

# “WHISTLEBLOWER”

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

27 June 2021 – Edition No 13/21

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Mike Le Marie**

We have recently had a problem with a user of the main hall who complained about our members going through the main hall to access the club room and the toilets. May I remind members that when the main hall is in use the hirer has exclusive rights to that area and our members should not enter. Access to the clubroom should be via the backdoor to the basement and members wishing to use the toilet should go via the basement and front doors. Unfortunately, weather cannot be used as an excuse for sneaking through the hall.

What this has revealed is that some of our keyholders do not have a full set of hall keys. This is being dealt with as quickly as possible.

Hopefully, if Boris gives us freedom on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, then this will become less of a problem as normal club activities can be recommenced.

### **EDITORIAL – Jon Faulconer**

The Freedom Day on 14<sup>th</sup> June did not materialise, so we continue with the restrictions that allow our Club use, albeit in limited numbers. The Secretary has provided a new Club Access Schedule and updated the Club Diary, both are attached at the end of Edition. Whilst the limitations restrict Club's activities, it is reassuring to hear about the arrangements Groups are making to meet up and successfully conduct their business, as witnessed by the N Gauge Group in the article below.

The OO9 Group have their Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August that on present expectations should be able to take place. Likewise, the Club has its exhibition in Aldershot over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> October. Hopefully, by then we will all be vaccinated and some sort of normality will have returned.

The next Edition of Whistleblower will be Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July, grateful for inputs of article and photos on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

## N GAUGE GROUP WORK ON NEW EXHIBITION LAYOUT

Wickwar has proved popular on the exhibition circuit and now the N Gauge Group are discussing what comes next. Criteria includes: the display be based on a real site and within range for “gentlemen’s days out”; spectator interest maintained with continuous activity and information; exploit modern technology for the display to be operated by only 4 operators. Various sites were considered from the Ford Junction to Saltash with the Tamar bridge and an operating ferry, to Weymouth including the line through the town to the ferry terminal. Although not finally committed, the focus is currently settled on Okehampton Station with the Meldon quarry and viaduct.

To establish some momentum following the recent lockdowns, Andrew Wrobel kindly hosted a session to draw the potential track layout at 9mm scale, at this stage we were concentrating on just the viaduct and quarry. On completion of all the drawing, we were rewarded with an excellent BBQ; the weather was glorious and the gathered ensemble relaxed enough to put to right real-world issues and how they should be addressed by the government. Following lunch, it was back to reality and the roll of wallpaper was rolled out on the lawn so that we could admire the morning’s work, as well as start considering the practical issues of how we make it work.



These strategic discussions were interrupted by Andrew’s robot lawnmower deciding to trim the lawn. Having taken exception to the grass being trampled by a rum bunch of modellers, it attacked the Chairman and made a bee line for his feet. Ever the gentleman, Mike bravely remonstrated with it to change course but in the end had to give it a nudge (kick) to move away. Notwithstanding the potential damage to Mike’s foot, the real danger was that the robot would shred the track plan. Finally, tea at the end of the day included scones and jam, needless to say the discussion then focused on how scones should be loaded – Okehampton being in Devon, no argument.

Last Wednesday, the N Gauge Group had the Clubroom and WCC Hall and able to spread the viaduct / quarry track plan out along with the one that Mike Le Marie had drawn up for Okehampton Station. The question now was how to combine these two plans and operate them as a single display, as well as generate an area for the fiddle yard. Discussions evolved for the 2 track plans being “bent” into a large



“U” shape to provide sufficient length for the major features along the main line. Similarly, there needs to be the board width to allow important scenic detail and particularly the quarry shunting yard, which is planned to enable loaded trains to be built and despatched – a key element intended for the display’s operations.

Whilst a great deal of progress has been achieved for the track plan, there is still a great deal of important operational detail that has yet to be resolved, including the type of fiddle yard and its management. In terms of building strategy for this layout, a modular approach is being considered, such that the Okehampton Station element is completed initially and made operational before addressing the quarry and viaduct. However, before anything can be finalised, a site visit or two are necessary for the important “gentlemen’s days out”.

## **A COAL STAITHE FOR WEYDON ROAD – Robin Baker**

*This is the second of Robin’s articles describing the construction of facilities for Weydon Road. This article was published in the May 2006 Railway Modeller.*

As part of the scenery, and to justify the coal wagons, a coal yard was required for the layout. I volunteered (idiot) to build a set of coal staithes from sleepers left over from the track building.

