

B&DSME News

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The monthly club
newsletter for
Bournemouth &
District Society of
Model Engineers

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June News

Chairmans Thoughts

I start with a reminder, our open Weekend is the 17th & 18th June and any help by members would be appreciated even it's just for a couple of hours on either day. On Saturday afternoon there will be a BBQ at 3.30pm.

The June meeting will not be at the Muscliff Centre but a BBQ at Littledown for Gauge O Guild so bring your locos for an evening run. Cakes would be appreciated for Sunday 18th and Wednesday 21st June please.

The Speedy had its first outing this year after being repaired. It steamed quite well with just a few leaks from various fittings then onto the track and still going well got to the station platform and the blower would not turn off panic! Dave Finn went for some tools and it was duly adjusted. Set off again but the fire had started to die OK lets see if it will pull up by driving it, well off we go but with no luck it died completely just half way down the first straight. Dave pushed me off the track and suggested we try to relight the fire but still no luck. So back to the steaming bay, drop what was left of the fire and have a look over the loco, it seems I did not seal the boiler to the smoke box and of course had no vacuum to pull the fire through, well you learn by your mistakes. So it's now back on the bench and hopefully will back to the track in a few weeks time.

Hopefully some of you will be returning the voting forms for the Editor's position and Post of Events coordinator!

On a last note it may be an idea to discourage members of public to refrain from smoking whilst riding on our trains as the weather has improved and the grass dried out. Drivers also need to be vigilant with the present state of the grass. David Martin

Ramblings

So the AGM is on its way and at this meeting all officers retire, including Brian & myself. Enclosed with this newsletter are voting forms to elect the officers for next year so democracy can have the final word. As usual the members of the club are probably happy with the efforts of the committee and find no need for change, or maybe do you? Remember its your club, the committee are merely representatives of your opinions so if you want a change and feel that you or someone you think has the time and effort required to sit on the committee then grab a pen and fill the form in. Who knows you might just be the perfect person for the job.

I wondered if anyone was interested in attending a couple of societies open days this year. The ones in question are, Frimley & Ascot and Oxford Dreaming Spires event. I shall be attending both armed with the Brit and the Polly. Last year these two events proved to be the best, with good food and very friendly home members. I have a new larger (although not as large as some members who have to extend garages to make them fit!) camper van this year so if you fancy it why not give these two events a try you won't be disappointed. I have put the dates of other society's events back in this month, just as a refresher. These and other dates are available in the Southern Federation Newsletter which until I nicked (sorry borrowed) the clubs copy, didn't realise that for the sum of £7.50 you can get your own copy four times a year and a jolly good read it is. The March issue features the Bristol society, they have a magnificent set up, raised, ground level, proper station, signalling and all from running a marvellous exhibition coming up soon, I read in the engine shed that our club has been invited to attend and have a stand, anyone doing this? No, oh well see you there maybe. ED

Diary Dates

Date	Event / Speaker
17-18-Jun-06	Club open weekend, BarBQ on Saturday Evening, Club members help required over the weekend, for this event.
21-Jun-06	“0” Gauge Guild to visit Littledown, 1800 hrs until late. BarBQ. During the evening.
19-Jul-06	AGM + 2nd Bits & Pieces
29-30-Jul	“Grand Charity Weekend” Luscombe Valley Railway
16-Aug-06	BBQ Littledown Triple A Triathlon
20-Aug-06	Charity Day. This year will be for the ‘First Opportunity Group’
9-10-Sep	“Autumn Running Weekend” Luscombe Valley Railway
20-Sep-06	Dick Ganderton - Railway Wheels and Track
18-Oct-06	Keith Shepard - The foundry and its technology in 2006
9 - 12 Nov-06	4th Echtdampf Treffen Koln
15-Nov-06	Ladies night
20-Dec-06	Christmas Party
23-Dec-06	“Humbug Day” Luscombe Valley Railway
Other Notable Dates	
8 - 9 July	Guildford MES Exhibition
22 - 23 July	Oxford SME Dreaming Spires
11 - 12 Aug	Frimley & Ascot Open Day
18- 20 Aug	Bristol Society Exhibition

Member Profile

This month's Member Profile is of a man who has crammed so much into one lifetime, it is hard to know where to start. Geoff Wright is the son of a clergyman, but felt no calling himself and occupied his energies in the armed forces. Unusually serving in the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force but not all at the same time. At the start of the war he commenced basic training in the Army, but after a twenty-mile route march, decided that it was not for him. Reasoning there would be less foot slogging in the Navy, he volunteered to join them and was immediately accepted, finishing up in the Fleet Air Arm as a pilot, where he saw more than his fair share of action, much of it against the Japanese. At some point in all of this, he spent time riding a motorbike as a dispatch rider, something he enjoyed even though it could be very dangerous at times. When Japan surrendered, Geoff found

himself in Hong Kong where he commandeered a Japanese motorcycle and sidecar. On starting the engine and engaging gear found himself travelling backwards towards the harbour edge. He had no idea that it was possible for a motorbike and sidecar to be equipped with a reverse gear. After a while some sailors took it away to load onto their ship; they probably thought it was time for them to have a play. Looking for an alternative form of transport Geoff saw a Sunbeam Talbert car travelling along the road; he put up his hand and stopped it, telling the driver he was commandeering the vehicle. When the driver complained, he drew his gun and the matter was settled. This remained his personal transport until leaving for home. The Navy demobbed him as a sub-lieutenant. It was then he volunteered as a reserve pilot with the RAF and remained there for some years. At the time of the Korean War they asked him if he would fly a jet fighter in action, but as a newly-wed he said he could only do that if they recalled him, as he would not receive approval from his wife. He was sent to America to receive training to fly fighter jet planes, but the RAF decided it was unwise to rely on volunteers for this work and decided to rely solely on full time pilots, so Geoff never saw action again. He explained that this was probably a good thing as the Koreans had Russian Mig fighters that were superior to the RAF planes.

Naturally like most of us he has had to earn an income and has spent 40 years working as a solicitor, a job he did not greatly enjoy, finding much of it tedious. He said that he would like to have been a judge but that was never an option at that time.

Model Engineering became part of his list of interests after the war, when he helped a friend build a model locomotive. This led on to some 20 models, including 2 traction engines, a steam lorry, 8 locomotives and three planes. At the time he moved from Guildford to Ferndown, he donated one of the traction engines to the Guildford ME Society, which they have named in his honour. Look out for it at the annual Guildford Rally.

Although Geoff is suffering a lot of pain from a hip that needs a complete replacement, this does not stop him pursuing his interests. He recently took a helicopter lesson and wants to carry on after his operation, hopefully in the not too distant future. Though he admits bungee jumping and parachuting are probably out of the question now. However he has driven a bus, flown gliders, micro lights and hot air balloons. He has also sailed a land yacht capable of 55mph! This just scratches the surface of a very interesting and charming man. My thanks to Geoff for allowing me to write this. Brian Merrifield

