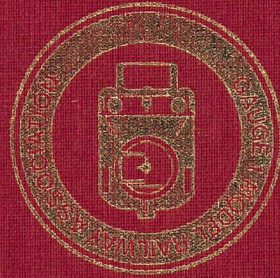


1947 - 2022

A Pictorial History of the  
Gauge 1 Model Railway Association



The Association attended exhibitions from its earliest days and this too has set the pattern of the Association's activities to this day. The first exhibit at the MRC Easter 1951 exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster was an up and down layout with electric propulsion. This layout was used again in August at an exhibition by invitation of the North London Society of Model Engineers. The first continuous electric working layout had its first outing at the Model Railway Club Easter week exhibition in 1952 in the annex of the lower hall of the Central Hall, and was repeated again there in 1953. Thus began the ever changing pattern of layouts each year at the MRC exhibitions for many years to come.

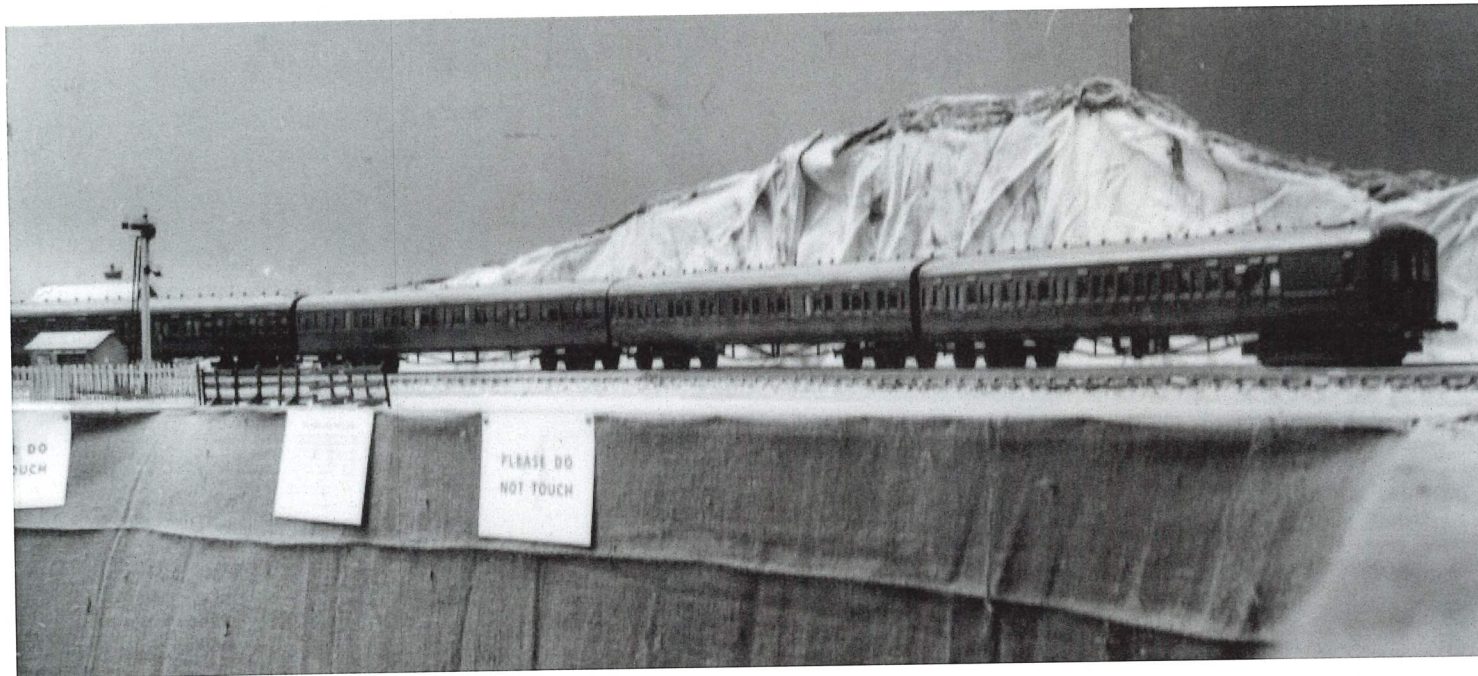
The continuous circular layouts in the annex were then thought to be unrailwaylike, and from 1954 to 1959 end to end lines were set up, properly signalled and belled between at least two control positions. My first memory of the Association was seeing the final version of the outside third end to end layout at the MRC in 1957. The following pictures give a flavour of these exhibitions. I have of course included a picture of Ella, who set the example of attractive and practical support from the ladies down the years.

