

## MMG models at the Skegness Exhibition

This was without doubt one of the best Skegness exhibitions in the last 25 years (can I really have attended that many!). The weather was glorious, the exhibition attracted a record number of visitors and the models were as good as I can remember. Marion Cotterill and her team ensured a well-organised event. The absence of sales in the main hall meant more space for modellers and a better image for the exhibition. Voting for the prize winners was particularly difficult, I had a *shortlist* of ten, all excellent models, and in the end managed to have all but one of the five winners on my card. Many congratulations to **John Ozyer-Key** who took the Issigonis shield for his incredible Lorry mounted Crane, and to **Ken Senar** who won second prize for his fabulous Westland helicopter. John's model is featured in the latest edition of CQ and so I include here only a brief descriptions and a general view of the model. The model has taken 2 years to build and is a tour-de force including radio control using six channels for : power steering to all 8 wheels; 5 speed and reverse epicyclic gearbox; the gearbox has a sequential electronic control operated by a single servo, braking anyone of six gear rings; the crane has a motor for each function – slewing hoisting, telescoping and luffing; further servos control outriggers, jacks and switching between chassis and crane operation. I happened to be with John when a professional driver/operator of the real thing came upon John's model – needless to say he was impressed – I think his words were “not a bad effort”! John was suitably modest in his response -“Thanks” he said. (*photo courtesy Constructor Quarterly*)



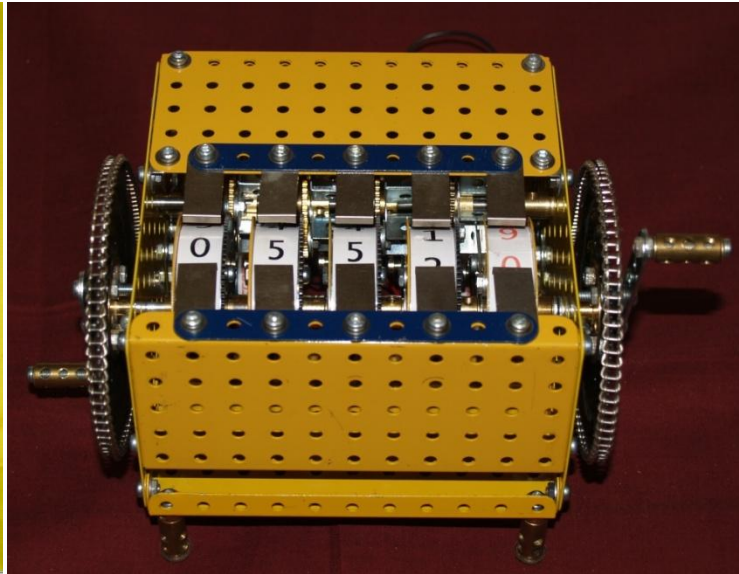
**Ken Senar's** Wessex HC2 Helicopter is to his usual very high standard of modelling. What impressed me most about this model was the way in which Ken has managed to model complex linkages, in a very elegant and effective manner. For instance the swash plate mechanism, including the feathering of the blades, and variable pitch to enable vertical and horizontal flight is controlled from the cabin through linked differential gearing, a very neat and simple solution that is characteristic of Ken's ingenuity. Ken has provided the write up of the model and detailed photos which are featured in the bulletin (septmeber issue).

This report covers only MMG members models, space does not allow inclusion of photographs of them all but more pictures will be found on the website ([www.nzmeccano.com/image-48784](http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-48784)). I hope I have managed to record all who attended with models. Several members also attended without models.

**Richard Payn** exhibited a Scammell super constructor modelled in red/green, a colour scheme I do not associate with Richard. Details of this model and building instructions will be found on the NZ website ([www.nzmeccano.com/forum/showthread.php?tid=115](http://www.nzmeccano.com/forum/showthread.php?tid=115) ; [www.nzmeccano.com/image-41566](http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-41566); [www.nzmeccano.com/image-44060](http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-44060))

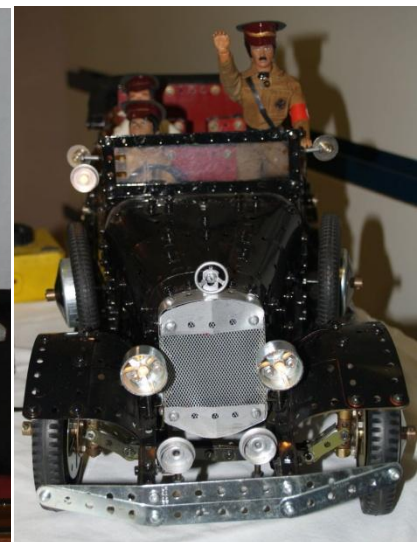


It was good to see two members who do not usually manage to attend our meetings at Baginton . **John Armstrong** had the Michael Whiting orrery featured in the last bulletin, the Heatherwick folding bridge designed by Alan Wenbourne and a very smoothly operating decimal counter shown here. The counter was designed by Tim Robinson and details can be found on his website [www.meccano.us](http://www.meccano.us) . John's version is driven by electric motors through the chain drives to the hand cranks. The machine counts turns from 0000.0 to 9999.9, it will count backwards – so reversing the motors avoids the tedium of hand cranking the dials to zeros. **Mike Hooper** is well known to us but also less frequently manages to get to our meetings. He had revised his charming model of “Tommy Cooper” *no longer legless*, but still deftly producing the rabbit from the top hat.



