

The Ed's Briefs...

PLEASE ALL NOTE – Our January meeting will be a week later than usual, on Wednesday 8 January, as our usual 'first Wednesday' date is the 1st January, so New Year's Day and a Bank Holiday... **Don't forget the change!! And the January theme? 'Open Doors'... in other words, anything in your collection with opening doors... or any other opening features!**

Gosh, look what's coming... Yes, it's 1st January, and the time to **renew your WMTC membership** for 2025! A slight increase in the subs to £18 (emailed Smalltalk) or £24 (paper Smalltalk), but surely still a bargain? Where else could you have so much fun for so little outlay...? An application form will be included with this Smalltalk... Just send it back to Nick with some dosh – job done!

Well, it's happened... again! The WMTC AGM, that is, and yes, the same old crew has been re-elected for yet another year...Perhaps one day we'll get it right... (Hope so...) Minutes of the meeting (for members only) are with this Smalltalk. If there is anything you think should be amended, please advise BtE, otherwise the minutes will be adopted as read at next year's AGM.

And just to prove... that the club is still solvent, the accounts for the year ended 30 September are included (again, for members only) with this Smalltalk. You will see that, as mentioned in the AGM minutes, I have 'tidied up' the valuation of the collection of club models held as assets, to give a nice round figure...

And a reminder of the next few club nights... Of course **December** is Christmas Meal Night, and you will all have had an invite in one form or another... A little bit late getting them out this year, coz we were a bit tied up with the Birthday Bash! Anyway, a goodly number of members and guests have signed up, so it is sure to be a great night as usual!

As already mentioned **January** (8th not 1st!) will be 'Open doors', for any or all of your pieces with opening features.

February club night will as usual be **Charity Auction Night**. As our attempts to discuss with the brewery our proposal to finance the installation of a defibrillator at the pub came to nothing, we have, at the suggestion of **Brian G**, chosen the **Wiltshire Air Ambulance** to be the recipient of our cash this time. As you probably know, the Air Ambulance base is very close to the Milk Churn.

And **March**? Catalogue night...

The full year's timetable will be in the next Smalltalk...

I have heard from that chap John Alderslade... Many of you will remember John, for a long time he was a driving force in the club, until he moved from Melksham to Wales – Aberffrd, near Aberystwyth – some years ago. He has very kindly thrown out an invitation to all club members – should you be holidaying in Mid Wales, you are welcome to come along and see his (extensive!) collection, and have a cup of tea. John can be contacted on **01970 880 701**. Thanks, John!

And as a matter of interest to all you railway buffs, a nearby attraction is the Vale of Rheidol steam railway – www.rheidolrailway.co.uk – where John is a volunteer...

And finally, the usual reminder... that nowadays you **MUST** enter your car registration on the magic machine when you arrive at the Milk Churn, **in order not to incur an unwelcome fine...**

Barry the Ed

oooooooooooooooooooooOooooooooooooooooooooo

Trevor Rumming.

Sad to say that, in trying to contact former members re the club's birthday party, we learnt that Trevor had sadly died in October 2022.

Trevor lived in Frome, was a member from 1990 to 2017, and was a regular visitor to our club nights when we met at the Usher Club in Trowbridge.

RIP, Trevor...

BtE

40th Birthday Bash

2 October Club Night

Wow... just... Wow!! What else is there to say about our super 'Birthday Bash' on the 2 October – just one day later than the 'official' club birthday, as our first meeting as **WMTC** was 1 October 1984.

The Atwell Wilson Motor Museum in Calne was a splendid venue, and they looked after us very well – many thanks to club member **Stewart Mitchell** who is a volunteer at the museum, and who helped with all the arrangements beforehand, and on the night itself. And of course, many thanks to all the other museum volunteers who were on hand to help.

It was wonderful to see so many of you there, 46 in total – members, including our two 'Founder Members' **George Hatt** and **Ken White**, former members, partners, and guests, including six of our friends from the South Hants MAC (Thanks for coming up, lady and gents!)

The museum is of course already home to the complete collection of WMTC club models, augmented for this evening by a display of club photographs and memorabilia. In addition, our slot-car enthusiast **Ashley** laid on an ingenious track in the shape of '40' for anyone and everyone to have a play on.

And was there a buffet? I'll say there was! Mrs Chairman **Ricky** had come up trumps yet again, with a super spread which I am sure everyone enjoyed. And not only that, **Ricky** also produced not one, not two, but **three** different birthday cakes – something for all tastes!

