

Beckenham Vintage April 11th 2015

Our sixth annual Beckenham Vintage show rang the changes yet again with nine layouts all different and none repeated from previous years. Plus eight well known traders and of course our renowned Club Shop and much praised good quality catering.

Setting up Friday and the Saturday night clear up was made a lot less painful with many helping club hands to move chairs and tables around the halls. We had a quiet panic (well not quite so quiet really....) when having prior to the show re-organised tables due to Brian's trip to hospital (fortunately short term) and thus loss of the 'Honey Club' tables. We then discovered that there was a shortage of church tables. I had supplied two heavy duty paste tables for the shop, but we were still short. Finally we realised that they were in the church itself and we liberated two, but another two were filled with displays. James Dallaway was the life, or rather show saver and organised some replacements from another church, thanks James, especially as you also provided your residents association tables as planned. Then on Saturday morning one of the traders 'forgot' he hadn't booked for us to supply tables, but we were able to bail him out with the two remaining table tops that go on trestles from the church shed, these are unsuitable for layouts and only used in desperation

The Club Shop stock was brought up in two car loads from Greg's garage and my landing... thus avoiding the cost of renting a van. Brian is usually the mainstay of the shop and couldn't be present although out of hospital. The shop was well stocked with mostly club owned stock and less commission sales these days. Greg took charge, ably assisted by Robin Vince, Jim Edwards and Rebecca Wheatley who is a friend of David Moore's. As normal it was interesting to see that of the first ten through the door nine headed straight for the shop!! A good indication of a highly successful day was the remaining stock fitting easily into one car



after the show.

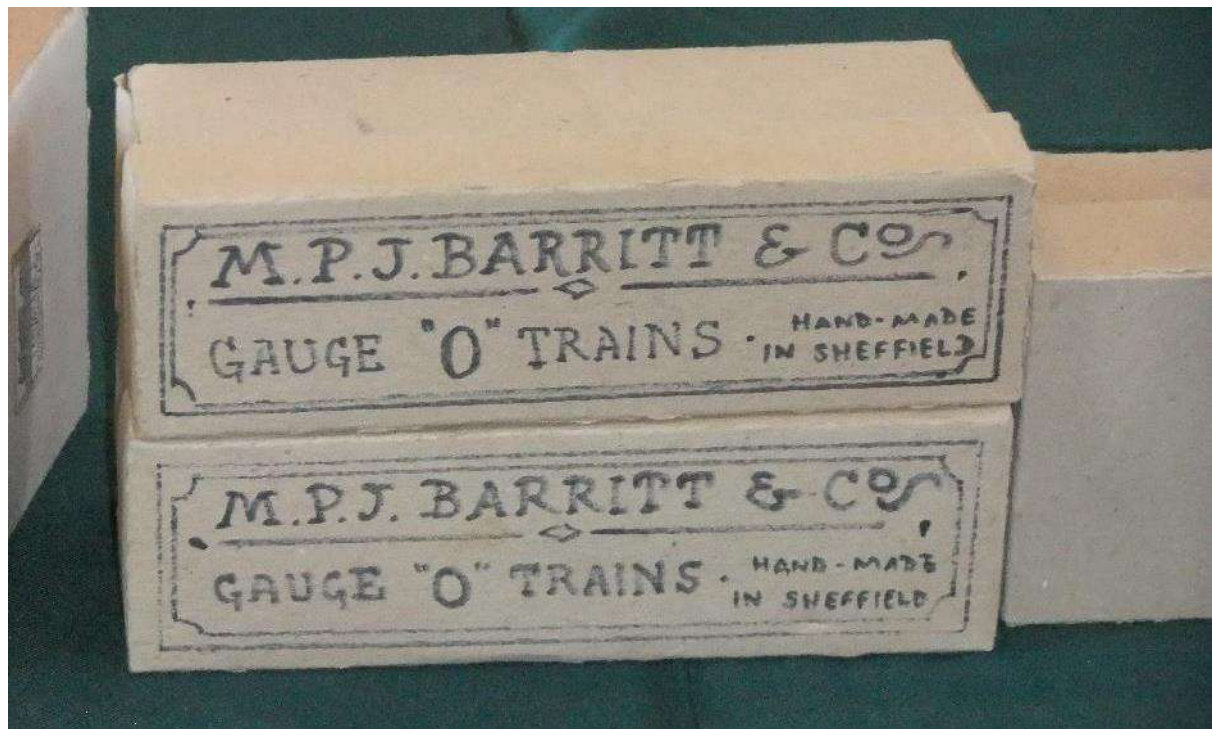
The weather was unkind at the start of the show with a deluge and attendance was a little light at first as a consequence, but soon picked up once the rain stopped. This year it was pleasing to see more families as we had extended local advertising to the West Wickham Residents Association newsletter. Total attendance was around the 400 mark as usual.

The main feature layout this year was the Chiltern Hills Group of the HRCA with a large loose lay Hornby Dublo Three Rail Layout set up in two hours on Saturday morning. With four main lines, extensive sidings and engine shed this is a fascinating display and as commented on by many visitors “it is great to see long trains of Hornby Dublo running”. With Kip Bennett and Derek Smith involved there were a lot of neverwazas and conversions running which greatly add to the variety and interest.





