

Correspondence received at the Spinney Light Railway

From Ian Hatton

Received August 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

Quite by chance I came across the Spinney Light Railway website and was interested to hear that it was still in existence.

My Father, Ray Hatton, was the craftsman with Cromar White who had the task of turning the designs of Roland White into the finished articles be they the Hymek loco, rolling stock or track and signalling equipment. So the closed coach pictured on your website was actually built by my Father and not Roland White. He also built another copy of this coach which went to another 7 1/4 line in Surrey belonging to a Tony Palin-Evans and is now, I believe, in the possession of an old school friend of mine who has a miniature railway in the grounds of his home in Wales. My mother also contracted to make the seating cushions for all the CW coaches while I myself had a Saturday and summer holiday job with CW which on occasions involved working on railway installation projects although not the SLR.

As a family we attended the 'official' first operating session of the SLR but the event was somewhat more eventful for us as on one pass through the tunnel the carriage in which we were travelling whiplashed and derailed spilling my sister onto the track and the entire coach ended up on its side with my parents suffering cuts and bruises and my Father a broken watch!

Both of my parents are now in the 80's and still very active with, fortunately no long term effects of the Spinney tunnel derailment although my Father recounts the fact that his favourite watch was a complete write-off!

Yours sincerely,

Ian Hatton