

WHISTLEBLOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FARNHAM & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

29 November 2020 – Special Edition No 19

EDITORIAL

This weekend's Edition of Whistleblower is largely taken up by the forthcoming Club Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 9 December which Members can join via Zoom. The AGM documents are all grouped together and attached at the end of WB for ease of reference.

The Club's Modelling Competition is now in the judging stage. The Chairman has circulated how to access pictures of the entries, as well as the methodology for the completion and submission of your voting form. His message is reproduced below, *pour memoire*.

I intend to push out the next issue of Whistleblower on Sunday 13 December and, as this will be the last one before Christmas, I am hoping for an excellent array of articles, photos, particularly festive ones. Latest date for inputs will be Saturday 12 December.

Jon Faulconer

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

This will be my last missive as Chairman as my term of office will come to an end at the AGM next week. May I thank all of you for your support to the Club during that time, particularly during this last twelve months of upheaval and turmoil.

I had hoped that I could announce that with the end of the "lockdown" we could return to some sort of normality with Club activities but sadly it is not to be. The Club must remain in suspension for a while longer. At least with two-weekly reviews by the Government, it may not be too much longer.

Hopefully, Jon will be able to continue with the fortnightly editions of Whistleblower to help keep us all in touch. Please do continue to support him by sending him articles and snippets to fill his pages. The Group E Mail facility will continue and we will try and arrange some more virtual Zoom get-togethers on Sunday afternoons. **In fact, please put in your diaries the date of Sunday December 20th at 3 pm for the next session. Julian has sent the log-in details to be included in this edition.**

Thank you again for your patience and perseverance and I look forward to "seeing" as many of you as possible on December 9th at the virtual AGM.

Richard Puddephatt

F&DRMC MODELLING COMPETITION - Chairman

The entries are in and now it's time for all of us to vote. It's important that all of us cast our votes and get them in **by close of play on Monday December 7th**. We will announce the winners at the AGM two days later, Wednesday December 9th starting at 7.15 pm.

Voting details are:

The entries in this year's Modelling Competition are available to view online at:

https://farnhamrc.org.uk/?page_id=3779

Please vote by filling in this form before the end of Monday December 7th.

<https://forms.gle/aqb5AiKd3KgBiM7r9>

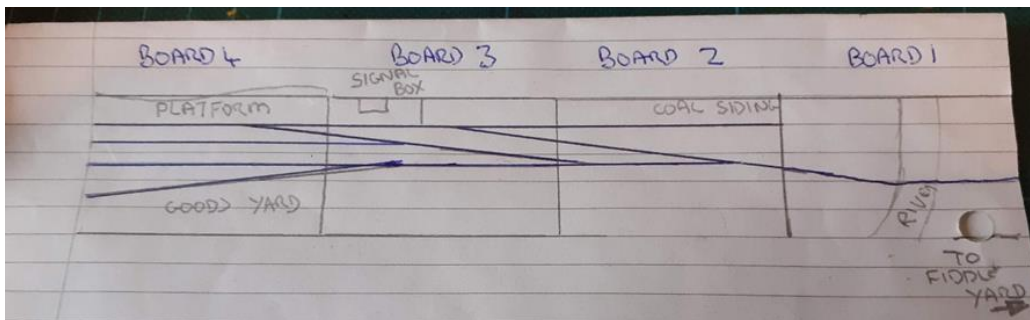
You need to sign into Google to access the form. You can edit your vote up to closing time for voting. Your name will not be visible to the organisers. If you are unable to access the form send an email with your votes (entry number of choice in each of categories A to F plus entry number of choice for overall winner) to n.leaver@btopenworld.com

Do please take the time to look at all the entries and then make your choices. There are some cracking candidates this year. Please do vote in each of the categories and then vote for the Best in Show.

I look forward to announcing the winners on December 9th.

NEW LAYOUT – James Edwards

Following on from the previous Edition of Whistleblower, Jim has made further progress with his new layout, as shown in the pictures below.



Layout sketch

Before laying track on Board 1, the river section needed to be started.



Two bridges were built from foam board with brick plastic card fixed together. They were then fitted into place.





The river banks were made from polystyrene.



