



August 2003

July Run Day

by Ron Date

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Your Committee

President
Ron Date 9246 2835

Vice President
Dick Langford 9408 0081

Secretary
Andrew Manning 9446 4825

Treasurer
John Martin 9448 8843

Committee Members

Doug Baker 9341 1630

Phil Gibbons 9390 4390

Steve Reeves 9354 1395

John Shugg 9246 9549

Safety Officer

David Naeser 9375 7785

Publicity & Events

Jim Crawford 9276 5464

Newsletter

Jim Clark 9446 5870

NDMES
PO Box 681
Balcatta 6021
Western Australia

With the weather looking ominous, the July Run Day looked as though a repeat of June was on the cards, but for once we didn't get a drop of rain. Overall it turned out to be an excellent day with good patronage, including a birthday party in the Rotunda.

Steve Reeves' 'Helen' made a return to the track, looking beautiful with her new paint and performed equally as well.

'Speedy' did its thing all right with Ed Brown in charge. At one time we had six trains in action which included 'Waratah' for member training.

Signalling was spot on except when I overran a little and gave myself a red light by being over the switch.

John Hudson made his maiden voyage at last on 'Waratah' and couldn't get the smile off his dial for some time — good on you, John.

Phil Gibbons did a mighty job



Ed Brown and 'Speedy' - busy hauling passengers.
Photo: John Shugg

as Duty Officer, and with all the paperwork he didn't get a lot of time to enjoy himself.

Andrew Manning's Foden truck did a lot of work and took some of the pressure from the trains, providing a nice addition to our attractions.

(Continued on page 4)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|
| General Meeting | Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta | 8:00 pm | Friday 8 August |
| Club Run Day | Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta | 11:00 am—3:00 pm | Sunday 10 August |
| Public Run Day | Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta | 11:00 am—3:00 pm | Sunday 31 August |
| General Meeting | Club Meeting Room Vasto PI, Balcatta | 8:00 pm | Friday 12 September |
| Club Run Day | Club Track Site Vasto PI, Balcatta | 11:00 am—3:00 pm | Sunday 14 September |

Minutes of July General Meeting

by Dick Langford

General Meeting of 14 July 2003 – held at the Society's Clubrooms, Vasto Place, Balcatta.

Apologies: Neville Merchant, Jim Crawford, Doug Baker, Bruce Weir-Smith, Mike Rogers, Bob Brown Snr, Bob Brown.

23 Members attended; there were no visitors.

Minutes of previous meeting were not available.

The Treasurer's report was presented.

GENERAL BUSINESS — Labelling requirements for riding cars – to comply with AS 3533, riding cars must have a label providing the following details: Manufacturer's name, date of manufacture, model number (if appropriate) and serial number.

Tank water quality – **Dennis Lord** reported that the tank water was very high in zinc; nearly four times the maximum allowed in drinking water. It was agreed that the tanks would be cleaned out and painted internally with a bituminous paint.

Risk assessment – **Ron Date** and **Dick Langford** reported on the City of Stirling risk assessment for clubs session they attended. We are running well as far as operation of our railway goes, but have not considered ongoing financial implications or continuing executive support for the society. We were advised that these matters should be a strong part of our risk assessment procedures.

Club Run Days – The meeting decided that these should be on Sundays from August 2003 on, with no more Saturday run days. Through summer, run days are to be 9.00am to 2.00pm, unless otherwise arranged.

The following matters were raised by **Brian Lawrie** and **Stu Martyn** for the committee to consider:

Committee Items

From the Committee:

- David Naeser has resigned as Safety Officer. The Committee will nominate a replacement in due course.
- Two expressions of interest have been received for the Society owned 51xx loco (includes a certified boiler). It will be recommended to the general membership that the loco be exchanged for a complete kit of castings and materials for a 5" gauge blowfly.
- There is a group of members who have agreed to build a second club loco from the kit.

Andrew Manning

Obtaining a container for on site storage.

Purchasing a second hand bob-cat to carry out the ground level track earthworks.

Purchasing a second hand rotary hoe with small trailer to shift material around the site.

Designing and building a carrying trolley for elevated track riding cars.

Members raised the following matters for discussion:

Is the roster working effectively? (**David Hunter**)

Is the society going to apply for an FAL card? (**Ray Shersby**)

What is happening with the wheelchair lift for the fire escape stairs? (**Stu Martyn**)

Is the society seeking a grant for the ground level track? (**Steve Reeves**)

MODEL ENGINEERING — **Milton Smith** showed his 5 inch gauge tender for his modified Simplex locomotive, complete with a partly finished steel carrying case.

Phil Gibbons showed his recently completed Quorn tool and cutter grinder (see photo below).

Dick Langford



Phil Gibbons demonstrates the use of his Quorn Tool & Cutter Grinder at the July Meeting.

Photo: Jim Clark

Thoughts on Connecting and Coupling Rods...

by Phil Gibbons

To talk about coupling and connecting rods we must first go back to the axle boxes. Correctly fitted axle boxes should have the flanges filed on a curve as shown in Figure 1. This allows them to take up irregularities in the track.

