

# The Whistleblower

July 2011

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Another 3 people have joined the club in June. We are pleased to welcome Wilf Pateman back after many years, Terry Lown (OO) and Eric Adriensen (N) the club. The membership has now reached 48 Full Members (1 Honorary), 3 Associate Members & 3 Junior Members. We also have several visitors who are considering joining.

## COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- A committee meeting took place on 8th June.
- Considerable improvements have been made in the storage room with the recent installation of racking for the P4 & OO layouts. The committee agreed that the only private layout to be stored is the N Gauge running track - all other private layouts are in the process in being removed.
- Thank you all for keeping the clubroom clean and tidy. Washing up is being done, dustbins are being emptied and even the carpet has been vacuumed. Please note that the club has purchased 2 new temperature controlled soldering irons for members use.
- Fund raising is going very well with sales of surplus club items, donations from private sales and club events.
- I have had no feedback regarding the Treasurer position. Les Inwood will stand down at the next AGM (December) so we do need a replacement. The club cannot operate without a Treasurer - don't be shy in coming forward.

## EXHIBITON DIARY

- 8/9th October - Weydon Rd & Brixcombe at the Club exhibition
- 22/23rd October - Basingstoke at Taunton
- 30th October - Greenfield Sidings & Basingstoke at the Club Open Day
- 5/6th November - Greenfield Sidings at IOW
- 19/20th November - Weydon Rd at the NEC

## NEWS

**Exhibition News** - In case you haven't realised it our exhibition will be taking place in just over 3 months time. The dates for your diary are 8<sup>9</sup><sup>th</sup> October. Setting up will take place on the Friday evening from about 5pm onwards. Help from everyone will be needed to make the setting up, the actual exhibition and the break down an enjoyable success.

You may have noticed by the door of the clubroom there is a holder containing pink A5 flyers for our exhibition. We need to get these out to fellow modellers and other interested parties. So if you are going to an exhibition please take some of these flyers with you and leave them prominently placed on the leaflet table there.

Lastly we need to start pulling the exhibition guide together. If anyone can find advertisers for the guide we charge £50 for a full page advert & £25 for a half page. This year we also have the opportunity of a full colour advert on the back cover which we could sell at a premium price. So get selling and maybe we can cover the cost of the guide from advertisements!

## PROGRAMME FOR CLUB NIGHTS

Date	Event	Subject
<b>July</b>		
Wed 6	0 gauge running night	
Wed 13		
Wed 20		Committee meeting
Wed 27	00 gauge running night	
<b>August</b>		
Wed 3	0 gauge running night	
Wed 10		
Wed 17		
Wed 24	00 gauge running night	
Wed 31		
<b>September</b>		
Wed 7	0 gauge running night	
Wed 14	Presentation	Low melt, ordinary & resistance soldering – Robin Baker
Wed 21	Modelling competition	Entry rules published in the July newsletter
Wed 28	00 gauge running night	

## ANNUAL EVENTS

- Club outing. The day visit to "Miniatur Wunderland" in Hamburg on June 7th was fantastic. The individual total cost of the round trip was less than £100 - I highly recommend a visit to all members. You can see it at [www.miniatur-wunderland.com](http://www.miniatur-wunderland.com).
- The annual modelling competition. This will take place on 21st Sept - the categories and rules are on page 2. We have simplified things this year and if you don't want to compete there is a "Loan" class for you just to show off your pet projects.
- The Club Open Day. To be held on Sunday 30th October - the club layouts being erected will be Greenfield Sidings (OO) and Basingstoke (N). David Harrington has issued out the list of jobs to selected members to ensure the day is a success. Please note: this year we will be charging £1 entrance fee to cover the hall hire cost.
- The photographic competition. Liphook MRCs are organising this in November. Information will be available closer to the event but keep snapping.
- The Club AGM. This will be held on Wednesday 7th December 2011

## NEWS (CONTINUED)

**Exhibition Publicity event** - As we have already announced at the club night, we have negotiated to display and run Greenfield Sidings at The Wellington Shopping Centre in Aldershot on Saturday 10th September. The whole idea of this event is to publicise the club exhibition on 8/9th October. As this opportunity has been offered to us FOC, we are planning to collect for charity as well.