Covering this, I tried a new product sculptamold. The river bed was sealed with woodland scenic flex paste with grit on top.



When dried, the river bed was painted and the track laid across the bridge.

WARLEY 2020 VIRTUAL EVENT

Unfortunately, the need to delay WB circulation to allow inclusion of the AGM materiel means that by the time you get to open this Edition, much of the Warley Virtual Event will have passed. Nonetheless, the Sunday programme is provided should you wish to log in for what is left (Ed).

For those of you who normally attend the Warley National Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham we thought it would be a good idea to remind you that our first virtual event is taking place - Saturday 28th November from 10:00 - 18:15 to Sunday 29th November 10:00 – 18:15.

We launched the virtual event in the October edition of Railway Modeller with the Junior Photographic plank competition, Railway Modeller then followed this up in the December issue with a 2 page spread covering the event. We will also be streaming live updates of the event on the Model Railway Community Group and Warley Facebook pages and YouTube Channel.

We are now ready to open the doors, and beam our content to you, so put the kettle on, make yourself comfy on the sofa and join in with the online chats and discussion while watching the online content.

There will be over 20 layouts in videos on our YouTube channel over the weekend, some

club and some club member's projects covering scales N to 0 Gauge also a Garden Railway indoors. Hopefully this will cover all interests and keep you entertained, remember these videos will be on our YouTube so you will be able to view them any time after the event as well.

There will be 5 demonstrations via pre-recorded videos streamed during the 2 days, ideal for learning new skills, along with the Pizzabox challenge where Duncan will attempt to build a 009 layout during the weekend. We will stream content during and after the weekend on our Youtube and Facebook page.

A schedule of the 2 days activities has been uploaded to our website, if you click the link for more information. <http://www.thewarleyshow.co.uk>

We also have the competitions taking place during the weekend so watch out for notifications on the Warley Social Media. We will also have some previous years Warley Limited Edition Bachmann Wagons for sale over the weekend as well.

You can access the virtual event on <http://youtube.com/c/WarleyModelRailwayClub> and www.facebook.com/WarleyMRC.Exhibition. Remember to subscribe to our YouTube Channel and make sure you hit the notification bell to get updates of all the content we upload. We have recently made updates to our YouTube channel so you may need to unsubscribe and subscribe again for the notification bell to work.

We will also be holding a McMillan Virtual Coffee Morning over the weekend of our Virtual Event. So grab your favourite mug, tea or coffee and big slice of cake. Then make yourself comfy on the sofa and if you can please hit the link and make a donation to McMillan Cancer Support. <https://thyg.uk/BUU004751627>

We hope you join us
Andy Hudson
Warley MRC Virtual Event Coordinator

Sunday 29th November 2020

10:00 – 10:30	Virtual Event Welcome
10:30 – 11:30	Scale 4 Society Video Carol from the Loco Ladies Waterfall Diorama tutorial
11:30 – 12:30	Warley MRC 7mm Layout Warley Road Hornby's Simon Kohler meets David Watson from Dean Park
12:30 – 13:30	Squires Centre Piece Locomotive Collection Bachmann Thomas and Friends Video

- 13:30 – 14:30 Warley MRC The Cradle to the Grave, History of the Steam Locomotive
Dodgys Weathering, how to weather a Dapol 16ton Mineral Wagon Part 1
- 14:30 – 15:30 Warley Members Layout Pete Waterman Leamington Spa Lukes APS terrain demonstration video
- 15:30 – 16:30 Hornby's Christmas Gift ideas
Dovetail Games Train Simulator
- 16:30 – 17:30 Warley National Model Railway Exhibition 2021 Preview
Warley MRC Members Projects
- 17:30 – 18:15 Hornby Harry Potter Competition Announcement
Railway Modeller Photographic Plank Competition
Q&A session with The Great Model Railway Judges, Kathy Millat and Steve Flint.

Bonus Footage

- 19:00 - Dodgys Weathering Dapol 16ton Mineral Wagon Part 2

WATERCRESS LINE STEAM GALA – Mike Le Marie

A couple more of Mike's pictures from the Mid-Hants Steam Gala on Sunday 18 October:



S&D 7F 53808



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F&DMRC DIARY

Recent changes in **yellow**. Running starts at **14:00** in WCC (Wrecclesham Community Centre) Hall.

