

# MID ESSEX RAILWAY GAZETTE

**Issue Number 61**

**Spring 2012**

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## **Editorial**

Welcome to the latest issue of the Mid Essex Railway Gazette, your club newsletter keeping you up to date with recent club events and news.

In a departure from previous years when the A.G.M. minutes are either circulated at the following A.G.M. or published shortly before the following A.G.M., this issue contains the minutes from this year's A.G.M., so without further ado:

# **MID ESSEX MODEL RAILWAY CLUB**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES**

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Mid Essex Model Railway Club which took place at the Club which took place at the Club House No. 7 'Dawcott', Ivy Barn Lane, Margaretting, on Tuesday 28th February 2012.

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm with 29 members in attendance.

### **1:- Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Dave Rayner, Gordon Farrow, Chris Malton, Chris Stewart, Iain Stewart, Andy Kent, Phil Cowling, Steve Duhig, Richard Pusey, Robert Rayner, Rod Younger, Robert Chilton, Sue Stewart.

### **2:- Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on our membership growing. New members Andy, Chris and Dave were welcomed together with more possible members by the end of the meeting.

The numbers visiting the club house during the year were 1478, not counting the open day, which showed an increase of 38% on last year (2010). He stated that no doubt "Narnia" has had a big influence on these numbers allowing us to get more layouts up and running, and been able to put us in a position to consider building a new layout.

A special layout meeting was held in November which was attended by 20 members where it was decided to build a '00' layout based on Marks Tey in the mid to late 1950's. This is the largest project the Club has undertaken since 'Stratford St.Mary' and at 26' x 10' it is going to take a lot of space, time and expenditure. Therefore it has been decided that we will concentrate our efforts and funds on this project, Butler Central and the EM North London Project (known affectionately as cardboard city). Any extensions to other layouts or proposals for new layouts will have to wait until completion of the current projects, at which time if space, time and money permit, the committee will call another special layout meeting to let the members select another project.

### **3:- Secretary's Report**

The Secretary commented on having another good year and a busy one. Having finally moved in to the extended premises next door "Narnia", he thanked everyone for all their hard work with the decorating and finishing off.

We have had some new members throughout the year and welcomed Colin Walters, Wayne Fair and Chris Malton. One of the highlights for the year was our open day when Paul Basson from BRM came down to take photos of our layouts and after Tim had written a very good piece, Zanesville appeared in the Christmas annual.

We started the year with our members dinner and A.G.M., had our usual Mangapps visit, open day and exhibition. Trips out were made to various exhibitions throughout the country and the layouts went to Erith with Zanesville, Alexander Palace Modelling Demo, Roding Valley with Lydgate, Basildon with Lydgate, CMRA at Watford with Lydgate and myself giving the lighting demo talk (see it on UTube!) Bexhill, Olney, Sudbury with Lydgate and finishing off with Southend and Zanesville.

Another highlight of the year was with Lydgate going back to our roots with Geoff, in the church hall in Chelmsford where we started as the modelling group of the Great Eastern Railway Society back in 1975. They were celebrating 50 years as an estate and a photo board had been produced (which is now in "Narnia") showing the original members around a table in the meeting room. We recreated the photo, which Geoff took, in the same room and also met up with one of our original members.

A number of exhibition invites for this year are up on the notice board and for the Basingstoke show, 10th & 11th March, we still have one place left to work Lydgate for the weekend.

The secretary then made comment about the insurance values and our need to increase this year, especially as we have inherited 'First Leigh' (Dr. John's layout) Phil's 'cardboard city' and now building the new Great Tey layout. It was pointed out that if members have their own stock down at the club, the values might not be covered by the current insurance, and rather than putting our cover up to a much higher amount, could we bear this in mind and cut back on leaving too much stock at the club...just in case.!

#### 4:- Treasurer's Report

The treasurer handed out copies of the accounts to those who hadn't received them via the internet! He discussed the figures and the £1 per visit fee and was very pleased with the income. Our food sales from the canteen was breaking even so as long as it stayed that way or made a small income, he was happy. When commenting on the exhibition account he suggested that this year we look at increasing our entrance fees to £5, £4, £3.

