

Dear Member,

Another busy month, which has seen the last public running of this season and a lot more progress on the new raised track steaming bays. In between many jobs have been done in preparation for our winter closure.

At the beginning of the month Geoff Broad and his gang set about lifting an old tree stump near the Laurels. This needed to be removed in preparation for the track re-alignment and relaying that is to take place over winter. The stump proved to be very stubborn to remove, this was finally achieved by enlisting the help of Aubyn and the mini-digger! (See page 12)

Geoff makes a start

Photo:  
Peter Featherstone



Definitely needed more help!

<Photo: Rolf Thomas



It's good to see our younger members getting involved in engineering. This is true of the Derby family who have just joined us. There was work to be done on 'Mount Kilimanjaro' so Logan soon got his hands dirty. He was ably assisted by Erica as can be seen from the photos!



Photos:  
Kathryn Derby





Logan was back for more the following week, this time working on the club 'Shay'



Photos: Katheryn Derby

Work is progressing on the new carriages for the raised track. Bodywork welding has now been completed so time to protect this with paint! George Cannon has taken on this task and is seen busy with his spray gun on one of the carriages.





Geoff and his gang were back again this time to put up new fence posts now that the stump had been removed. This 'southern' fence has been in a poor state for some time so opportunity was taken to put in new boundary posts ready to receive galvanised wire.



Our public running Sunday was a week earlier this month to avoid clashing with the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition. Not the best of day's weather wise – but at least it kept fine!

Mervyn going well on the raised track.





Kia Bevan enjoying himself on Grandad's Class 37!



Tony Shoobridge with a full load

Clive Foot leaves the station with a full load







Mike Williams with  
'Princess Lola'  
(somewhere under the  
steam!)

'Rufus' is back in service and is seen with a full load approaching the cutting. With a wave from the driver Tony McGeechan



Watch out Kai –  
Grandad's in the lead!



Now for Peter Hill's contribution this month – thanks Peter, you always have something interesting to share with us!

A week's holiday camping in Wales did not leave a lot of time for model engineering this month. However I progressed with finishing Roedean's tender in Malachite green and yellow details.

Regret that my hand is not as steady as it used to be so transfers for "SOUTHERN" and number 940 as per LBSC.

Lining with a bow pen and neat Humbrol yellow mini pot might need a bit of retouching!

At least it's finished and working.



Photo: Peter Hill

Pressing on with Roedean's boiler I made up the longitudinal stays, and blower hollow stay. Nipples for the ends were turned up in bronze. The hollow stay having nipples with internal and external threads (40tpi) . I'll leave all the firebox stays sticking out until after pressure testing .



I silver soldered these up and the firebox foundation ring. Also made up the backhead top water gauge connector from a lump of gunmetal. The original in the plan seems too low to see much variation in water level



Photos:  
Peter Hill







Then it was on to the superheaters. There are 4 of them in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " pipe but all stop short of the firebox. I started these now as I need to complete the boiler wet header bush and also the backhead regulator bush for a final solder up. The wet header bush takes the front pipe of the regulator so another 40tpi concentric dual thread bush, however just a tight fit in the boiler tube plate as not to be soldered. Maybe an "O" ring seal?

The spears are from a piece of copper plate that I marked out and drilled in the mill getting the dimensions accurate as there little clearance ( $\frac{1}{32}$ " ) down the  $\frac{5}{8}$ " flues. When drilled for the pipe I'll follow through drilling a smaller bore at an angle to break through. When I'm sure they'll all-line up I'll separate and finished to shape. I'll braze these to the pipes as don't want the solder to melt with a big fire!



Photos: Peter Hill





Meanwhile a “show and tell” at members running day.



Photos: Peter Hill



Geoff Broad and his team have now finished the repair of this section of the southern boundary fence with the galvanised wires now in place. This is in the area where the track re-laying will commence over winter. The fence certainly looks neater than what was there before!



The track gang have been busy replacing jumper leads on a section of track where unfortunately plated fixing bolts & nuts had been used. The rail joints have now been re-made using stainless steel fixings.





The story of the 'Stump' continues and Aubyn tackled this with the mini-digger.



Above the view from the digger!

Left – Stump removed!

Photos: Aubyn Mee



The new raised track steaming bays are taking shape under the direction of Aubyn Mee.

The groundwork was prepared first using the mini-digger.



Then the traverser rails were positioned and welded followed by shuttering for the concrete.



Photos: Aubyn Mee



We had the first of two concrete deliveries on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and this was laid by Aubyn and his helpers as can be seen below.

Truck on site – ready for mixing



The pour begins ....



George & Martin on the 'Tamper'



Nearly there!





Job Done!

This was followed by more groundwork again fixing and welding the traverser rails and shuttering ready for the next concrete delivery.



Photo: Aubyn Mee



The second delivery took place on the following Saturday and a good band of helpers turned out to lay the second panel.



Photo: Aubyn Mee

The picture below shows the willingness of our junior members to get involved!



Photo: Tony McGeechan

Aubyn and Daniel Culling putting the final touches to the panel

A big thank you to Aubyn for all his work on this project and to his dedicated band of helpers – well done to all those involved!



Our last event of the season was our mid-week running on the last Wednesday in the month.

The weather was non-too kind to us in the morning but luckily was fine for our public.

Steaming up in the wet!

Photo: Steve Wilkin>



Your 'scribe' on another circuit

Bob Whitfield with 'The Barron'

Photos: Adam Morgan



Mike Williams with 'Princess Lola' heading back to the sheds at the end of the day



In readiness for the track replacement work due to start after this weekend the 'Ballast Washer' has had a complete overhaul. Phil Hancock has been in charge of this project which included dismantling the drum and replacing the bearings. Whilst it was apart Jason Dakin has serviced the petrol engine for us. Many thanks to them both for their efforts!

The 'Ballast Washer'  
re-assembled and  
ready to go



I'll leave you with a lovely autumn photo taken earlier this month of the tree we pass under on the way to the cutting!

A busy month for us all on site but rewarding in what has been achieved. Join us if you can on site and enjoy the comradeship!

Note: All photos by the author unless otherwise credited.

Howard Brewer (Secretary) – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025