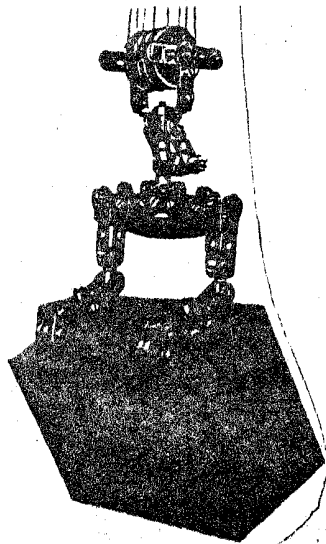


SMG NEWS



no. 24

Chairman:
Charles Hatfield,

Treasurer:
Stephen Parkin,

Secretary/ Newsletter Ed.:
Mike Beadman,

Joint Newsletter Ed.:
Rob Mitchell,

THE SHEFFIELD MECCANO GUILD

Dear Member,

There have been some changes in the SHEFFIELD MECCANO GUILD recently.

As mentioned in the last issue of SMG NEWS, Richard Bingham, Robin Johnson and Peter Mason have all retired from their posts as Guild officers. At the AGM, the above new officers were press-ganged, (!).

Secondly, subscriptions have been reduced to £3, reflecting the fact that CONSTRUCTOR QUARTERLY is an independently financed publication. The £3 covers the two Guild meetings at Norton, and four issues of the Newsletter produced jointly by Rob Mitchell and myself.

At the time of writing, a full membership list was not available. Guild membership is expected to fall to around the fifty mark, since most of the members were primarily interested in the magazine, which, now being independent of the Guild, has its own subscription arrangements.

Compiling the new membership has been complicated by an initial slow payment of subscriptions. Therefore, to reach everyone who has expressed an active interest in the Guild in one way or another, Newsletter distribution for this issue has been as follows:-

To anyone who has paid his/her sub. by date of posting.

To anyone who attended the last meeting.

To anyone who wrote requesting a copy of the last Newsletter.

We expect to supply a membership list with the March issue. All subscriptions should be sent to Stephen Parkin at the above address, and any items for the Newsletter (exhibition reports, letters &c) to myself or Rob Mitchell.

Finally folks, on behalf of the Guild Officers, may I wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

MIKE BEADMAN

Now, a word from our esteemed Chairman.

NORTON NOTES

As the man said - some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. I am a little uncertain as to which of these routes brought me to the exalted office of Chairman of the Sheffield Meccano Guild, but I do know that I have a hard act to follow.

The very first issue of the newsletter for what was then called the Sheffield Meccano Group contained a Chairman's Page written by Richard Bingham. That issue was dated November 1981, and Richard continued in the office of Chairman until the AGM last October, when for reasons connected with his present employment he found it necessary to resign. Happily he remains a Guild member, and has promised his readiness to assist me.

Another blow we received at the AGM was the resignation from office of the other two members of the 'Great Triumvirate', Robin Johnson and Peter Mason, both of whom had been founder members. Not everyone will have been able to realise the extent of the work these two stalwarts have done during every quarter of the year. Imagine, for a start, the labour of putting 300 magazines into envelopes, addressing them, and posting them!

Also, in addition to producing and despatching the magazine, they have had to cope with a steady demand for back numbers which had to be folded, collated, stapled and trimmed, a job with which I have been able to lend some assistance. The single-handed production of the superb Constructor Quarterly now leaves Robin no time for club activities, but we are glad that both he and Peter remain members.

As soon as the AGM ended, Richard took me along to book the Norton Hall for our next two meetings, which are to be held on Saturday 8th April and Saturday 7th October. We will also be going to Kedham Island Industrial Museum, and the new committee will make every effort to publicise this prestigious event.

We are confident that the Guild members will continue to give us their full support, and that those who are able will contribute material for the Newsletter, as well as Constructor Quarterly, which I think can now claim to be the best magazine on the subject of Meccano modelling that has ever appeared. It might cost £12 a year, but it contains more practical information for the modern Meccano enthusiast than all the old Meccano Magazines that he will ever buy.

