



TELFORD AND IRONBRIDGE MECCANO SOCIETY

Meccanuity 2008 Model Report

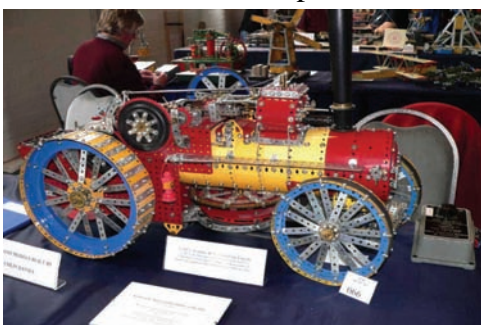
By Hugh Jenkins & Dave Harvey

Arriving at Eginuity in glorious sunshine on the first day of the exhibition I wondered what this years show would bring. Would it live up to last year's? I needn't have worried what a feast and variety of models. Read on!

Dennis Remnant set the scene with a British railways 9F 2-10-0 locomotive with Crosti boiler, the prototype of this model was the last class of steam locomotives built for BR, ten of which were fitted with this double barrelled boiler. The all black livery of the model and its smooth running was very impres-



Colin Davies showed us three superlative models, the first was a four column beam engine with fluted Greek style columns, a single fly wheel, Watts parallel motion, speed governor and vertical steam boiler. The second was a 1/8th scale Fowler class BB1 ploughing engine built using photographs and measurements from a prototype at Bressingham. Third was a 1/8th scale model of the Rocket locomotive again from photographs and measurements from the replica at York



Ken Senar entertained us all with three fun models which adults and children alike enjoyed, they were Willie the worm, which was driven by a No 2 clockwork motor, Dumble the dragon with 4 wings, 6 legs and white hot tongue, all driven from a Decaperm motor and Spiffy the spider with eight legs, funny faces and capable of walking forward and backwards.



Roger Burton had a 1950's set 9 Floating crane model. The crane was manually operated by two handles, one to luff the jib and one to raise and lower the hook. A very attractive model in its red and green colours.

Jim MacCulloch's four models were beautifully detailed and worked well. They included a luffing jib tower crane inspired by a Stokys model design of the 80's. The extending tower mechanism was operated by screwed rods to simulate hydraulics. Jim's little beam engine was superbly detailed in a small scale, it uses Exacto narrow strips to make a neat beam and 5 1/2" narrow circular strips to make a well proportioned fly wheel. Next he had a nicely made small scale hammer head crane built by Dave Taylor and featured in CQ a few years ago. Finally Mac's Marching Marauder which used Chris Shute's basic idea for the stamping hexapod featured in a 1984 CQ, walked with a rolling gait up and down on the floor.



George Illingworth's mouth watering display of 1/12th scale fire engines were greatly admired by all. They represented, in chronological order a 1935 Leyland TLM turntable ladder, a 1930 Dennis G 30 cwt fire engine, a Bedford/NEB water tender fire engine of 1970 and a 1973 Landrover fire engine. (Picture next page).

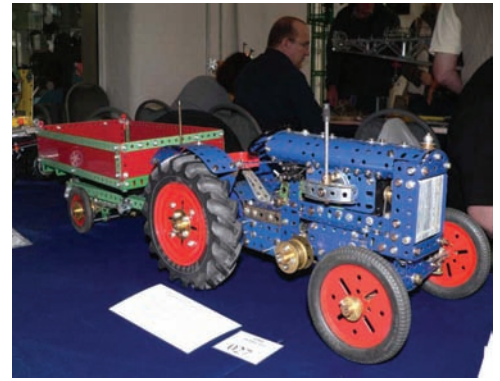


Dave Harvey's display included his original design Impulse Inching Clock, using a unique double acting ratchet to inch the second hand. The model included an hourly chime. This model with Dave's account was included in CQ 77.

His beautiful Savage centre engine, featuring twin cylinder horizontal steam engine together with an inverted vertical engine on a common horizontal boiler which again ran faultlessly. This model was featured in CQ 80. His other steam engine was a beautiful horizontal single cylinder mill engine. 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.