Of course there was a raffle, and who should win the main prize – a hamper full of goodies – but our slot car man **Ashley**!

During the course of the evening Chairman **Steve** made a surprise presentation to **Doug Male** – a certificate giving him Lifetime Membership of WMTC. Doug has been a WMTC member since day one, a committee member for most of that time, and indeed Chairman for some twelve years – so a well-deserved recognition of his contribution to the club.

When we had the Jaguar Mk I club model back in 2019, Ian Law of PP Copy Models let BtE have two sets of bare castings. **Barry** had finished these in the club's maroon colour, with '40' racing numbers, as '40th Birthday' models. One was the subject of a 'secret auction' on the night, and the winner, with a very generous bid was none other than **Dougie**! The other model will be offered by another secret auction open to **all club** members – see later in this Smalltalk!

There we are, I have tried to cover everything – and if you weren't able to be there, I hope you will get a feeling for what a great night it was...

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I'll save any more words from me, with some pics!

But, to end, here is a little message after the event from our Founders, **Ken and George**... **BtE**

Dear WMTC

Ken and I would just like to thank you all for the warm welcome we received at the 'Birthday Bash' in October. Nice to see so many old faces.



A brilliant venue, a superb spread of 'nosh' by Ricky, and all orchestrated by the ever-present Steve, Barry, and the rest of the committee.

We know that, although we are founding members, our attendance at club nights over the last few years has been somewhat sparse, however it's comforting to see that something so small in inception has continued to flourish, whilst so many are/have floundered. Long may it continue.

Good luck to all who sail in the good ship WMTC.....

Do you have a boat night??

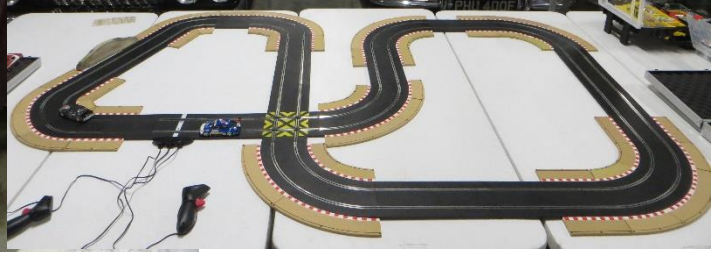
Ken White and George Hatt

<< Ready for the off!



<< The club display

v v Ashley's '40' track



Ricky's super buffet... including these three tasty cakes! >>



Chairman Steve certifies Dougie...

<<<
...and performs the cutting of the cake!
>>>



Getting down to the serious business!



The ones to blame for getting it all started! ^^

Ken and George...

And on the right – Chairman Steve presents Ashley with his raffle prize hamper!



^^ Jill and Bob Warfield seem to be enjoying themselves...!

And Dougie shows off his 'secret auction' winnings! >>



Another view of the assembled multitude!

It really was a super night, with a wonderful atmosphere... As Elvis sang, back in 1960 – "What a night, oh what a night it was, it really was, such a night...!" (Remember that one...?)

Many thanks to **everyone** who came, and helped to make our 'Birthday Bash' such a success...

Barry the Ed

As usual our November club night kicked off with the club's AGM. Nothing very exciting to report, apart from a slight increase in membership subs. It seems members are happy with the way things are going! Needless to say, the same crew were re-elected as the committee for 2025... Let's see how they do! Minutes of the meeting will be included for members with this Smalltalk. **Let BtE know** if there is anything you think should be amended or added, otherwise they will be ratified as read at next year's AGM.

Then it was over to the interesting stuff – the Small Commercials! For some reason that night the lighting in our room seemed even worse than usual, and so some of the pics I took didn't come out very well at all... Sorry about that – But I think there's enough to give a good idea of what was on show!

First up it was **Alex**, with some of his repaints (Of course his 'old dears' and their carrier bags got the credit for supplying the playworn originals!)



Also included was this Morris Commercial van by Lledo, which Alex told us was the first vehicle that he drove which was larger than a car. Of course he went on to drive much larger stuff, including artics and London buses!

David George was next, and showed a selection of different colours on the Dinky Loudspeaker van. David has never seen the Loudspeaker van in red – was there one? We also saw some Minic, French Dinkies, and white metal in the shape of a Durham Classics Ford pickup with a Wurlitzer jukebox in the back (celebrating 50 years of Wurlitzer), and an early Motorkits Bedford van in John Barker livery.



