

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

May 2018 Edition

EDITORIAL

Thanks to those few who have responded to my request for articles, but more are always welcome. Similarly let me know if there are any items you would like to see in this Newsletter.

This next edition of Whistleblower will be at the end of June.

Julian Evison (Editor)

CLUB OPEN DAYS – Richard Puddephatt

As a reminder we will be holding two group open days on the next two Bank Holiday Mondays:

- Monday May 7th – O Gauge Open Day.
- Monday May 28th – OO Gauge Open Day.

If you are able help on those days, even if you are not a member of one of those groups, do please let Eddie Jackman (O Gauge) or Terry Hillyer (OO Gauge) know and they will be glad to find you something useful to do.

Otherwise, can I ask that as many members as possible turn up on the days to support those groups, even if it is only for a short while. It helps their morale enormously if we can be there to show an interest in all club activities.

CLUB MODELLING COMPETITION – Richard Harris

Our Chairman is pleased to confirm that the Club Modelling Competition will be held this year on Wednesday September 12th. The categories and rules can be found below and they will also be put on the Club website. A significant change this year is the return of a specific award for Younger Modeller.

Please consider entering one or more of your treasured creations – the success of the event relies entirely on a copious and diverse set of entries – and who knows – it might be a winner! You can be assured this is not the last reminder you will receive, but September is not far away – get modelling!

The competition is intended to be a “fun evening” and an opportunity for all the Club’s Members to take part and demonstrate their modelling skills at all levels.

Categories (open to scratch built, kit-built or modified proprietary models):

- **2mm** scale locos and rolling stock – N and 2mm finescale
- **4mm** scale locos and rolling stock – OO, EM, P4 finescale, OO9
- **7mm** scale locos and rolling stock – standard & narrow gauge
- “**Other**” scale locos and rolling stock (From Z to Gauge 3)
- **Trackside/Scenic** features (Any scale) - a railway/scenic feature less than 2 ft sq.

Entries in all the above Categories will also be judged for Best in Show and, where qualifying, the Younger Modeller award.

Rules of entry

- All entries must be owned by Club Members and, if relevant, fit to operate.
- A completed entry form must accompany each item. Entries also qualifying for the Younger Modeller category (under 26 yrs) should indicate this on the form (available from the Club Room from a week before and on the night).
- The closing time for entries will be 7:30pm. Voting finishes at 8:00pm.
- All Members present may vote and are invited to vote for the entry they consider best in each category. They are also invited to vote for Best in Show and best Younger Modeller entry.
- The winner of each Category, Best in Show and Younger Modeller will be that with the most corresponding votes recorded on returned ballot forms.
- The adjudicators (on eligibility or other dispute) will be appointed before the event.

Best in Show – The recipient will receive the Club shield and a bottle of wine.

Category winners and **Younger Modeller** – will have custody of the appropriate trophy for the following 12 months.

Loan Category – To encourage Members who do not want to compete, there will be an additional non-judged category:-

Any model, any scale, out of the box, completed or under construction. This is your chance to either show off “work in progress”, seek advice/encouragement in completing a model, show off an uncommon proprietary item or just bring along your latest acquisition.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DATE – Andrew Wrobel

Thanks to everyone who responded on preferred dates. The probable date for the Annual Christmas Dinner is Friday 14th December. Andrew will now look for a suitable location and then confirm.

THE ARCTIC FLYER – Richard Puddephatt

In late June 2012, Bron and I took a cruise to the Fjords of Norway and on to the island of Spitzbergen which is just on 600 miles from the North Pole. The scenery up there is amazing with the lower slopes of the mountains still covered in thick snow and the coast abounding in glaciers large and small.



Spitzbergen is now a scientific base with no inhabitants other than scientists and support services. There are no trees and even in late June, the temperature was not much above freezing, even with the sun shining. Polar bears frequent the settlement of Ny Alesund (the scientific base) at night and during the daytime personnel are warned not to leave the base environs without a weapon i.e. high powered rifle!!

During the 50's and 60's coal mining took place on the island and NCB staff went there to advise on methods etc. (Would have been a good place to send Arthur Scargill!!) A narrow gauge railway was built to transport the coal down to the wharves for shipment out. Mining has long since ceased and the only trace of this line is a very short length of track with a somewhat dilapidated loco and five wagons standing on it. There is some evidence of the remains of the track with the marks of sleepers on the ground.



Because of the restrictions on leaving marked paths, it was not possible to get any details of the loco but I was able to take a few shots of it plus the landscape in which it operated. I hate to think what the footplate conditions would have been like in the depths of winter.

This has to be the most northern preserved railway in the world!!

NEWPORT ROAD – A NEW EXHIBITION LAYOUT

Our club member Liam Rasbid has got a new exhibition layout on the circuit. Newport Road is a fictional setting with a station, two sidings and a coal merchants. British Railways Steam and Diesel Locomotives frequent Newport Road which is set in the 1950s/60s. The layout is DCC operated. measuring 7ft long x 18inch including fiddle yard. All locomotives are DCC sound fitted with a mix of Steam and Diesel.



Liam's next exhibition is at the Victory Model Railway Club in Portsmouth on 12th May. Others will appear in the diary as appropriate.

EXHIBITION LAYOUT INSURANCE – Noel Leaver

If you take stock to run at exhibitions it will be covered by the exhibition's insurance from leaving your home to return. But if any gets stolen you will need some sort of evidence to submit with a claim.

Sometimes it is recommended that you make a list of all the items taken in case of loss, but this is quite a hassle. Much easier is to take photos of the stock, and this is likely to be more useful if anything is stolen as you have a photo of what went missing. It is particularly easy if you have a standard box of stock you take.

The cost of RTR stock has gone up a lot in the last 5 years so it may be worth re-checking what you state as the value for insurance, remembering those items you bought cheap at an exhibition may be full price if you have to replace them. When Greg and I did this recently the coaches we bought at £10-15 each now cost £25+, and goods wagons that were well under £10 are now £15+. The result was we almost doubled the value for insurance of stock on Wickwar.

CLUB DIARY TO END JULY

DIARY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Running Night</i>	<i>Layout at Exhibition/Show</i>
2018		
Mon 7 May		0 Gauge Open Day, Club Rooms, Wrecclesham
Wed 9 May	N	
Sat 12 May		Newport Road (Liam Rasbid's layout): Victory MRC Exhibition, Portsmouth
Wed 16 May	P4/009	
Sun 20 May		St. Mary's [Julian Evison's layout]: Stow-on-the-Wold Model Railway Exhibition
Wed 23 May	00	
Sat 26 May		Gentlefolk Day Out – 'Cotswold Festival of Steam', Cheltenham.
Mon 28 May		00 Gauge Open Day, Club Rooms, Wrecclesham
Wed 30 May		
Wed 6 June	0	
Wed 13 June	N	
Wed 20 June	P4/009	
Sat 23 & Sun 24 June		Haydon Square E.1(0): Romsey MRC exhibition, Romsey
Wed 27 June	00	
Wed 04 July	0	
Wed 11 July	N	
Wed 18 July	P4/009	
Wed 25 July	00	

Please let me know of any forthcoming events. Thanks, Julian