

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

CHRISTMAS 2014

Message from the Chairman

All that lovely wrapping paper is stripped away to reveal that familiar oblong cardboard box. The sellotape defeats eager fingers for only a short time before yielding. Then layers and layers of bubble wrap are dug intoí í í í ..and out tumbles that brilliant Class 66, or new Castle, or whatever.

Pop! I wake from the post-turkey doze, paper hat over one eye, Opti-visor askew and wearing only one slipper. It was only a dream, grounded in wishful thinking, ennobled by plum duff and enriched by a measure or three of single malt. The grand-kids are eating stuff from the dog's bowl and there's a clatter and a muttering from the kitchen where her-indoors is doing mysterious things with the kitchen sink, assisted by daughter-in-law. It's raining and I suspect I'm wearing some sort of balaclava, but inside my head. More food seems to be threatened. Deep joy. Beam me up.

But no time for such miseries. Time to think what gifts I might bestow upon the members of Farnham and District Model Railway Club! What is in my power that might please the critical throng this Yuletide?

Here's my short list:

- 1 There is to be no Clubroom discussion before 3pm, even between consenting adults, about last weekend's football.
- 2 Robin is banned from making any audible comment while constructing his öKingö.
- 3 Models of boats and aeroplanes, cars and busses are banned from the Club premises before 10pm.
- 4 Greg must share his desk with any other member, just as normal people do.
- 5 There are to be no trams.
- 6 Simon and Ron are to be fitted with audio-attenuators.
- 7 Alan is to go online.
- 8 The Chairman is to be allocated a permanent car-park space just outside the entrance door.
9. The OO, O and P4 Groups are to have exclusive rights to clean-up duties.
10. The Chairman is allowed to run his rake of 4-wheel milk tankers on any n-gauge layout he so chooses, with any sort of loco, without critical comment, jeering, snide remarks or unhelpful comments.

Have a great Christmas and may 2015 be as bountiful to you as it will surely be to Hattons!

David

A Letter sent to the New Treasurer

Dear Ron,

Treasurers, it seems, have rather a lot of exotic holidays. This ex treasurer being no exception, as some may know. I have noted that you, as our new treasurer seem to have a lot of wet holidays in Wales. This is a place with few railways, even fewer model railway shops and no drinking on Sundays. Not very exciting, so I will educate you as to how to enjoy the next three years in the job. [One year is not long enough to embark on such a venture.] You often said I should not mention the holidays when members are around, so this is just between you and me. OK?

As a treasurer, it is advisable to be available to everyone from late October to just after the AGM as this is when most of the income is received. Lots of cheques and some handy cash is handed over, to be banked of course. Beware though, lots of members either have poor memories or hope the treasurer has one. Why do I say this? About 80% remember that their renewal is due [eventually], but always offer £5 short of what it should be! Can you believe it when I say that no-one offers over the odds?

The exhibition is fun. The first thing is to obtain is a key to the staff conference room for counting all that useful cash. You will notice on the key fob it says "Girls changing room" DON'T GET EXCITED. Also don't make any comments to the staff about this. They don't seem to have a sense of humour!

This event is a job for two people. There is a friendly person called Les who knows how to fix the exhibition account when it does not say what you make it. You have to marvel how clever these accountants are. Move this figure from here to there, double this one, take a tenner off this figure, and so on. Phew, it leaves your head spinning. You'll have to put up with his lap top though, as the battery is so old it wants to give up and go into retirement. Perhaps we should sort it so that he can have a new one.

Well, I'm off on hols soon, three weeks in Gran Canaria. We were going for two weeks, but who would miss another £200?

By the way, near the end of the financial year, make sure you have all bases covered as the account examiner is hot on spotting errors.

All the best,

David

p.s. If some rag called the Whistle Blower get hold of this, just let me know and I'll stay abroad. All you need to do is play the "white man"

From the Secretary

Now for the more serious stuff!

1. 2014 Annual General Meeting

The following is a brief summary of the 2014 Annual general Meeting primarily for the benefit of those members unable to attend:

- a. The Treasurer presented a review of the accounts. Income was very slightly up at £7546. Primary sources of income were subscriptions £3838 and the exhibition profit £3041. Expenditure was down by about £700 which is attributable to reduced hire charges whilst the club was at Crondall. The cash reserve rose by £1053 to £20314.
The Treasurer was concerned that the income from subscriptions was not covering the cost of clubroom rent and hall hire. An increase in subscriptions to £85 was proposed and carried on a vote. However, there was considerable disquiet about this and it was further agreed that the new committee would examine the whole issue of club finances and would report back to the membership.
- b. The Exhibition Manager reported that exhibition expenses were slowly rising. In order to boost income he proposed to delete the Concession Rate. There will also be a small increase in Trade Rates but admission charges for the remaining categories will be unchanged for 2015.
- c. The following members were elected to the Executive Committee:
Chairman ó David Harrington
Treasurer ó Ron Patterson
Secretary ó Mike Le Marie
- d. The following members were also elected as follows:
Group Representatives:
N gauge ó Noel Leaver
4mm ó Wilf Pateman
P4 ó Richard Harris
7mm ó Ian George

Exhibition Manager ó Noel Leaver

Assessor for the 2014/15 Accounts ó Kevin Desmond
- e. Following a request from the floor the committee will at its first meeting examine arrangements for cleaning and tidying up the hall and the clubroom so as to ensure that no one group or individual is disadvantaged.

2. Programme for 2015

A new programme for running nights and other events will be published on the club notice board as soon as possible.

3. Distribution of Whistleblower

Wherever possible Whistleblower will be sent to members by e.mail. The Secretary is compiling a new distribution list. If you are unable to receive e.mails and require a printed copy then please contact the Secretary. If you see a

copy of Whistleblower on the notice board and you have not received a personal copy then again please advise the Secretary.

4. Future Editions

It is my intention to publish Whistleblower on at least a quarterly basis and if possible more frequently. In addition to club news, diary etc I would like to include articles and photos about members' own layouts and modelling experiences. I am also happy to receive items of a general railway nature. However, I can only publish what I receive so if you all want an expanded Whistleblower then please contribute. I am happy to provide guidance on the submission of contributions.

5 And Finally

On behalf of the club I would like to thank Keith, Robin and Keith for all their efforts over the past year on our behalf. Reproduced below is a superb photo that Robin submitted to the Annual photographic Competition.





Alan was the only other member to submit photographs. A poll at the Annual Dinner voted the above picture as the best of his entries.

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