Using Mek-pak, I glued several sleepers together horizontally to make up the back of the staithes. Sufficient sleepers were used to provide the height so when the wagon door is opened, it would rest on the top of the sleepers, the coal then shovelled into the staithes. This operation caused me to ask, “how was the drop down-door opened?”

I still use solid fuel and I know the effort required to lift the sliding hatch, which is a foot square (300 mm), when my coal bunker is full and my one contains less than a ton. When one examines the construction of the old coal wagons, releasing the drop-down door of a fully loaded 10-ton wagon must have been exciting. Hmm.

Back to the coal staithe. I joined 3 sets of horizontal sleepers together with vertical sleepers at the joins which would have had about half their length buried in the ground, similar to a larger type of compost heap. The ends and dividers were constructed in a similar manner and glued to the back. Once the adhesive had set, the assembly was painted “dirty black” and when dry, planted onto the layout using neat PVA adhesive, the staithes being placed so that the empty coal wagons could be moved up to the end of the siding.

Once the adhesive had set, suitable coal was piled into the staithes and secured with diluted PVA adhesive, as used in securing the track ballast. All that is wanted now is the coalman, lorry, sacks and scales.



## NEW LAYOUT – Jim Edwards Part 10

*Jim has continued to make progress with his New Layout, as shown below:*

The river bed was sealed with Woodland scenic hunter green water undercoat and some small stone were glued down. The water was made from 2 packs of Woodland scenic deep pour water and murky tint was added. This is a two part resin and took some time to make.



The station building is slowly coming along.



Most of the time has been spent painting figures, animals and small items.





Finally, two of the boards have now got temporary back boards.



## F&DMRC CLUB ADMISSION ROTA – **New Step-4 date**

### Gov't STEP-3 : min 2, max. 6 members on the premises at any one time

The Club's Constitution [chap. 9.1], Handbook [chap. 6.1] and 'Health & Safety Policy' all refer to the safety and well-being of members. In re-opening the Club's activities, remember:

- the Club reserves the right to refuse membership or otherwise restrict attendance where the safety of other members appears likely to be compromised through wilful or accidental neglect of Government Infectious Diseases' guidelines, rules or regulations;
- **each Group Leader** will decide their own way of controlling numbers and ensuring fairness of occupancy;
- until further notice, an 'Attendance Log' **must** be completed by all attendees;
- in the event of a member testing Covid-19 'positive' at any time, the Club's Secretary and Chair **must** immediately be informed by phone or e-mail: [Chairman@farnhammrc.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@farnhammrc.org.uk) and [Secretary@farnhammrc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@farnhammrc.org.uk) ;
- there is no pressure to attend, it is each member's choice as to when comfortable to come.

Week	Day & Date	Group	Club-room	Main Hall	Hall in use by other body
28-Jun	Mon	OO	Yes	Not available	am: Mother & Baby Group
	Tue	OO9	Yes	Not available	??
	<b>Wed 30-Jun</b>	<b>P4? / OO9</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes after 2 pm</b>	??
	Thu 01-Jul	N	Yes	Not available	??
	Fri	O	Yes	Not available	??
05-Jul	Mon	O	Yes	Not available	am: Mother & Baby Group
	Tue	OO	Yes	Not available	??
	<b>Wed 07-Jul</b>	<b>OO9</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes after 2 pm</b>	??
	Thu	P4	Yes	Not available	??
	Fri	N	Yes	Not available	??
12-Jul	Mon	N	Yes	Not available	am: Mother & Baby Group
	Tue	O	Yes	Not available	??
	<b>Wed 14-Jul</b>	<b>OO</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes after 2 pm</b>	??
	Thu	OO9	Yes	Not available	??
	Fri	P4	Yes	Not available	??
<b>Mon-19-Jul is planned Gov't revised STEP-4 : some Covid Rules may remain.</b>					

**Sat & Sun:** To be booked via the Secretary on a first come, first served basis. NB. There was little use in 2020, so most requests should be OK.

If the Main Hall is occupied use only the Basement entrance, the Clubroom and Toilet. The keyholder to place notice '**Railway Clubroom in-use, do NOT set Alarm**' on alarm console.

