

# North East London Meccano Club

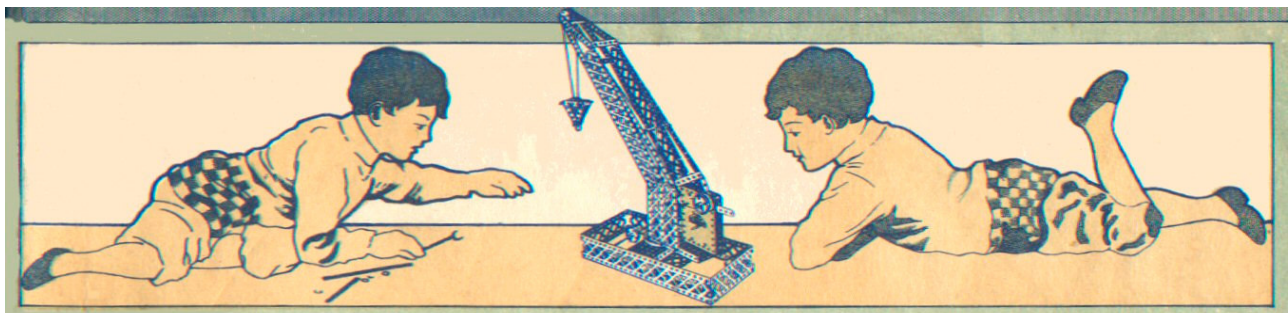
Newsletter - June 2005

**The 67th meeting of the North East London Meccano Club will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at Hainault Baptist Church Hall, Franklyn Gardens, Hainault, Essex**

The doors will open at 11 a.m. for setting up the meeting. Help is needed with moving the tables, and also with clearing away at the end of the meeting. All members and their guests will be very welcome.

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## CLUB NEWS

Sadly we have to report the passing of one of our members, John Baker, who died suddenly on 28th January.

After the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting (see below) the final meeting of the year will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, but don't forget the Dunmow exhibition on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. It will be held at the Dunmow Day Centre, Chequers Lane, Great Dunmow from 10am to 5pm.

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## GRAND AUCTION!

Following the great success of our auction last year, it is planned to hold another one at the next meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. If anything, last year's event was perhaps a little too successful, as the large number of lots meant that the auction lasted rather a long time. So this time please confine your items to Meccano items (or closely related, such as other construction sets). You may set reserve prices if you wish, but please do not make them unrealistically high. If there are still too many lots then it may be necessary to restrict the number that each person can sell. Paul Goodman has again agreed to be the auctioneer, so come along to sell, buy, and make money for the club!

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## MODEL REPORT - 7th May 2005

### **Brian Elvidge**

A freelance Electric Clock driven by a 10 rpm mains motor (from Meccparts.com in New Zealand) using a 10:1 gearing ratio to drive the sweep seconds hand, then a 60:1 ration to drive the minute hand and a 12:1 to the hour hand; also a freelance Tipping Wagon featuring Ackermann steering and tipping operated by a handwheel; finally a Cyber Vehicle from the current 7-model Motion set.

### **Roger Little**

Roger has improved his Marble Run Clock since its first showing at the May meeting: the first two reduction gears for the vertical lift drive have been changed from metal to plastic to reduce the noise level; the lifting fingers on the vertical lift have been shortened to ensure that if two or more marbles are at the bottom of the lift, the second marble is not dislodged from the collection point; a relay and commutator have been used to lengthen the pulse produced when a marble drops

into the trigger mechanism ensuring greater reliability. A marble release mechanism has also been incorporated to improve timekeeping: as a marble is released by one of the cams each time another one drops into the trigger mechanism, the timekeeping of the clock is no longer dependent on the speed of the vertical lift; also the cams can be advanced slightly to correct a fast running clock.

### **Peter Barnard**

Dizzy Ryder, designed by Bernard Périer and published in *Constructor Quarterly* no. 67 (March 2005).

### **Stan Leech**

Mini Breakdown Crane, operated remotely and powered by four Minimotors (12v, with integral gearboxes). These control movement along the track, hoisting, luffing, and turning. The winding drums are at right-angles to the conventional

position to save space, and the model has stabilisers that pull out and screw down each side.

