

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

November 2019 Edition

EDITORIAL

Slightly earlier than usual, here is the November edition.

After nearly three years I will be stepping down as Editor of Whistleblower from January. If you are interested in taking over, please contact the Chairman, Richard Puddephat, or, if you want to talk it over with me first (without obligation), please do.

In the next couple of months we have quite a few things happening including a talk on Wednesday, the club open day, the AGM and the Christmas Dinner. See details below.

Julian Evison (Editor)

FULL LAYOUT AUTOMATION TALK: 30th OCTOBER

The next in our series of '5th Wednesday' talks is next Wednesday in the club rooms at 7pm. The subject is 'full layout automation' and the presenter is a modeller called Iain Morrison. He has applied modern control techniques to allow his whole layout to be run wholly or partly automatically. While his modelling is in H0e scale, his talk is applicable to any scale and degree of automation. Do come along.

CLUB OPEN DAY: 17th NOVEMBER – Mike Le Marie

Members are reminded that the Annual Club Open Day will be held on Sunday 17th November. The following Club layouts etc. will be taking part: Haydon Square E1, the OO and N gauge running tracks, a selection of 009 modules, the Club Second Hand stall plus 2 members private layouts and one trader/demonstrator

Access to the hall will be from 3pm on the Saturday afternoon.

As always we need as many members as possible to help set up and to man the various tasks on the day e.g. entrance desk, car parking, stewarding etc.

Eric has kindly agreed to do the catering so the traditional bacon butties etc. will be available.

FORTHCOMING AGM: 4th DECEMBER – Andrew Wrobel

The official version of this information is on the Club noticeboard and has been sent to members. However, it is important so is worth repeating here.

The AGM of the F&DMRC (Farnham & District Model Railway Club) will be held in the Wrecclisham Community Centre at 8pm on Wednesday 4th December 2019.

Members wishing to have an item placed on the Agenda should submit their request, in writing or by acknowledged e-mail, to the Club Secretary to be received on or before Wednesday 27th November 2019.

The AGM will also elect the members of the Executive Committee and the GPC (General Purposes Committee) to serve until the 2020 AGM. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; who have all completed only 2 of their maximum 3-year term of office and are thus all eligible for re-election. It is also necessary to propose and elect the GPC members, namely Exhibition Manager and Gauge (N, OO9, OO, P4 & O) representatives.

Copies of the 'Nomination Form' will be available on the Club Noticeboard from Wednesday 30th October 2019. Nominations for all the above positions should be submitted using that Form to the Club Secretary to be received on or before Wednesday 27th November 2019. All nominations must be signed by the Candidate, a Proposer and Secunder; on receipt, they will be counter-signed by the Secretary.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – Andrew Wrobel

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held this year on Wednesday 18th December at 6:00 for 6:30pm [food-start]. This year's location is The Mill House, North Warnborough, Odiham, Hants, RG29 1ET. While the cost is the same as last year (Two-course £23.95; Three-course £28.95 per person) we believe the location is more atmospheric and has a better menu. The menu can be found at the end of this edition of Whistleblower. Food order and cheque payable to 'Andrew Wrobel' on Wed-27-Nov or latest Wed-04-Dec-2019.

CLUB EXHIBITION

Once again we had a very successful annual exhibition in Aldershot. Numbers were slightly down on last year's record, but still very satisfactory and we continue to have enough money to build new layouts! It was good to see so many members participating and sharing in a job well done, be it selling tickets, running the very good second hand stall, guarding doors or providing the catering; it all has to be done and it all makes a difference.

The winners of this year's Most Appealing Layout Competition were our visitors from the Netherlands 'De Tenderloc' from Uden with a remarkable layout full of surprises. Here is our Chairman presenting the trophy:



SLIP COACHES – Noel Leaver

I recently had to go to Mark's Tey (near Colchester) and found out that the last slip operation outside the GWR took place there in 1936. And in researching my booklet on lamps I came across some double oil lamps used on slip coaches. To find out more I bought a book 'A History of Slipping and Slip Carriages' - anyone interested is welcome to borrow it.



