



# Club and Branch News



## WITH THE SECRETARY

### THE GUILD'S THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY

All is now well set for the indoor season in Clubs and Branches. The first meetings of the Autumn Session have actually been held in most cases, and the greatest enthusiasm prevails everywhere. This must not be allowed to flag. If there are any signs of slackness or discouragement among members the programme must be promptly overhauled and the Club's resources also should be examined quickly, for good work is impossible if meetings are not enjoyable and conditions are not satisfactory.

Every Leader must keep a watchful eye on matters of this kind, not merely to avoid losing present members who feel disappointed or dissatisfied, but also to attract others. Recruiting indeed remains an ever present task in Club life. It is one that must be kept in mind by ordinary members as well as officials, for unless younger boys are brought into a Club throughout its career it will eventually fade away. Plenty of new members should be available for all Clubs among the Meccano enthusiasts in their districts who have not yet joined, and plans should be made to reach these and to bring them along to the Club room.

How great the opportunity of gaining recruits is may be realized from the fact that the Guild celebrated its 30th year by acquiring 13,000 new members. Its formation was announced in the September-October 1919 issue of the "M.M." and in its lifetime it has enrolled altogether more than 150,000 members.

The Hornby Railway Company is younger, but is equally vigorous. During the past 12 months this organization has gained nearly 20,000 members, and the flow of recruits continues. This should mean greater prosperity among Branches, and splendid opportunities for forming new ones, while Meccano Clubs should find it easier to add to the attractions of their programmes by forming Hornby Train Sections.

## CLUB NOTES

**THATCHAM M.C.**—A very busy programme is followed. The successful Exhibition was followed by intensive Model-building, Hornby Train operations and Stamp Collecting meetings. The Dinky Toys layout also has been extended; it now includes a miniature wood, a town, a countryside section and a coast line with a miniature "Queen Mary." Cycle runs, Rambles and Paperchases have marked the summer season. Club roll: 30. *Secretary:* B. M. J. Ambrose, 51, Southend, Cold Ash, Nr. Newbury, Berks.

**WHITCHURCH (GLAM.) M.C.**—Group models have been constructed, notable productions including a hammerhead crane, a mechanical excavator, a tractor and a combination lock. Photograph and Aquarium Sections are being started, and model railway activities are in prospect. Increased club room facilities are making excellent work possible. An extensive telephone

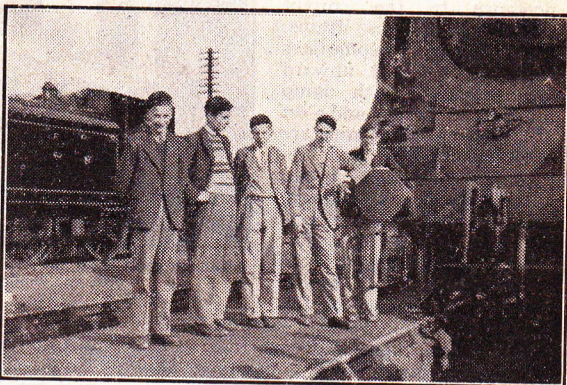
system has been installed. Club roll: 8. *Secretary:* F. G. Butler, 6, Mervyn Road, Whitechurch, Glam.

### AUSTRALIA

**BRIGHTON (VICTORIA) M.C.**—This newly affiliated Club has made a fine start, with excellent model-building and model aeroplane construction and flying. A Hornby Dublo railway is being installed. An interesting Visit was paid to the Essendon Aerodrome, the main air transport centre for Melbourne. Club roll: 15. *Secretary:* J. Stamp, 11, Menzies Avenue, Brighton, Victoria.

## BRANCH NEWS

**RYDAL SCHOOL (COLWYN BAY)**—Minor track alterations have included the re-laying of points.



Committee members of the Borden Grammar School M.C., Leader, Mr. J. H. Weekes, Secretary, S. Wood, visiting the Ashford Works of the Southern Region, British Railways. This fine school Club was affiliated in May 1929, and under the guidance of Mr. Weekes has entered upon a new period of intense activity. The programme includes Model-building, Talks, Film displays, and Visits, and a very successful Exhibition in conjunction with the School Arts Festival.

A general overhaul is in progress, and plans are being made for extensive alterations, including the building of a high level terminus. The Annual Exhibition was held at half term. *Secretary:* R. H. Wolstenholme, "Crusaders," Rydal School, Colwyn Bay, N. Wales.

**SLOUGH**—More members are joining and the equipment of the Branch is being increased. A special effort was made to clear up around the track to give a neat and efficient appearance. *Secretary:* W. Eisele, 335, Farnham Road, Slough, Bucks.

**WEYMOUTH AND DISTRICT**—The Branch celebrated its second birthday at Headquarters by a Party, with Games and Refreshments. Members enjoyed Swimming and Cricket during the outdoor season. Locomotives were inspected at close quarters during a visit to the Salisbury Motive Power Depot. *Secretary:* A. J. Brown, 68, Wyke Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

**BEDDINGTON CRUSADERS**—The Club track has been re-laid and more rolling stock has been acquired. More successful running has followed these changes. A Gala Night has been held, when locomotive speed, power and endurance contests were arranged. *Secretary:* B. Sheppard, 11, Cherry Hill Gardens, Waddon, Croydon.