This is **Sharpie's** Dinky Fordson Thames with trailer – a very nice new addition to his collection that night!



Two more from Sharpie – a very nice original Trojan Oxo van, and the Morris Z PO Telephones van repainted as a Royal Mail van (Although Sharpie admitted that the bonnet top and wings should be black, like the roof...)



Ah, RAF vehicles... Has to be **Don!** First up – a rather nice Standard Vanguard pickup in RAF Police livery, by Kenna Models. >> Below is a Matchbox Ford V8, as used by the RAF in the Middle East in 1940, refinished by Don in 'sand' camouflage.



Here is the Corgi Vanguards Minivan as used by the Red Arrows team. >>



Graham chose to show a selection of the 1/76 Dublo Dinky range, the first models being advertised in the December 1957 Meccano Magazine. The range had a fairly short life – 1957 to 1966 – and was not particularly successful, probably because they were up against the well-established Matchbox range. A shame – and some of the subjects chosen, such as the Morris pick-up (Cowley MCV?), Morris Minor Post Office van, and the Commer van, would surely have made very nice additions to the Dinky Toys standard range.



DUBLO DINKY TOYS
OO GAUGE
An Entirely New Series

Here are the first of an entirely new series of Dinky Toys made to the scale of 'OO' gauge railways. These are produced with all the care and skill that have established the world-wide reputation of the larger scale Dinky Toys. They are precision die-cast in metal, fitted with one-piece non-scratch moulded wheels and tyres, and finished in attractive colours. Only perfectly safe (E.D.) FREE examples are used for these toys as for all other Meccano products.

DUBLO DINKY TOYS No. 064 AUSTIN LORRY
This well-detailed model represents a lorry used for heavy loads. Its high sides make it suitable for carrying a wide range of goods.
Length 2½" (64 mm.)
U.K. Price 1/9 (inc. Tax)

DUBLO DINKY TOYS No. 065 MORRIS PICK-UP
For general transport and carrying purposes: ideal for Hornby-Dublo parcels collection and delivery.
Length 2½" (55 mm.)
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DUBLO DINKY TOYS No. 066-BEDFORD FLAT TRUCK
The flat deck of this handsome model is designed to carry Hornby-Dublo containers. It is just the thing for 'OO' gauge railways as well as for general use on road layouts.
Length 4½" (108 mm.) U.K. Price 2/- (inc. Tax).
Authentic detail — Free running — Scale accuracy — Non-scratch moulded wheels
MADE IN ENGLAND BY MECCANO LTD., BINNS ROAD, LIVERPOOL 13

PUBLISHED BY MECCANO LTD., BINNS ROAD, LIVERPOOL 13, ENGLAND.
Printed by John Warrington Ltd., Leeds and London.

Next up was me – that’s **BtE** – with a trip down Memory Lane, and a collection of Dinky small commercials that I had as a lad... Sadly not my old ones, but expensive ‘collectors items’ bought since! Actually, there’s one I didn’t have all those years ago – the Austin army water tanker. It came out in 1958, and I guess I had stopped buying Dinkies by then... Always liked it though!



New Life Member **Doug** was next around the table! While he confessed that really he prefers HGVs, he was still able to put of a display of small commercials – mostly Dinky I think!

Brian G spoiled us with his usual extensive display, running through the alphabet of manufacturers, everything from Arbur to Wells, via Britains, Dinky, Matchbox, Timpo, and many more! These are a few that caught my eye...



Left: plastic and tinplate Esso tanker, marketed by Wells, but almost certainly made by another company (perhaps Wells lacked production capacity at the time?) The American style of the truck may mean it was intended for export - anyone out there know the answers?? Right: Taylor and Barrett wreck truck



Above: a cute little set by Barclay of the USA.

Right: An unlikely-looking Chevrolet crane truck by Gamda Koor Sabra (Just a pick-up with added crane!)

Chairman **Steve** also put on a good display. Being a (relative...) youngster, he tends to favour Corgi over Dinky, and he had a nice little selection, all original apart from the two Corgi Model Club Land Rovers. Even these show variations, with different style wheels!



Here we have a lovely trio of early Yesteryears, and on the right, perhaps the quirkiest little commercial of the night, a Daihatsu Midget II pickup by Tomy.

