

SOCIETY MEETING REPORT

“LONDON UNDERGROUND (AND OTHER STUFF)”

Presented by Jason Cross on 10 May 2022 at Keen House

Jason has worked in engineering for over 30 years, but in 2021 he decided upon a change of career. He now works for GB Railfreight as a Test Train Driver on the Old Dalby Test Track. His work involves:

1. Driving Aventura EMUs of classes 701, 710, 720 and 730.
2. ETCS signalling testing.
3. Class 56 diesels.
4. Driving various shunting locomotives.
5. Ground staff roles at the test track, and on the national rail network for freight trains and stock moves.

During this talk he showed a great many photographs which I will not try to describe but give an overview of what Jason talked about.

Jason stresses that he is not a professional photographer. He uses a handheld camera, sometimes attached to a very long pole, and various lenses of sizes up to 1,200mm.

LONDON OVERGROUND

1. The last days of the class 315s. Class 710s on test and in service at Euston, passing through Headstone Lane and at Stoke Newington. Jason also visited Hackney Downs Station out of lockdown but was still quiet.
2. Queen's Park station showing a Class 378 passing a 1972 Stock, obviously this was on the Bakerloo Line; also the Kensal Green tunnel.

BAKERLOO LINE

1. Two 1972 Stock trains north of Willesden Junction.
2. COVID TfL public information posters at Edgware Road and Kilburn Park taken in Summer of 2020.
3. London Road Depot in the snow (February 2021) showing an engineering train. Film of empty platforms at Waterloo and into the tunnel.

WATERLOO AND CITY LINE

1. COVID signs saying “no service” and detailing the alternative routes.
2. Exit from the depot underneath Waterloo Station.
3. Shots of the platforms before and after the lockdowns.

WATERLOO NATIONAL RAIL STATION

Class 455s on a South Western Railways service and following it through Nine Elms, Barnes, St. Margaret's, Twickenham and Putney stations.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

1. Class 455s, which will go out of service soon, at Norbury station and the “new side” of Victoria National Rail.
2. Class 313 at Ford River Bridge and Hove (Sussex).

GREAT NORTHERN & CITY

1. Class 313 at Potters Bar and Highbury & Islington.
2. Class 717s running on the line.

VICTORIA LINE

1. Station platforms at Highbury & Islington, Victoria and Pimlico.
2. The battery loco engineering train (627) that ran frequently to and from the Victoria Line, with one picture showing the train first thing in the morning clearing standing water that had built up overnight on the traction rails.

RUISLIP DEPOT

1. Schweerbau Rail Grinding Unit on back of a lorry for transfer to another depot. Jason explained that it is easier to move this unit by road rather than by rail.
2. Engineers' trains battery locos L50 to L53 inclusive and a picture of L50 whilst it had no buffers; these have now been replaced.
3. The Rail Adhesion Train [RAT] 8 car 1962 Stock.

4. L20 after overhaul and L24 before overhaul.
5. Number 6 Schöma battery/electric loco.
6. L16 battery loco shunting in Ruislip Depot.
7. Track Recording Train with pictures of its exterior and interior, including the kitchen provided for staff refreshments!

PICCADILLY LINE

1. L26 engineers' train at Rayners Lane, and L16 at Boston Manor.
2. L45 passing through Eastcote at dawn (*Right*).
3. Met 1 after the District 150 celebrations on route back to its depot.
4. "Sarah Siddons" near North Ealing station.
5. 1996 Jubilee stock at Northfields Depot for brake testing.
6. South Ealing test track in use.
7. 1996 Jubilee stock at Northfields Depot for brake testing.
8. Ravenscourt Park as a Piccadilly Line train rattles through.



9. Aerial shot of Piccadilly train west of Hammersmith station.
10. Knightsbridge platforms with blue spacing stickers in place.
11. August 2020: empty Piccadilly Circus eastbound platform and Leicester Square station.
12. 1938 Stock special running at Southgate and Caledonian Road stations in February 2020.
13. Arnos Park viaduct taken using a drone.

MARSTON VALE D STOCK TRAINS

14. Jason has not yet been able to visit the Isle of Wight to see the D Stock trains in use but showed some shots of them in service on the Marston Vale Line.

ISLE OF WIGHT RAILWAY

1. Depot with unit 006 in situ.
2. Night shot of St. John's Road signal box.
3. 1938 Stock on Ryde Pier showing the old tram tracks and roadway alongside (*Below*).



CIRCLE LINE

1. Paddington Station with S Stock passing through at 00.47 in the morning.
2. Baker Street and High Street Kensington stations.

HAMMERSMITH AND CITY LINE

1. A very wet Ladbroke Grove during "Storm Dennis".
2. Latimer Road station including Grenfell Tower.

DISTRICT LINE

1. Ealing Broadway showing the erstwhile crossover between Central and District lines which was removed around 2010.
2. Three trains at Acton Town Station (2 District, 1 Piccadilly).
3. District and Piccadilly trains adjacent at Barons Court.