With regards to the subscriptions, if we were to allocate £400 - £500 to the modeling budget then he saw no reason to increase the subs. They would stay at £55 for a full member, £30 for a senior citizen member and £15 for a junior member. This was all proposed by Ken Wilkinson and seconded by Bob Farrell. Accepted unanimously.

Further to the wording in the agenda about authorising purchases it was agreed that if an expenditure on modelling was of a minimal amount then that was ok but committee sanction for larger amount would be required, the treasurer suggested over £50.

A suggestion from Tom Fisher to change the title of the heading no.4 in our rules from 'subscriptions' to 'finance' was discussed and then proposed by Ken Wilkinson and seconded by Chris Stapleton. It was agreed by all with no one against. (However, following on from the meeting Nigel has pointed out that any amendments to the rules have to be put to the members before the meeting and therefore this will be 'ratified' at the next AGM).



The committee a.k.a. the three stooges! - at the A.G.M.

Photo by Nigel (009)

## **5:- Election of Officers**

The chairman asked if the secretary had received any nominations for the posts of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and the answer was no. Tim Mercer then asked if he could put his name forward for the post of Chairman, but it was pointed out that nominations had to be put in writing to the secretary before the start of the meeting.

Chris Stapleton then proposed the three existing officers be returned 'en bloc', seconded by Ken Wilkinson and agreed unanimously. There were no objections raised.

## **6:- Layout Reports**

### (a) Blackwells Brewery Company (BBC)

Nigel stated that the layout was up and running with areas of work to deal with. The Loco extension needs tweaking and the ballast looking at in places but all in all generally ok but in need of TLC! A couple of exhibitions have requested it for this and next year so will keep members informed, and David was in the throws of finishing off the updated information booklet which will be sent out to those exhibition managers that have shown an interest. Provisional £50 spend on the layout is all that is expected.

### (b) Butler Central

Ian said that parts of the layout were up and rewiring was taking place. Lots of scenery work being done and that it was expected to be running by the end of the year. He needed more members to get involved and work on it and would be creating a plan of action for it. Due to currently using stock items for scenery and wiring he did not expect any expenditure at present.

### (c) Zanesville

Tim explained that the layout had worked well at both the Erith and Southend exhibitions and had drawn a lot of interest. He was worried that the layout may be starting to 'stagnate' and therefore could do with some new impetus from members. At present it is in need of a new mechanism for the turntable and this would be sourced and costed out. He also asked about the ideas of extending the layout with curved ends to change it from an end to end layout to a 'roundy roundy' so that it could utilise the proposed Great Tey fiddle yards, this being the plan to end up with a set of universal fiddle yards. Expenditure details and plans would need to be sorted out.

### (d) Lydgate

David Zelly then gave his report saying that the layout had been out a number of times this year and was proving very popular, especially with the lighting unit. Thanks were given to Tom for the construction of the replacement fiddle yard turntable and also to Wayne and Ian for their huge help with transport to and from exhibitions with their vans. Apart from some rewiring to the control panel, currently being looked at by Ian, David stated that plans were being drawn up for a possible small extension to create a 'Creamery', giving more operational interest and that this would be costed out and put before the members at another layout meeting.

(e) "Cardboard City" the EM layout donated by Phil Cowling 2 years ago.

Chris Stapleton told us that the layout had been moved into the centre of the layout room with cardboard mock ups of buildings on so that all members could walk around and look at it and give him their ideas about its viewing sides, design concept etc etc. It was being suggested that the layout be lowered by 6 to 9 inches and that the two fiddle yards at each end actually be scenic'd on their front sections with the fiddle yards behind, as per Lydgate. As this would be a long term project he suggested an expenditure of between £300 and £500 over the next 2 to 3 years.

(f) First Leigh, EM layout donated by John Barnes earlier this year.