A Happy Christmas, and happy modelling, everyone!

Charles Hatfield.

MODEL REPORT- GUILD MEETING, MORTON, 8th OCTOBER 1988

Mike Beadman

Showed a 'simplicity' Monorail, the idea being to use a minimum of expensive bits. Mike also showed a Geoff Colles design Crane Lorry, and a NMMG Constructorproject Ship's Crane.

Tom McCallum

Brought a display of C. 1929 Meccano, including dark Reg/Green sets, manuals, also a High Voltage Motor and a Steam Engine.

Roy Everitt

A Yellow/Blue/ Zinc Pontoon Crane made within the confines of a No. 10 set, and driven by a Marklin EU1072 Motor.

Les Gines

Displayed a Tank from a 1919 publication, also a helicopter based on the machine in the 'Blue Thunder' TV series.

Frank Grant

Showed a Synchronous Clock which neither of the Editors could start.....

Charles Hatfield

A Blue/Yellow/White Magic Windmill and two Blue and Red Steam engines, one Beam engine, the other an Undertype.

Richard Kent

A pair of Black/Yellow No. 1 set Scooters, an SML 6 Stiff Leg Derrick, and a (Wait for it) Mk. 5 Short Wheelbase, Tack- Driven, Ozone Friendly 'Thing' (Phew!)

Aohn McDonald

Brought a most Splendid model- a Red/Green Pocket Battleship- The Graf Spee. All the guns train, and elevate, and the model features seaplane launching and recovery gear. Along with the working lighting, a very imposing model.

Iain McKenzie

Showed a Nuremberg Verge and Foliot Clock, a Red/Green Vditure de Maitre, and Two Aeroplane Constructor models, one devoid of wings... 'My Kingdom for a pair of wings' it says here. on the model report.

Rob Mitchell

Red/Green/Blue/Zinc 0-4-0 T Steam Loco, mounted on a plinth. Rob also had much fun with a rubber tracked All Terrain Vehicle, powered by an HO motor.

Dave Penney

A massive Red/Green Caterpillar 245 Excavator, featuring all the working features of the prototype, and using all the Aeroplane Collars in the known Universe.

Ernest Platts

Showed his Salt Mine Roof Cutter in Red/Green, this model represents a type of machine which uses standard Coal Cutter chain and picks to mine rock salt.

Roger Le Rolland

Showed an ABC Bus built from Meccano, Constructo;
and Stokys parts, also a Midland Railway
4-2-2 'Spinner' Loco and Tender and an Electric
Tramcar.

Frank Singleton

Andreas Konkoly Ellipsograph modelled in Dark
1/2 Blue and Yellow parts.

Chris Thomson

Brought an 18th Century Kientz Steam Engine
made from Blue/Yellow/Zinc parts, based on the
original model of Dr. David Whitmore.

Geoff Tomlinson

A Red/Green Table- Top Blocksetter and a Nickel
Meccano Shocking Coil.

"People, it has been said, can be placed in three classes: the
few who make things happen, the many who watch things happen, and
the overwhelming majority who have no idea what has happened".....

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

All members of the SHEFFIELD MECCANO GUILD are in that enviable
position mentioned by Mr. Butler in the above quotation. YOU MAKE THINGS
HAPPEN.

In a world where everything seems to be done on our behalf by
'experts' (where an 'ex' is a has-been, and a 'spert' is a drip under
pressure), the Sheffield Meccano Guild member is able to put his ideas
and theories into solid, real, working practice, and receive useful,
uncritical advice from fellow members at the Guild meetings at Norton.

Then, at Kelham Island and other exhibitions, he can display
his creations to 'the many who watch things happen', who give their
admiration and praise, and then go away and tell those 'who have no
idea what has happened'.

