

Trains On-line

THE Internet magazine for all 4mm / foot railway modellers

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February 2004

Moguls, new Halls to join Bachmann range

BACHMANN' finally brought an end to speculation about its catalogue line up when it posted details of its new 2004 product range on its web site—and there is certainly plenty for modellers to get steamed up about.

IN THIS ISSUE...

NEWS from the shows and from manufacturers can be found on pages 1,2,3,9.

HORNBY'S new range reported in detail...pages 4,5,6.

LAYOUT of the Month is on pages 7 & 8.

CLUBSCENE for the latest society news is on pages 14,15.

Early birds have a cold start

EARLY 'birds' at Barry and Penarth MRC first 'themed' night found themselves left out in the January cold.

Laden with GWR stock they arrived to find the club doors locked—but help was soon on hand when a committee member with a key turned up too.

Holton Junction was soon busy and took on a decidedly 'chocolate and cream' appearance with prairies, panniers and all things Great Western in action.

Despite the hesitant start all present enjoyed the evening.

The next will be held on February 26 when the theme will be BR blue and green diesels.

For Eastern region enthusiasts there is brand new Gresley K3 mogul, while for West Coast fans there is a trio of Ivatt Class 4 moguls (aka Flying Pigs).

The K3s will be produced in a basic black livery; LNER with a Group Standard tender as 2934, BR lined black with early emblem and standard tender (61932), and BR lined black with late crest coupled to a stepped tender.

Collett

The Ivatt locomotives will also show variations; the LMS version (3001) features the double chimney, BR in lined black 43047 carries the late crest, while 43160 has the early Lion crest.

Bachmann's rumoured release of a Collett Grange to rival that of Hornby has so far not been confirmed and it is absent from the list, but there is something fresh for Western fans.

The current modified Halls are to be joined by versions of the earlier Collett Hall, so filling a gap left by the demise of the old and inaccurate Triang Hornby Hall.



Initially the model will be available as 6937 Conyngham Hall (BR green, late crest), 5960 Saint Edmund Hall (BR black, early emblem) and 4936 Kinlet Hall (Great Western with crest).

Also joining the line up is the promised 4575 series of small prairie tanks.

These will appear as 5531 (GWR green), 5555 (Great Western green) and 5559 (BR plain black with the

early Lion emblem).

Many of the existing range of steam locomotives are given a facelift.

New diesel models include three Class 66s, three Class 57s (including 57008, Freightliner Explorer), Class 40s, and two new Deltics are added to the range, 55012 Crepello and 55002 KOYLI.

The range of wagons is extensively added to and many of the existing coaches appear in new liveries.

Further details of the range will be published in the magazine as we receive them.

Skaledale buildings boosted

HORNBY'S Skaledale range of decorated poly-resin buildings is to be increased during 2004 to include a set of station structures and additional village buildings.

Among the releases planned for this quarter are Clovelly Cottage, Holly Farm buildings and two types of walling packs.

The range, which was introduced last year, is proving popular with modellers and 'modders' alike, as they provide a basis for considerable modification and detailing.

Further details of the range and the rest of the new Hornby 2004



New Skaledale signal box—due soon. catalogue can be found on pages 4-6 of this issue.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE worlds of real and model railways rub shoulders on February 14 at the Cadeby Valentine's Special event.

The Old Rectory at Cadeby, Leicestershire, is the home of the short narrow gauge Cadeby Light Railway and the Boston Collection Museum, which houses the late Rev 'Teddy' Boston's extensive collection of model locomotives in 4mm scale.

Other attractions include a large 4mm scale layout based on the Great Western Railway.

Further details can be obtained from Audrey Boston on 01455 290462.

VISITORS to Warley MRC's Annual Symposium and Open day at the clubrooms in Albert Street and Christchurch Primary School on Sunday 14 February will be able to see layouts, displays and demonstrations.

STEAM in 1964 is the topic of a talk being given by Alan Chandler to members of the East Anglian Railway (EARM) Enfield Branch at their meeting on February 3.

Scots gearing up for their national show



The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, venue for Modelrail Scotland.

Dapol expands wagons range

WAGONS appear to form Dapol's basic 2004 offering for 4mm modellers, with a steady stream of introductions planned for the coming months.

However, with the firm apparently concentrating on its recently introduced N Gauge range, there is a decidedly stale look to the catalogue line-up.

An LMS ventilated van and a 7-plank variant were scheduled for release at the end of January.

Planned

A further two wagons—a 7-plank in BR grey and a 5-plank PO wagon—planned for the end of February.

The remainder of the year should see 4 wagons released each month, including a dozen

or so PO wagons (both 5 and 7-plank), four new tank wagons, hopper wagons in a variety of liveries and several Presflo vehicles.

Five limited edition Pendolino 4-car sets remain available (only 200 of each name produced), along with coach variants to enable extended formations to be created.

In addition, Dapol continues to specialise in the production of RTR wagons in styles and liveries of the customer's choice, in runs of as little as 50 units.

MODEL Rail Scotland opens its doors to the public on February 27 signalling the start of a three-day 'railfest'.

The show, which is being held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), Glasgow, is the country's premier model railway exhibition and is expected to attract thousands of enthusiasts.

This year's move into a new and bigger exhibition hall will allow members of the Association of Model Railway Societies in Scotland to boost the number of layouts on show.

Visitors interested in 4mm/ft scale modelling are especially well catered for with no less than 15 layouts lined up, including several portraying the railway scene south of the border.

In all there will be more than 35 layouts on display, plus a special children's area featuring 'Trams of Yesteryear', a 'Thomas the Tank Engine' layout, and two G-scale layouts 'Dark Moor' (a fun layout) and an American adventure.