John Armstrong treated us to two very eye catching models from the 1976 crane set both finished in yellow, the first was the level luffing crane and the second the tower crane. Equally eye catching was his incomplete mini orrery of Jupiter and its four moons and his incomplete astronomical clock. We are looking forward to seeing these completed John!

Reg Hall 's round table was full of interesting models 1) an Army Multikit Combat column consisting of a heavy tank, light tank, scout car, an artillery train of truck limber and field piece, cargo truck and trailer and a civilian breakdown vehicle as L.A.D.. Also there was a Sopwith Camel and an Eihtecsolar powered float plane, The helicopter and Surface submarine from the crazy inventors sets. The Mad Mullah ,one of the new speed play robots, quoting Reg "It has no sense of direction and speaks gobbledy-gook, a prime candidate for politics?" He showed us a linear activator he got from the Spanner site it worked extremely well and was quite powerful in its action.



Terry Pettitt's high level of modelling skill was shown in his Tractor, based on a Fordson and featuring a clutch three speed and reverse gearbox and a spur gear differential driving the rear wheels, the trailer was fitted with a tipping mechanism. His two models for the eight wheel Mechanuity project were of a AEC Mammoth Major 8 wheeled lorry with a clutch controlled gear box and two differentials for the back axles. Terry also showed us a free lance 8 wheeler lorry with a much admired 4 speed pre-selector gear box driven by a centrifugal clutch and with differentials for the



Bill Gardiner had his table full of entertainment for youngsters with play models. These were, the climbing man, the bagatelle table, roundabout with planes, toboggan and a super transporter bridge with an automatic reversing mechanism. His large long case (Grandfather) clock kept perfect time driven by its 18 lb weight and his Guess the number of parts beam engine. Will someone win a Meccano set!



David Lacy brought along two buses. The first one 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 with "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 and fitted. "The difficulty is achieving the realistic curved profile of the original," says David. The cab structure is now fitted.

Thomas Priscott's display featured an amusing model for the Meccanuity Challenge in the form of Fred Flinstone's Mower. He was wrestling with a spider to get it to work and was busy building a captive ball roller bearing featuring a 7 1/2 inch disc of his own making. He also had two fairground machines believed to be ex shop demonstration models, a ferris wheel and a flying chairs model.



Janet Way exhibited a large collection of small models from one model sets and others. They made a very attractive display. She says the collection is growing at each meeting. (has anybody missed any small models recently?).

Don Boycott showed us an attractive 6 wheeled lorry. This featured a four man crew based on a refuse wagon, manned by Mr Spiderman (Driver) and Mr Maintenance (as mechanic). The model featured a gearbox, engine with fan and the body featured drop sides and drop tail-gate.



Matt Goodman had four very nice models on show, a prize winning Plastic Meccano Coles Crane with most of the movements of the real thing, an eight wheel telescopic road crane with a very smooth action to its jib, steering and scale hook, a basic rocket launcher which could be aimed and would fire a rocket over 20 ft. and a 1938 Sentinel DG8 eight wheeler steam lorry, this was superbly decked out as dray lorry for "Binns Brewery" in a very tasteful dark blue.



John Evans had a lovely Field Marshall Tractor whose basic scale was set by ashtray tyres (about 1:8) it featured forward and reverse gears, a working winch and that lovely gentle rocking of the prototype. His three other models were a mini excavator with six motors, two to drive the tracks and four to drive the excavator, a very nice beam engine and a dealers shop window display windmill model in yellow and zinc colours. (Picture next page).

Dave Bradley showed us his 1970's set 9 Conveyancer pointing out the errors in the manual which were incorrectly sized plates used at the rear end. Sets 3 and 4 provided two nice model cars. His eight wheeler 1/10th scale heavy haulage truck with radio control looked quite spectacular in the colours Dave had chosen.



