

# The Whistleblower

May 2012

## IT'S ALL HAPPENING

There has been lots of frantic activity in the club on baseboard construction over the last few months. The trials by the N Gauge group with ply/styrene sandwich construction has proved very worthwhile and has generated a number of reasonably lightweight boards. The O Gauge are now considering using the same method. I urge all members to take a look as it's very interesting and a step forward in model railway ideas and may be useful for that new layout you are planning.

## COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- The next committee meeting is on the 23rd May so not a lot to report.
- Eddie Jackman has been elected to represent the O Gauge group on the committee.
- The club annual dinner took place on 30th March at Anderson's Restaurant, Farnham. 23 people attended and a good night was had by all.
- I have had no feedback regarding using the clubroom on Fridays (7.00 - 9.00pm) from September 2012. As there is obviously no interest then this will not be pursued.
- The summer outing to Railfest, York in June has now been organized - 13 people are visiting on June 7th.
- The kit bashing night organized on April 18th worked out well in the end. The N, OO & O groups all held sessions and it has proved useful to all those who attended.

## PROGRAMME FOR 2Q12

Date	Group Rota	Event	Subject
<b>April</b>			
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	
<b>May</b>			
Wed 2	OO	0 gauge running night	Preparation for Open Day
Monday 7		<b>O Gauge open day</b>	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	
<b>June</b>			
Wed 6	P4	0 gauge running night	Running track
Thurs 7		<b>Club outing</b>	Trip to Railfest, NRM York
Wed 13	O	N gauge running night	
Wed 20	N	Free evening	
Wed 27	OO	00 gauge running 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 + Meteor Models well known for kits, parts and 2nd hand items. There will also be a well stock kitchen with bacon rolls and cakes (bakewell tart to die for).

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 CLUB WEBSITE

Noel Leaver has moved the web site to a new host and Roger Pearson is setting up a new web site using the Wordpress package. A partial new site is currently online at farnhamrc.org.uk (the .co.uk address is not currently working). We are still learning about the package and transferring content across from the old site, so the new site is far from complete yet, but already is looking pretty good.

One of the features of the package we are using is that it allows any authorised administrator to edit pages directly on the web site using a word processing style editor, so once we have the site as we want it we will be showing members of different groups how they can edit and update the pages for their group. We discovered in moving the site that a few pages on the old site had been hacked by having links to gambling sites inserted - these did not appear on the screen but does explain why the old site was blocked by some people's office systems.

Will all groups please identify an administrator to manage their content - it's your job now.

Take a look and let us know what you think - all ideas for improvement are welcome.

## EXHIBITION DIARY

### Club layouts

- 7th May - O gauge Open Day
- 12th May - Brixcombe at Loddon Vale
- 15/16th Sept - Greenfield Sidings & Weydon Road at REC, Woking

### Exhibitions of interest

- 12th May - Burgess Hill MRC
- 12th May - ALSRM, Reading
- 19/20th May - EM Society, Bracknell
- 26/27th May - Railex 2012, Aylesbury
- 9/10th June - Chatham MRC
- 10th June - Hurley O Gauge running day

## 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.
- 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. Any resolutions or points for discussion must be logged with the Secretary 28 days before the meeting.

## LAYOUT REPORTS

**N gauge group** - After the excursion to visit the full size version of Wickwar reported last month, attention turned to how best to represent what we found on the model. This resulted in a few tweaks to baseboard alignments to maximise the area of the prototype we could capture and this is now more or less settled. After some experimentation with various grades/sizes of foamboard and plywood, we have now completed two baseboards which will form the 2 extremities of the layout. These boards are the simple ones in terms of construction and attention will turn next to the 2 middle ones which have a more "challenging" scenic profile to reproduce. With the interest being shown by other groups in the club in these new lightweight boards, we are seriously contemplating copyrighting them and selling the rights. (at a very reasonable fee of course)

Initial tracklaying to test out whether what fitted in theory actually fitted in reality has taken place on one end board with the "Bristol end" balloon loops serving the fiddle yard being laid. This proved they did indeed fit (we had every confidence) and on 25<sup>th</sup> April the first train ran on Wickwar under its own power. (And I'd better mention this took place under both DC and DCC control before the DCC contingent get upset!)

The next step is to finish the construction of the two remaining boards, finalise the best method of joining them together and construct the legs/trestles. So plenty for us to get on with.

**OO gauge group** - Alton show in February 2013 has now been confirmed. Progress is being made with Colin's layout with all track down, wiring in progress and a number of buildings complete. Next outing for Greenfield Sidings is still at the Wellington Centre for September 8/9<sup>th</sup>

**P4 gauge group**: April has been a month of tuning and tidying as we prepare for our first public outing of the year on May 12th at the Loddon Vale show. Jim has built and installed the loading/cattle dock on what was previously the mileage siding and this has added interest and opportunity for our shunting programme! Richard has upgraded the power supply to the memory wire powered signals after we found that the existing arrangement lacked enough grunt to run give us reliable operation. He has also applied some electronic wizardry to the turntable to give us greater control and consistency. We are hoping to have it up and running for our final test on 9th May.

Following another Monday of test running in April we have decided to operate only the 1906 period stock at Loddon Vale. Jim and Greg can supply enough motive power and stock for the period and Vic has produced a timetable that will keep us all awake! A show report next time.

**O gauge group**: On Wednesday the 2nd May Ian George brought along the new layout scaled mock-up. This will be a very interesting to build and run. We are going to follow the N Gauge group with the style of baseboard construction as far as we can - there will be minor changes to suit the new double level plan (tracks on both). We hope to start building in the next few weeks. The new layout mock-up will be at the Open Day so club members are welcome to come and have a look, maybe try one of Ron's bacon rolls.

## WELL DONE GREG (COADY)

For those members who are not aware, Greg Coady has been busy selling surplus model railway magazines on Ebay. He raised £128 on mags donated by Ron Patterson and Vic Beyer. If other members have model railway items that they no longer want and they are prepared to donate these to the club then I am sure Greg will be prepared to see if he can sell them. However, no rubbish please!

## THE EDITOR IS DESPERATE!

I urgently need members inputs to the newsletter. Without your inputs it will become boring and irrelevant and frankly not worth publishing.

So please send anything you want by email, letter, word of mouth, anyway you want - I will do the rest.