A number of 4mm

layouts will be making their debut at the show.

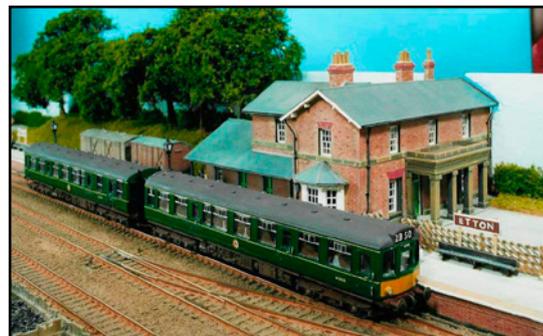
Among these is 'Scarborough', which has never before been seen outside Yorkshire, and 'Calder Road', a new layout from the East Kilbride MRC that depicts modern operating practices in Central Scotland.

Likely to attract attention from visitors from the south (i.e. England) is Loch Dubh which depicts a Scottish Highland Railway terminal set in the 1920s.

There will be a dozen societies and special interest groups in attendance and the show is supported by more than 60 traders.



Membership the of AMRSS is drawn from the many model railway clubs in Scotland. It was formed in 1966 to promote interest in model railways with a view to 'improving cultural and technical standards'.



A scene on Etton, one of the 15 4mm/ft model railway layouts to be seen at Model Rail Scotland. This layout is set in the 1960s in North East England. Other layouts on show include Glencairn (depicting the Scottish railway scene in the 1970s, when all things were blue), Seabegs Road (1960s/70s Scotland) and Kirkton Vale (an impression of an interchange station on a busy Scottish branch in the early 1960s).

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The shape of things to come: Heljan's latest pictures of its Class 52 'Western' show it has all the rugged beauty of the BR original—let's hope it doesn't have the same early problems as the prototype.

Heljan's Class 52 is making progress...

DANISH manufacturer Heljan has unveiled pre-production pictures of its latest UK inspired model, the celebrated BR Class 52 'Western'.

A spokesman for the company said that although the first sprues were now ready for the model, some minor corrections were still needed before production could start.

Buffers

"We expect the Class 52 to be on the market in May 2004", he said.

The locomotives will be available in four liveries and will feature sprung buffers and metal handrails.

These are: D1007 Western Talisman (maroon with small yellow ends), D1037



Front end detail of Heljan's latest project.

Western Empress (experimental Golden Ochre), D1067 Western Druid (blue with full yellow ends) and D1015 Western Champion

It is understood that the next project from the company will be a Class 66, though this has yet to be confirmed.

This will probably be manufactured in both OO and HO scales as the locomotives are also in use in mainland Europe.

However, no details are available on when the new locos might be ready for production, or when UK deliveries might start.

Simon wins a Q1

THE winner of Hornby's December web site competition was Simon McGhie, from Blyth, Northumberland.

Simon won one of the firm's new BR 0-6-0 Class Q1 locomotives, and was picked as the winner from 1,214 correct entries.

The January web site competition prize is a Network SouthEast liveried Class 50 locomotive.

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Editor's space...

HOW time flies. It doesn't seem a month has passed since I last donned the thinking cap for my column.

A lot has happened too.

In the short time since we launched the web site it has had more than 20,000 hits, literally thousands of each issue have been down loaded (the first is still being down loaded in large numbers each week!) and interest continues to grow.

A big thank you is due to all our readers and friends in the model society world for their help in 'spreading the word' about the magazine.

It makes all the effort seem worthwhile when I am burning the midnight oil in the days before publication!

IT would be difficult not to notice how many new releases are planned for 2004.

And there is certainly much to be commended in the latest batch from the two main manufacturers, but Dapol, sadly, seem to have given up the 4mm contest.

With little fresh on offer (unless you like little trains) it leaves one wondering where they will be in a few years time...unless they have something new up their sleeves in Wales.

RED faces all round in the DCC fraternity—and NOT out of embarrassment.

Hornby has been forced to issue a warning on its web site highlighting the dangers of connecting decoders to their latest offerings, the Class 50s.

Apparently, the DCC PCB board has been printed incorrectly and to avoid shorting the electrics the decoder plug should be rotated through 180 degrees before fitting it to the PCB board.

The loco will, it seems, work all right then...except that it will travel in reverse and with certain decoders the lights will not work as they should.

Hornby have issued a simple work around to these problems so everything is OK. Well, no, actually it isn't.

Surely it is not beyond the wit of someone at Hornby to actually try fitting a decoder before releasing the model? It would seem not...

Hornby Granges due for release in autumn 2004

THE much heralded Collett Grange joins the Hornby Great Western fleet of locomotives in 2004 — though don't expect to buy one until the year is nearly out.

While news of the Grange has been common knowledge for some time the completely new Gresley Pacifics, so soon after they were 'super-detailed', came as a surprise.

A brand new chassis has been designed for the Class A1/A3 and A4, which not only incorporates the new style semi-fixed rear wheel assembly, but also houses the powerful five-pole skew wound motor.

New bodies

The introduction of the A4 'steamers' may have influenced the move, but the changes are not confined to the chassis.

New bodies are also being introduced, each produced to accommodate the various modifications that gave each loco in a class an individual look.

The Grange also incorporates a five-pole motor in the body, which says Hornby, "bristles with the tremendous amount of detail that is often the hallmark of a Great

MODEL NEWS



Collett's mixed traffic Grange Class locomotives (above) were popular with enginemmen and will no doubt prove to be so with modellers keen to fill gaps in their Great Western/Western Region collection.

Western locomotive in general—detail that only a few years ago would have been unheard of in a r.t.r. model".

