

WHISTLEBLOWER

The Newsletter of the Farnham & District Model Railway Club

February 2016

Welcome to the February 2016 Edition of Whistleblower.

Membership As at the last count the Club now has 51 Full Members, 7 Associate Members and 1 Junior member. A big welcome to newly joined Members Howard Eames and Martin Woods who have joined the N Gauge section and Ian Welch who has joined the O Gauge section.

Club Diary The Club Diary is attached to the end of this Newsletter.

Presentation Evening The next Presentation Evening will be on Wednesday 30th of March at 7.30pm. We will be welcoming Mr Ben Ando as our guest speaker. Many of you will know him as the BBC Crime Correspondent and will have either seen him on TV or heard him on the radio. Ben is also one of the Directors of Revolution Trains which aims to produce modern image models in OO and N gauges which the main manufacturers have rejected because of the limited appeal. He will be giving an illustrated talk on how a model is produced from an idea through to the finished product. Please do give this evening your support.

Cleaning Rota Following consultations with the Group Leaders the Committee have agreed to continue with the present arrangement whereby the Group whose running night it is will also be responsible for cleaning. As the running nights are listed in the Club Diary it was agreed there would no longer be a need to publish a separate Cleaning Rota.

Members are reminded that each individual is responsible for clearing up in mess they may make, tidying up any work station they may use and washing up any mugs or plates they have used.

Assistant Web Master Noel Leaver, our Web Master has asked if there is a member willing to become the Assistant Web Master and help him keep the site up to date. The Assistant could also investigate the operation of a Club Facebook page.

To Bristol and back.

Every year at the end of January the first O gauge show of the year takes place in Bristol. As usual, a car was organised from the Farnham club to take in the delights of the University of the West of England well known for its excellent catering (I don't think).

To make life easy, I purchased 4 advance tickets about 2 weeks beforehand. This has the advantage of avoiding any queues outside the UWE with the added bonus of entering the Bristol O Gauge "four in a car" competition.

So Robin, Pete and myself set off at some silly hour to take in breakfast on the way and to ensure we got parked. As Ian George was indisposed, I was volunteered to drive by Pete who neatly ducked out of taking his nice BMW as originally planned. Everything went to plan and we

arrived well ahead of the opening time of 10.00 am. At the entry desk, to our surprised, we discovered we won the “four in a car” competition, something we have done twice before. This time we won 4 identical Dapol O gauge wagons (retail price £45.00 each) – not bad as a start to the day.

The next job was the collection of an Sancheng Ivatt Class 2 loco I had ordered from Tower Models – one of only two left for sale. Very nice, the day was getting even better.

The normal practice is for us all to split up and to tour the traders, layouts and demonstrators – we all had our shopping lists to fulfil and different things we wanted to see. Around lunchtime I bumped into Robin by the GOG executors stand – in front of us was a GWR coach priced at £45.00 which is extremely cheap. Quick draw Robin had his cash out and snapped it up – unfortunately he discovered afterwards that it needs a lot of repair work and he is now regretting the purchase.

After a bit more shopping, we set off for home via Polly’s in Marlborough for an afternoon cream tea – a must on any boy’s day out. Definitely stuffed by now.

All in all, a great day out. And we made a profit on our ticket price of £7.00 with the winning of the wagons. Don’t forget to catch our photo in the April edition of The Railway Modeller.

Kettering show next in early March.

Ron Patterson

Mr. Dafthead goes bananas.

Some useful tips for fellow modellers.

Mr Dafthead had built himself a BR banana van. Painted, decaled and weathered, he was very pleased with his efforts. Knowing that a single banana van was not much use on its own (banana vans, like bananas themselves, usually come in bunches) he was on the lookout to increase his fleet. Finding a kit-built banana van on Ebay, the exact same type of BR van as his own, was an opportunity too good to be missed. Mr Dafthead put in a winning bid.

When it arrived Mr Dafthead placed his new purchase on the track alongside his original van. It was a good match, being equally well built and finished. Mr Dafthead was well pleased. But wait! Something was wrong. When compared to his original van, the brake gear on his new van had been fitted the wrong way round, most noticeable being that the vacuum cylinder was on the wrong side. Mr Dafthead was not happy. “What sort of idiot can’t follow simple instructions on how to fit brake gear?” he muttered. It would have to be put right.

Mr Dafthead spent a tedious evening carefully unsoldering the offending brake gear on his new van and re-attaching it the “opposite” way round. Having touched-up the paintwork and weathering the job was done, and the van was placed on the track next to his original van. They matched nicely. Mr Dafthead was pleased.

Mr Dafthead settled down with a well- earned cup of tea and took the opportunity to browse through his collection of reference books to find photographs of BR banana vans. He soon found

several photos of vans the same as his two, and he studied them in detail. But wait, something was wrong! On all of them the brake gear was fitted the opposite way round to the brake gear on his two vans. Mr Dafthead was not happy.

Mr Dafthead spent several tedious evenings carefully unsoldering and correcting the offending brake gear on his two banana vans so that they matched the photographs.

Tips for fellow modellers:-

1. Find some good reference photos of the model you intend to work on. Reference books can often be found at the club, can be borrowed from helpful fellow club members or can often be purchased cheaply from used items stands at exhibitions.

Colour photos are particularly useful when painting and weathering your model.

2. Always consult your photos before you begin work on each stage of your model.

Happy modelling.

Ian George

Farnham & District Model Railway Club Diary				
Date	Running Night	Event	Exhibition	Notes
2016				
3rd Feb	O Gauge			
6th/7th Feb			Bournem'th	Greenfields
10th Feb	N Gauge			
17th Feb	OO/P4			
24th Feb	OO			
2nd Mar	O Gauge			
9th Mar	N Gauge			
12th/13th Mar			Huntingdon	Greenfields
16th Mar	OO/P4			
19th March			Abingdon	Wickwar
23rd Mar	OO			
30th Mar		Presentation Evening		Mr Ben Ando
6th April	O Gauge			
7th April		Visit to NRM Shildon		
13th April	N Gauge			
20th April	OO/P4			
23rd April			Fareham	Bolden
27th April	OO			
2nd May		O Gauge Open Day		
4th May	O Gauge			
7th May			Watford	Greenfields
11th May	N Gauge			
18th May	OO/P4			
25th May	OO			
28th/29th May			Aylesbury	Weydon Road
30th May		N Gauge Open Day		Set up PM 29th
1st June	O Gauge			
8th June	N Gauge			
15th June	OO/P4			
22nd June	OO			
29th June		Presentation Evening		