

# *Left Hand Running*

The November 2009 Newsletter of The British Train Society  
www.britishtrainsociety.org

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## **A View From The Footplate**

Our last meeting at Mike Perry's place was a lively gathering with 15 in attendance. Mike's layout received a lot of interest especially the DCC elements of control for which he seems to be a pioneer in our club. It is a great layout of excellent quality and I personally enjoyed seeing the progress from our last visit. Now all we have to do is get Mike to change his lay out from American to British! I know Mike's sentiments are in that direction but we have to save that for another century. As usual, the swap meet we held was as popular as ever as we all search for the item that will be just right for our collections. Since I am in the middle of recreating a layout I was reluctant to offer anything until I see what my needs are but next year will be a different story as I may well have a lot of surplus items.

On the current news front we were all disappointed to hear that one of our long time members and stalwarts will be leaving us. John Derler, in response to changes at his job at Bosch, has decided to retire and in due course relocate to his home state of Michigan. His retirement will be effective January 1<sup>st</sup> and then he has many things to do before any relocation can take place. So that means that John will be around for a while yet so we will still enjoy his company and the great service to our group until he moves away. At this time I would like to express my personal thanks to John for the many contributions he has made over the years to the success of our group. John was always willing to step up and participate in a variety of ways when the needs arose and he has done yeoman service as our editor of our newsletter that he so imaginatively called "Left Hand Running". We will miss his many contributions in this area but also for his many inputs on the art of modeling, his

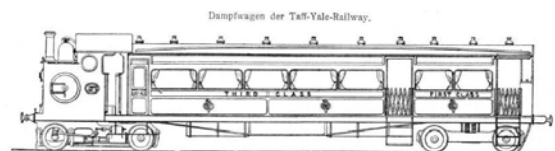
sound judgment and advice as our activities expanded and not the least his companionship and humor. John we all wish you the very best in this new chapter in your life and sincerely hope that we all can keep in touch.

On the business side our reviews of the Southland Model Train Show appeared quite positive and the sentiment is to repeat next year. Again many thanks to all that participated in ways great and small. Also the group was reminded of the need to elect a new chairman at our next meeting and that has been covered in a separate notice

This brings me to the next topic that this will probably be the last time I will be writing the "View" as I turn over the reigns. That being the case, as I conclude my Chairmanship I would like to thank everyone for the support that you all have provided to me over the last almost 15 years. It has given me great satisfaction to see this organization grow from very small beginnings but the success rests with all of you for the enthusiasm you have shown in promoting our mutual interests in various ways and participating in all our activities in a convivial and productive manner. As a result we have been able to enjoy each other's company and share experiences and knowledge for everyone's benefit. Thank you all. I am sure that with the same support to my successor our organization will continue to grow and prosper.

Happy Modelling

Don Buchanan



## Great British Train Show 2010

The Great British Train Show, hosted bi-annually by The Platelayers Society of Toronto, is your best opportunity this side of Land's End to see a wide variety of British railway modeling in all scales. At the GBTS you will see model railways writ British from 2mm fine scale to No. 1 gauge live steam and it also presents in one hall a great number of vendors of British railway related models, books, etc. If you have not yet attended this bi-annual event you owe it to yourself to see this next show. So with that in mind contact your travel agent today! It's not too early to begin your 2010 train show planning!



For a number of years Great British Train Show has been held in suburban Brampton, usually at the Jim Archdekin Centre and usually in late April. For 2010 the venue and dates are changed: new venue will be the Terry Miller Recreation Centre on Williams Parkway in Brampton and the dates for the upcoming show will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.



## Calendar of Coming Events

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Great Midwest Train Show  
Wheaton [DuPage County Fairgrounds]

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 pm  
BTS Regular Meeting  
Batavia (Don Buchanan, 700 W. Fabyan, Unit 24B)

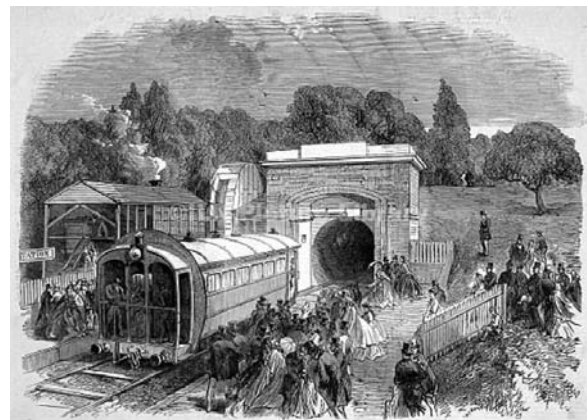
January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm  
BTS Regular Meeting  
Naperville (Harry Raynis, 1537 Warbler Dr.)

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm  
BTS Regular Meeting  
[venue tbd]

## Crystal Palace Pneumatic Railway

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Crystal Palace pneumatic railway (also known as the Crystal Palace atmospheric railway) was an experimental atmospheric railway constructed around 1864 near the Crystal Palace, the largely-glass exhibition hall built in London's Hyde Park for The Great Exhibition of 1851 and relocated following the exhibition to Penge Common in Surrey.



The railway was designed by Thomas Webster Rammell, who had previously built an atmospheric railway for

the General Post Office to convey letters along vacuum-driven tunnels in large wagons. A similar principle was applied to this railway by which a carriage, which had been fitted with a large collar of bristles, would be sucked along an airtight tunnel by a large fan, some 22ft in diameter, which was probably powered by a steam engine.

The tunnel ran for 600 yards between Sydenham and Penge, and had to negotiate a difficult bend along the line. Tickets cost sixpence each. It is unclear what became of the line, as records do not state when it ceased to operate, although it has been suggested that Rammell had originally constructed the small line as a test for a larger atmospheric railway that was to run between Waterloo and Whitehall.

It has been rumored that the site of the atmospheric railway is haunted, which was a popular urban legend of the 1930s partially connected with stories surrounding the Crystal Palace railway station. In 1978 a woman claimed to have found the tunnel and claimed to have seen within it an old railway carriage filled with skeletons in Victorian outfits. But the tunnel could not be found again, and some believed that the tunnel may actually have been destroyed by construction work for the Festival of Empire celebrations in 1911.

### **Overdue Dues**

From our treasurer comes the note that several members are seriously in arrears with regards to their membership dues. Remember, a happy treasurer [and an appropriately filled treasury] makes for a happy club! If you are unsure, please check with our treasurer, George Rowland [tel.: 309-523-2970, e-mail: [puffer1@frontiernet.net](mailto:puffer1@frontiernet.net)].



### **Editor's Note**

I thank Don for his kind remarks. I have had a lot of fun in The British Train Society and cannot stress strongly enough the many benefits that accrue to members of organizations such as ours. But I just want everyone to know that I haven't retired yet and that nothing will happen until January, at the earliest. I'm still here and, knowing the state of the Chicago housing market, may be for some time! Your editor will still be editing but this is your newsletter, so keep your contributions coming.

John D.