Scheduled for the fourth quarter of the year, three Granges will be available: 6818 Hardwick Grange (GWR livery), 6862 Derwent Grange (BR) and 6869 Resolven Grange (BR).

The first of the A4s, Mallard (LNER) and Golden Plover (BR), should be available in the next few months, Charles Newton (NE) should follow in the third quarter, with White Knight (BR) towards the end of the year.

Also towards the year end LNER fans should expect to see the first of the new A3s, Windsor Lad (LNER) and A1 Flying Scotsman (LNER).

Established models will also get a facelift, with new liveries for Duchess of Gloucester (BR), Hampden Castle (BR) and the BR 0-4-0 Pug.

Several locomotives will appear in a weathered livery, including 'Duchess' City of Birmingham,

a Class 4F (BR) Black 5MT (BR), J52 (BR) and an 8F.

BUILDING on the success of its super-detailed Class 50, Hornby is to introduce a new Class 31 and Class 37 'Hymek', though neither will be available until later in the year.

Interestingly, the first 37s to appear will include a weathered pair rigged for multiple working, followed in the third quarter by Transrail version, 'Aluminium', also weathered!

Weathered

Three Class 31 locomotives are slated for the end of the year, one of which will be in Railfreight livery and one will be weathered.

A new Class 50, Sir Edward Elgar, will make an appearance later in the year in weathered livery, while a multiple working pair of EWS Class 58s (weathered) is slated to enter the catalogue at about the same time.

Existing locomotives will receive a number of new liveries, including Riviera Trains, Direct Rail Services and First Great Western.



Above: A new BR Class 37 'Hymek' is planned for 2004.



Right: Hornby's venerable J52 gets a 'dusting'.

Below: Duchess also gets a dirty look.

NB: MANUFACTURER'S PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWN MAY BE OF PRE-PRODUCTION MODELS.





DIRTY coaches are OK! At least that seems to be the message for modellers from Hornby.

All modellers know coaching stock never remains clean for long, especially below the waist line, where it rapidly acquires a coating of brake dust.

Now it seems so does Hornby, for the company has broken with tradition to add weathered coaches to its range of similarly treated wagons and locos.

New Gresleys

For the moment the 'dirty look' seems to be confined to fairly recent stock—the Mk1 fleet.

Members of the maroon Midland stock so treated are: Mk1 Brake (R2400), Mk 1 Composite (R4201), Mk1 Sleeper (R4202), Mk1 Buffet (R4203), and Mk1 Full Parcels Brake (R4204).

Coaching stock gets a dirty makeover for the 'first' time

MODEL NEWS



Top: BR Maroon MK1 Sleeping Car gets a 'dusting' for a more realistic look. Above: A picture of the real thing—a Gresley 61' 6" coach.

There are also two new weathered Network SE coaches; an Mk2a Open Standard (R4153) and Mk2a Brake.

However, top of the Eastern modeller's list will undoubtedly be

a rake of the all new 61' 6" Gresley teak coaches.

These will be produced to the highest specification now demanded, says Hornby, and incorporate

where appropriate different chassis, highly accurate and varied bogies, and highly detailed interiors.

Although of a more austere design than the more recent Pullman

coaches, they were extremely long lived and are consequently likely to appear in a wide range of liveries in the coming years.

The first batch is likely to appear in the third quarter of 2004.

These should include a Corridor Brake Composite (R4170), Corridor First (R4171), Corridor Third (R4172), Buffet Car (R4173), and Sleeper First (R4174).

Fresh look

A matching set in early BR Blood and Custard livery is also planned (R4178-R4182).

In addition, many of the existing GWR, LMS and BR coaches will get a fresh look.

Most of these updates will be released in the first quarter of 2004.

A number of special coach packs are also being introduced (see page 6 for details) to complement the new range of Train Packs.

BP 100 tonner joins Hornby fleet...

HORNBY continues to build on its existing range of wagons with models to suit most time periods—pre-1948 to post privatisation.

There are three, four, five and seven-plank additions to the 2004 catalogue aimed at the pre-nationalisation modeller, together with additions to the brake van fleet to suit most eras.

More modern wagons include a 45 ton GLW steel carrier with load (R6209A) and a 45 ton GLW open wagon plus load (R6210A).

There are also three new triple-wagon packs: VEE tank

wagons (R6153B), Blue Circle Cement VEE tanker (R6253) and Procor Hopper Redland (R6254). The latter two are weathered.

Bogie tank

These will be joined in the fourth quarter of the year by a BP 100 ton bogie tank wagon (R6246).

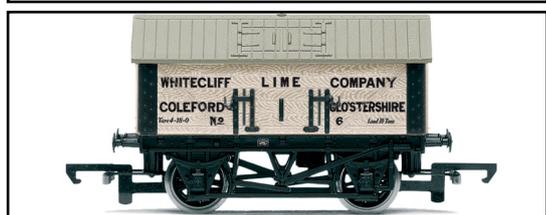
New brake vans include a 20 ton ex-LBSC (R6114B), a 20 ton BR (ex-GWR) (R6257), and a weathered 20 ton BR van.



Top: This BP 100 ton bogie wagon will be a useful addition to the modern rail fleet (R6246).



Right: BR brake van gets the weathered look (R6206).



Bottom right: Lime wagon in the livery of the Whitecliff Lime Company (R6243).

Skaledale's builders kept busy

SKALEDALE'S builders have been busy over the past months preparing for the launch of major additions to the range.

This range of hand decorated poly-resin buildings came as a surprise to modellers in 2003, but quickly proved popular.

New for this year are Skaledale Station and Holly Farm buildings, together with a number of new village buildings, which include a warehouse and a brewery.

