

The Whistleblower

July 2012

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME (OR SO IT SEEMS!)

It seems ages since the last newsletter (2 months ago) - a lots been going on. The O Gauge group held their annual Open Day on May 7th with 60 visitors attending, there has been lots of progress on Wickwar and a group of members went to Railfest 2012, York in June. Chris Webster eventually did his presentation with excellent photograph as usual. We have had a number of visitors to the club and one new member join - please welcome Peter Duerden (another N Gauge member).

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- A committee meeting was held on 23rd May.
- Noel Leaver and Mike Brown are organizing this year's exhibition in October. Greg Coady has started to sell advertising in the exhibition programme - any help from other members is welcome (see Greg). Also, please get engaged in helping Noel & Mike.
- We are changing the format of running nights for each group. We will now be holding 2 full running nights per month with O, OO & N test tracks erected simultaneously - this will guarantee 2 sessions per month for most members (see programme for 3Q12).
- Richard Puddephatt has designed and had printed 500 leaflets explaining the club. These are available to hand out to anyone who is interested in the club and may want to join.
- New racking has been approved and purchased for storage of Wickwar.
- The new website is now up and running - layout groups please keep your section current. Any comments and further suggestions from the membership are welcomed.

PROGRAMME FOR 3Q12

| Date | Group Rota | Event | Subject |
|---------------|------------|------------------------------|--|
| July | | | |
| Wed 4 | P4 | | |
| Wed 11 | OO | American night | O, HO & N running of N American stock + food. |
| Wed 18 | O | | Committee Meeting |
| Wed 25 | N | Club running night | O, OO & N gauge running tracks erected |
| August | | | |
| Wed 1 | P4 | | |
| Wed 8 | OO | Club running night | O, OO & N gauge running tracks erected |
| Wed 15 | O | | |
| Wed 22 | N | Club running night | O, OO & N gauge running tracks erected |
| Wed 29 | P4 | | |
| Sept | | | |
| Wed 5 | OO | Presentation | |
| Sat 8/Sun 9 | | Publicity event | Greenfield Sidings at Wellington Centre, Aldershot |
| Wed 12 | O | Club running night | O, OO & N gauge running tracks erected |
| Wed 19 | N | Modelling Competition | Details for entry in Newsletter |
| Wed 26 | P4 | Club running night | O, OO & N gauge running tracks erected |

AMERICAN NIGHT - JULY 11TH

The committee decided to go ahead with our first "American" night on Wednesday 11th July from 6.30 - 9.30pm. Why 11th July not 4th July? - well the catering dept is on holiday and can only make the 11th July.

The plan is to erect the O, OO & N Gauge running tracks so that as much American (that's USA + Canadian) rolling stock can be run. Julian Evison is planning to bring along an On30 layout as well. Richard Puddephatt will be laying on some typical North American food (pancakes, dogs & burgers) at a minimum cost - if you want beer then please bring along your own.

Invites have been sent out to other local clubs to attend so we will be having a number of visitors so please make everyone welcome.

Also, please get into the swing of the by wearing your blue jeans & plaid shirts. Let's make this a fun evening.

THE RAILWAYMEN

If you have got a spare 20 minutes and enjoy railways of yesteryear then take a look at "the Railwaymen" on You Tube. It was made in 1946 to recruit people to the railways for The Ministry of Transport and has some great shots of railways of that time. It may also surprise you at the rates of pay in those days. We have to thank Vic Beyer for finding this.

EXHIBITION DIARY

Club layouts

- 8/9th Sept - Greenfield Sidings, Wellington Centre, Aldershot
- 15/16th Sept - Greenfield Sidings & Weydon Road at REC, Woking
- 8/9th Oct - Basingstoke, Club exhibition

Exhibitions of interest

- 7/8th June - Guildford Model Eng Society
- 15th June - Alton MRC, Open Day
- 4/5th Aug - Waverley MRC, Southwold
- 1/2nd Sept - Andover MRC
- 8/9th Sept - Guildex 2012, Telford
- 15/16th Sept - REC, Woking
- 29/30th Sept - Scaleforum

ANNUAL EVENTS

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

- Wellington Centre publicity. Planned for the weekend of 8th/9th September. We need as many members as possible to help on this event.
- The Modelling Competition. Planned for the evening of Wednesday 19th Sept. Please get ready - the entry rules will be published in the next newsletter.
- The Club Exhibition. To be held on the weekend of 13th/14th October at The Connaught Centre, Aldershot. Please offer help on the many jobs need to be carried out.
- The club open day. To be held on Sunday 4th November. The club layouts being erected will be Weydon Road (0), 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: Basingstoke's slumbers were briefly interrupted by a bit of reshuffling of our storage area to make way for the installation of storage racking for Wickwar which now also provides a less intrusive home for our test track.