Chris Stapleton talked about the huge potential this layout has especially as it has been built to the same height as the BBC! Tim suggested to use most of the layout to add on and extend the Brewery and call it 'Bradwell Waterside' thus giving us a variation to just the Brewery. Chris stated that the station board/s could be turned around, i.e. swapping over the viewing and operating sides, thus allowing us to attach onto the opposite end of the Brewery to the 'loco shed' end, but attention would need to be given to the buildings to bring them up to the same standard as that of the brewery at present. It was suggested to take the layout along to our own exhibition in 2014. No need for an expenditure budget at present. "Dr." John was thanked for his generosity in donating the layout and rolling stock to the club. Good use would be made of it.

(g) Great Tey change for Stratford St.Mary

Ken Wilkinson then updated us on the new layout project saying that they had spent approx £200 out of last year's modelling budget and would need another possible £400 from this year's budget. It was early days but things were progressing well, with stirring work from Wayne and Andy on the baseboards, what a difference when you have guys who know what they are doing with the right tools...!!!! Albert made the offer to look at sponsoring the signalling on the layout and Ken stated that the next big job, once the scenic baseboards were built, would be to transfer the track plan.

**7:- 2012 Exhibition update and 2011 DeBrief**

Ken Wilkinson stated that 2011 had been very good exhibition and gave thanks to Ian for being able to borrow the "walkie talkies" used in the car park and around the exhibition. He stated that before the next show we need to look at buying some more 13amp extension leads, making more barriers, and new signage inside and out. For 2012 we have 21 booked layouts together with the same traders plus two new traders, "Coastal DCC" and "Make Your Mark Models". In the additional Great Eastern section of the exhibition celebrating the 150th anniversary of the GER, which Nigel is organising, we have approx 4 layouts and the 'Norfolk Mardlers'.

There is also talk of a limited run of GE coach kits from Danny Pinnock. We also learnt that Peter Burrell is giving up his roll in advertising the exhibition around the local papers and magazines so a replacement volunteer is required immediately.! It was then proposed to increase the admission charges this year to £5 Adult, £4 Senior Citizens and £3 children. This was proposed by Ken Wilkinson and seconded by Bob Farrell. All in agreement.

The school is suggesting a charge of £1960 for this year and it was suggested that a meeting be set up to finalise things with the new bookings manager, Vaughn.

### **8:- Mid Essex Railway Gazette**

Robert had sent through an email from Spain which was read out by the secretary and said:- One year on from taking on the job of editing the MERG, I feel that the fledgling resurrection of the MERG has been a success. It's still early days as yet, but I am happy with how it has gone so far and hopefully the members and committee will agree.

I think it is beneficial for any club or society to have a newsletter to keep all members up to date with dates, news and developments, and also to help make everyone feel connected with the club and what is going on. Hopefully it will also inspire more interest where needed and might inspire members individually through the sharing of ideas.

So far the 'new' MERG has had a mainly informative role, but I hope that this will expand as members feel they would like to submit articles for publication – this is now beginning to happen with 'Project Tey' news submitted for the next edition and a former MEMRC member who has submitted a historical article and whose interest has been sufficiently aroused to consider re-joining the club.

Feedback is always welcome and I thank those members who have written to me following publication recently. Don't forget, articles are also always welcome.....!

Best, Robert (031).

### **9:- Any Other Business**

Ray Goodall gave his thanks for all the cards and good wishes sent to him whilst he has been unwell and it was good to see him at the AGM. He stated that he would probably be unable to get along to the club again.

Ken Pullen then raised the question of 'tea boy' and proposed that each member take it on board to make their own refreshment and also to wash up their own cup/mug! This was agreed by everyone.

Steve Barrett was then tasked with reviewing the canteen prices.

Chris Stapleton then put forward the idea of acquiring the layout known as 'Vauxhall Road' from Bob Farrell and asked for comments to the Chairman over the next two weeks before the committee make a decision. He was willing to put up 75% of what ever 'monies' were required.

He also mentioned the annual idea of test tracks and was prepared to put money into that project as well. The problem of where to put them would be looked into, and he suggested that they should consist of the gauges :- 9mm, 9.2mm, 12mm, 14.2mm, 16.5mm, 18.2mm, 18.83mm, S, 32mm, 33mm.

The Chairman then put to the meeting that we add two more names to the one Hon Life member, Brian Wood, that we have, and asked the meeting to agree to (Dr.) John Barnes and Ray Goodall. This was agreed upon by all with a hearty round of applause and lots of good wishes.