Heading 'Run'g' = Priority use of Hall from 2pm; ALSO Tidy/vacuum Club Room AND Lock up

DIARY 2020 – ALL may change if vaccine available		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Wednesdays: Clubroom available from ~09:00 [use rear entrance]; Hall from 14:00.		
NOTE: Due to Gov't Lockdown, the Club's Programme is again SUSPENDED from Thu-05-Nov-2020 to & incl. Wed-16-Dec; the AGM will continue via Zoom.		
Fri 27 Nov	--	From 00:01hrs - View 'Modelling Competition' entries.
Wed 02 Dec	⊖	
Mon 07 Dec 23:59	--	Online votes for 'Modelling Competition' closes.
Wed 09 Dec	N	19:15 for 19:30 start - AGM via Zoom (details to follow) [within 2 months of Club's year-end; voting only for paid-up 'Full' members]. To help co-ordination, Executive may meet in Secretary's garage. Winners of 'Modelling Competition' announced.
Wed 16 Dec	⊖⊖	Suspended
Sun 20 Dec	--	At 15:00hrs - Club Zoom Meeting
Wed 23 Dec	009	Last Club Day of the year

DIARY 2021 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Wed 06 Jan	O	1st Club Day of the New Year
Wed 13 Jan	N	
Wed 20 Jan	OO	
Wed 27 Jan	009	
More to add		<i>The following are known about events / Shows</i>
Mon 03 May	--	Early May Bank Holiday – usually a Group Open Day
Mon 31 May	--	Spring Bank Holiday – usually a Group Open Day
Sat 12 OR Sun 13 Jun	--	Farnham OO9 Show (other Clubs invited): WCC
Sat 26 & Sun 27 Jun	--	Wickwar (N): Perth Show
Sat 09 & Sun 10 Oct	ALL	F&DMRC Annual Club Show , Aldershot [Most of the layouts that were invited for 2020 will be attending.]
Wed 15 Dec		Dinner (optional) 18:30 for 19:00 @ The Mill House, Odiham
Wed 22 Dec		Last Club Day of the year

DIARY 2022 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Sat 05 & Sun 06 Feb	--	Wickwar (N): Alton
??		Brixcombe at a Show



**AGENDA for the AGM (Annual General Meeting)
to be held on Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 7:30pm
via Zoom [log-in from 7:15pm]**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7862331543?pwd=VUcrY3l5TURWTHVkem1KVVA4Tml3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 786 233 1543 Passcode: Farnham

If you wish to dial in, T: 0203 481 5237 Meeting ID: 786 233 1543 Passcode: 5837533

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
3. Matters arising from those Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers (see Note 1)
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Date of 2021 AGM

Andrew Wrobel

Secretary F&DMRC

Attachment: Minutes of the 2019 AGM

Notes:

1. The following nominations have been received by the closing date:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
Chair	Mike Le Marie	Julian Evison	Noel Leaver
Treasurer	David Mulvey	Martin Woods	Richard Puddephatt
Secretary	Andrew Wrobel **	Richard Puddephatt	David Harrington
Exhibition Manager	Noel Leaver	Andrew Wrobel	Mike Le Marie
O gauge rep.	Julian Evison	Peter Smith	Jim Edwards
P4 gauge rep.	Richard Harris	Paul Huxford	Jim Hampton
OO gauge rep.	Wilf Pateman	Richard Puddephatt	Adrian Jones
OO9 gauge rep.	David Harrington	Mike Le Marie	David Holt
N gauge rep.	Greg Phillips	David Harrington	Andrew Wrobel

** In the absence of nomination(s), this was made in the days before 'Closing'. As per the Constitution, the meeting needs to consider an exceptional 4th year.

2. Time will be made after the closure of the AGM to have an informal discussion on any matter members may wish to raise.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Farnham & District Model Railway Club (F&DMRC) held in the Wrecclesham Community Centre at 20:00 on the 4th December 2019

Present: Richard Puddephatt - Chair
Andrew Wrobel - Secretary
Martin Woods - Treasurer
plus 31 'Full' Members

The Chair opened the Meeting, welcomed those present, then asked the Secretary to confirm that the Meeting had been called in accordance with the Constitution and was quorate; the Secretary confirmed this was the case. [Before the meeting, the accounts showed that 42 'Full' members had paid, a few more paid on the evening; 25% needed.]