When leaving the Clubroom, wipe: Door handles, Light switches, etc. – if the Hall is still in-use you **MUST** use the back entrance.

If the Keyholder needs to access the Main Entrance, wipe the touched door handles, light switches and alarm system; also place the '**Railway Club NOT on-site, set Alarm**' notice on alarm console.

Toilets must be Dettol sprayed after use, we have supplies in Clubroom.

# F&DMRC DIARY

**Recent changes.** See also: ['Daily Admission Rota' for Mon-Fri Clubroom usage]

Clubroom available from ~09:00 [ **Un-set Alarm, then use rear entrance, i.e. avoid Hall** ]

**If someone else is using the Hall, members MUST NOT enter Hall or Kitchen before 14:00.**

Wednesday running starts at **14:00**.

**'Run'g' = Priority use of Hall; ALSO tidy/vacuum Clubroom AND lock-up**

Runn'g Sequence: O, N, P4, 009 and OO [P4 temporarily standing-down]

DIARY 2021 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
<i>The following are known about events / Shows – all subject to change</i>		
Wed 30 Jun	OO9	OO9 boards
Wed 07 Jul	OO9	OO9 boards <b>BIG NOTE:</b> 'Farnham Dance' are filming a <b>dance exam</b> between <b>11:45 - 13:35; no loud noise</b> from tools or talking in the Clubroom or Basement.
Wed 14 Jul	OO	
Fri 16 – Mon 19 Jul	N	<b>N-Gauge Forum:</b> Free virtual event of pre-recorded presentations of ~25 layouts. Q&A sessions with Steve Flint and Ben Arnold. Join any time at <a href="http://www.ngfshow21.weebly.com">www.ngfshow21.weebly.com</a>
Wed 21 Jul	O	
Wed 28 Jul	N	This <b>may</b> be when the Clubroom & Hall are not 'Rule-of-6'
		<more dates once Gov't restrictions definitely removed>
Sat 14 Aug		Evening preparation for <b>Farnham OO9 Show</b>
Sun 15 Aug		<b>Farnham OO9 Open Day</b> (OO9 Society & others): WCC Hall
Sat 11 & Sun 12 Sep		<b>TINGS</b> (The International N Gauge Show), Warwickshire Event Centre, CV31 1XN [As at 26-Feb: Advance tickets not yet avail.]
Wed 06 Oct	ALL	<b>Briefing for Show 18:30</b> in Clubroom/Hall
Fri 08 Oct	ALL	<b>Set-up Club Show – from late afternoon</b>
Sat 09 & Sun 10 Oct	ALL	<b>F&amp;DMRC Annual Club Show</b> , Aldershot [Most of the layouts that were invited for 2020 will be attending.]
Sat 27 & Sun 28 Nov		<b>Model Railway Show: Warley</b>
Wed 08 Dec		<b>19:15 for 19:30 start - AGM</b> (details to follow) [within 2 months of Club's year-end; voting only for paid-up 'Full' members].
Sat 11 & 12 Dec		<b>Wickwar (N):</b> Manchester MRC, Barnes Wallis building, Manchester, M1 7JA <b>Decision by MMRS mid-July earliest</b>
Wed 15 Dec		Dinner (optional) 18:30 for 19:00 @ The Mill House, Odiham
Wed 22 Dec		<b>Last Club Day of the year</b>

DIARY 2022 – ALL are subject to change / cancellation		
Date	Run'g	Event / Layout at Exhibition/Show
Sun 16 Jan		<b>Astolat show:</b> Julian's 16.5mm layout; poss'y OO9 members' layout 'Straight & Narrow'. Richard Meyjes Rd, Guildford, GU2 7AD
Sat 05 & Sun 06 Feb	--	<b>Wickwar (N) and Brixcombe (P4):</b> FEBEX, Alton
Sat 25 & Sun 26 Jun	--	<b>Wickwar (N):</b> Perth Show

Sat 10 & Sun 11 Sep	--	REC (Railway Enthusiasts Club), Woking Leisure Centre
Fri 07 Oct	ALL	Set-up Show – <i>from late afternoon</i>
Sat 08 & Sun 09 Oct	ALL	F&DMRC Annual Club Show, Aldershot [Wickwar and ??]

**And finally, courtesy of Robin Baker**



**Ahhh, I am tired**