Three of the station buildings are slated for release this quarter: the small waiting room (R8531), signal box (R8534) and water tower (R8535). They will be joined in the second quarter by the Station

Hotel, engine shed and coal merchants and later in the year by platforms and platform ramps.

Holly Farm (R8522), together with its associated piggeries (R8523), barn (R8524), stables (R8525) and a two-storey workshop and store (R8542) will also be released this quarter, along with Clovelly Cottage (R8515).

Joining them all in the second quarter will be several village buildings, including Hansons Brewery (R8520), Strawson's Warehouse and the Old School House (R8517).



Above: Strawson's warehouse. Below: The new Skaledale engine shed.



MODEL NEWS



Above: Southern fans will welcome Hornby's new Golden Arrow pack.

Golden Arrow joins the Southern 'set'...

A MODEL train set is usually the starting point for most railway modellers—young and old—often added to soon after by the purchase of a Train Pack to boost its operating potential.

Two very special packs have been included in this year's 'Great British Trains' range.

Southern fans will be delighted to see the return of the Golden Arrow, albeit in model form.

This features a post-

war 'Spamcan' in early British Railways livery and a selection of new Pullman car stock (R2369), which can be expanded by the addition of extra Golden Arrow coaches (R4196).

Both packs should be available during the second quarter.

Patronage

More than 160 years of Royal patronage of the railways is celebrated with the introduction of a Golden Jubilee Royal Train pack (R2370), featuring the loco and coaches used at the time of the Queen's 2002 royal tour.

Other coaches in the distinctive royal livery will be produced to enable a more realistic length train to be created (R4197).

Both should be available in the third

quarter of 2004.

Returning to a Pullman theme, but this time based on the Western Region's South Wales Pullman, Hornby has introduced the 'Western Pullman' train set (R1048).

This contains four new Pullman coaches together with a detailed Castle Class locomotive, Cadbury Castle.

They will be released in the second quarter.

Hornby has also indicated that a range of re-liveried and re-numbered Train Packs will be added to the range.

They will include a six-vehicle Eurostar pack (R2379) and a Virgin HST 125 (R2298A).

The introduction of a White Rose Train Pack and GNER 225 'Mallard' pack has still to be confirmed

Layout of the month

STOKE SUMMIT



Above: A Gresley A3 storms past the signal box on the Wolverhampton Model Railway Club's popular layout, Stoke Summit.

Below: Peppercorn A1 Pacific 60117 'Bois Roussel' emerges into the daylight whilst hauling a passenger train of 'blood and custard' coaches.

East coast action at its best on Stoke...



MODEL railway layouts come in a variety of styles, periods and sizes—some small and crammed with intricate detail, while others go for the massive, expansive approach, offering the viewer a succession of scale length trains.

Stoke Summit, which is exhibited by Wolverhampton Model Railway Club, falls into the latter category and provides show visitors with an endless stream of trains.

If modelling is in part about the suspension of belief, then with a little imagination it is almost possible to be back in 'train spotting' mode, waiting for the next 'cop' as it emerges from the tunnel or passes your vantage point.

This is a very big layout, measuring 30 ft by 8 ft 6 in, and its fiddle yard accommodates no

less than 38 full-length trains. The front boards are two feet deep.

As the name suggests it is based on the famous LNER 'racing stretch' on the East Coast main line between Peterborough and Grantham.

The layout took two years to complete using information based on site visits, Ordnance Survey maps and a range of photographs.

It was first exhibited in 1996 and has attended 49 exhibitions, on average about 5-6 shows a year. During that time it has won a number of awards.

"It is a bonus if we win an award, but we exhibit is just for the fun of it really", said Membership Secretary Rob Kinsey.

Depending on where it is appearing, Stoke Summit may be run as a steam or diesel layout, or a combination of both.

"We operate in the period between 1957-1975, as after that time the section modelled was changed by BR", said Rob.

"There was nothing like it when we built it.

Continued on P8...



Above: A lengthy fitted van freight gets a clear road on the Wolverhampton club's popular layout, pictured last year at the Soar Valley Model Railway Club show in Loughborough.

There is no station, just a long stretch of track and we didn't know if exhibition managers and the public would appreciate it".

"Mind you", Rob confessed, "at the time it was constructed we didn't have anyone in the club keen enough to build them".

The layout's next outing will be in March at The Model Railway Club's exhibition, Alexandra Palace, London.

Right: Taking a breather—Thompson A2/2 Pacific 'Mons Meg', waits for the road.

STOKE SUMMIT

Below: Contrasts—a passenger train hauled by a well cared for Gresley A3 Pacific speeds past a decidedly grimy WD 2-8-0 hauled freight heading in the opposite direction.



Dartford show sets new visitor record

ERITH Model Railway Society's show, held over the weekend of January 24/25, proved a huge success with more than 1,800 visitors attending—10 per cent up on last year.

Centenary 'septet' complete

THE release of Comet Models Diagram E149 Centenary Corridor Composite signals the completion of the firm's seven-strong range of GWR Centenary Stock.

Its release coincides with the arrival of the third of the five-car set of Mk 1 Pullman cars, the Kitchen Second.

Both are priced at £36

The remaining two Pullman vehicles—a Parlour First and Parlour Second—are expected shortly, enabling modellers to complete a representative East Coast train.

A Pullman sides pack plus special underframe parts is also available for RTR conversions priced at £10.50. An end pack for the Pullmans, including recessed doors costs £4.50.

Steam days recalled...

STEAM days around Dublin and Portrush are among the treats in store for visitors to the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland's February 11 film show

The event features material shot by Macha Film Studios between 1966 and 1972, including its annual UTA steam news reels and coverage of the society's early tours.