Our task as a Guild is to help reduce the size of the 'no idea'
brigade, so that they at least become one of the many who watch. Just
occasionally, one of the 'watchers' becomes a 'doer', one of the fort-
unate few..... and becoming a member of THE SHEFFIELD MECCANO GUILD is
the best possible start for any newcomer to Meccano.

DIARY DATES 1989

21st JANUARY	NORTH MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD, Club Meeting (Oxton)
18th FEBRUARY	North East London Meccano Club, Club Meeting, (Barkingside)
25th FEBRUARY	Henley Society of Meccano Engineers, Club Meeting (Henley)
11th MARCH	West London Meccano Society, Club Meeting (Greenford)
25th MARCH	Midlands Meccano Guild, Club Meeting (Alcester)
8th APRIL	SHEFFIELD MECCANO GUILD, Club Meeting (Norton)
22nd APRIL	Holy Trinity Meccano Club, Club Meeting (Hildenborough)
20th MAY	NORTH MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD, Club Meeting (Oxton)
27th MAY	Henley Society of Meccano Engineers, Club Meeting (Henley)
10th JUNE	North East London Meccano Club, Exhibition (Barkingside)
10th JUNE	West London Meccano Society, Club Meeting (Greenford)
25th JUNE	LINCOLN MECCANO EXHIBITION
7th-9th JULY	SKEGEX



..... The road to Norton at 5 a.m., SMG Meeting Day.

Rob and myself, while putting this lot together, have an interesting problem..... we may have to turn material away! Or, rather, point out that anyone out there about to embark on producing plans for an inch to the foot HOTOL spaceplane should send their work to CONSTRUCTOR QUARTERLY.

However, if more than just 'news' is wished for, let us know, either by writing with your views, or sending us the kind of thing you want. This way, SMG members who do not also subscribe to CQ can be catered for.

ROTHERHAM ARTS CENTRE - VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

It is rare indeed that Meccano models rub shoulder bolts with Dressmaking and Wargames, let alone Pottery and Puppets- but at this Arts Council sponsored exhibition such was indeed the case.

Beyond pondering whether it is possible to construct a knitting machine with computerised Ribbing Attachment in Meccano, it would be inappropriate to describe the other attractions at this pleasant, if not exactly overcrowded, exhibition.

Rob Mitchell and Mike Beadman put in appearances, along with some odd bits of Meccano, wearing their other hats as members of the Rotherham Society of Scale Model Makers. It must be said that this grand moniker is somewhat of a misnomer, since besides Meccano, whose adherents seldom, if ever, aspire to true 'scale', other members produce wooden models of various types, and at least one chap collects and displays die-cast toys.

However, I digress. Rob and Mike took a prominent spot in the centre of the main hall, and wore their SMG badges at all times, with pride.

Rob Mitchell Displayed a section of another fine mineral processing plant, the completed part represents Grizzly and crusher mechanisms. Produced from the original plant scale drawings, a very solid piece of construction which rumbled and vibrated happily all day.

Rob also brought his Side Tank Loco, and his rubber tracked Crawler Vehicle which astounded the public all day with feats of obstacle climbing and motorised vandalism, while his Konkoly Tortoise trundled contentedly about the floor. (A note concerning this model. If making any modifications to Andreas' design, such as a different motor, ensure that the No. 52 plate which forms the base has no boltheads which can touch the ground. The base must be smooth for the walking action to be successful.)

Mike Beadman showed his Constructorproject Ship's Crane, a Biplane, and a partly finished Fairground Monorail. Based on a circular track, the car attains a 'Scale' speed of around 100 mph, banking alarmingly under centrifugal force.

The main part of the Exhibition, which would have been of interest to many Meccano enthusiasts, was a display commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Sheffield and Rotherham Railway. Apart from a collection of surviving curios - tickets, tokens &c- the display consisted of fine model layouts showing how the railway originally appeared. It would seem that the Sheffield terminus was near the Wicker arches, and the site is now covered by Vauxhall dealers Charles Clark; while the Rotherham terminus now has the Postal Sorting Office on the site.