A double lamp for the rear of the slip portion of the train, this arrangement of lamps was for the portion nearest the main train. To make them more visible the lamps on slip coaches had to have coloured disks round them.

The purpose of slip workings was to allow passengers leave a train at a station without the main train losing time stopping. As it approached the station the rear of the train was 'slipped', that is it was uncoupled from the back of the main train and the guard in the slip portion applied the brakes so it came to a halt in the station while the main part of the train continued at full speed – a big time saving in early days when locos were not powerful enough to accelerate trains quickly.

Slip coaches are associated in most people's minds with the GWR because after 1936 they were the only company to operate them, the last being in 1960. But earlier their use was widespread, with most companies around 1900 having some slip operations. The first proper slip workings were in 1858 by the LBSCR and SER, shortly followed by the GWR. At its peak in 1914 there were 189 daily operations (not including Ireland), the largest numbers being GWR (72), LBSCR (27), Midland (21), GER (18), LNWR (18), and Caledonian (12). In comparison to the size of their network several companies had a higher proportion of slip workings than the GWR. During WW1 staff shortages and the general slowness of passenger trains meant most slip workings were abandoned – only 7 ran in 1918. After the war some companies resumed the services, with 93 in 1924, mainly GWR (47) and LBSCR (21).

There is a feeling that slip operation was dangerous, but in fact it was not. There were about 20 million slip workings carried out in the UK, and only 2 serious accidents, both where the slipped coaches ran into the main train. In neither case was there serious injury to passengers, though 2 railway workers were injured in the second.

There were many reasons why the practice declined. As locomotives became more powerful the time saved lessened, and became fairly pointless with electrification. There needed to be at least one additional guard, specially trained, in each slip carriage and as wages rose this became more expensive. The big weakness of a slip coach operations was it only worked in one direction – you could not get on the train, and the coach had to be got back to its start point on a separate train. For short journeys a coach might be used twice in a day, but usually only once, and on long distance workings 2 coaches were needed as it could not be returned in time for the next day. Sometimes the train had to be stopped anyway and the coach detached in the station: in poor visibility, or if very full of passengers (so the brakes might be insufficient), or if there was a problem with the slip mechanism, or if the signals were against so it would have to slow anyway when the stationmaster would decide to stop the train.

Slip operations were not always single coaches, the slip portion was frequently several coaches and there was no limit. In broad gauge days one Paddington-Reading express started with 16 (non-bogie) carriages and slipped 5 at Slough, 3 at Taplow, 3 at Twyford, and arrived at Reading with only 5 coaches left. An even more extreme case was on the LBSCR where it was not so much slipping coaches as dividing the train in two. Because

they had two London termini many expresses slipped half the train at East Croydon, with the front portion going to one termini and the slipped portion with another loco attached to the other (alternating which termini got the direct train).

Another misapprehension I had was that slip coaches were mostly on expresses out of London (or other major cities). In fact equally common was for an express approaching London to drop off coaches so that passengers could make connections to other places or catch a stopping train on the same line for intermediate stations. The GWR station with most slip operations was Reading for London bound trains, giving connections to Oxford, Basingstoke, the line to Ascot and Waterloo, and other stations into Paddington.

There is a lot more detail in the book about how the vacuum brake and steam heating were detached, experiments with vestibuled slip coaches, additional vacuum reservoirs in the slip coaches, types of slip coupling. And of the coaches themselves, most were conversions of ordinary coaches.

