

St Albans & District Model Engineering Society

G1 Track

Minutes of Meeting Nr 1 (25/2/20)

Attendees Ian Gurton (IG), Clive Reynolds (CR), Chris Scivyer (CS), Roger Stephen (RS), Andy Toogood (AT), Peter Wood (PW)

1. **Gauge.** The various gauges were discussed. On the basis that the base board would accommodate more than 2 running tracks then the meeting agreed that a 45mm and 32mm track should be laid. The pro and cons of a dual gauge track was discussed, but on account of constraints in supply and cost of dual gauge it was rejected. **CS, AT & CR to visit Princes Risborough to explore availability and cost.**
2. **Size of layout.** CR table a planned oval track some 50mx25m. The size of the base board would generally be 600mm wide accommodating 4 tracks and 1200mm in places to accommodate sidings. It was recognised that this could be the final plan but a Phase 1 should be developed to take account of funding and accommodate a shorter construction period.
3. **Infrastructure.** It was recognised that it was critical to get this right. The supporting framework could be concrete, timber, scaffolding or propriety galvanised tube based. The base board should be at least marine ply with a roofing felt covering. It was agreed that we should visit and consult with societies to undertake a “lessons learned exercise”. **CS & AT to visit North London with Roy & Mike. PW to arrange a visit to West Herts. CR to arrange meeting with G1.**
4. **Estimate, Budget and Funding. CR to develop.**
Roger’s notes:-
5. 1. Do we want both 45mm and 32mm gauge track? (I think we established we want both)
6. 2. Dual gauge track (45 and 32mm on the same line) or separate 45mm and 32mm tracks? (I think we agreed separate tracks would be preferable and probably actually cheaper)
7. 3. Single loop of track or double loops? What track separation? (I think we said we would build single loops of 45mm and 32mm initially and have baseboards wide enough to expand to double loops at a later date. Track separation to be decided?)
8. 4. Minimum track radius? (GIMRA say the usual minimum radius for Gauge 1 is 10ft/3m so we can go with that. 32mm track radius can be tighter)
9. 5. Do we want to electrify the track at any stage? (Problem is the power source at the Puffing Park. It would be a big battery. I think we said we should build the track such that it can be electrified at a later date if required)
10. 6. Overall size (length) of the track? (I think we agreed we aspire to what Clive has sketched but may have to start smaller and expand later)
11. 7. What height of track and how do we support it? (We agreed it should be table top height but method of construction is to be researched and decided later)

12. 8. What steaming-up area, sidings and passing loops do we want? (Passing loops and parallel sidings on a wide baseboard section are probably best. Length required is a good question!)
13. 9. What will it cost? (Depends what we want and how we build it. As far as track is concerned www.track-shack.com have advertised Pico SM32 flexi track at £96 inc VAT for 12 lengths of 914mm and turnouts at £45 and £48 each. They also had Pico Gauge 1 flexi track at £112 inc VAT for 12 lengths of 914mm and turnouts at £84. The latter at least is mostly out of stock so new stock will probably cost more. I think their prices are perhaps the best we can get for new track – other suppliers prices are a bit more. Second hand track from GRS could save a lot?).
- 14. Next meeting.** To be arranged after actions have been closed.