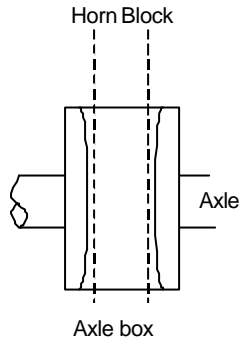


Figure 1

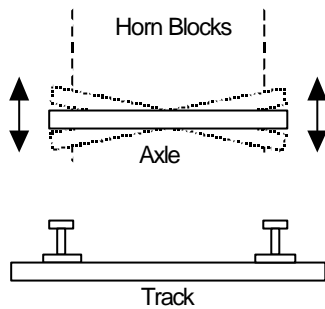


Figure 2

As the wheels pass over bumps and dips in the rails, the axles move on a radius about a central point, while the axle boxes move straight up and down, as shown in Figure 2.

You must have side play on all the wheels to allow this to happen. Also, the leading and trailing wheels must follow the curvature of the track, so they need extra side play.

President's Report

After the wet spell we have at last got our remaining exterior concrete laid on a Saturday morning, even though it meant 'Shuggie' was down there in the near dark to facilitate the job, which was done by John Italiano. Thanks to both Johns.

Not a lot more to be done now: carpet, wheelchair lift and a damned good clean-up, and hopefully we can get onto a myriad of other jobs around the track site.

You would have noticed four new steam up tracks in the steaming bay, made by Steve Reeves and installed by Dick Langford, Ray Shersby and John Shugg.

Mike Rogers says 'hello' to all — he is coming along steadily and is at the absolutely bored witless stage of his recovery. Keep on keeping on Mike, we are keen to see you back at the regulator.

Ron Date

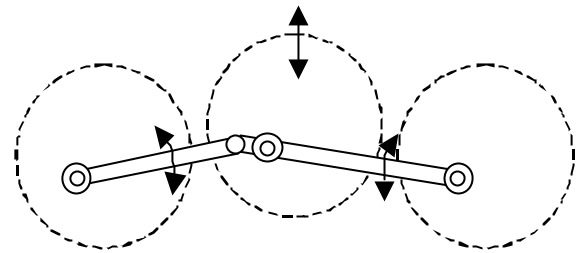


Figure 3

The coupling rods can be put into a third situation as shown in Figure 3 above, and once again the axle boxes move up and down in straight lines while the coupling rods move with a radius around the crank pins.

What does all this mean? Well, the old saying is 'A steam engine never works properly until it's worn out.' In fact, it has probably just worn the tight spots off everything and is worn *in* by this time.

My locos have a minimum of 0.25mm or .010" play in the side rods. They sometimes clunk a bit, but they don't derail and they have plenty of power. So when you think you've mucked up a few bushes and made them a bit sloppy, leave them alone — they're OK.

A full size loco outshopped as new has a minimum 1/8" play in the side rod bushes. Scale this down and it becomes .010" for 5" gauge.

Something to think about!

Phil Gibbons



Mike Rogers at the June Run Day — very wet but a great display of steam effects. Photo: Ian Allison



Northern Districts Model Engineering Society Inc.

Track Site:-
Vasto Place
Balcatta
Western Australia

All correspondence to:-
PO Box 681
Balcatta
Western Australia 6021

<http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/jimclark>

July Run Day (continued...)

by Ron Date

Stu Martyn displayed his gas fired, brightly painted 'Speedy' on it's test stand and attracted a lot of interest. He was also proudly flashing a full boiler ticket to all. Excuse the pun, but this is the speediest Speedy ever built. Good on you Stu!

Visitors on Sunday were from Melbourne (where's that?) and three from South Africa, two of whom now live here.



Steve Reeves driving 'Helen', the 5" gauge WAGR PMR Class— fresh out of the shops following a major overhaul by Steve.

Photo: John Shugg



Pack-up time is getting quicker all the time — what a team!

Ron Date

Left: John Hudson takes a turn at driving 'Waratah'.

Below left: Maxine Adams rides behind Jim Crawford— behold that hat!

Right: Ron Date with his ever reliable NSWGR 3246.

Photos: John Shugg



Right: Duty Officer Phil Gibbons discusses the day's paperwork with Bob Tanner.

Photo: John Shugg

POSITIONS VACANT

Multi-skilled People — There's still some finishing work on the interior/ exterior of the new Club House.

Also track maintenance, trimming, clearing etc., especially with the winter here.

Contact Ron Date for more details, or just come on down to the track site.

FOR SALE

Lathe/Milling Machine combo — lathe 110mm (4.3") x 450mm (17.7"). Milling/drilling head mounted over lathe saddle with 1/2 HP motor and 3MT spindle. Complete with 3 & 4 jaw chucks, steadies, faceplate, centres and drill chuck. Upgrading to larger machine. \$1,100 ono.

Contact Jim Clark on 9446 5870 or at jimclark@tpg.com.au