

# The Whistleblower

November 2011

## THE NEW CLUB YEAR

You may aware that the club financial year closes on 31st October and the new club year starts on 1st November. The significance of this is threefold:

- The 2010/11 club accounts close at midnight on 31st October and are prepared by the Treasurer for the AGM.
- The annual subscriptions for 2011/12 are due on 1st November which should be paid directly to the Treasurer as soon as possible.  
As a reminder: - Full Membership is £75  
- Associate Membership is £20  
- Junior (incl students) Membership is £20
- The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 7th December starting at 8.00pm at the clubrooms. The formal calling notice and agenda will be issued and published on the notice board 28 days prior to the AGM as per the club constitution.

We already have a number of new members who signed up October for the new club year. Please welcome to the club John Elliott (N), John Yarham (OO), Associate Paul Bridger and 2 previous members returning as Associates - Dave Bradley and Ian Parker.

## COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- The next committee meeting is on 9th Nov.
- We now have a volunteer (subject to formal nomination) for the Treasurer position on the committee on a trial 1 year period. This appointment is made at the AGM.
- There is a nomination for the O gauge group leader for the forthcoming year. The committee is not aware if a OO gauge group have a new leader selected. These appointments will be ratified at the AGM.
- Thank you to David Harrington and everyone who helped to make the Club Open Day a success. The Mayor of Farnham attended and shocked everyone (especially Alan Riches) by wanting to operate Greenfield Sidings. The club made a small profit of just over £80.
- A number of members have asked about club shirts and sweaters. There is a check list on the notice board to enter your details if you want to order these. Please note we need a minimum order of around 20 items.
- Budget allocations for each layout group will be made at the next committee meeting including monies for the 2 new layouts (Wickwar (N) & Spitafields (O)).

## PROGRAMME FOR NOV & DEC

Date	Group Rota	Event	Subject
<b>November</b>			
Wed 2	N	0 gauge running night	Weydon Road erected
Wed 9	OO		
Wed 16	P4	Competition	Photography competition at Liphook MRCs (Bohunt school)
Wed 23	O	00 gauge running night	
Wed 30	N	0 gauge running night	
<b>December</b>			
Wed 7		<b>Annual General Mtg</b>	Attendance of all members requested to participate
Wed 14	OO	Presentation	Chris Webster slide show
Wed 21	P4	Mince Pie night	Social evening before Christmas. One running track up
Wed 28		Club closed	

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

This year's competition is being organised by the Liphook Model Club and includes entries from Liphook, Farnham and Astolat MRCs. Latest feedback reports that there is over 60 individual photo entries. The competition is being held on Wednesday 16th November at Bohunt School, Liphook starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments are being arranged so please let me (the chairman) know if you are attending.

To reach Bohunt School proceed along the A3 in the Portsmouth direction and take the 2nd junction on the A3 after the Hindhead tunnel to the centre of Liphook. At the small roundabout take the 3rd exit (B2131, Longmoor Road) - Bohunt School is on the left hand side and has a car park. The post code is GU30 7NY.

## CLUB WEBSITE

Dave Arkley is busily restructuring the website to allow us to update it easily and modernise the presentation. As he is very close to completing the prototype we now need to prepare the content from the layout groups and the committee. We need up to date photographs and script to populate the website within the next 2 weeks as follows:

- Layout sections - layout groups
- Exhibition section - Noel Leaver
- Clubroom facilities - Ron Patterson
- Members private layouts - all members who want to be listed

Dave will be providing a template for each section but do not wait for this - we can adapt the content later.

**If you want a good website we need content.**

## EXHIBITON DIARY

### Club layouts

- 5/6th Nov - Greenfield Sidings at IOW
- 19/20th Nov - Weydon Rd at the NEC, Birmingham
- 28th Jan - Greenfield Sidings at Egham

### Exhibitions of interest

- 5th Nov - West Sussex N gauge society, Lancing
- 12/13th Nov - Hampton Court MRC, Tolworth
- 26th Nov - South Hants MRC, Portsmouth
- 26/27th Nov - Wimbledon MRC, Wimbledon

## 2012 ANNUAL EVENTS

For all those new members of the club we hold a number of events throughout the year. In 2012 these will be as follows. These will be held as follows:

- The club annual dinner. Planned for the evening of Friday 30th March. Would the club members give the Chairman their inputs on preferred venues.
- The O Gauge open day. To be held on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May
- Summer club outing?? This has been put forward as something we may want to consider - suggestions are to visit the McAlpine or Pendon museum. Please let the Secretary know if you are interested.
- Wellington Centre publicity. Planned for the weekend of 8th/9th September.
- The modelling competition. Planned for the evening of Wednesday 19th Sept.
- The Club Exhibition. To be held on the weekend of 13th/14th October at The Connaught Centre, Aldershot
- The club open day. To be held on Sunday 4th November. The club layouts being erected will be Weydon Road (O), Brixcombe(P4) plus a small private N/OO layout.
- The photographic competition. This will be organised by Astolat MRC in Mid - November.

## LAYOUT ACTIVITY

**N gauge group** - Basingstoke enjoyed a good operating session at the open day, with most of the new electrics now behaving as anticipated and just a few issues left to resolve. Unfortunately, moving the layout about proved the final straw for the canopy on the down platform, so the renewal of that that is a task we will need to look at before its next outing to Stafford in February next year.

Now we have work on Basingstoke more or less complete, thoughts will turn more to the planning of Wickwar's baseboards.

**OO gauge group** - Greenfield Sidings was on show at the club open day, a few usual niggles but we still had some budding operators trying their skills under the watchful eye of Terry Hillyer. In between he has been planting trees on the layout to fill a few gaps. I wonder if he can plant telegraph poles - after all they are made of wood as well.

The Isle of Wight visit is this coming weekend, the theme is Southern and BR(S) to keep it local. We have also been invited to Christchurch (Bournemouth) next October so it's going to be a busy time.

**P4 gauge group**: Our second public outing for Brixcombe at the club's exhibition meeting allowed us to thoroughly test the track changes made since the layouts debut at Bristol in June. Running was much improved, justifying the decision to relay the offending sections. During the exhibition we started to encounter problems with polarity switching through the tortoise point motors. Thanks to a timely repair by Pete Smith, we were able to get to the end of Sunday with no significant problems but we have decided to move away from reliance on the internal electrical connections in the tortoise to externally fitted micro switches, as used on Weydon Road.

The exhibition also allowed the P4 gang of five to (re-)familiarise themselves with the operation of Brixcombe. This has led to discussions on possible changes to certain aspects of the layout. A plan for completing the layout and fixing any remaining issues has been drawn up and issued. Work has already commenced and it is hoped to have it completed by end of Q1 2012.

Many visitors made positive comments about the layout and a couple of tentative enquiries were received regarding exhibiting it elsewhere.

**O gauge group**: No report received

## EDITOR'S REQUEST

I am always looking for input and articles for the newsletter. This is a members communication device so we welcome any input on trips to exhibitions, preserved railways, the model you have just bought or built - in fact anything railway that you feel would be of interest, particularly if you have accompanying photographs. I will even take ads for anything you want to sell to other members. Just send it to me Ron Patterson either by email ron1patterson@yahoo.co.uk or give it to me at the club.