Set up will take place on the Friday evening from 4.30pm. Alan Riches and Richard Puddephatt will be organising the manning rota for the layout on Saturday so if you want to take part, please contact them.

**A New Modelling Product** - Eddie Jackman has introduced a new modelling clay to the hobby, the first application of which was used on the new Weydon Road facias - Lilliput? Mmmmm!!

## MODELLING COMPETITION

The modelling competition will take place this year on 21st September. This will be held in the main hall so no layout activity will be allowed on this night. The competition is intended to be a "fun evening" and an opportunity for all the club members to take part and demonstrate their modelling skills at all levels.

### **Categories**

(open to scratch built, kitbuilt or modified proprietary models)

- 2mm scale locos and rolling stock - N and 2mm finescale
- 4mm scale locos and rolling stock - OO, EM, P4 finescale
- 7mm scale locos and rolling stock - standard & narrow gauge
- "Other" scale locos and rolling stock (From Z to Gauge 3)
- Trackside/Scenic features (Any scale) – a railway/scenic feature not exceeding 2 sq ft.

Please note all locos and rolling stock must be running models and will be tested on the night.

### **Rules of entry**

- All entries must be owned by club members.
- The closing time for entries will be 8.00pm.
- A completed entry form must accompany each item.
- Voting will be on a one vote for each category basis.
- The winner of each category will be that with the most votes.
- The Best in Show will chosen from the category winners based upon the highest number of votes.
- The adjudicator's (Chris Webster & Ron Patterson) decision will be final.

**Best In Show** - The recipient to receive the club shield and a bottle of wine.

To encourage members who do not want to compete, there will be an additional non-judged category:-

**Loan Category** - Any model, any scale, out of the box, completed or under construction. Your chance to either show off "work in progress", seek advice/encouragement in completing a model, show off an uncommon proprietary item or just bring along your latest acquisition.

Tea and Biscuits will be serve from the kitchen. Good Luck!!

## LAYOUT AND CLUB ACTIVITY

**N gauge group** - Work on Basingstoke continues to concentrate on "behind the scenes" alterations to the wiring associated with the station yards and the Reading line. Also there is some rationalisation of the now redundant functions on the main control panels.

Research into Wickwar is continuing. Trackplan's, OS maps and even a wartime aerial photograph have now been obtained via various archive facilities. A 3D model (of the model) has also been constructed from this information. Although compressed into a couple of square feet it is a remarkably useful tool when trying to envisage how the contours will fit into the layout area and what compromises we might have to introduce. From this exercise it is hoped we can get a clearer idea of how we are going to plan and construct the baseboards as we are not going to be able to adopt a layout wide "flat earth" policy as our starting point.

**OO gauge group** - The storage area has been racked out making it much easier to access baseboards. Work has started on lowering the 3rd rail to enable locos with low brake gear to run without fouling.

The N Gauge group has decided that it does not need the space allocated to it on the running track. We have decided to lay another code 100 "OO" track. There is possibly an invite to Christchurch in 2012 - we await confirmation.

**P4 gauge group:** Our attendance at the Great Western Study Group show in Bristol went ahead as planned. Following a wet load up at the clubhouse Greg drove off down to Bristol with the other guys coming down on Saturday morning. A very wet unloading followed and we were up and running within an hour. Visitor numbers were not huge and fewer on the Sunday but we were able to run trains happily on both days. We had continuing problems with derailments sadly but on the whole we had favourable comments on Brixcombe's first outing. We have had a few tentative exhibition invites but these will not be confirmed until we have addressed the running issues. Some track renewals are a distinct possibility so pressure is back on to ensure a viable layout for our own show.