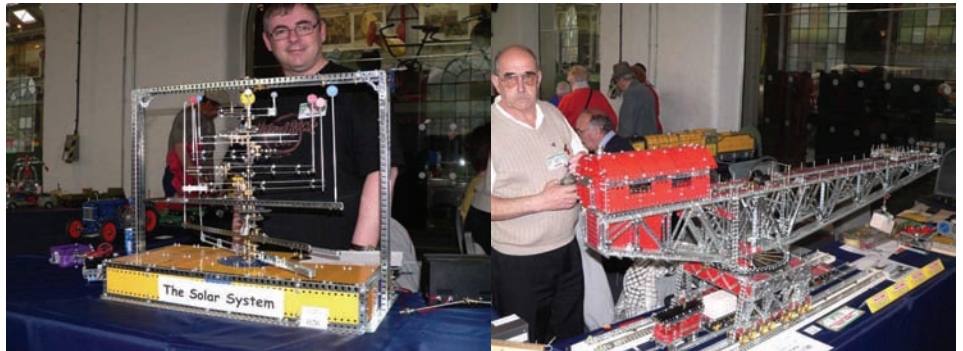
Mike Fallows had eight models. 1) A dealer model showing a variety of drives 2) a Red Arrow 3) a Renault formula 1 racing car 4) A dealer model sky rider 5) an executive toy 6) 7) and 8) meccanographs by Konkoly and Nightingale, a meccanograph by Visualgraph Jubilee models and lastly one by Baldwin. A very varied and interesting display.





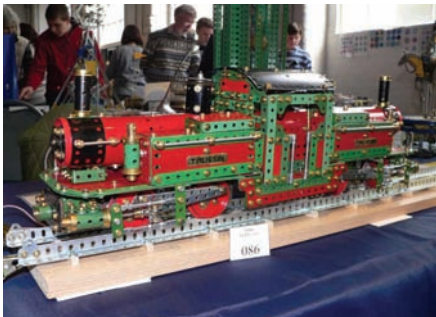
The Nightingale family's eye catching display included a ping pong ball machine with a turntable and four chutes, one old Meccanograph and a new one that is still being developed, both worked well and provided visitors with much delight. The Double Fairlie locomotive was modelled on Taliesin from the Festiniog Railway and was built from MP164. It looked wonderful in its smart red/green livery and its electronic "chuffer" synchronised to its movement along its seven foot track.

Tony Evanson's orrery built from model plan 160, demonstrated the motion of the solar system superbly, it had all eight planets Pluto and Quadar and a trans Neptunian object. The gearing for this model were all contained in set 10. A second model from model plans 173 showed an extra solar system 55 Caci with four planets. Michael Whiting wrote both these MP's.

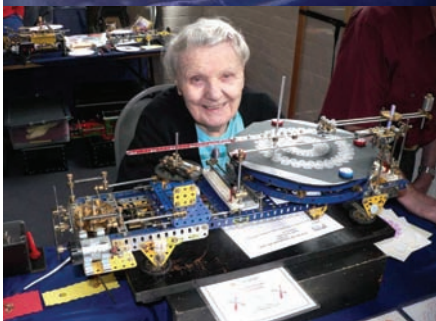


Colin Bull had built the Fishguard Block setting crane from a model plan. He had made some modifications such as adding a string of railway wagons. The roller bearing incorporated a slip ring to supply current to the mechanism.

Daniel Naylor produced a square wheeled car for the challenge but was unable to run it. Something to do with a football match, I gather!



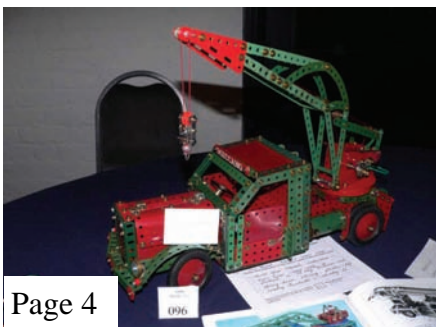
Ralph and Sue Lawton had made a wonderful job of restoring a 1970's shop dealer's display model windmill so that it looked like it was when new. The yellow plates were restored as well as the electrics and the coloured bulbs replaced. How nice to see these old models brought to life again. Their bending machines, one for plates and one for strips and angle brackets showed the visitors that Meccano can make real working tools.



John Palmer had a Marklin Crane Lorry built from Marklin instructions and featured in CQ December 2006. It featured opening doors, steering, gearbox, differential, rotary turntable and elevating jib.