METROPOLITAN LINE

1. North Harrow station in the wet with a Watford to Baker Street service.
2. D Stock "RAT" at Harrow-on-the-Hill (before the new bridge was installed), and passing through North Harrow.
3. L28 at Harrow on the Hill which was taken on the day Jason last spoke to the LURS.
4. L22 heading westbound and crossing over the Central Line just after Park Royal station.
5. 1972 Stock at Ruislip on an Acton Works to Stonebridge Park stock transfer.
6. L19 and L50 engineers' trains at Willesden Green.
7. L16 passing through Marlborough Road Station out of hours; and at Lord's disused station.
8. Shots of a railtour to Aylesbury with Class 33 D6515.

CHILTERN RAILWAYS

1. The same tour at various sites between Marylebone and Aylesbury travelling over the West Coast Main Line rails.
2. L16 serving a possession at West Hampstead, which had to stand on the up Chiltern Line in order to service the worksite.
3. Gavray Junction near Bicester.

4. Class 68 diesel in two-tone silver livery at revamped, in 1930s style décor, Moor Street Station in Birmingham.

WEST MIDLANDS METRO LIGHT RAIL

Tram with its pantograph down running on battery power in Birmingham City Centre.

DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY

Pudding Mill Lane station and the Elizabeth Line tunnel portal.

TRAMLINK

A wet night in Croydon on the loop.

NOTTINGHAM EXPRESS TRANSIT

1. Near Queen's Medical Centre and the University of Nottingham, to the west of the City Centre.
2. Passing through Town Hall Square, in the City Centre.
3. Wilford Village where the transit joins the former trackbed of the Great Central Railway.

TRAMS

1. Trams in Edinburgh, Manchester and Sheffield, including the tram-trains which operate between Sheffield City Centre and Rotherham (Jason is currently testing some similar units for Cardiff)..
2. Heritage trams at Beamish Living Museum: Sunderland Number 16 and passengers in period dress. Also, at Crich National Tramway Museum: Chesterfield Number 7 and Blackpool 167 pantograph car.

BLACKPOOL

Modern, disability accessible, trams and some of the heritage fleet including a Brush Car from 1937 with its pointed nose crossing over the new junction with the new link line to Blackpool North Railway Station; the Illuminations illuminated tram train and Frigate boat "HMS Blackpool".

ISLE OF MAN

1. Manx Electric Railway, Snaefell Mountain Railway and the Horse Tramway in Douglas.
2. The Steam Railway: which is not a heritage line but forms part of the island's transport system.
3. Number 18 diesel loco which had been used previously on the building of the Channel Tunnel and the Jubilee Line Extension (*Right*).

MERSEYRAIL

1. Passing Chester Depot, Class 507 and 508 trains and along the Wirral Line.
1. Southport to Hunts Cross line in early 2020.



NORTHERN LINE

1. L46 engineers train and Great Northern Signal Box at East Finchley.
2. L48 inside Highgate Depot alongside lots of parked up trains, and L21 passing through Highgate Station on its way into the depot.
3. 51704 de-icing unit.
4. Empty platforms at Kentish Town.
5. A service from Morden passing through Goodge Street during the period when the Bank branch south of Moorgate was closed.
6. Old platform at Bank station.
7. New stations at Battersea Power Station and Nine Elms taken on the second day of the extension being open.
8. The narrow platforms at Clapham North.
9. The mosaics at Tottenham Court Road whilst no passengers there.

CENTRAL LINE

1. Empty platforms at Tottenham Court Road in August 2020.

2. 1992 Stock at Chancery Lane
3. L44 at Notting Hill Gate.
4. Holland Park station in Autumn 2019 with 1962 Stock 5-car train.
5. A wet early morning at Barkingside station with 1962 Tube Stock 8-car Rail Adhesion Train.
6. North Acton Junction also showing the Old Oak Common West Junction to Greenford line (now disused).
7. White City reversing siding.
8. Gants Hill in a wide angle shot.

JUBILEE LINE

1. Bond Street station in December 2020 but very empty.
2. 1972 stock ex Aldwych shuttle at Swiss Cottage station.
3. A wet evening at Wembley Park station.
4. Last train of the day at Kingsbury Station and L50 engineers train following behind.
5. Stanmore sidings in the snow with many 1996 Stock units and an engineer's train.

GLASGOW SUBWAY

1. Trains will be changing soon so the current stock's days are numbered.
2. Shots showing the issues this system has with groundwater issues and flooding.

Jason finished by giving the details of his website: www.15c.co.uk and the meeting thanked him in the usual manner.

Amanda Griffiths