

The Whistleblower

April 2012

1Q12 IS OVER !!

There has been lots of activity in the last quarter. The N, OO & O gauges have all attended exhibitions, the N gauge group are charging ahead with Wickwar (see later report) and 23 people attended the club annual dinner layout held last Friday. This is not to mention the very popular running nights held throughout each month. Our apologies for the postponement of the presentation by Chris Webster - this will be made in 2Q12. 2 new members joined in the quarter, welcome to Ian Corbett and junior Jordon Gould - the club now has 64 members. Lots going on I think you will agree.

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- A committee meeting was held on 14th March 2012. Robin Baker resigned as the O gauge rep and therefore did not attend the meeting.
- The committee has agreed to operate a club publicity plan (copies are available upon request). This includes purchasing a presentation stand to be used at events, targeting a number of articles for magazines and improving the website. We need all members to get involved in the publicity activity to maximize our efforts. Your railway club needs you!
- Child Protection Policy was discussed at the committee meeting. The policy for the club room is satisfactory but a new policy for club layouts attending shows has been agreed. This will be published on the club notice board.
- Are you interested in attending the clubroom on Fridays (7.00 - 9.00pm) to use the club facilities for personal modeling. The committee are considering opening the clubroom for an extra night if the demand is there. The plan is to start this in September 2012. Please let the Chairman and/or the Secretary know if you are interested and we will do the rest.

PROGRAMME FOR 2Q12

Date	Group Rota	Event	Subject
April			
Wed 4	OO	0 gauge running night	Weydon Rd will be running
Wed 11	P4	N gauge running night	
Wed 18	O	Presentation	Practical session on kit bashing for N, OO & O gauge
Wed 25	N	00 gauge running night	
May			
Wed 2	OO	0 gauge running night	Preparation for Open Day
Monday 7		O Gauge open day	0 gauge group event – entry £1
Wed 9	P4	N gauge running night	
Wed 16	O	Presentation	Chris Webster photo show
Wed 23	N	Free evening	
Wed 30	OO	00 gauge running night	
June			
Wed 6	P4	0 gauge running night	Running track
Thurs 7		Club outing	Trip to Railfest, NRM York
Wed 13	O	N gauge running night	
Wed 20	N	Free evening	
Wed 27	OO	00 gauge running night	

KIT BASHING NIGHT - APRIL 18TH

A number of club members have expressed an interest in learning more about building kits. Therefore, on the April 18th, we will be holding a practical session to demonstrate the basics of rolling stock (wagons, coaches or locos) building. This will be broken down into 3 separate areas - N gauge, OO gauge and O gauge. Apart from 10 minutes on general information at the beginning of the respective session, the remainder will be advice in helping you build your kit. So bring your kit (unbuilt or partially built) and tools along and the session leader will help you gain the skills to allow you to succeed.

There will not be any running taking place on this club night.

O GAUGE OPEN DAY - MAY 7TH

The O Gauge Open Day will take place on May Day Bank Holiday Monday. This annual event has become a success over the 3 years it has been running contributing its profits to club funds. This year we will have 4 layouts running - Weydon Rd, The O gauge running track, Brookford and Figges Marsh from the Alton club. There will also be a well stock kitchen with bacon rolls and cakes.

Entry is £1 to everyone including members who are not scheduled to operate layouts. Lots of great models on show including some visitor surprises.

THE RAMBLINGS OF A RAILWAYMAN

Dave Smith (ex Cove Models) has been helping to sell copies of a book titled "The Ramblings of a Railwayman" by Geoff Burch. This is an excellent book describing Geoff's experiences as a Cleaner, Fireman and Driver at Guildford shed.

Geoff is giving a talk at the REC club, Farnborough on June 12th - anybody interested from our club are welcome to go along.

PTO

EXHIBITION DIARY

Club layouts

- 7th May - O gauge Open Day
- 12th May - Brixcombe at Loddon Vale

Exhibitions of interest

- 14/15th Apr - Crawley MRS, Horsham
- 14/15th Apr - Trainwest, Melksham
- 15th Apr - Hurley O gauge, Bourne End
- 21st Apr - East Surrey N Gauge, Redhill
- 28/29th Apr - Epsom & Ewell, Ewell
- 12th May - Burgess Hill MRC
- 12th May - ALSRM, Reading
- 19/20th May - EM Society, Bracknell
- 26/27th May - Railex 2012, Aylesbury

ANNUAL EVENTS

Diary dates for all members, here are the club events to be held throughout the year.

- The O Gauge open day. To be held on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May.
- Summer club outing. This will take place on June 7th to Railfest, NRM York. So far 13 members are planning to attend.
- 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.
- The 2011/12 AGM. This will be held on Wednesday 5th Dec in the main hall at the clubroom.

LAYOUT ACTIVITY

N gauge group - No report received - see Wickwarriors Abroad on page 3

OO gauge group - The main event of the past month was The Solent clubs exhibition at Eastleigh, a 2 day event which went very well. Each day had different time scales running - the fiddle yard has never been so full, or colourful, with the "modern image". We have also had 4 possible bookings, one of which is for 2014. The layout is still receiving TLC from Dave Bristow on the scenery front.