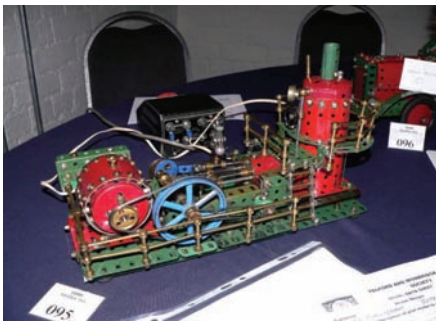


Geoff Wilson showed us a tower for a crane complete with ladders and all gangways lit for safety. It also featured a control room with CCTV. His JCB type digger was mounted on a plinth and worked to a cycle controlling the tracks and digger mechanism. Geoff's recovery vehicle was based on a Kenworth customised prototype and featured working winches, lights, luffing crane, rear differential gear, air tanks and steering.



The Generator set by **Terry Bullingham** was well detailed with a governor and full motion work, including valve gear produced expertly. A very interesting and nice model! (Picture next page).

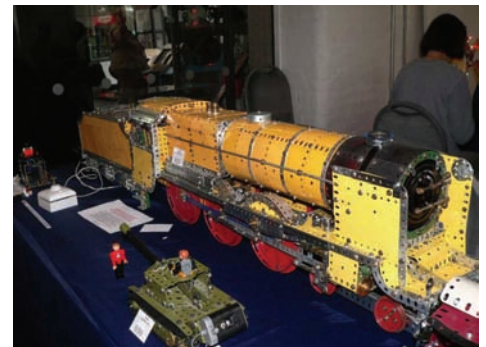




Tony Clapperton's exhibits were his amusing horse and chariot driven by a Meccano clockwork motor. Also Tony showed a tower crane built by a Model Plan written by Philip Webb. All the movements of this model were driven by individual motors with fitted gear-boxes. His contribution to the project was an ERF flatbed 8 wheeled lorry built to a scale of 1:10 and fitted with radio control.

Hugh Jenkins had his original Royal Scot 4-6-0 locomotive on display. Built to 1 inch to the foot scale approximately, this featured Walschearts valve gear and a detailed cab. A tank from the army multikit much modified to include a small French motor, and a R/C truck from the Meccano modern sets. His offering for the project was a fairly modern crane lorry built approximately to half the size of Eric Taylor's model.

John Reid had two magnificent aircraft on show, a Handley page "Hannibal" based on a feature in a 1930's Meccano Magazine. The scale is approximately 1:40 and an Armstrong Whitworth Argosy tri-engine biplane based on Meccano Super model leaflet 34, the scale of this model is approximately 1:24. The model is much modified to make the components more representative.



Michael Walker's Atlantean type double decker bus was based on a model in the 62-70 set 8 manual but lengthened by 4" to make it more realistic. It was equipped with a concealed set of R/C gear to give the advantage of remote control but without visible aerials etc.

John Nuttall's beautifully built steam locomotive based on a Metropolitan class K 2-6-4 tank really looked the part in its 1929 dark red and green parts. Its valve gear and other motion work ran superbly and the detailing included sand pipes, brake gear and a detailed cab.

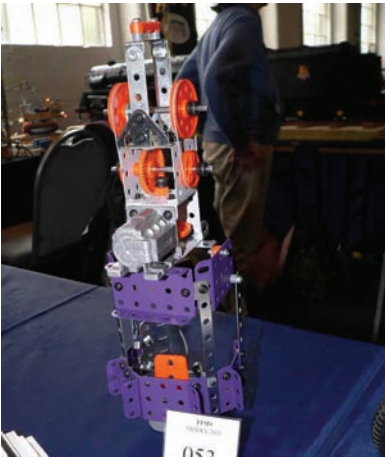
Geoff Brown had a Red Arrows fair ride based on a dealers' display of the 1950's much modified and powered by a crane motor. His Hornby O gauge layout included some of Frank Hornby's finest creations in the Schools class and County class engines Eton and County of Bedford respectively. As Geoff says these very valuable if boxed and mint. Engines are much better for a little exercise and give, adults who remember Hornby O gauge trains immense pleasure.



