

# WHISTLEBLOWER

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

March 2020 Edition

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March Edition of Whistleblower. Having endured a particularly wet February, although small compared to the beating our friends up North have endured, the onset of Spring is with us to sweep away the Winter gloom.

The exhibitions are back, as shown in the attached Diary. It would be great if those participating in the various shows could let me have a few lines with feedback about how things went; comment on incidents amusing or otherwise, including photos if possible. Likewise, I am happy to take any other inputs or articles that would be of interest to the membership.

Jon Faulconer

### ARCHITECTURAL MODELLING – Noel Leaver

Noel has forwarded the link to a fascinating video about a Chinese company employing about 500 people making high end architectural models:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwwwYeDVAqk>

The video is long, so before you start, do grab a cup of tea or something stronger to keep you going. It has also been suggested that the overall presentation of the report would have benefited by the commentator being gagged, but don't let that put you off as the capability is impressive.

### N GAUGE PROJECTS – Greg Phillips

Greg has provided an up-date on the on-going projects for the N Gauge Group.

**Running Track.** We are currently finalising the design and construction of two extra boards. The two outer lines are Kato track and incorporate Kato uncoupling sections which will allow us to practice uncoupling using Kato, American?, and Dapol magnetic couplings. Tracks 3 and 4 will each incorporate a removable section, one on one board and one on the other, and probably a selection of permanent and electromagnets to allow practice with other types of magnetically operated couplings. The removable sections will allow experimentation with a range of electronic devices. For normal use, there will be plain track sections. Track 3 will also eventually be sectioned around its entirety to allow experimentation with automatic train control. The running track will be useable in either 4 board as now, or 6 board form.

**Tamar Bridge.** Before the site visit in April, we need to establish a set of objectives to be investigated. The most important of these is the balance between an attractive layout to build, view and operate, with our ability to store it in the cellar and maintain it at a show. To identify potential problems and allow development of potential solutions, I have produced relevant OS maps in 3 different sizes covering track from the end of St Budeaux goods yard to Defiance platform, Henn point, on the Cornish side.

**Wickwar.** Two developments here:

Firstly, the vehicles are regularly causing problems. The lorries have done a lot of miles and we really need more. Noel is experimenting with a new motor and gearbox that is less vulnerable to fluff and has established that a range of batteries can be used. Unfortunately, the magnets fitted to the latching relays may be becoming demagnetized and the steering mechanism is delicate and may be suffering from excessive wear. The coaches have steering problems that may be curable, but their numbers and some types are not prototypical unlike the trains.

Secondly, members would like to run later era stock particularly if Noel's or mine are not available. We agreed when building the layout this would be acceptable. However, stock running on Wickwar **MUST** be prototypical, locos of an acceptable type with head codes and crews, passenger stock of the correct type and formation - we have very good information on this, goods trains similarly. I also would prefer nothing after 1960 as the stocks physical condition became appalling. DC locos with older, non can, motors **MUST** have a larger suppression capacitor fitted, see me for this.

## MAGNETIC COUPLINGS – David Harrington

David has been surfing the net for items of interest and happened upon the attached site that offers magnetic coupling links to replace the OO NEM couplings:

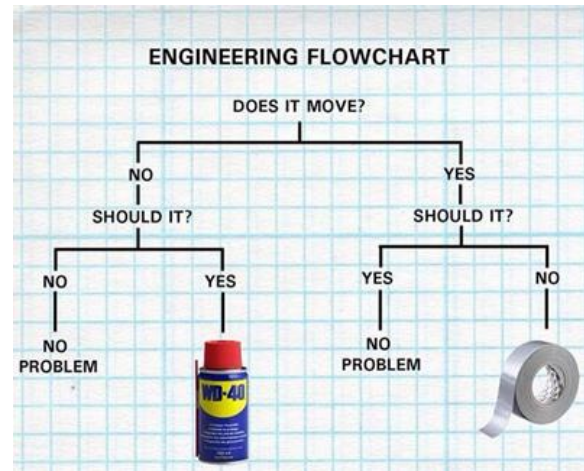
<https://westhillwagonworks.co.uk/couplings-new-c-2/hunt-couplings-close-coupling-10-pairs-for-nem-sockets-p-23>

**WEST HILL WAGON WORKS**  
**Simple 2 Step Installation**  
**Remove Old Coupling From NEM Socket**  
**Insert Hunt Coupling into NEM Socket**  
Each magnet has polarity an A magnet will attract a B Magnet  
An Example Of Coupling Configuration Layout  
Close Coupling Normal Coupling Mk3 Coupling  
Standard Coupling Shaft Stepped Coupling Shaft  
Other couplings & products available see online  
Made In England  
Not suitable for children under 14 years. Danger of small parts being swallowed  
**WARNING!** THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS SMALL MAGNET(S)  
Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious infections and death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnets do not swallow or retained  
[www.westhillwagonworks.co.uk](http://www.westhillwagonworks.co.uk)

## AND FINALLY:

A simple reference guide to assist your engineering maintenance philosophy.

On the other hand, I understand that if this fails, speaking nicely to Pete Tigg will get a solution.



and something for those that were old enough to have stayed up late to watch the Frost Report.

Not sure where the OO9 fits in and I recall that the programme was in black & white in those days

## CLUB DIARY – Andrew Wrobel

Recent changes in **yellow**. Running starts at **14:00** in the Hall.

Heading 'Run'g' = Priority use of Hall from 2pm; ALSO tidy/vacuum Club Room & Lock-Up

### DIARY 2020

<i>Date</i>	<i>Run'g</i>	<i>Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show</i>
Wed 04 Mar	O	
Wed 11 Mar	N	
Sat 14 & Sun 15 Mar	--	<b>Kinlochlagen (N) [Mike Le Marie's layout]: Basingstoke &amp; North Hants MRS, Aldworth School, Western Way</b>
Wed 18 Mar	P4/009	
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Mar	--	<b>For info'n: The London Festival of Railway Modelling, Alexandra Palace, London</b>
Wed 25 Mar	OO	
Wed 01 Apr	O	
Wed 08 Apr	N	
Sat 11, Sun 12 & Mon 13 Apr [Easter]	--	<b>Wickwar (N): York Model Railway Show, York Race Course, Tadcaster Road, YO23 1EX</b>
Wed 15 Apr	P4/009	
Wed 22 Apr	OO	
Wed 29 Apr	Any	
Fri 01, Sat 02 & Sun 03 May	--	<b>St.Mary's (7mm NG) [J.Evison's layout]: Bristol MRS at Thornbury Leisure Centre, Thornbury</b>
Sat 02 May	--	<b>Haydon Square (OO): SW Herts MRS, The Queen's School, Bushey</b>
Wed 06 May	O	
Sat 09 & Sun 10 May	--	<b>Wickwar (N): Mickleover MRG, The Roundhouse, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8JE</b>
Wed 13 May	N	
Wed 20 May	P4/009	<b>'OO' may request running-night swap?</b>
Mon 25 May	--	<b>Spring Bank Holiday – 'OO' Open Day</b>
Wed 27 May	OO	