Mark Carne's magnificent layout featuring the trains of the late Myke Barritt was a wonderful display of a lesser known make of vintage style 0 gauge trains. It is incredible that these were all made on a kitchen table and hand painted. There are others who claim to have led the revival in O Gauge Coarse Scale in the UK. But ask Mark Carne and he will tell you it was actually Myke Barritt, who as a one man band pioneered the revival and produced a number of tinplate locos and wagons from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s. With Mark's usual attention to detail and careful preparation they ran as well as they looked, although the loco mechanisms are a little fragile and Mark had some small ETS LBSCR 'Terries' and L&Y 'Pugs' providing the long term haulage. The track was by the modern maker Merkur which is retailed in the UK by Bruce Palmer. It is not normal for vintage 0 Gauge layouts to feature points, as with Hornby ones derailments are almost inevitable. But with the use of the better quality Merkur points, reliable use of loops was possible which made life changing over trains a lot easier. Mark was also selling off some of his very good quality Hornby 0 Gauge stock. But I still wonder how Mark and Bruce fitted everything into a Fiesta!!





This year David and Monica Embling brought their self-standing layout running Hornby 0 Gauge Clockwork with a farm in the centre of the layout. I always find it amusing watching David trying to explain to today's kids how clockwork works!! The use of electric track allowed some formerly clockwork engines to be fitted with electric power to relieve the onset

of 'clockers wrist'.



Andy Hyelmann brought his Continental H0n3 narrow gauge Eggerbahn display with a small running track. Somehow it would be 'wrong' to put on a big layout with Eggerbahn and it looked so good this way. Andy also made the point that the early production locos are far more likely to be good runners even after 40 or so years. There was a full display of Eggerbahn sets, catalogues, rarer locos and other items.





Eric Large's Lone Star 000, TrebloLectric layout showed three generations of these forerunners of N Gauge. The earliest are push along diecast trains running on diecast track which I had as a kid. TrebloLectric was running well, so it is a pity that the poor reliability of these rubber band drive locos when in production was so poor that they didn't survive. Apparently rubber band quality is much now improved, hence the good running at the show. Eric's layout has been in his train room for many years and it is good to see it at a show again.



Triang TT was presented by Chris March of Sussex Vintage Model Railway Collectors supported by the SVMRC Chairman Philip Cooke. The combination of an upper level shuttle with an oval below makes for an interesting display that holds your attention and there was lots to see in a small space.



The lower cost O Gauge makes were beautifully displayed by Bryan Pentlan's 'Cold Mountain' complete with Cable Car and elevated oval all running streamlined multiple units. Again it's good to see these trains running and running reliably.



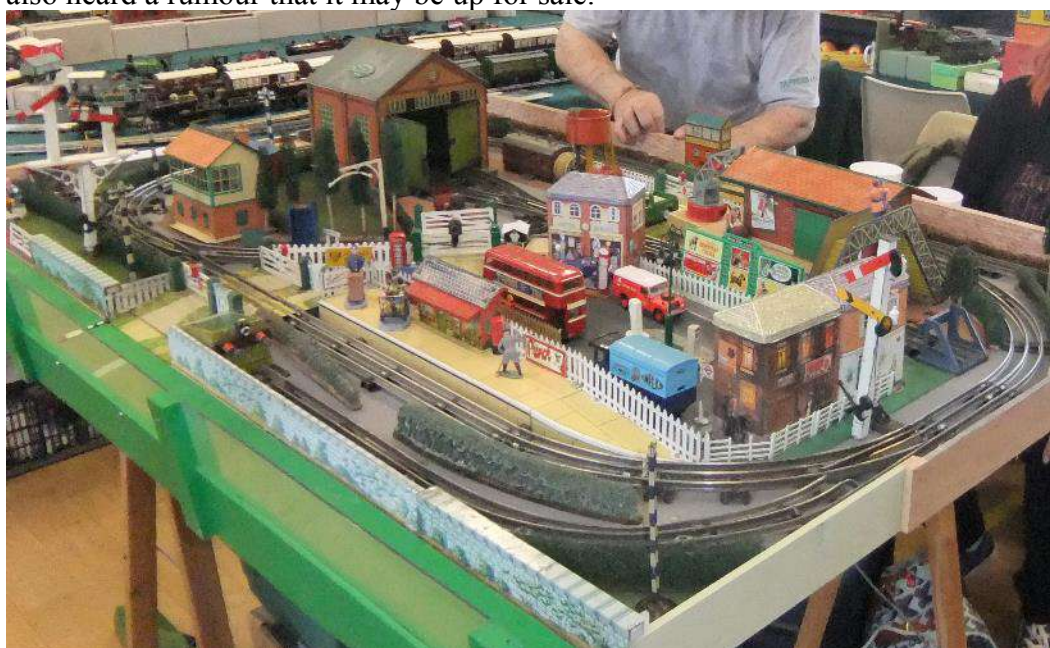


French Hornby 0 Gauge makes a change from all the British prototypes and with Adam Heeley in charge you are always in for a treat. The combination of the 'right' accessories with the trains makes it a complete picture.





Gerry Trykhorn from Bromley Tappers bravely stepped in at the last minute to replace a layout that had to be withdrawn due to health reasons. His small O Gauge layout really shows that you don't need a lot of space to build a simple effective layout. The combination of trains and accessories is really effective. Gerry was assisted by Graham Lock and daughter Nicky. I also heard a rumour that it may be up for sale.



The TCS and HRCA society stands were present as usual manned by Rod Hannah and Bill and Rachel Vyse respectively. Clustered around them through the day were many interested

prospective members seen in earnest discussion. Just in case you wondered the pictures were taken before the show opened to the public!!



Traders were represented by Cliff Maddock, David Wills, Elaine's Trains, WM Collectibles, John Wilcox, Peter Berry, WJVintage and David Laine.

Nine layouts and five traders are already booked for next year's show so reserve April 2nd 2016 in your diary.

Tony Penn