Bob Burnett decided to show pieces not often seen, and, like Brian G, ran through the alphabet, from Automec to Tootsietoys, with many stops in between!

>> Here's a Tootsietoys 'Wrigley's' truck...



<< ...and a Chad Valley Guy 'Lyons Ice Cream' van



Above: French Dinky Ford lorry 'SNCF'
 Right – Bob's table full of rarities...
 As he said, very colourful, and a nice display!

And to finish – some Fords... Yes, you've guessed, it was **Nick**, this time displaying variations of the Transit. At the front, in small scale, the very first short wheelbase Mk I by Oxford Diecast, through to the latest style – and all in white!



Nick gave a run-down of the history of the Transit Supervans, with models by Spark in 1/43. The latest Supervan 4 is fully electric, with a motor on each wheel (!), and has already set record times at the Goodwood Festival of Speed and Pikes Peak hillclimbs.



Above: Supervans 1,2, and 3 ...



... And on the right: Supervan 4 !

Many thanks to **everyone** who contributed to another super WMTc night, with lots of very interesting stuff to see!

BtE

All facts, opinions, comments, criticisms etc. contained within Smalltalk are the responsibility of individual contributors (especially if anonymous!). The Ed? He's still suffering the after-effects of the Birthday Bash!

Your 2024/5 Committee comprises: -

Chairman:	Steve Clements	devizesdiecast@aol.com	01380 725322
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Smalltalk Editor & Secretary:	Barry Lloyd NEW>>>	barrylloyd1946@gmail.com	01179 866503
Co-opted Committee Members (AKA SLH – Steve's Little Helpers):	Alan Sharpe and Don Stevenson		

WMTC Club Nights are held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month from 7.30pm at The MILK CHURN, Commerce Way, Melksham SN12 6AD

The club loves to receive **any** feedback from members, so please email us at wmtc25@aol.com
And don't forget to email your contributions for **Smalltalk** to the Ed at barrylloyd1946@gmail.com
Or, send by post to: **Barry Lloyd, 36 Windrush Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1QP**

WMTC Diary Dates

All information – including swapmeet dates – is given in good faith, but it's best to check first BEFORE making plans! Club events, or events where the club will be represented, are in BOLD.

2024

1 December	Shepton Mallet Toy Fair BA4 6QN (BDF)
4 December	Club Night - Christmas Meal at The Milk Churn
10 December	Hook (Odiham) Toy Fair RG27 9NN (SCF)
17 December	Wootton Bassett Toy Fair, Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN (SCF)
27 December	NEC Toy Fair – Hall 18, NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT
28 December	Toy & Train Collectors Fair, Gordano School Dining Hall, Portishead, BS20 7QR 10.30am – 2pm.

2025

8 January	Club Night – Open Doors – for models with opening features.
14 January	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN (SCF)
19 January	Wickham Toy Fair (Replacing Eastleigh) Wickham Community Centre Mill Lane PO17 5AL (SCF)
2 February	Mega Malvern Toy Collectors' Fair WR13 6NW (BDF)
5 February	Club Night – Charity Auction in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance.
11 February	Hook Toy Fair, Community Centre, Ravenscroft, RG27 9NN (SCF)
15 February	Kidlington Toy Fair, Exeter Hall, Oxford Road OX5 1AB
22 February	Sandown Toy Fair, Sandown Exhibition Centre, Portsmouth Road, Esher.
22/23 Feb	Bristol Classic Motorcycle Show, Shepton Showground BA4 6QN
23 February	Swindon Town Toy Fair, Grange Leisure Centre, Grange Drive SN3 4JY (SCF)

SCF = Steve Clements Fairs

BDF = Bulldog Fairs (Stu Vowles)

Our Chairman Steve of Steven Clements Fairs (SCF) kindly offers WMTC full members ONE FREE ENTRY to all his fairs, on production of a valid WMTC membership card. BUT PLEASE NOTE – this offer applies ONLY to Standard Entry times, NOT EARLY ENTRY

Best wishes to all readers of Smalltalk. Hope you all have a lovely Christmas - see you in 2025!

Barry the Ed

Another Birthday Postscript...

At 8.58pm on Wednesday 2 October **Barry the Ed** and **Chairman Steve** indicate to the man with the camera (ex-member **Brian Adams**) that sadly there are just two minutes to go before the party has to end!