Chris Shute showed us his carnival float of Snow White and the seven miniature Meccano persons mounted on the flat bed of a number eight set Foden eight wheeler lorry. The lorry is modified to have a power drive motor in the cab, a chain drive and twin differentials. Snow White and the seven miniature Meccano persons dance, driven by 16 cranks under the trailer. Even Snow White's lips are Meccano parts, elektrikit sleeving!



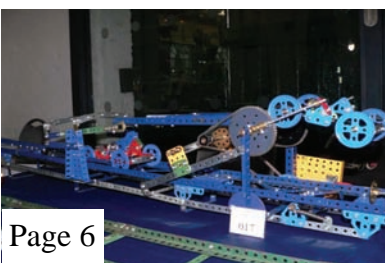
Young visitor **Billy McElhill** bought along a 40 Model set elevator on the Saturday, to show us all that the age of the Meccano boy is still alive.



Keith Way had built the 1910 Lacre van from model plan108, the only defect of this model is all the detail that cannot be seen, as it has a 3 speed forward and reverse gearbox, clutch, foot-brake and handbrake.

Polly on his (her?) trolley was inspired by a NewZealand pub sign! The Parrot and Jigger. It is controlled by an infra red remote control. His automatic racers were decidedly hypnotic in their operation. It was an updated version of a 1920's model.

Keith's entries for the project were two very nice Foden lorries, first a Foden flat bed and a tanker revised from the 1950's model 8.19. To add to his collection he had his 1/15th scale Fowler showman's engine powered by a PDU and his Coles six ton mobile crane built to model plan128.



John and Joyce Sleaford had a wonderful display of models including a Volvo tractor unit and trailer with three motorbikes on the trailer, a helicopter built from instructions included in the new crane multikit set. An F1 Renault car from an M&S kit, a two seater car from the mechanical workshop set, a quad bike, an epicyclic roundabout from Constructor Quarterly, Designer 3 aeroplane with wing walker and many small models. A lovely display!

Peter Sleaford had built and modified a Meccanograph from a Constructor Quarterly model. It was now easier to use and its operation was also improved.

His interactive Meccanograph was excellent for visitors to the exhibition to produce their own designs, it was well used and children were seen queuing in an orderly way to draw their own designs.

Steph Sleaford had a large collection of plastic and metal Meccano models including two R/C cars, scales and an incredible flying machine from the crazy inventor's series.



Rob Miller had a large display of small but very entertaining models, some from Bernard Perrier's stable, a formula 1 Renault car, Spitfire, motor bikes and radio control cars as well as a bargain he acquired on Saturday, a 1950's red and green set 7, strung in its original box!



Paul Hubbard's floating crane is based on supermodel 28. It is progressing well and the modifications Paul has made to it so that it has three motors rather than two seem to be quite a success. He also had two modern sports car kits.



Ian McCalla brought us his admirable Steam excavator, this is from Supermodel 19A and has a 1965 Meccano Steam engine as power unit. A road bridge with a lovely roller bearing made from 168b flanged rings and internal gear drive was his second offering.

Michael Threlfall showed us a mark 2 version of a Ferris Wheel based on his mark1 which was built to promote the small scale motors that he sells. The Mark two is larger, uses four colours and has a more rigid construction.

Lastly but far from least a big thank you to **Dave and Marilyn Taylor**, Meccanuity's resident dealers. Without their parts many models in this report would not have been on show!

The Meccanuity Challenge

The competitors were:- Chris Copp 2 models, Ralph and Sue Laughton, Hugh Jenkins, Les Nightingale (jnr), Roger Burton (Driven by Ken Senar), David Lawrence overseas entry from California (run by Jake Picking) Thomas Priscott, Keith Way, Stephen Way, Tony Evanson, Luke Miller and Chris Shute (run by Matt Goodman).

There were two heats and the third and final heat was between Ralph and Sue Laughton, Hugh Jenkins, Stephen Way, Chris Copp, Luke Miller and Chris Shute The winner was **Luke Miller** with runners up **Ralph and Sue Laughton** . The Best original design, chosen by Jon Drew of Enginuity, was awarded to **Keith Way**.

And finally thank you to all exhibitors, without your efforts the show would not go on!

Hugh Jenkins