**O gauge group:** Weydon Rd's new 'lighter' fascia is almost completed with the clips for the lamps having been fitted. The whole fascia will be mounted/fitted on the first Wednesday in July and fully tested. Ron & Ian are progressing with the addition of loops to one end of their Test Track.

The new smaller layout is generating a lot of talk and e-mails and we are nearing the end of the beginning i.e. the plan is almost agreed. The costing and timing plan will be started soon.

# Farnham & District Model Railway

## WICKWARRIORS AT SWINDON

BY DAVE HARRINGTON



Would you buy a used car from these guys?? ←



← Where is Alan's right hand??

It was Greg's idea to invite Mr Riches. He said not only was it a politically correct thing to do; it was also an act of kindness towards the 00 Group, who don't get out much and are usually quite grateful for any sort of recognition. Also, it was known that Mr Riches doesn't drink a lot or make too many alarming noises. But I get ahead of myself.

Plan A was to visit the National Monuments Record Centre at Swindon, where, according to slick research carried out by the Wickwar team, an aerial photo dating from 1945 could be examined. There was also a Mysterious File containing papers relating to Wickwar Station. Plan B was imposed when it was realised that the Centre was cheek by jowl with Steam! So a crack squad of me, Greg and Graham was assembled and briefed and, as mentioned, Mr Riches was generously invited to fill the spare seat in the car. It was a promising start to the day. Graham turned up first (having allowed an hour and a half to cover ten miles). Greg's high-stepping fornicatorium appeared next, followed by a phone call from Mr Riches, who appeared to have diverted himself via Fleet Services and, when he did arrive, offended my neighbours by ostentatiously applying a large yellow gear lever lock to his banger.

Anyway, we rolled into the Centre car park around 11 and, after marvelling at the rusty remains of the traverser, (which was not as Greg remembered it when he was a boy) and calling into every building in sight, we found the Centre itself, where (possibly because of Mr Riches) we were treated with some suspicion and had our bags impounded before we were allowed upstairs to where all the files and other stuff are kept. Our photo was presented to us in a box, as though the Crown Jewels were arriving, and Greg and Graham pored over it with a large magnifying glass to check whether Greg's outside toilet could be seen, as rumoured, from 20,000 ft. The toilet having been identified, we focused attention on the Mysterious File, which turned out to be nothing more than three postcard views of Wickwar Station, all of which are already in the literature. Mr Riches usefully employed himself by selecting a chair from where he could keep an eye on the lady behind reception, just in case we needed anything. So his place in the team wasn't wasted.

We all had fish and chips and fondled Hinton Manor on display beside our table. Mr Riches was very good and didn't touch anybody again.

Steam was excellent, even though the exhibition of models that Greg remembered from when he was a boy wasn't there anymore. But we saw a buffet that ran the whole length of its coach and we rode on the shaking footplate of a tank loco simulator. That was quite exciting and a man told Graham that he "would make an engine drivers of you yet". I suspect it was a recording, not a real man. We saw quite a few GWR locos – Halls, Manors, a Star and some tanks – and Graham went moist every time a 125 passed by on the main line. Mr Riches wandered off at one point, but we found him again, talking to a manikin dressed as a wartime loco-cleaning lady. We tidied her clothing and moved on.

In the museum shop we bought stuff we didn't know we needed and Mr Riches enquired about the price of manikins. Talking about finding things – Greg, who keeps his eyes modestly on the ground at all times, picked up an iPhone in the carpark. The owner turned up later that evening, all the way from Swindon, to collect it, bearing a bottle of Cava as a token of her gratitude. Greg will be anxious to share that with the team at a later date.

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You never know what you are going to find in the bushes, particularly in Hamburg. This was taken by my son who managed to discover it despite the combined efforts of 6 members of the F&DMRC looking for it.

I obviously brought him up wrong!

By the way that is Alan Riches in the bushes with the binoculars (he wished).