Item 1 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: David Bristow, Keith Wright, Chris Webster, Julian Evison, Ian George, John Scambler.

Item 2 – Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The Secretary confirmed that the 2018 AGM's Minutes had been circulated to Members along with the Agenda; also, a copy had been posted since 16th January 2019. He therefore asked the Meeting to deem the Minutes read.

Proposed: Mike Le Marie and seconded: Wilf Pateman; carried unanimously.

Item 3 – Matters arising from those Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Item 4 – Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked the Club's Officers for their contributions and support; plus to all the membership for their friendliness, enthusiasm and participation. He then gave a comprehensive review of the past Club-year, the highlights being:

- **Club Newsletter 'Whistleblower'** Thanks to Julian Evison for 3 years effort, he is standing-down after Jan-2019 edition;
- **Winter/Spring Workshops** David Harrington and supporters covered a variety of valuable topics;
- **45th Club Exhibition** Despite bad weather, numbers nearly reached the 2018 record. Particular thanks to Noel Leaver (layouts & overall), Mike Le Marie (traders) and Keith Wright (for excellent local-spread of banners and catering); and those on the again successful 2nd-hand stall;
- **Layouts** 'Wickwar' won the Calvert trophy at Warley; 009 have 14 boards under construction; OO layout is close to completion; O and P4 also had successful outings. Also, he thanked those members who took their own layouts to Shows and promoted our Club's skills & existence;

- **Support** Pete Tigg had provided endless maintenance support for members, visitors and some recent youngsters. The Chair stressed that the latter are vital to the hobby and hoped that the Club would increase it's advice & support to them;
- **2020 Exhibition** The hope that another small charity layout, in any scale, can be produced and by a multi-gauge team – notifications to the Chair;
- **Earlier Opening** This had proved popular; it was also an Agenda item.

Item 5 – Treasurer’s Report

[Members were circulated with copies of the accounts / explanatory notes immediately prior to the meeting.]

The Treasurer thanked David Mulvey (Assistant Treasurer) and Les Inwood (Assessor) for all their contribution, especially at the Exhibition. The year ending 31st October 2019 was another financial ‘good year’.

Highlights of Martin’s report were:

- Nett surplus was £2.5k, although less than last year which included the sale of three club layouts;
- Accumulated Funds increased by the surplus to £36k;
- Increasing use of online banking reduces the administrative workload and thanks to those who paid by their subscriptions by bank transfer, currently 75%;
- Final results for the Annual Exhibition were £6.1k, very similar to last year and our ‘Open Days’ continue to make money;
- Bank interest increased to £244, primarily due to our new deposit with Skipton Building Society. [Les Inwood noted that there could be tax implications if interest exceeded £100 and the Treasurer undertook to investigate this matter.]

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mike Le Marie and seconded by Wilf Pateman; carried unanimously.

Item 6 – Election of Officers

The following had been received by the closing date for nominations:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
Chair	Richard Puddephatt	David Harrington	Greg Phillips
Treasurer	Martin Woods	David Harrington	Richard Puddephatt
Secretary	Andrew Wrobel	Andy Brown	David Harrington
Exhibition Manager	Noel Leaver	Andy Brown	Alan Riches
O gauge rep.	Julian Evison	Jim Edwards	Les Inwood
P4 gauge rep.	Richard Harris	Paul Huxford	Jim Hampton
OO gauge rep.	Wilf Pateman	Richard Puddephatt	David Bentley
OO9 gauge rep.	David Harrington	Peter Tigg	Julian Evison
N gauge rep.	Greg Phillips	David Harrington	Tim Casserley

The meeting agreed to the Agenda's motion 1, proposed by Andy Brown and Eric Adriaensen, to vote en-bloc; carried unanimously.

Item 7 – Appointment of Independent Assessor

The meeting unanimously thanked and agreed to Les Inwood continuing in the role.