The event is being staged at St. Jude's Church Hall, Ravenhill Road, Belfast.

The event, which was held at Temple Hill Primary School, Dartford, Kent, featured more than 70 stands with 27 quality layouts in various scales and regions.

Among the layouts on display were Abergolwyn (GWR/O), Bude (SR/OO), Stapleforth (N), and Swaleby (OO).

Feedback

There were also a number of modelling demonstrations, loco repair services and static model displays.

Exhibition Manager Paul Plummer said visitor feedback had been 'very good' and the group were now looking forward to their next events—Bexley (September 25/26) and Dartford 2005.

"At Dartford next year

we are aiming for at least 30 layouts, which will make this exhibition one of the biggest in the South East", said Paul.

The society was already looking for layouts and traders for the 2005 event, he said, and anyone wishing to take part should contact him by e-mail at exhibitions@erithmrs.org.

The Bill Murphy Memorial Shield for the best layout was awarded to David Beer and Brian Higgs for Bridford (GWR 0 Gauge).

• Erith Model Railway Society was founded in 1962 and meets each Wednesday night in its Erith clubrooms.

The society is looking for new members, especially young people who will form the backbone of EMRS in coming years.

Exhibition tribute to photographer

AN exhibition of photographs celebrating the work of photographer William Nash is being held this month at the Winships Gallery, Ovington, Northumberland.

The touring exhibition, which is being seen for the first time in the North East, reflects the work carried out by Nash chronicling railways in the 1920s and 30s.

Nash was tragically killed in the Harrow and Wealdstone accident.

'Heavyweight—The William Nash Collection', has been put together 50 years after his death by his daughter, Kate Robinson.

While much of the country is covered, North Western and

Cumbrian scenes dominate and modellers of northern layouts will find it especially interesting.

It runs from February 1-29.

Roaming lens

'HAVE camera will travel' is the title of the slide show being presented by Bruce MacCormick to members of the Lutterworth Railway Society on February 5. The event will be held in the town's United Reform Church.

Your views — 1

Pullman problems...

I WAS interested to read in last month's issue about the problems some modellers are having with Hornby's otherwise excellent Pullman coaches.

The problem really lies in two areas, or a combination of the two.

ONE: The bogies have very limited clearance and so on sharper radius curves and undulating track, the bogies lock onto the bodywork and therefore derail on sharp curves.

TWO: The close coupling system works really well at keeping the coaches together on straight track, but on curved track, the elongation of the coupling also works well, but when pulling more than two carriages, the coupling being under tension does not return to close coupling after rounding a curve and therefore also derails the bogie.

Because a lot of people have poorly laid track and sharp curves, then both 1 & 2 above will usually work together to ensure a derailment.

For those with well laid level track, the operator is more likely to have long trains—therefore, the failure of the automatic shortening of the couplings after a curve also causes a derailment due to the weight of the train.

The problem is made even worse if there is an up gradient and therefore a heavier train. These couplings do not work well on heavy trains.

As can be seen from the above, it is usually a combination of small problems that make things worse.

The free running of the carriages can also be a problem, because if they are not free running, the weight on the couplings will increase and therefore the derailing will become worse on even short trains.

Hope this helps.

David Lord

Australia

Have any other readers experienced problems with Hornby's Pullmans? If so, do you have a solution to the problem?—EDITOR

Your views — 2

Weathering...

WHY DO manufacturers offer us so few alternatives when it comes to weathered rolling stock?

Line upon line of beautifully turned out wagons may look great in a catalogue, but totally out of place on the layout.

Surely modellers ought to be able to pick up rtr stock that looks the part without having to resort to airbrushing the bulk of their stock?

Puzzled, Derby

Show date...

I WOULD be grateful if you could include the details of our Exhibition on your pages.

We are Warrington Model Railway Club and the exhibition will be held on Sat 4th & Sun 5th September at the Woolston Community High School, Holes Lane, Woolston, Warrington WA1 4LS.

There will be approx 18 layouts, 15 traders, 'show-

you-hows' and association stands.

Prices are £3 Adults, £1.50 Children, £2 Concessions and £8 Family.

Call 01925 837324 for further information or visit our web site at www.warrington-mrc.co.uk

Thanks for your help

*David Brown, Secretary
Tel 01925 810426*

Editor: Consider it done!

Coupling up...

AFTER all this time you would think a simple but effective mass producing coupling system could be devised.

Ideally it would allow more realistic coupling distances between stock, yet not cause buffer locking or derailments.

Bachmann's current style of couplings are closer than most to achieving this, but even they aren't perfect.

There are a number of 'specialist' solutions to the problem that use magnets, so why can't these be

refined and adopted as a universal standard.

If they were we could at last have an uncoupling solution that doesn't involve that awful plastic ramp!

M J Faulkner, Bristol

Editor: I am sure that the r.t.r. manufacturers would be quick to adopt a new system if a simple, cost-effective one was available.

If you have an idea for one why one let us know? We would be happy to pass the idea on to them.

Pendon feature...

I found the article in last month's magazine on the layouts at Pendon Museum inspiring.

When will we be getting a second look (as promised) at this fascinating series of scenic models?

Pip Yates, Gloucester.

Editor: I hope to visit Pendon during the summer and have pencilled in a date for Part 2 at around the time of the actual anniversary.

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REVIEWS...locos...REVIEWS...stock...REVIEWS



Weathered and it is wonderfully dirty...

DIRTY IS as dirty does...that might well be the motto for this delightful addition to Bachmann's Pannier stud.

I don't think I ever saw one of these ex-GWR locos in clean BR livery. They always had a healthy coating of dust and grime—as befitted

such hard-working general purpose locos—and the airbrushers have given this beauty just the right look.

