

Chairman's Thoughts

Our Society's first event of 2009 will be the Cream Tea Sunday on 25th April and Peggy has asked if anyone, male or female, would like to make some cakes. But please, only cakes this time. I believe one of our male members did make a fruit cake last year. Thank you.

This time last year I was very fortunate to be one of the lucky ones who are able to have Wednesdays at the track, but fate struck me a blow and I was offered a job. Now all I can do is remember those days fondly when I am stuck in front of the computer at work. Still only another 2,500 days till I retire - unless the Lotto comes up.

At the last Committee Meeting we spent part of the evening discussing our forthcoming IMLEC and it is evident that we are going to need every member of the Society to help for the two days of the event. So, no booking holidays or a weekend away for that date. Only a full doctor's certificate will suffice for non attendance.

Would the person or persons like to fill their locos with the watering can they used to mix plasticiser in as it tends to make the water very frothy and what a job it is to wash it out? We now have some new watering cans and they are only to be used for water to fill up locos - nothing else please. This brings me on to another matter, we need to start collecting 2 litre / 4 pint plastic milk containers for IMLEC, but they need to be rinsed out with water only, no washing up liquid, otherwise we could have some very upset Competitors on the day. I also believe that one of our Ladies is now collecting the coloured plastic milk container tops, so please start saving them.

As we have quite a few new members I would like to point out that anything that is left in the Engine Shed at any time, even when the building is open, is left at the owner's own risk, as the Society is not insured for anything in any of our buildings. So please think twice if you intend leaving your loco or any other items at the track.

Work is about to start on the refurbishment of our toilet facilities. A screen with a door is to be erected around the urinal, the sink will be replaced and the hand drier will be repaired followed by some tiles and a coat of paint. It is also rumoured that we may get a new water heater in the kitchen to get over having the plastic ice cream tub to catch the drips. So we will need Members to give the area a lick of paint when the work has been completed.

The next Committee Meeting is at 7.30 pm, 28th April 2010, at The Littledown Centre.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

It looks as if Spring has finally arrived. My picture shows three of our older members enjoying a great day out at Beaulieu. Mike Durham and Charlie Betteridge watch John Hoyle getting ready to fly his Comet powered by his home made replica Miles 1.3cc Diesel engine.

The Entry List for IMLEC 2010 has now closed and the thirty Entry Forms that were returned in their anonymous brown envelopes will be drawn at the next Society Meeting at Muscliffe Community Centre on Wednesday 21st April. I wonder if we will have any interested visitors to witness the draw?

Don't forget Richard Knott's 3 1/2" Gauge Day on Saturday 24th April at Littledown. I know that there are several 3 1/2" gauge locos in the Society, but Richard tells me that not many of you have let him know that you will be attending. He will be very disappointed if the attendance is poor, so get that 3 1/2" Gauge loco from under the bench and please, **do let Richard know that you will be there.**

Have you checked your boiler certificate recently - all three parts of it? With the Hydraulic Test now lasting four years it is easy to forget when it's due. Quite a few will be expiring this year and if you find that your Steam Test expires before the Hydraulic the new steam test will only be valid up to the expiry date of the Hydraulic - be warned.

Dick Ganderton



Photograph by Dick Ganderton

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Model Engineering Events

7th to 9th May 2010

National Model Engineering & Modelling Exhibition, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate HG2 8PW. More information go to www.theharrogateshow.com/ or contact info@theharrogateshow.com or Tel: 08432 897931.

15th & 16th May 2010

Southern Federation of Model Engineering Societies, Spring Rally. Leeds Society of Model & Experimental Engineers, Eggborough Power Station. 5" & 3 1/2" Gauge and traction engines welcome. Open running on the Sunday. Light refreshments, Bring & Buy, Camping (tents & caravans, pre-booking by e-mail leeds.smee@virgin.net or telephone 01977 798138). For further details visit the Leeds SMEE web site at <http://sites.google.com/site/leedssmee>

Direction of Running

Sunday	11 th April	Clockwise *	Wednesday	14 th April	Anticlockwise
Sunday	18 th April	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	21 st April	Clockwise
Sunday	25 th April	Clockwise *	Wednesday	28 th April	Anticlockwise
Sunday	2 nd May	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	5 th May	Clockwise
Sunday	9 th May	Clockwise *	Wednesday	12 th May	Anticlockwise
Sunday	16 th May	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	19 th May	Clockwise
Sunday	23 rd May	Clockwise *	Wednesday	26 th May	Anticlockwise
Sunday	30 th May	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	2 nd June	Anticlockwise

* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

B&DSME Diary Dates

21 st April 2010	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre. <i>IMLEC 2010 Draw.</i>
24 th April 2010	Richard Knott's 3 1/2" Gauge Day. Littledown Miniature Railway. Please note that this is a Saturday.
25 th April 2010	Cream Teas and St. George's Day Run. Littledown Miniature Railway.
6 th May 2010	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); CANCELLED
15 th May 2010	Polly Rally, Littledown Miniature Railway. Please note that this is a Saturday.
9 th June 2010	Visit to GOG, Wimborne. 7.00 pm. Quarter Jack Suite, Allendale Centre, Wimborne. <i>We are guests of the GOG.</i>
16 th June 2010	Monthly Meeting; 7.00 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Entertaining GOG and MERG members. BBQ.</i>
19 th & 20 th June 2009	Open Weekend; Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Entertaining visitors from other Societies. (Visitors with locos have precedence over B&DSME Members.) Help will be needed from our Members, please.</i>
3 rd & 4 th July 2010	IMLEC 2010; Littledown Miniature Railway. <i>Help will be needed from as many of our Members as possible, please.</i>

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Cobweb Run	April 17 th & 18 th
Summer Gala	July 24 th & 25 th
Autumn Run	September 4 th & 5 th
Humbug Day	December 18 th

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You Are All Needed To Help

The Society's calendar is very crowded in June and July. Please ensure that you keep your diary free so that you can help run the events at Littledown.

Several other Societies are also running events that clash with our Open Weekend - please don't be tempted as we need your help at Littledown.

Newsletter By E-mail

If you want to receive your copy of the Society's monthly *Newsletter* as a .pdf file, in full colour, you **must** let Dick know, by e-mail, sent from the computer you want to receive it on.

Cream Tea Sunday and IMLEC 2010 Catering

Ladies, I would be most grateful for some cakes for the Cream Tea Sunday on 25th April. Not scones, please, just cakes. Teas will be served during the afternoon.

IMLEC 2010. I would like to make up a rota for serving teas and coffees to Competitors and Members throughout the two days of this event. If you are able to help with this please let me have your name and when you would be available.

Peggy Ganderton

3 1/2" Gauge Open Day

Richard Knott is organising a one-day rally on Saturday April 24th exclusively for 3.5" Gauge locos at Littledown. There will be a competition for the best turned out loco and the best performer. (Richard will not be allowed to enter with his *Maisie*, seen here at Littledown!)

Also light refreshments, tea and coffee will be available throughout the day. Connie has hinted that there will be carrot cake!

So come on, stop staring at that loco and get renovating. We know there are at least a dozen or more lurking under shelves and benches out there.

See you there!



16mm Update

Over the past few weeks there has been some discussion regarding gas tanks for our 16mm scale locomotives as some construction details and test procedures are a little hazy.

Let me explain. Butane has a boiling/vaporising temperature of 0.6°C, which is all right during the summer months. But during cold winters one would have great difficulty in getting the burner to light. Hence, in colder climates it is usual to burn a mixture of Butane to which a small amount of Propane has been added, usually 10 to 30%. The design criteria would mean one should consider the following facts. Butane at 20°C exhibits a Vapour Pressure (VP) of 3 lpsi, whereas the equivalent VP for Propane is four times higher at 124psi.

Now 20°C is just the ambient temperature. What if it's a hot day with the loco standing in the sun with some residual heat still in the boiler? Some designs consider 54°C at which the respective VPs are 81 and 275psi. So if one takes a normal insurance company's requirement of an initial hydraulic test pressure at twice working pressure, i.e. $275 \times 2 = 550$ psi, as convention says you have to take the highest gas VP.

It is interesting to note that the Model Boat Association considers 66°C as the maximum ambient temperature for their gas tank designs - I imagine this is because the tank is contained within the confines of the hull - and so ask for a test pressure of 660psi.

The other interesting fact is that when most liquids change to the gaseous state they expand by about 250 times, so a leak of just 4cc of liquid turns into a gas cloud of 1000cc. This would cause quite a bang if ignited. I cannot recall a gas tank failure, but there have been quite a few flare ups and singed eyebrows when modellers have been gassing up or trying to light their locomotives. Lets hope we don't see such flare ups during our Littledown runs on the first and third Sundays per month and most Bank Holidays.

Dave White & Gordon Miles



Mike Clay's Brazil is gas fired and the copper gas tank was tested to 350psi. We are looking for a pressure gauge with a much higher FSD.

The Derek Adams Video Library

Lena Adams has kindly donated Derek's collection of VHS videos to the Society to form a library. I have catalogued the collection and the listing was sent out with the July Newsletter.

Members will be able to borrow up to four videos at a time and keep them for a maximum of four weeks. Collection, by prior arrangement, can be made at the Engine Shed on Wednesdays or most Sundays; from the monthly meetings at Muscliffe; or from my home address.

David White