Colin's Wharf now has the track laid and point motors installed. Testing starts next week but locos have already been seen moving around.

P4 gauge group: Having previously set ourselves the target of completing all the remaining major items on Brixcombe by the end of March, we hired the hall for a day on April 2nd and achieved our objective just 2 days late. We now have a complete backscene, a screen for the fiddle yard and a complete set of signals installed on the layout. We were also able to get in some useful testing of stock over the rebuilt sections of track with markedly improved results. Richard brought his camera along and took some new pictures some of which we will be sending to the Scalefour Society for inclusion in their brochure/flyer at Scalefour North.

There is still work to do before we exhibit for the first time this year in May. We have one wiring issue to resolve, the signal operating mechanisms need tuning, we want to lower the lighting beam, there is still yards of 5 strand fencing to erect and we have decided to install a loading dock/ cattle dock to add interest and operating complexity! Vic has already produced a draft operating sequence which will no doubt be enhanced as we test it out. All in all enough to keep us busy for at least a few more months before we contemplate our next layout!!!

O gauge group: Eddie Jackman has volunteered to be the committee rep - he promises to do his best.

BASINGSTOKE SHOW. This was the first show Weydon Road attended where we ran BR stock. All went very well with only a few minor hiccups, there were some very nice comments from visitors on how interesting the layout is with the list of running order at the front, also having a club member in front of the layout is a great help if they needed to ask questions (it doesn't distract you when your working). All in all a very successful outing.

There are a number of jobs still to do on the layout to improve things further.

CLUBROOM REAR ENTRANCE

I am sure you are all aware that a new set external emergency doors have been fitted to the storeroom. The added feature of the new doors is that they have a lock that can be used for access from the outside. The key to this lock is on the key ring on the hook by the club notice board. If you intend to unlock the external storeroom doors will you please:-

- replace the key once the door is unlock, and
- make **absolutely sure** you re-lock the door when you are finished

The chain we previously used around the release bars must not now be used. This contravenes the fire regulations for the centre.

WICKWARRIORS ABROAD

By Dave Harrington

It was the best of days. Weeks of meticulous planning had matured and seven Wickwarriors, mobile phones akimbo, rocked up at the brewery car park, festooned with curiosity, cameras and Noel's secret weapon, an inclinometer. There was even a surveying pole, lovingly crafted by Greg out of rust and coloured tape. God was in His heaven and the sun beamed benevolently.

After photographing, from all angles, a hawk sitting on a dead pigeon, the squad formed up and marched off along the road, peering professionally at the main line as and when the wall permitted. There was even a debate over whether John should be encouraged to trespass on the line. More pictures were taken. A householder, alarmed at the size of Greg's pole, demanded to know what we were about, but a 45 minute briefing from Noel satisfied his curiosity. Probably permanently.

Some heated discussions about what we should do next resulted in a division of effort, with small scouting parties deployed to each side of the valley, leaving the variously infirm to wander about the village, recording details of the wall and the road, with the odd tree or two. All vital stuff. Greg chose to go for a hillside ramble and Andrew, after insisting that he abandoned his pole, went with him to avoid further trouble.

We enjoyed taking pictures of each other, wandering over the fields across the valley. We also took pictures of more houses and trees, plus the muddy ditch that Greg recalls from his childhood as being a raging torrent, crossable only by wearing short trousers and crawling through a sewage pipe. Chris, who in any case had forgotten to bring his rubber dinghy, declined to investigate further and everyone converged on the local Deli, where the Chairman of the Parish Council, and the Clerk, turned out to meet us over lunch.

After a warming-up snack of a slab of bread-and-butter pudding, Greg ordered the one and only remaining meat pie so the rest of us had to put up with quiche and sarnies. Except Graham, that is, who confessed to a liking for pink fairy cakes with his cocoa. We made Greg sit at the end of the table so the rest of us could hear what the Parish Council folk were saying. He was happy with that because he'd brought a length of track and a loco to play with while he ate his pie.



Graham adores Fairy cakes with his cocoa



Oh no! Greg learns about VAT on pasties

We had a grand tour of the Town Hall afterwards and climbed the stairs to see The Oldest Clock In England and took pictures of pictures hanging on the walls of the Council Chamber. Then it was time for the high-spot of the trip – the brewery! As we marched up to the entrance the manager, perhaps alerted by the Parish Council folk, was already waiting for us, so no time was lost in looking at the old well, the old loading bay, the old offices and what might have been the old signal box. Pictures were snapped. The old sidings were roamed. Debates were had over exactly where lines went and doors used to be. Measurements were taken.

The brewery shop lies across the road from the brewery itself and, because that is where off-licence sales are conducted, that is where we finished up. Obviously. The manager produced a box full of old drawings and pictures were taken. Beer was admired. Beer was photographed. Beer was purchased. It was a cracking day out – quite up to the standards of the 2mm group. Even the inclinometer had been used. But the best part was still to come – the manager, clearly impressed by our smart turnout, our depth of knowledge and our general insouciance (and perhaps wary of seeing Greg's pole again) sent the group two dozen bottles of Station Porter. Which we shared with those nice 4 and 7mm chaps. Obviously.