

The Whistleblower

April 2011

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The drive to increase the membership of the club is going well. We are pleased to welcome new member David Taylor and return member Simon Cox to the club. Since the last Newsletter we have launched Associate Membership, a number of people have taken advantage of this to keep in contact with the club. The current membership numbers are 44 Full Members (1 Honorary), 3 Associate Members & 3 Junior Members so the target of reaching 50 Full Members by the end of 2011 is making good progress. Inquiries and visits to the club continue.

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- Fund raising efforts continue with a number of ideas. Surplus club items are being sold off, a car boot sale will be held in June (details to follow) and the N Gauge group have started selling on Ebay. We have saved £60 on the annual insurance, a large portion of the club reserves have been invested in a higher interest account by The Treasurer and Richard Puddephatt has arranged a cost reduction in the exhibition catalogues.
- Please be aware that 2 new tables and 6 new chairs have been purchased for the clubroom as part of general improvements. We expect to buy some new lamps and soldering irons when funds permit. We are publishing some "house rules" soon to ensure the clubroom is kept tidy with all groups sharing in the upkeep.
- We are reintroducing the position of Press Officer as specified in the club constitution to improve publicity for the club. Adrian Jones has agreed to carry this out. Please co-operate with him on all publicity activity.
- The next committee meeting is on 20th April.

EXHIBITION DIARY

10/11th April - Basingstoke at Melksham

2nd May - O Gauge open day at the Club (£1)

7th May - Greenfield Sidings at Loddon Vale

18/19th June - Brixcombe at Bristol

PROGRAMME FOR CLUB NIGHTS

Date	Event	Subject
April		
Friday 1	Club annual dinner	Being held at The Sandrock pub - 7.30 for 8.00pm
Wed 6	0 gauge running night	Weydon Road erected
Wed 13	Presentation	Building of Scalescenes buildings (Dave Bristow)
Wed 20		Committee meeting
Wed 27	00 gauge running night	
May		
Monday 2	O Gauge open day	0 gauge group event – entry £1
Wed 4	0 gauge running night	(if req'd)
Wed 11	00 gauge running night	
Wed 18	Presentation	Using the static grass master (Jim Wheaton)
Wed 25	00 gauge running night	
June		
Wed 1	0 gauge running night	
Tues 7	Club outing	Proposed trip to Miniatur Wunderland, Hamburg
Wed 8	00 gauge running night	
Wed 15	Presentation	Tba
Wed 22		
Wed 29	00 gauge running night	

ANNUAL EVENTS

- Club outing. We propose to be a little more adventurous this summer with a day visit to "Miniatur Wunderland" in Hamburg which claims to be the largest model railway layout in the world. You can see it at www.miniatur-wunderland.com. It will involve an early (7.00am) departure by Easyjet from Gatwick with arrival back at 10.00pm. Fare would be around £50 plus entry to the exhibition of €12 (€10 for seniors). The selected date is Tuesday June 7th. Please let the Secretary know if you want to come by 20th April to allow him to book flights - payment with booking please.
- The annual modelling competition. Again no feedback as to whether this is required.
- 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 is coordinating this event so volunteers are required for the various jobs.
- The photographic competition. Liphook MRCs are organising this in November.

NEWS

Exhibition Brochure - It has been decided that this year's exhibition brochure/guide will be improved while at the same time considerably reducing the costs from previous years. It will feature a glossy cover incorporating a colour photo. We are seeking a suitable model shot to use and members are invited to submit digital photos which they feel could grace the Club's brochure. There is no prize other than the glamour of having your picture on the cover credited to you. E Mail your submissions to the Secretary at richard@rajp.wanadoo.co.uk as soon as possible.



Dave Bentley - As some of you will know, Dave had a double lung transplant on Christmas Eve at Papworth Hospital. There were complications following but he is now coming along although is still at Papworth. The Club have sent him a small gift to help cheer him up which is illustrated here. It went with all our best wishes for a continuing recovery and the hope we will see him in the not too distant future.

Spraying - We had two useful talks on weathering – one using an airbrush and the other paints. Members might like to know that the Club has an airbrush, compressor and spray booth in the club room which are available for members to use.

PTO

LAYOUT AND CLUB ACTIVITY

N gauge group new layout: The group has decided on Wickwar as the basis for the new layout. Wickwar was on the Midland route from Gloucester to Bristol. Planning has already started with a site visit being arranged which will also take in several local pubs.

OO gauge group: The past month has been quite busy. Greenfield Sidings was at Basingstoke in March where everything ran well - the new idea of an operators schedule was a great success. As a result we have 2 more invitations for 2012 - Egham & Staines MRC in January and The Rotary Club of Cranleigh in September, both 1 day events. The lighting gantry for the layout has been built and tested. - all we need now are dark glasses for the operation. Don't forget that we are on show on Sat 14th May at Arborfield with the Loddon Vale MRC. Loading up Friday evening and set up early Saturday morning. Alan.

P4 gauge group: We are invited to attend The Great Western Study Group exhibition in June at Bristol. Layout progress is good - lighting has been purchased and supporting woodwork completed, bare baseboards are being brought alive with scenic detail - grass is being applied using an electrostatic method, point rodding is complete on baseboards 1 with baseboard 3 now work in progress. Buildings are completed with the exception of the signal box and signalling is in progress.

O gauge group: The 0 gauge running track, now christened "Round the Bend" , had its exhibition debut at the South Hants show on March 12th. Despite giving the exhibition stewards palpitations by arriving later than planned, we atoned by setting up in record time and being told we were the "most entertaining layout". Round the Bend has 2 further bookings for 2011. Ian