It might just be my imagination, but there looks to be even more detail on this Pannier than I have noticed before, though it could be the effect of a layer of

dust on the black!

A glance at the photographs will show just how fine the detail is on this model—even in the cab where the reversing lever is painted.

There's a rudimentary coupling hook on the buffer beams and unless you want to add lots of detail fittings such as fire irons etc., the only thing the modeller has to add out of the box is a brake hose to the rear.

In short this is a beautifully detailed little model that runs well and that should have no trouble finding a home.



REVIEWS...locos...REVIEWS...stock...REVIEWS

Four new wagons for February

THREE wagons that might have been found among the consist of a typical 1950s' goods train and another version of the GWR 'Toad' brake van are among the latest

releases to be found in the shops.

Hornby's offering, a nine-plank BR mineral wagon in unfitted grey livery (below left) is typical of the current

crop of wagons, with finely detailed planking and clear lettering and running on spoked metal wheels.

The 20 ton Toad (pictured bottom left) is one of three Bachmann wagons to be reviewed.

It (33-300C) features the level of detail we have grown used to on this long lived vehicle and is 'branded' Dowlais Cae Harris.

This is a good match for a rake of coal wagons with a S. Wales flavour, hauled by a Bachmann 56XX.

The 12 ton Fruit Van (top right) is given the fitted bauxite brown BR livery (37-750B), while the 12 ton



Ventilated Van (37-775B) is finished in BR grey. The lettering is clearly printed and the rivet detail on both is excellent.



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Diesels had major impact on rail

EVERY so often a book comes along that appeals to both the modeller and the railway historian.

Colin J Marsden's latest offering, *The Diesel Shunter*, is one such book and is crammed with facts about this undeservedly neglected type of locomotive.

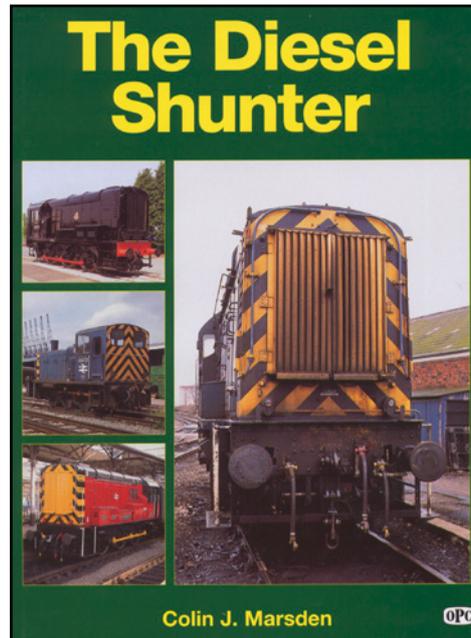
While a number of diesel railcars made their debut in service before World War 2, the impact they had on railways was slow to be felt.

Diesel shunters, on the other hand, very quickly demonstrated their suitability for their role; more than 100 were in service before 1950, and in the years that followed several thousand could be found hard at work on Britain's railways.

The wide variety of BR classes was eventually whittled down to just three, all 0-6-0, Classes 03, 08 and 09, though many designs can still be found working in an industrial setting, and some of the lesser known types still exist in preservation.

Colin Marsden's book traces the development of shunting locomotives from their early beginnings on the LMS of the 1930s, through the mass of types running during the 1950s and 60s, to the rationalisation and standardisation of the

Book of the Month



last two decades of the last century.

Shunter development is followed in a roughly chronological/class order and is not confined to the big 0-6-0 types.

It also includes the unusual, such

as the unique Hibberd 4-wheel diesel mechanical (number 11104), which resembled a bogie with a cab, and the numerous departmental locomotives.

At the start of each section is a brief history of the type together with a technical table containing much detail.

This, together with simple line drawings of each class and their principal dimensions, adds considerable value to this book for modellers.

The ubiquitous Class 08 is a case in point, and the differences (and there are many) between 08s and 09s are displayed in tabular form.

Of course there are often many variations within a class and where relevant these are highlighted in both text and captions. They include changes in livery and modifications made during the life of the type.

Lavishly illustrated—though sadly there are no colour prints—and supported by concise, informative captions this is a book that deservedly merits our Book of the Month award.

At £35 it is not cheap, but still represents an excellent investment... highly recommended.

The Diesel Shunter, Oxford Publishing Co. ISBN: 0 86093 579 5.

Wagons book is 'tops' for modellers...

THIS book is a sequel to the author's earlier book on British Railway wagons and as such concentrates on the period following the first, 1960 to the present day.

Its many colour illustrations, on average two to a page, its authoritatively written captions and author **Robert Hendry's** undoubted understanding of how the modern freight operation works, make for a fascinating read.

Sensibly, he restricts his coverage to the more common types of products carried, such as coal, sand, cement, steel and iron ore, and the wagon types used to carry them.

This allows him to give a detailed insight into the development and operation of the commonest types of wagon to be found on the system, both in Britain and in Ireland.

Quite a bit of the stock portrayed can be purchased in RTR form, or

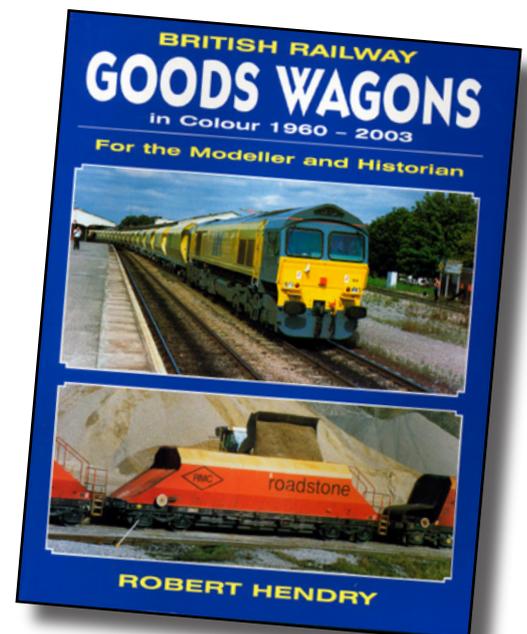
converted from current models, but there are also vehicles (including nuclear flask wagons and narrow gauge stock) to challenge the scratch builder!