As there were no more matters to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm for tea and coffee.

Report ends. Secretary.

## Great Eastern Memories

This is a new section I have started and hope will continue in future issues of the MERG. The idea is to dig out some older photos of the Great Eastern from the past; BR days, pre-BR days, pre-LNER days... one photo per MERG for the sake of nostalgia and memories! Hopefully some of the photos might also be of use for modelling ideas/projects. If you wish to submit anything for this feature please send me photos by email including copyright/accreditation info, date, location etc.



Here we have that icon of the Great Eastern electric days – the LNER-designed class 306 EMU.

Pictured is 306057 at Ilford depot, fresh from overhaul, on 20 July 1975.

Photo: Robert (031)

## Addresses

### Chairman

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### Secretary and Membership

David Zelly, 15 Edwards Close, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. CM13 1BU  
Telephone: 01277 216098

### Treasurer **\*\*please note correct address\*\***

David Thompson, 61 Hatfield Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP3 9AG  
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## MERG Copy Deadlines

Please consider submitting articles for inclusion in the MERG; anything relating to the club or model railways in general will be welcomed – exhibitions attended, your latest modelling project, a purpose built modelling room, developments at the club, developments on club layouts, all experiences, information and news which can be shared with all the members, especially those who are unable to attend the clubhouse very often. Please email submissions to [merg@midessexmrc.org](mailto:merg@midessexmrc.org) or if you cannot send by email, please hand your hard copy to the club secretary. If you have a short note to send you are welcome to send a text message (SMS) to 07768 310117.

It is intended to publish the MERG roughly quarterly and at the 2011 AGM it was suggested that the publication dates should fall at times relevant to MEMRC main events, thus: Approximately end of the year with AGM notice; March with AGM report; June prior to the club's Mangapps visit; September prior to the exhibition. These dates have already gone very slightly awry, but:-

The next issue will be published in July 2012. all copy to be received by 16 June 2012.

Please email text in Microsoft Word (.doc), Wordpad (.rtf), Notepad (.txt) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format; photos as .bmp or .jpg format. Please do not send photos by SMS!

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## Dates for your Diary

### 2012

Sat/Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Expo EM, possible club visit.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Mangapps Evening. Club visit to Mangapps Farm Railway Museum.
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	C.M.R.A. Modelling day, Watford. Club with modelling demonstration stand.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Club Open Day at Club House.
Sat/Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Southwold Exhibition. G.E.R.S. has stand and possible club visit.
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Bexhill Exhibition – Bob Farrell attending
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>OUR OWN EXHIBITION!!</b>
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Scaleforum at Leatherhead. Possible club visit.
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Folkestone Exhibition. Possible club visit.
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Possible Brentford Exhibition with <b>Lydgate</b> .
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Great Eastern Railway Society Half Yearly Meeting.
Sat/Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>B.B.C.</b> at the East London Finescale Exhibition.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Zanesville</b> at the Romford Exhibition.
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	National Exhibition at N.E.C. Possible club visit.

### 2013

Sat/Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>B.B.C.</b> at C.R.M.A. Exhibition, St. Albans.
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Lydgate</b> at Watford Finescale Exhibition.
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>B.B.C.</b> or <b>Lydgate</b> at Northampton Exhibition.

## Mid Essex MRC – Project Tey

### Layout History

With the influx of new Members, it was thought that the time had arrived to consider a new Club 00 gauge layout.

So ideas were sought from Members as to the design concept favoured by the majority.

This led to a special Meeting being held to develop a suitable design in addition to knowing which Members wanted to be involved – as our other layouts (mainly the N and EM layouts still need to move along). The meeting concluded, after much discussion, on the concept of a 2 track GE mainline with a single track splitting off.

Marks Tey was chosen as a suitable donor for the concept, though space constraints would preclude a 100% representation – hence “Project Tey” was born. Size would be 26 feet long by 3 feet depth, with the main scenic area being 18 feet long – though there will be some material on the 2 corner 4 foot section to feather in/out the scenic boards to those connected to the fiddle yard. The ‘Branch’ would be considered to be a cross country route – as it was in GE days. Period would be GE steam, up until electrification reached the area. This allows a good period to be available for exhibitions – including the dragging of EMU’s and electrification construction trains.