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### LOOKING BOTH WAYS

At this time of the year we look both backward and forward—backward to pick out the highlights of the Winter Sessions with a view to doing better still when the indoor season comes round again, and forward to the summer with hopes of fine weather and jolly times out of doors. Many Leaders have already written to tell me what they are going to do when summer comes and it is they who will find that their Clubs will not lose ground then, in spite of counter attractions, and will start the activities of the next Winter Sessions with confidence.

In both Clubs and Branches programmes must be arranged that will keep members in touch with each other. There should be no difficulty whatever about this. Interesting short excursions, with outdoor games, and visits to stations and selected positions on lines within easy reach for observations of locomotives and train working will provide a good programme for Branches, and for Clubs with Hornby and Hornby Dublo Railway interest, and there is always something to be done in the Club or Branch room to fill in wet or gloomy days.

### CLUB AND BRANCH PHOTOGRAPHY

Clubs and Branches in which Photographic Sections have been formed will take full advantage of the opportunities that summer brings, and where there is no Photographic Section now is the time to create one. Even here the competitive spirit that has done so much to enliven Club and Branch life can be brought into play by arranging competitions. For instance, when an excursion is made that offers prospects of good pictures, a time should be arranged for members to display prints of photographs they have taken, and small prizes should be awarded to those judged best by the Leader or Chairman, or whoever is regarded as the photographic expert. It is often possible to find a photographer of repute who would be pleased to judge the entries and to make suggestions that would help members to get better results.

### PROPOSED CLUBS

TIPTON—Mr. D. Mobley, 3, Florence Road, Glebe Estate, Tipton, Staffs.

LONG EATON—Mr. J. B. Allen, 24, Carrfield Avenue, Long Eaton, Nottingham.

### PROPOSED BRANCH

LICHFIELD—Mr. J. Simpson, 37, Levetts Fields Lichfield, Staffs.

### CLUB NOTES

BARKER'S BUTTS BOYS SCHOOL (COVENTRY) M.C.—A two-day Exhibition attracted about 1,000 visitors



S. Wood has been Secretary of the Borden Grammar School M.C. since it was revived under Leadership of Mr. J. H. Weekes in November 1948. The Club pursues a fine all-round programme, and a special feature has been made of Talks on Model-building methods, with special reference to particular models such as clocks, cranes and road vehicles.

and Club funds benefited by over £21. There was a splendid display of models and a miniature Railway, and an illuminated sign at the entrance was built by members. Proceeds will be used for increasing the Club's stock of Meccano Parts. Club roll: 40. *Leader:* Mr. F. Batten, Barker's Butts County Secondary School for Boys, Banks Road, Coundon, Coventry.

FALLOW COURT (FINCHLEY) M.C.—This new Club holds meetings weekly. Three groups have been formed in order to foster the competitive spirit, the members of each wearing a distinctive ribbon flash. Models of higher standard are now being built and a Dinky Toys Town is under construction. Club roll: 13. *Leader:* Mr. W. Laming, 88, Fallow Court Avenue, Finchley, London N.12.

HORNSEA M.C.—Meetings continue along the usual lines. In addition to model-building, Talks have been given on "How We Get Our Water," "Italy" and other topics, and Film Shows also have been enjoyed. Club roll: 14. *Secretary:* R. Lancaster, Carlton House, Carlton Avenue, Hornsea.

WHITTINGTON M.C.—Construction has continued of embankments and tunnels for the Club's Hornby Train Layout and a low level station has been planned. Now photography, including practice in developing and printing, has been introduced under the guidance of Mr. F. Haywood, Leader, and a Film Show also has been given. Club roll: 9. *Secretary:* P. W. Sharp, 17, Hill Top Road, Old Whittington, Chesterfield.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL M.C.—More new members have been enrolled and attendances at meetings is excellent. In a Model-Building Contest a high proportion of entries of real merit were entered. A Visit has been arranged to a railway shed in the neighbourhood. A new venture is the formation of a Library of magazines of engineering and aeronautical interest. Club roll: 23. *Secretary:* G. S. Miller, "Fairholme," 10, Countess Drive, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 5.

### BRANCH NEWS

STROUD—Operations on the Club's Hornby Train layout have been continued. Further events have included a very lively Debate, in which many modern motions were very keenly discussed. *Secretary:* D. Hargest, 6, Folly Lane Stroud.

HIGH CRAIGIE (PERTH)—Plans have been drawn up for a layout to incorporate new track and rolling stock received by members during the Christmas season. More Hornby-Dublo stock and Dinky Toys have been acquired and useful railway books have been added to the Branch Library. Members make frequent visits to Perth General Station. *Secretary:* J. Duncan, "Dunrae," 41, Evelyn Terrace, Perth.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL (OXFORD)—The chief recent activity has been the completion of a bridge for a gap in the layout. Useful additions have been made to Rolling Stock. Good use is made of the Branch Library. *Secretary:* R. A. Bowen 33 Richmond Road, Oxford.