

# Miniature steam variety at Guildford Gala

**T**HE Guildford Model Engineering Society (GMES) held its annual summer Railway Gala over the weekend of July 6-7, reports *James Hamilton*.

The GMES was established in 1954 and in 1958 they moved to their permanent home at Stoke Park in Guildford, Surrey. Today there are passenger lines of 3.5in, 5in and 7.25in gauges running on a circuit of 1405ft and 990ft around the society's corner of the park, where the railways are enhanced by landscape garden planting.

Another permanent railway is the extensive 16mm gauge line that winds its way through a rockery garden. There were further displays of other gauge



*Pixie* running on the 7.25in gauge line, based on a narrow gauge prototype.  
ALL: JAMES HAMILTON



*Taurus* is based on a standard gauge prototype.

model railways, perhaps the most impressive of which was the Gauge 1, with live steam models running at scale express passenger train speeds, which drew a constant audience.

With the emphasis primarily on railways it was good to see other forms of engineering

represented by traction engines, boats and aircraft engines, as well as a number of hobby trade stands. The weather was fine and dry and the event was extremely well attended. It seemed that not charging an entrance fee but selling tickets to ride on the trains was a good decision as the



A 16mm gauge locomotive runs through the rockery.



3in scale Foster and Fowler engines.



Miniature steam boat on the temporary boating pond.



A lovely radio-controlled narrow boat.

trains, running as frequently as the signalling would allow, there remained a constant queue of waiting passengers at the station.

It was a little disappointing that the traction engine side of the event has diminished, but it did not greatly detract from what remains a highly enjoyable event.

**RIGHT:** The Gauge I layout had some beautiful examples of locomotive modelling and with the space to run them at authentic scale speed was exciting to watch.



3in scale Marshall engine.



This live steam LBSC 'Atlantic' was running on a temporary 2.5in gauge line.



Hunslet Berwyn on the 7.25in gauge line.



LMS Duchess of Sutherland on the 5in gauge line.