Books in this 'British Railway' series are specifically aimed at the modeller and historian, but it is perhaps the modeller who will find the contents most rewarding, especially for detailing and weathering work.

The last three pages of the book contain an explanation of the TOPS codes, a 'freight family tree' and a glossary with explanations of some of the common (and not so common) terms in use today.

At only £14.99 this is not an expensive book and if you have been collecting the other books in this series, you will certainly want to add this to them.

British Railway Goods Wagons in Colour 1960-2003, Midland Publishing. ISBN: 1 85780 170 9.



Club Scene

ELEVEN members of the **Basingstoke and North Hants MRS** made the trip to the annual Euskirchen Model Railway show, near Cologne, Germany in December, thanks in part to a Basingstoke council grant towards the travel costs.

They exhibited four layouts, including Addiston South (4mm) and Edward Road Sidings (4mm).

The Euskirchen club will be showing an N gauge layout at the club show on March 13-14.

THE Platelayers Society is staging the Great British Train Show at the Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, Brampton, Ontario (yes, Canada) over the weekend of April 24-25.

The event will feature operating layouts collectables and sales.

HASTINGS based **Ashdown House Railway Society**—in the throes of constructing a new layout based on a modern motive power depot—has (on its website) urged anyone interested in working on the project to get in touch.

The society, which meets on Thursdays at the Civil Service Clubhouse, Harrow Lane, Hastings, East Sussex, is presently building scenery and adding items to the layout.

Members do not have to be civil servants and further information can be obtained from John Papworth on Hastings 756412.

THE Cape Modular Railway Group is hosting the South African Model Railway Convention at the Holiday Inn, Woodstock, Cape Town from April 1-4.

BARNSELY Model Railway Club's 2004 exhibition has a new venue, as the club has been forced to move away from the town centre.

It will be held over the weekend of November 6-7 at the Kingstone School, Broadway, Barnsley.

MORE than 20 layouts are booked to attend **Basildon MRC's** annual exhibition, which this year is being held at the Laindon Community Centre, Laindon, Essex, on July 3-4. The club website reports that it is constructing a number of new layouts

Club had busy time as year drew to end

AUTUMN proved to be a busy time for members of **Redditch Model Railway Club**—both in the clubhouse and on the road.

Not only has the club been exhibiting its Chilcompton layout, but members have also been carrying out improvements to 'Arrowmouth', which travels to Cornwall in March.

This has included the complete remodelling of the goods yard and station area.

The rock face to the rear of the station was completely reshaped in October to allow an extra siding to be installed to form a new parcels bay and space was created to site a camping coach at the station.

November saw the group exhibiting their Chilcompton layout at both Wakefield and Wolverhampton (where it was runner-up in the Best Layout competition), while in

December the layout featured at the Warley National Model Railway Exhibition, Birmingham.

Despite all this activity arrangements are in hand for the club's annual show, which is being held at Redditch Town Hall on the weekend of May 8 and 9.

Exhibits

More than a dozen layouts, including seven in 4mm scale, are already booked and these will be supported by modelling demonstrations and a range of trade stands.

Exhibits include Buchshee, a 4mm scale Scottish terminus based on Caledonian Railway practice, Hallbury (4mm/EM, Great Western branch) and Knowle Bridge (4mm, London Midland).

Train sets to model railways

TURNING that 'out-of-the-box' train set into a model railway is the theme for a series of demonstrations at FebEx 2004—the Alton Model Railway Group's annual show.

The event, which is being held over the weekend of February 7-8 at its new venue, the Eggars School, Alton, will also feature a number of attractions for younger modellers.

Sidings

These will include 'Thomas and Friends', while Christopher Awdry, the current author of the Thomas the Tank Engine books will be in attendance for books signings.

Among the 4mm layouts now confirmed are Corrinford (00) a West of England inspired layout that boasts a range of scratch-built buildings, Belmont Road (00/finescale) a fictitious West Midlands MPD and Tarrant Valley (009).

Modelling demonstrations planned for the show include one on stock weathering techniques by Tom Raver, aka 'the weatherman'.

AGM date set

THE Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society, whose clubrooms are on platform 1 of Retford Station, is to hold its annual meeting and photo competition on February 18.

Groups join forces for Cardiff show...

THIS year's **Cardiff Model Railway exhibition**, which is being held over the weekend of **February 21-22**, has much to interest the 4mm/ft modeller.

The event, which is run by a group of six Cardiff based model railway clubs, features seven layouts in the scale.

Taking over

RISBOROUGH and District MRC will be taking over the whole of the Community Centre in Princess Risborough on Saturday February 21 for its annual RISEX.

The exhibition provides an opportunity for local modellers to display their skills and ten layouts can be seen in action, including Saffron Street, a Finescale 60s layout.

They are Maindee East (18.83 Finescale), Dunvant and Flour Mill Pit (both EM gauge), Thomas the Tank, Upper Hill and Warash (all 00) and Danybont (009).

Each of the clubs taking part will have layouts on show at the exhibition, which is being staged at the UWIC Assembly Hall, Cardiff.

