

Bedford Model Engineering Society steam event 2012

On Sunday the 24th June 2012 at Summerfield railway in Haynes, the annual miniature steam event was held. At this event we took my Ford GPA with accompanying trailer and Richard's demo tractor, also at this event there was a part finished electric sentinel steam lorry owned and built by my friend and a custom made Willys jeep as well as many miniature steam engines and locomotives.

At this great event there was plenty to do including looking around at the array of miniature steam engines, have a ride on a half scale foden bus, ride on many different miniature trains on the Bedford Model Engineering Society's own railway line, running through Haynes End, Badgers Holt and Hammer Hill, watch the arena events or just have a bite to eat and a drink in the newly built Station Buffet café/BMES clubhouse plus lots of other fun things to do.

The day did not start well with a heavy shower and the ground looked very wet, with a couple of cars needing a pull from a Land Rover, but the first shower was the only one, and the sun shone for the rest of the day. It just provided a bit more challenge for the Toylanders driving on the wet ground.

What is Bedford Model Engineering Society you may ask? Well it is a club for all people interested in model engineering; many members own a ride on locomotive

which they run on the club miniature railway line. Some members have miniature traction engines, others own and build electric powered ride on vehicles including Richard Shepherd of Real Life Toys in Biggleswade.

Richard, a member of the BMES, unfortunately couldn't make it to this event therefore we took his demo tractor D.B.R. Also I took my Ford G.P.A and accompanying trailer. Throughout the day I got the chance to drive all four electric vehicles around the show. I drove my Ford G.P.A around the arena and through the slalom course; we drove all of the Toylanders in the main parade around the arena.

All of the exhibitors at the show got given a blue rosette. After the main parade we took all of the Toylanders up to the end of the train line for a photo shoot. This went well because we got some good shots of the Toylanders with the great background of the hills looking over Bedford. Being able to drive all four Toylanders I got to compare them, because three days before this event I finished putting in complete new running gear and wiring! Previously on my Ford G.P.A there was a single wheel drive car starter motor, a big and bulky car 12 volt battery and a dodgy pedal whereas now I have two compact and powerful single wheel drive motors and two compact gel batteries. Also I have new speed control box with wiring loom complete with ignition key, direction switch, cut out switch and all wired in through the factory fitted din plug. Now because of this re-engine my Ford G.P.A goes a lot faster compared to before. The new motors are a lot faster and more powerful and the batteries last about four hours. You don't need to worry about stopping either because

RLT has made an advanced braking system; you can stop in seconds with these brakes because they are made with tough rubber material that presses on to the inside of the rear wheel for reliable, strong brakes. The tractor DBR is great fun to drive and very well designed; also the part built electric sentinel was very different due to the size but still fun to drive. This also applies with the home made Willys jeep in that it has mobility scooter electronics but it was still fun to drive.

So altogether the Bedford Model Engineering Society annual miniature steam event was a great summer day out with lots to do and I hope to have just as much fun next year at this event, as I did this year.

Jack May
Bottom gear





Three different line ups.



Around the arena.

Through the slalom.





Richards's tractor D.B.R with a very happy driver



Finally at the end of the day a friendly tow was required due to my flat batteries!!