Item 8 – Opening Time of 2pm – has it worked?

The main messages: Costs ~£600 / year; Avoids hanging around after the morning Club-Room working; One group have sadly been leaving earlier and thus not contributing to clear-up. Generally felt that all the Groups had made good use of the earlier start, though do need to monitor and encourage staying-on to participate with those who are NOT retired. No vote considered necessary.

Item 9 – Magazine Subscriptions – continue Trial?

They have been widely read, though should NOT be borrowed until at least 3 months old; can be taken or articles cut-out after 12 months. Treasurer felt that the Club has monies to continue or even extend. This was welcomed and in addition to 'R.Modeller', 'BRM' and 'Hornby'; it was agreed to also trial 'Model Railway Journal' and 'Model Rail'.

Item 10 – Rental of a Broadband connection at the Centre, only for use by Members?

Andy Brown presented the background, viz. wider automation/software skills for the increased use of software on tablets, etc. and cost of ~£250/year. On-site Internet access would enable skills/transfer and on-site software development. After much discussion it was agreed that the GPC should make enquiries of the Hall Committee to clarify why they had removed Internet access and whether a new option might be possible. It was noted that another Hall paid ~£50/mth and this was provided to all Hall users.

Item 11 – Purchase of a 3D Laser Cutter/Engraver?

This topic followed the excellent August talk by and experiences of the Risborough Club. Brian Cresey was unclear whether there was Club interest. The costs and implications were explored; the decision being that our Club does not yet have those with either the time or inclination to devote to this, especially as the Centre is probably not suitable and the equipment would have to be sited at a members' house [as is the case for Risborough]. However, both 3D Laser Cutter and Printer technology/interest should be monitored by the GPC, and could acceptably be raised again at the 2020 AGM.

Item 12 – Date of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on Wednesday 9th December 2020, again at 19:30. The meeting closed at ~9pm, being followed by other informal discussions [noted separately for GPC consideration].

FARNHAM & DISTRICT MRC

AGM 2019/20 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What a year it has been!!! While the virus had started at the time of our last AGM, no-one could have foreseen the havoc it would cause throughout 2020. Sadly it has dominated almost everything the Club has set out to do during the year.

2020 began well for the Club with 60 Full Members for the year plus 1 Junior and 8 Associate Members giving 69 in total making this potentially a very good year. Warning signs then began to appear and by the end of March the first lockdown was in operation.

By the middle of May it was apparent that this was not going to be a short, sharp knock. The first decision the Committee had to make was whether to continue to organise the annual exhibition in October. Sadly the decision was taken not to hold the show in 2020. This would mean a substantial financial shortfall in the Club's income as well as a big disappointment for the show's organising team led by Noel and Mike. Needless to say our Club was not alone in taking that decision.

Fortunately, it was not all doom and gloom and a number of the Groups were able to take advantage of the excellent summer weather and the outdoor facilities offered by some members, and layouts were put up over a number of weeks to allow many members to meet, run trains and enjoy picnics!!

By the end of August, the Government rules had been relaxed sufficiently for the Hall Trustees to allow usage of the premises again and a rota was circulated to all members advising that restricted Club activities would resume. It was not ideal but at least group members could again meet together up to a maximum of 6 at any one time. Each Group was allocated a Wednesday afternoon in the main hall for layouts to be erected and run.

Thanks to Julian's ownership of a Zoom subscription, we have been able to hold a monthly "virtual Club meeting" on a Sunday afternoon where members can show the modelling they have been doing over the lockdown and after as well as chew over the fat on subjects of their choice. Anywhere between 12 and 20 members have been on air each time and it has been yet another way for us to get together.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Jon Faulconer who has done a sterling job in editing the extra Whistleblower editions every fortnight throughout this year. He has been ably helped by all those members who provided articles and photographs – and quizzes!!! Thank you to all of you.

Finally, it meant a different approach to the annual Modelling Competition this time. It has had to be held on-line rather than in the flesh but I am pleased to say that entries have been almost as high as a "normal" year. Voting has taken place and the results will be announced at this AGM. Thank you to Richard Harris and Noel for their help in organising this novel approach to the competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who helped in any way to overcome the difficulties put in our way and allow us to continue our hobby in as much as we could. From a personal perspective it gave me a chance to get out of the house and meet friends again and it gave Bron the opportunity to have a bit of peace and quiet without having the "Grumpy Old Man" mooching about the place!