The Association also attended the Manchester Model Railway Society Exhibition in 1955.

top right: Ella at MRC Easter 1952

right: Wrighton, Roberts, Nutter & Dobson at MRC 1955

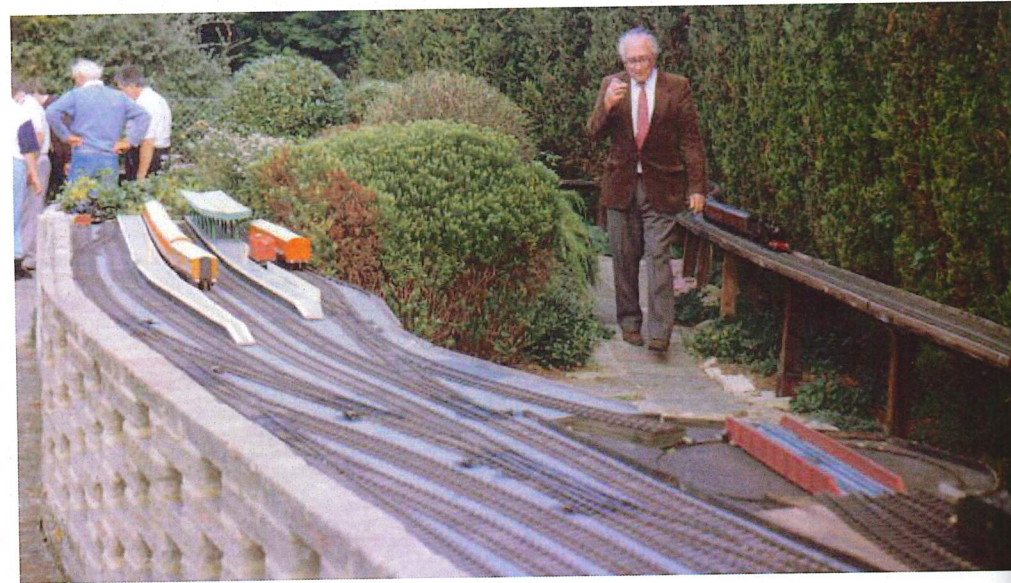
below: Francis Dobson's SR set by White Cliffs of Dover at MRC 1954



1990 saw the usual round of enjoyable Get Togethers, including the first of many at the Sutton Model Engineering Club which continue to this day.



Peter Howland GTG 1990



Roy Scott GTG 1990 Freddie Wrighton



Peter Howland GTG 1990



Mike McDonald GTG 1990

Dobson Bridge was shown very successfully at the Twickenham Model Railway Club exhibition at Walton in January 2003 and at the London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace in March with the old IMREX branch line terminal 'Winterbourne' attached. The boy busy with the radio control of an engine, by the locomotive shed, is Robert, Kevin West's son. There was a successful Dutch Get Together in 2003 hosted by Fred van Lubbe and a Gauge One event at Belgrosso in Tuscany.



Dobson Bridge: above at the Twickenham Model Railway Club  
other pictures at Alexandra Palace



For new models in 2010 Aster produced another winner the BR Standard Class 5 but that year also saw the continuing development of electric outline models by Fine Scale Brass and Tower Models

At the AGM an era came to an end as I stood down as Chairman along with Jeff Towe whose efficiency as Events Officer contributed so much to the enjoyment of the shows we attended over the years. Chris Ludlow took over as Chairman and Andrew Pullen returned as Secretary to introduce a new era in the Association's affairs in particular to recognise yet more GIMRA's international involvement in particular in Europe, the New World and the Antipodes.

Unfortunately the start of 2011 was overshadowed by the death in January of Robert Houghton aged 98 an outstanding figure involving 45 years as President of GIMRA. A man of considerable energy ability and great charm he had encouraged perhaps more than anyone that spirit of friendliness and fellowship which is so true of GIMRA. Above all 'it should be fun'! He also brought all the attributes of a great soldier to our affairs with outstanding service in the Royal Marines joining in 1930 and reaching the rank of Major General before his retirement in 1964

The first Bowande Gauge One Locomotive appeared the excellent gas fired LMS Stanier 8F



Geoff Hammond Coal Fired Brighton Atlantic, Reading

The Spring Meeting returned to Loughborough in April with an excellent attendance of 516. In May the Association attended the Association of Larger Scale Modellers show at the Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading with the Invicta Track and the North West Group took Withnell Junction to the Harrogate Model Engineering Exhibition. There was the national Summer Steamup at Sacramento California, and a very enjoyable weekend was had running at Beconscot with the old Association portable layout. Gauge One North was a success again at Bakewell but the Yorkshire Group went one further by displaying Dobson Bridge at the National Railway Museum for the first time at the end of October. Adam Houghton organised a GIMRA UK visit to Switzerland in response to so many wonderful visits by the Swiss to the UK over the years (and still happening).



Harrogate Model Displays