### **Ron Martin**

Steam Boat Bill, modelled in medium red and green and taken from *Meccano Magazine* (May 1971), based on the American riverboats which used to ply the waters of navigable rivers such as the Mississippi; powered by a 12v motor which drives the paddle wheel.



Ron Martin's Steam Boat Bill

### **Ian Harrison**

Ian's collection of Meccano Moguls now includes seven of the nine models in the complete series. Some models offer little scope for Meccano modelling whereas others (especially the Army Wagon) allow tremendous opportunities for different bodies and different styles of trailers, some of which were displayed at the meeting. If anyone sees Mogul model no. 3243 (Tractor Digger) or no. 3265 (Tractor & Trailer) for sale, please let Ian know!



Ian Harrison's Mogul Collection

### **Geoff Carter**

Geoff showed a range of Crazy Inventor models, including a Clock, a Bat, Aeroplane (from the Helicopter set), and two models from the Rattletrap set. He also brought along a "K" oil-can.

### **Mike Tebbutt**

The F1 Renault is now finished, much adapted and now motorised to run off internal batteries or remote wire, and the intention is to run it by radio control. Mike also showed the prototype mechanism for a smooth clutch suitable for larger vehicles, and a micro Bulldozer of his own design. Andrea Tebbutt brought a Design Starter Digger, which is a very realistic and easy model for a beginner (not that Andrea is a beginner, of course!).

### **Colin Davies**

A Horizontal Mill Engine featuring twin compound cylinders (high and low pressure, double acting), twin flywheels, speed governor, Corliss valve gear and steam-raising plant with horizontal boiler. The design is an amalgam of several mill engines photographed at Ironbridge Gorge, the Science Museum and Kew Bridge Museum and others. Colin drew attention to the "secret" connection of the spokes to the flywheel rim!



Colin Davies's Horizontal Mill Engine

### **Paul Leech**

Scammell Wrecker, a 6-wheel drive all-terrain truck with crane and winch, based on the Scammell Explorer, with all the suspension features of the original.

**Ron Mumford**

A 4-2-2 Caledonian Locomotive and tender from the 1936 L manual; a simple Rocket Locomotive from the 1936 G manual; Giant Swing Boat operated by a Magic motor from the 1961 no. 5 manual.

**Chris Warrell**

Derrick Crane, built for the SELMEC secretary's challenge (set by Chris himself!) to build a model using curved or circular parts only. This kind of crane would have been seen by the side of a canal. The base is a 5½" hub disc, with overlapping 5½" curved strips for the jib.

**Allen Berman**

A Crazy Inventor Airship Kit (bought second-hand on eBay from Spain!) supplemented by a spiral Staircase and launch pad, designed to utilise as many of those useless parts as possible in a single model: 23 Flanged Sector Plates (one sector short of a full circle, bit like the crazy inventor I guess!), 380 washers, 54 spring clips, and lots of bent rods. Allen also brought along an interesting silent motor, found at a car boot sale, and identified as a continuous-rated induction motor for pumping air into aquariums. It seems ideal for a large Meccano project.



*Allen Berman's Airship*

**Eddie Oatley**

A repeat showing of Eddie's 30 ton Dry Dock Crane which continues to run smoothly and satisfactorily. Also a display of early manuals and other literature.

**Peter Clay**

Tower of Hanoi puzzle, using circular parts only; Overland Vehicle; Caterpillar Tractor powered by a Magic motor; Calais motor cycle; and an electric mortar mixer.

**Geoff Hall**

Burrell Showman's Road Locomotive to approximately 1/10 scale of the original Burrell 2-cylinder compound road locomotive fitted with a crane on the rear of the tender, and with main and auxiliary generators belt-driven from the flywheel. The model is driven by a Decaperm motor mounted in the firebox.



*Geoff Hall's Burrell Showman's Road Locomotive*

Our resident traders Dave & Marilyn Taylor, and Geoff Wright were on hand to tempt us with their wares.

*[Photos: Peter Barnard, Allen Berman, Simon Greatrex]*