**John Evans (of Manteg)** exhibited a Nano fairground model using the latest Nano kits and incorporating a roundabout and flying jets in the same display. **Tony Brown** arrived on Saturday with his No9 set Quayside crane and a beautiful Marklin steam engine which he is planning to build into a, Meccano, I trust, traction engine. I look forward to seeing it at Baginton.

**Tom and Matthew McCallum** created a display that any dealer would have been proud to show in their shop window. An unusual original dealer display model designed to promote smaller sets displayed three small manual models built from No. 2, 3 and 4 sets. Tom completed the display with a very neat and well proportioned model of the GWR railcar, nicknamed the “flying banana” due to its streamlined shape. This battery powered model traversed back and forth throughout the 3 days of the exhibition very realistically.



**John and Cynthia McDonald** provided a variety of military models including the tank transporter, Sopwith Camel, an 8x4 chassis, a Farro 18 ton half truck and an amusing model of Hitler's Mercedes staff car. All modelled with precision and immaculately presented in appropriate military livery.

**Colin Reid** exhibited his 1913 Yorkshire Motor Co. steam wagon, modelled from the original driver's handbook (a nice collectible item) with a wealth of detail including ingenious lighting to resemble the oil lamps fitted to the prototype. **Mark Rolston**, showed further progress on the Matador truck now incorporating a hub reduction unit. He also had a crawler crane based on the Lego model and making novel use of knitting needles for supporting the jib!

**Tony Homden** continues to develop the combination of Meccano and Minibrix to model architectural models. I wasn't able to see the operation of his model of the Hay inclined plane, located on the Shropshire canal, but it certainly looked impressive and I hope we will see it at Baginton. **Chairman George** attended on the Friday with a, fire engine, of course, the Kuiken Hytrans (shown). His place was taken by **Alan Covel** on Saturday showing the Del-Boy three wheel Reliant Robin van. Shown next to Alan's model in **Dennis Remnant** who took fifth prize for his Dornier DO-X flying boat.



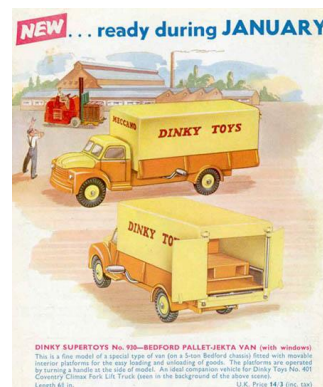
**Dave Hobson** continues to find interesting subjects to model: he exhibited two models demonstrating an intriguing invention by Sir Henry Bessemer of a swinging saloon designed to mitigate against sea sickness. The boat cabin is suspended on a gimble that compensates for the motion of the sea and aims to keep the passengers perpendicular. **Roger Burton** arrived on Saturday with his delightful helicopter patrol which will be featured as a constructor project in the December bulletin.



**Tony Parmee** reprised two of his set 10 models: Frank Hornby's house (Quarry Bank) and the jet Airliner based on the Boeing 777. **Robin Schoolar** showed his Delftshavense Schie Bascule Rail Bridge seen at the last MMG meeting. **Terry Allen's** Bugatti type 57C (1937-8) chassis is almost complete with seats and, it is hoped, body work to be added.

**Roger Thorpe's** Pinyon Blocksetter and **Alan Scargill's** were among several cranes shown at this year's exhibition. **Howard Somerville** had also built the model plan Tower crane. **John and Michael Molden** provided an extensive display with their fairground funhouse, the Miami fairground ride and Michael's Scania tractor unit. **John Bridger** showed his De Winton vertical boiler quarry locomotive. John has also produced a very comprehensive book on fairground modelling in Meccano which I believe is being published by Robin Johnson with proceeds to charity.

Two historical displays were admired by modellers and collectors alike. **Jim Gamble** showed examples of sets from the MME period including an example of the very rare "Simplified mechanics" set sold prior to the rebranding of Hornby's invention to Meccano. Your Hon secretary showed a display of aeroplane constructor models. Based on a 1930's dealer display model, four different planes revolved around a tower built from period blue/gold.



Finally the non MMG model that caught my eye this year was **Alan Esplen's** pallet Jekta Dinky Toy delivery van; very neatly modelled with operating pallet loading gear. Alan has set up his own website [www.btinternet.com/~a.esplen/mecc.htm](http://www.btinternet.com/~a.esplen/mecc.htm) where there are more details of

this model. Alan's very attractive display included a fork lift truck loading pallets of Mecanno products into the van – very nostalgic and redolent of a lost age of Meccano toys.

Roger Marriott (Hon Sec)