CLUB DIARY – Andrew Wrobel

Recent changes in **yellow**. Running starts at **14:00** in the Hall. 'Run'g pm' = Priority for use of Hall AND tidy/vacuum Club Room + Lock-Up

DIARY 2019		
Date	Run'g pm	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Sat 26 Oct		St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Expo Narrow Gauge, White Oaks Leisure Centre, Swanley, BR8 7BT
Mon 28 Oct		O gauge photo shoot for Railway Modeller [with Steve Flint]
Wed 30 Oct	Any	TALK: Full Layout Automation 7pm by guest Ian Morrison
Sat 02 & Sun 03 Nov		Haydon Sq. E.1(0): Spalding MRC, Springfields Events Centre, PE12 6ET
Wed 06 Nov	O	
Wed 13 Nov	N	
Sat 16 Nov		Wickwar (N): South Hants MRC, Admiral Lord Nelson School, Dundas Lane, Portsmouth, PO3 5XT
Sat 16 Nov	ALL	Club Open Day set up 3-5pm [Dance Club finishes 3pm]
Sun 17 Nov	ALL	Club Open Day with food 8:30am: Public 10am to 4pm [Layouts: Greenfields, Haydon Sq., some 009 modules, Test tracks: 'N' & poss.'OO']
Wed 20 Nov	P4/009	GPC meeting at 2pm
Sat 23 & Sun 24 Nov		For info'n: Warley Show 2019 [please advise the Chairman if you would like to do a car-share, leaving Farnham early. He will advise Mike Le Marie who is going]
Wed 27 Nov	OO	
Wed 04 Dec	O	AGM
Wed 11 Dec	N	
Wed 18 Dec	P4/009	Christmas Club Dinner (optional) @ The Mill House [see November's 'Whistleblower' and Club Noticeboard] Last Club Day of the year

DIARY 2020

Date	Run'g Night	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Wed 08 Jan	O	1st Club Day of the New Year
Sun 12 Jan		Brixcombe (P4) and St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Astolat (Guildford)
Wed 15 Jan	N	
Wed 22 Jan	P4/009	
Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jan		Haydon Square (O): Southampton MRS, Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh
Wed 29 Jan	OO	
Sat 01 & Sun 02 Feb		Wickwar (N): Stafford

F&DMRC Christmas Dinner & Quiz 2019

[for members & partners]

Wed-18-Dec-2019 at 6:00 for **6:30pm** [food-start]

The Mill House, North Warnborough, Odiham, Hants, RG29 1ET

this is same cost as last year's venue; but more organised, atmospheric and better Menu

Two-course £23.95; Three-course £28.95 per person

Food order and cheque payable to 'Andrew Wrobel'

on Wed-27-Nov or latest Wed-04-Dec-2019 [also AGM day !!]

below: [VG=Vegan, V=Vegetarian, GF=Gluten-free]

Starters

Butternut squash soup with sage-roasted pumpkin seeds (v)

Chicken, truffle and herb terrine with wild mushroom chutney

Courgette and quinoa rösti with mint, cashew nut and pickled carrot salad (vg)(gf)

Smoked mackerel, orange and fennel salad with horseradish cream (gf)

Wild boar and chorizo meatball in slow-cooked tomato ragu (gf)

Deep-fried Cornish Brie with pickled cranberry salad and mulled pear chutney (v)(gf)

Mains

Roast turkey and traditional accompaniments (gf)

Braised feather of beef in red wine, glazed shallot and fondant potato (gf)

Baked cod with lemon, parsley crumb and crab risotto (gf)

8oz sirloin steak with peppercorn sauce, roasted mushrooms, tomatoes, and chips (£5 supp) (gf)

Slow-roasted belly pork with black pudding bubble and squeak and cider jus (gf)

Chestnut mushroom bourguignon pie with olive oil mashed potatoes and tenderstem broccoli (vg)(gf)

Puddings

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce (v)(gf)

Blackcurrant cheesecake with Sicilian lemon sorbet (v)(gf)

Roasted pineapple with spiced oat granola and coconut ice cream (vg)(gf)

Dark chocolate torte with cherry sorbet (v)(gf)

Toffee and pecan meringue roulade with Bailey's ice cream (v)(gf)

Local cheese with grapes, chutney and biscuits (v)

Drinks payable by yourself, can be at Bar or the tables

For beers: <https://www.brunningandprice.co.uk/millhouse/beer/>