One overall criteria that was to feature in the design and build was the use of as many generic items as feasible, both to save space and cost – no one mentioned our carbon footprint or being environmentally savvy. The first part to be built will be a fiddle-yard which can be utilised with other Club layouts. This fiddle-yard will be double ended fed by 2 tracks into a fan of tracks. The entry trackwork boards will be part of each layout and thus allow either multi or single entry/exit trackwork or even a mix. Support for the layout would be via variable height ‘saw-dogs’ again so the fiddle yards could be used by other Club layouts.

The final generic feature considered is the lighting and fascia rig. Taking a lead from the stage, the rig will be modular and free standing allowing various layouts to be catered for. The only potential drawback is that generic items could limit which layouts can be offered for display at the same time. However, as most larger layouts need a good sized team to transport and operate that may not be a problem – unless the Club membership doubles. But then we would need more room anyway which may provide some further storage space.

So Members were asked to submit their track-plans to Ken 3, whom it was agreed would act as Project Overseer at that initial meeting. The closing date was soon here and gone and a basic plan worked up from the ideas – Albert produced a signaling and track plan for Marks Tey from a suitable period. Several pictures were also tracked down giving a several good indications of the various structures. Though what type of sand loader used is still not clear.



During the latter part of 2011 Chairman Bill produced a 1:1 basic concept drawing. From this the design was transferred onto 18 feet of lining paper. One area of compromise was the sand sidings, rather than cover the boards in track we decided to restrict ourselves to 2 sidings. The layout width also meant that we were unable to include a turntable on the Down side. Over a fairly short period of time lying on the floor with point templates etc a picture of the finished trackwork was available. With some joggling of point positions the various cross members were drawn in.

Photo by Nigel (009)

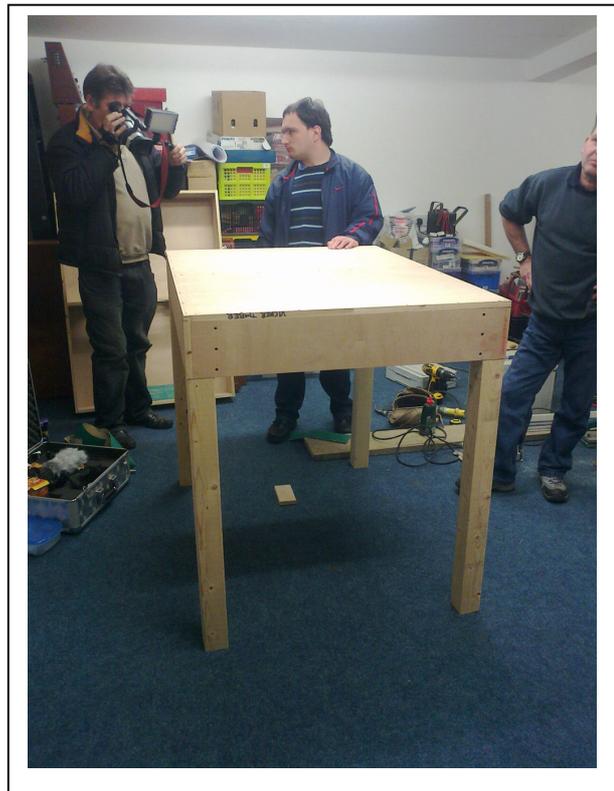
Early in February 2012 the Secretary was instructed to purchase enough sheets of timber to construct the front scenic boards and the 2 corner boards. On the night of St.Valentines Day, Wayne started the task of cutting the sheets into the various sizes we need. Project Tey has arrived, apologies for the noise and sawdust.

Whilst I would not to count my trains before they depart, I like to think we could have the track up and working by this time next year. That is if we can convince the Treasurer to provide us with Some More Money PLEASE!

Ken (079)



A couple more pics showing the progress with the Project Tey base boards – the internal construction and bracing of the underside of one board is seen on the left and the board mounted and standing on it's legs seen below.



Both photos by Nigel (009)

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