Thank you also to the members of the Committee for your support over this year and to our Secretary and Treasurers for their particular help. To our members, thank you for your forbearance throughout this year.

From where we stand as at today, it does look as if there is light at the end of the tunnel although how soon that tunnel ends is still open to conjecture. Vaccines have appeared and therefore, hopefully, we could be back in action again sometime during 2021 and – fingers crossed – we will have our annual exhibition in October.

To all of you, stay safe and stay well.

Richard Puddephatt

FARNHAM & DISTRICT MRC

TREASURER'S REPORT

In preparation for our forthcoming AGM Meeting by Zoom, the accounts are being circulated in Whistleblower this year for your advance information. There are three documents, namely the Income & Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the accompanying Narrative.

As I appreciate the ability to ask questions in a Zoom environment can be somewhat challenging, if anyone has any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is martinwoods@ic24.net.

I would also like to add a further reminder for any subscriptions which are now overdue. For bank transfers, the necessary details are Account Name: **Farnham Model Railway Club**, Sort Code **40-21-05**, and Account No. **91036998**. For those who still prefer to pay by cheque, my address is **Mead House, Weston Patrick, Nr. Basingstoke, Hants. RG25 2NX**.

Martin Woods
Treasurer

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE 2019/20 ACCOUNTS

APPRECIATIONS

Thanks to Les Inwood for examining the Annual Accounts and to David Mulvey for his help as Assistant Treasurer during the course of the year.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Covid pandemic affected our finances in a number of ways resulting in a deficit of £1,770 for this year compared with a surplus last year of £2,501. Nonetheless, our total accumulated funds, only marginally reduced by that deficit, remains at a relatively high level of £34,178.

The major negative financial impacts of 'lock-down' were:-

- Income lost by the cancellation of our Annual Exhibition and some Open Days.
- Compensation granted to Full Members for the reduction in club facilities.

The offsetting positive financial impacts of 'lock-down' were: -

- Cancellation of hall rents for the period of the first 'lock-down'
- Reduced spending by Group on their club layouts

INCOME

Subscriptions

Fee paying membership has reduced by 5 from 69 to 64. Current membership comprises of 54 Full Members, 9 Associate Members and 1 Junior Member.

Annual Exhibition

This was unfortunately cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The minor income showing of £11 relates to a late adjustment for the prior year.

Open Days

Just one Open Day was held this year with net takings of £396 less rent of £75, giving a total of £321. Tea & Coffee money of £63 collected from the Club Room has been added.

Club Sales

Sales only of layout boards from club stock with no other sales recorded in this year.

Bank Interest

The minor decrease was due to continued fall in interest rates.

EXPENDITURE

Rent

The decrease is due to the Hall Committee waiving their quarterly rent for the period of 'lock down'. Payments have since resumed and are now paid up to the end of December which, of course, now cover the second 'lock down' period. The earlier Wednesday opening time of 2 o'clock has also been resumed for the cost is shown separately as Extra rent.

Covid Rebate

This is the calculated maximum amount to be granted if all Full Members take advantage when renewing their subscriptions for next year.

Insurance

Is underwritten by Walker Midgley, taking advantage of their scheme for Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies. The supporting Asset Register requires an update.

Club Tools & Accessories

Acquired items continue to be written-off upon purchase.

Administrative Costs

Although comparable in total with last year, there was a substantial reduction in purely administrative costs which was offset by the cost of £233 for additional magazines purchased.

Workshops

Only a few club workshops were held early in the year before 'lock-down'. There were no associated costs.

Group Spends

As mentioned, spend was severely curtailed due to the inability to work on club layouts during 'lock down' and the subsequent restricted access to the club. The apparent anomaly of the credit showing for the 7mm Group is due to there being no expenditure with only money received from a Railway Modeller published article arranged the previous year.

BALANCE SHEET

Our total accumulated funds decreased this year by our deficit and are represented by our bank accounts less our liabilities owing at the year end.