the plan.

Janet way had 7 models on display, all examples of models that were especially of interest to younger modellers to encourage them to try for themselves. These were 5 from the 1995 collection series, the 2202 racing car, the 2504 four wheeled ATV, 2930 4 wheeled truck, 2940 Glider, 2950 motorbike and sidecar, a helicopter and two models of biplanes.

Terry Bullingham brought along two hybrid Meccano / Model engineered steam engine flywheels. These were amazingly well balanced and really looked the part. The robust design of the machined flywheel included a crafty method of joining the spokes without fouling the flywheel rim. The second flywheel was a machined casting with modifications to the boss allowing Meccano bushwheels to be attached. The flywheels are a testimony to Terry's modelling skills,.



Dave Harvey's display included an original design impulse inching clock, using a unique double acting ratchet to inch the second hand each second. The model included an hourly chime. This model with Dave's account was included in CQ 77.

His beautiful Savage centre engine, featuring twin cylinder horizontal steam engine and an inverted vertical engine on a common horizontal boiler again ran faultlessly. The Kawasaki 1000P motor cycle built from internet available plans to a scale of 1/12th continues to fascinate old and young alike with its superb detail. The Konkoly designed Meccano ultra super variograph was published in the Runnymede Meccano Guild Magazine. This offers room for further experimentation says Dave. It is different as it produces non-symmetrical patterns.



Kevin Spann always entertains us with his clever and fun models, this meeting was no exception, and the neat Meccano locomotive and rolling stock running around a Hornby tracked layout really did show the versatility of this excellent modeller.

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