The clubs involved are: Bay Modellers, BBC Model Railway Club, Bridgend MRC, Cardiff Model Engineering Society, Cardiff 4mm Group and North Gwent Modellers.

SCENE AT STAFFORD SHOW...



A GWR Prairie with a goods train approaches the station on Dartley, a P4 gauge layout.



Model railways have something to offer everyone irrespective of age or sex: Jack (above) gets a closer look at Bramble Bottom, while Jayne Brazier (below) takes a turn at the controls on the SRC's latest layout, New Haden Colliery.



A rake of crucible wagons with 'red hot' slag seen on Iron Mould Lane (00).



Stafford Railway Circle members are kept busy in the fiddle yard of Littleton Junction.

Records broken at SRC event

EXHIBITION Manager Terry Robinson was over the moon with the increased attendance at Stafford Railway Circle's exhibition held over the weekend Jan 31-Feb 1.

"Our attendance was at an all time record of over 3,800 people", he said.

He added that general comments on the exit questionnaire indicated the issues of overcrowding and lack of refreshments last year had been successfully addressed.

The exhibition, held at Stafford County Showground, featured 22 layouts and around the same number of traders.

Many of the traders said the show was the best Stafford Railway Circle event they had attended and all were eager to be there next year.

The winner of best guest layout at the exhibition, judged by Mike Turner and Ken Bull, was *East Lynn* (S Scale 1:64) by Trevor Nunn.

The exhibition team, added Terry, would like to thank all exhibitors, traders, demonstrators and of course the visitors, for making the event a huge success.



Attention all club secretaries

Trains On-line Magazine needs your help in compiling a list of club and society secretaries and their addresses (both home and e-mail), so that we can advise you of forthcoming features.

We are also hoping, in the future, to expand our coverage of events/shows and welcome club news and diary dates for inclusion on these and other pages.

If you would like your club and its activities to be featured in the magazine please e-mail the editor at the following address:

editor@trainsonlinemagazine.co.uk

Visitors spring surprise...

EGHAM and Staines Model Railway Society's show, held on Saturday January 24, proved so popular that both programmes and much of the catering stock had been sold out by mid-afternoon.

Club member Steve Guess said: "The exhibition was very successful, with about a thousand visitors—more than we had been expecting".

More than 15 layouts were on display, including the club's own Runthorne London Road, which will also be appearing at Cranleigh (September 11) and Horsham (April 2-3, 2005).

YOUR GUIDE TO 2004 EXHIBITIONS...

ALL DATES FOR FEBRUARY CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB SITE

MARCH

5-8 (Frid-Mon)

Australian Model Railway Association, Victorian Branch Inc., Whitehorse Aquatic & Leisure Centre, Surrey Drive, Surrey Park, Box Hill 3128, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Tel: +613 9570 4406; Email: amra.exhibition@optusnet.com.au

6 (Sat)

Chesham MRC MRE. Elgiva Theatre, Chesham. Contact John Handy 01494 728336. Northampton MRS exhibition. Moulton School, Pound Lane, Moulton, Northants..

Glastonbury & Street Lions Club MRE. Village Hall, Walton, near Street, Somerset. Contact: Howard Martin 01458 833748 (eves only).

6 & 7 (Sat & Sun)

Rainhill MRC annual exhibition, The Village Hall, Weaver Avenue, Rainhill, Merseyside. Tel: 0151 424 2726. www.rainhillmrc.org.uk/

Western Model Railway Society Exhibition, Greenford Hall, Ruislip Road, Greenford, Middlesex.

Kendal MRC exhibition, Kendal Leisure Centre, Burton Road, Kendal, Cumbria. Tel: M Elson 01539 731738 (home), 01539 773044 (work) or Ian Conway 01539 733844 (eves).

13-14 (Sat & Sun)

Heywood MRG MRE. Holy Cross Sixth Form College, Manchester Road (A56), Bury, Lancashire.

14 (Sun)

St. Neots MRC. Ernulf School, Barford Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots. Contact : 01480 353787. www.stneotsmrc.com

20 (Sat)

North Downs Model Railway Circle MRE. St. Peters Church Hall, Chipstead Way, Woodmansterne. Details: 0208 394 1474.

20 & 21 (Sat & Sun)

East Midlands Model Railway Exhibition. Harvey Hadden Sports Centre, Nottingham. <http://www.nbmrs.freereserve.co.uk/index.htm>

27 (Sat)

Lytham St. Annes Railway Society MRE. Kirkham Methodist Church Hall, Nelson Street, Kirkham. Contact: 01772 687158.

27-28 (Sat & Sun)

The London Festival of Railway Modelling exhibition. Alexandra Palace, London.

APRIL

3 & 4 (Sat & Sun)

Epsom & Ewell MRC annual exhibition, North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT), Reigate Road, Ewell, Surrey.

24 & 25 (Sat & Sun)

Sutton Coldfield RS annual model railway exhibition, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

JUNE

12 & 13 (Sat & Sun)

Wingfield Railway Group Model Railway Exhibition, Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell, Derbys.

JULY

10 & 11 (Sat & Sun)

Pendon Museum 50th Anniversary weekend, Long Whittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Details: www.pendonmuseum.com.
(See feature and news in JANUARY magazine)

OCTOBER

16 & 17 (Sat & Sun)

Uckfield MRC annual exhibition, Uckfield Civic Centre, Bell Farm Lane, Uckfield, East Sussex.

22 & 23 (Sat & Sun)

Norbury & South London Transport Club, 70th Anniversary Model Railway & Transport Exhibition, Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Surrey. Details: <http://www.fircroft.clara.net> or <http://www.norbury.club.new.net>