



INSIDE MOTION

News and Views from the
TYNESIDE SOCIETY of MODEL and EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERS
No. 48 October 2024

Preamble

I had a very nice holiday, thanks for asking. Being away though, and losing Club days 'cos of other events, I'm a bit out of touch with newsy things. What follows is what I could scrape together ...

Club matters

Public Running

It's reported that September's session was rather quiet visitor-wise, and that rain later in the day led to an early finish. Maybe October will be a little kinder.

Container

Work continues laying a pathway and apron to assist getting locos in and out of storage. Poor weather and a shortage of base materials has slowed progress.



Coal

CPL Homefire, a manufacturer of smokeless fuels, approached TSMEE with the offer of trying out their 100% coal briquettes (made specifically for use in steam engines) for free to see how they perform. Some initial trials were conducted and Linda Nicholls sent them the following brief report

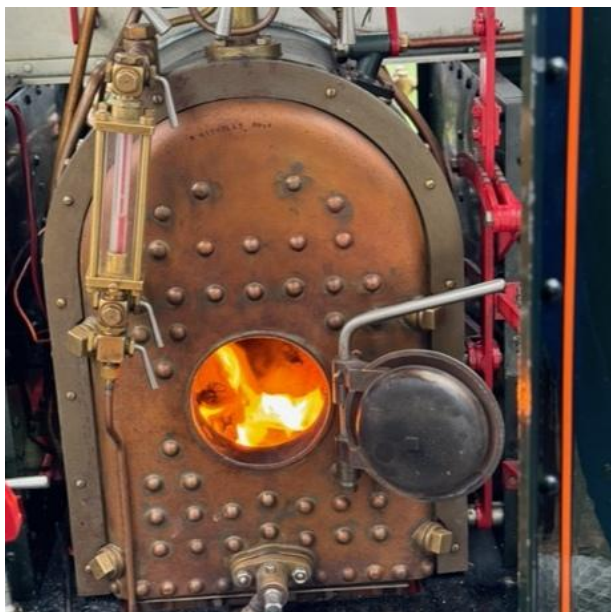
"Thank you for the sample of your new steam coal.

We have now tried it in a number of different situations - a 3 ½" locomotive, a 3" traction engine and a 7 ¼" locomotive.

So far the results have been positive. The coal burnt well, left very little residue and gave good heat.

Our main use is in the 7 ¼" locos pulling passengers. The plan was to run using our usual coal then swap for the last hour with one engine using the new supply. The plan was good until it rained and we had to abandon the activity. If at any point you have another spare bag we would like to run an engine for a couple of hours under load to give a final report."

Brian Nicholls hopes to fire his Koppel with it at the next public running event.



left – a good fire right – very little ash (photos Linda Nicholls)

Other stuff

Strathaven Open Track Weekend

The Strathaven Model Society is holding its annual event over the weekend of 12th and 13th October. A poster has been placed on the Clubhouse notice board, or see their website at www.strathavenminiaturerailway.org

Visitor

As happens occasionally, we had a visitor from another group come to run his engine on our track. In this instance it was David Kitchen, from Wakefield, with his 3 ½" gauge "Duchess of Hamilton". This loco was the first of a batch of fifty Chinese-produced engines and had benefitted from a number of tweaks and refinements to the original design. It seemed to perform flawlessly.



David Kitchen's "Duchess of Hamilton"

On the same day, and not really a visitor as he is a TSMEE member, Tony Falloon brought along his 7 ¼" gauge Quarry Hunslet – a loco I had certainly not seen before, so it was new to me. A large, handsome and powerful-looking machine, it fairly flew around the ground-level track with remarkable ease and stability. He would like to trial it pulling coaches with a view to doing some public running turns. As he freely acknowledged – "Anyone can start a train. Driving and stopping it is the real skill"



Tony Falloon's Quarry Hunslet

Postamble

Another slim issue, but, as ever, I work with what I can glean or am sent. If I've missed anything, well

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Gallery



Mixed traffic on the GR