

A history of 'Hotspur Designs' – the trading name of Chris Rayward.

The availability of my 5" gauge locomotive designs commenced in 1993 when the series describing the construction of the L&NWR 0-6-2 Coal Tank began in the Engineering in Miniature. The rest of the models described below followed.

- a) The Coal Tank was serialised between October 1993 and July 1999 and drawings and materials made available. This was the engine that resulted in the special wheel castings for the 'I' or 'H' section spoked wheels that are so realistic. Later precision machined castings were made available to reduce the time to produce the spoke openings. Both the original and the later versions were catered for.
- b) A supplement set of drawings were produced and published in the EiM from March 2016 to August 2017 to allow builders to construct the earlier 0-6-0 Coal Engine version from which the Coal Tank was derived. By this time a matching tender was available from the 2-2-2 Lady of the Lake design (see below).
- c) In 2006 Nigel Thompson came forward to ask if the 0-8-0 Heavy Goods could make use of the same specification driving wheels and his articles on the construction of the locomotive were published in the EiM from September 2006 until January 2012. Hotspur Designs produced the drawings for publication and made them available with the range of materials. A significant number of the designs for the D, G and G2 classes have been built and successfully operated around the model club tracks.
- d) Following on from c) Hotspur Designs also built a chassis for the 0-8-2 Heavy Shunting Tank locomotive. This was based on the successful design from Nigel Thompson but with wider frames and a stouter crankshaft, connecting rods and valve gear parts but following the original prototype drawings with many enhancements. Additional parts were incorporated and the construction was described in the Model Engineer between 12th October 2018 and 11th October 2019. A small number of model drawings have been produced and the prototype drawing is available for builders.
- e) In 2006 H/D was given some sketches and the chassis parts for a Lady of the Lake 2-2-2 design which were developed with the aid of prototype drawings and all the necessary drawings, castings and materials were offered for sale. Both the original and later versions of the engine have been catered for depending on the builders' wishes. This design has not been serialised but a great many examples have been successfully built and run.
- f) A further design for the 0-4-2 Dock Tank was offered and the chassis is really the same as the front half of the Coal Tank. The writer provided the correct frame plates but only a general arrangement drawing was produced. The chassis produced by the writer has been constructed but no one has requested any help.

Hotspur Designs has now decided that it requires a current model engineering supplier to handle these designs and so all the original drawings, patterns and materials have been passed over to Blackgates Engineering in Dewsbury to take the supply forward. H/D continues to work on a new model of the original Ramsbottom 2-4-0 Samson engine which can also be matched to the smaller tender detailed for the Lady of the Lake model.

I will continue to be available for any questions regarding these designs and my phone number is 01600 713913.

Best wishes,

Chris Rayward – April 2023.