With that done, efforts were re-concentrated on Wickwar and this has seen the last of the 4 boards completed with attention shifting to the production of the board joining assemblies, trestle legs/supports and protective covers for storage/transport. Greg paid another visit to Wickwar for research purposes, one intention being to photograph the scene behind the railway for backscene production purposes. His dedication, particularly in getting there at sparrows fart to get the morning light, was admirable, but backfired when he found he could not get breakfast and the brewery shop was shut! There was also a sob story about getting his trousers wet but we felt it best not to delve too deeply into that.... We've also been experimenting with the Faller N gauge road system with a view to installing this on the main road which runs along the front of Wickwar. Anglicising the commercially available vehicles looks to be possible, although getting the system in an N Gauge car might be "challenging"!

Work on the test track recently has seen its trackwork and electrical sectioning adjusted so it can be used as a test bed for the train detection and control systems we intend using in Wickwar's fiddle yard. Greg and Noel have been looking at some of the control systems available from MERG and after a briefing on what it is and what it does, I do at least now know that when they talk about a "C-Bus", it's nothing do with getting a charabanc to Bognor.

OO gauge group: Group members have been very active over the last few weeks almost exclusively on their own projects. Two have been working on building construction with two or three members working on loco and rolling stock kits. Two members have brought along their own partly constructed layouts to continue working on them during Club night. Work on Colin's Wharf has continued with work mainly concentrated on one of the bridges and the backscene buildings as the layout board has been unavailable due to a transport problem (the van was out of action!). Scenery work on Greenfield sidings has been completed with the addition of a barn, hedges and fencing to Board Eight.

Running Night was well attended with seven members running trains.

P4 gauge group: As previously mentioned, we exhibited Brixcombe at the Loddon Vale show in early May. After all the work carried out over the winter it was gratifying to see much improved running with scarcely a sight of the breakdown train. This was also our first opportunity to run to Vic's 'proper' timetable and despite having had limited opportunities to practice it went very well. We received one enquiry for the Basingstoke show in 2014 - hopefully this will lead to a firm invitation. We have also had an invite to Expo EM for 2014. Since Loddon Vale, work has continued to finish the scenic side of the layouts and to get the signals working consistently. We are now looking ahead to Scaleforum and a number of running sessions are planned to practice the operating sequence and check all our stock.

O gauge group: Not much to report on the 'O' group, most members are getting on modelling loco's and wagons etc. A meeting was held to discuss the new layout in May - Ian George has produced a 1/3 mock up model in card, complete with a wagon lift, which gives a very good idea how the layout will look. The plan is to buy some materials and build a first baseboard in July.

Some repair work has been carried out on Weydon Road on signals and canopies - the next outing is to the REC show in September.

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU

If any member has an article on their favourite railway subject, visit to a railway somewhere and/or photographs they think would be appropriate for the newsletter, please send them to me. I need your help on making the newsletter worthwhile for the club members.

RAILFEST 2012

A great day out was had by 13 members on June 7th attending Railfest 2012 in York. Apart from getting up with the birds and catching a train into London ahead of most commuters, everyone managed to meet up at the "new" Kings Cross station to catch the train to York. Dave Harrington managed to find himself in coach F when the rest of us were in coach C - Dave managed to get the outward reservation mixed up with the homeward reservation.

The weather was pretty foul - raining and thoroughly wet. However, Railfest did not disappoint - Princess Elizabeth, Bahamas, Cheltenham, Flying Scotsman in poor order (bits missing), 2 A4's, lots of diesels and lots more. Once we had had our fill of the outside exhibits we then went around the NRM enjoying a good lunch and afternoon tea. I believe we now have many photos (400+) between all of us - photography competition anybody?

The return trip was a little more eventful. We discovered that Mick Raybould can't tell Cider from Bitter (or is it Stock from Butter) in the station bar. Once we boarded the train to London we discovered a rather bolshy Scottish lady sitting in one of our reserved seats - needless to say the club secretary rose to the challenge with the conversation getting rather tense. The bottom line was she didn't move. We then discovered once the guard checked her out, she was in the right seat but on the wrong train to London. She still didn't move - Happy days.



THE LATEST RULES

For those of you who haven't notice yet we have added some new club rules. These were kindly passed on to us by the London & North Western Railway - obviously it took a little time to reach us (from May 1901 until May 2012).

This notice is in the clubroom. Can you find it??

Good luck.

The Editor

