

Chairman's Thoughts

If you go down to the track today you're in for a big surprise. That's what I wrote in my Chairman's Thoughts five years ago, as our driveway had just been completed by the contractor. We would not have had any access this year down the old driveway due to all the wet weather. It is now noticeable that our parking area is drying out, but we still need to be careful when parking not to churn the grass up any further.

You will notice that the two steam raising batteries are now in boxes. These fit between the rails of the 3 1/2", 5" and the dual gauge 5" 7/4" steaming bays, but not the 7 1/4" bay by the unloading spur. My photographs show each instance, so please use the batteries in the boxes provided. We do not want any more broken batteries.

I have also included a photo of the traverser showing that somebody had either tried to drop their fire or rake out their grate on the traverser. I have included a photo of the traverser showing that somebody had either tried to drop their fire or rake out their grate on the traverser. I have included a photo of the traverser showing that somebody had either tried to drop their fire or rake out their grate on the traverser. I have included a photo of the traverser showing that somebody had either tried to drop their fire or rake out their grate on the traverser.

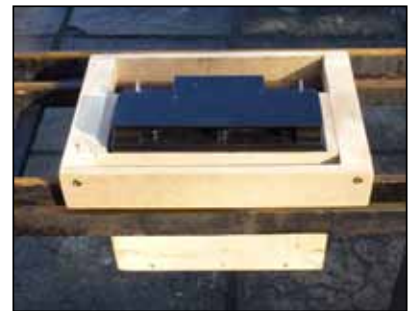
At the last Meeting I asked if any Members would like to volunteer to take charge of opening, running and closing the track on a Sunday. Should you be interested please contact a member of the Committee with a date you would like to volunteer for.

With the weather hopefully improving, we will be looking for volunteers to carry out grass cutting and strimming around the track. Members have already started to tidy up the leaves, etc. and this does make a difference to our track.

The track will be open on Easter Day and Easter Monday for any Members wishing to run on those days.

Cream Teas will be served on Sunday 28th April to celebrate St George's Day. Cakes would be very much appreciated, but not scones as these will be supplied.

David Martin



Editor's Ramblings

Your Committee decided that we should take a bit more interest in the Southern Federation so three of the Directors attended the AGM, held at the Mercedes Benz World at Brooklands. It's over 50 years since I last went to Brooklands to have a tour of the BAC factory and actually met Barnes-Wallis himself in his office. How it has changed since then! I was somewhat startled to see my car's registration displayed on a large electronic sign at the car park entrance with a message telling me to turn left!

The AGM saw Brian Thompson stand down as Chairman after over thirty years in the post and Brent Hudson elected as the new Chairman. Brent is well known as a leading light in the GL5 Main Line Association. As a mark of appreciation for his services to the Southern Federation, Brian was elevated to the position of President.

The only other notable happening was that the Chairman of the 16mm NG Association volunteered to fill one of the two vacant Committee posts expressing an interest in small boilers. We can but hope that something good comes out of it.

The Federation voted to change the manner in which it communicates with member clubs and societies to a default position of using e-mails instead of the postal system. If they get it right then it should mean that the appropriate persons get the information direct to their computer instead of third or fourth hand.

No, we didn't get to look round Mercedes Benz World!

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Committee Meeting

The April Committee Meeting will be held in the Gallery Room at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April 2013
The Minutes of the March Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the March Meeting.

George Wheatley, Secretary

Direction of Running

The way in which we alternate the direction of running at the Littledown Miniature Railway has been changed. The direction of running will now be clockwise for even months and anticlockwise for odd months. So March will be anticlockwise and April clockwise.

The 16mm Narrow Gauge Garden Railway will still be running on the First and Third Sundays of each month, weather permitting. The next dates are 17th March and 7th & 21st April 2013.

Engine Shed Mobile Phone

A Mobile Phone has been installed in the Engine Shed at Littledown for the convenience of Members. It can be used for outgoing calls on Society business and in an emergency. Members who are at the track can also be contacted if required. The number, **07879355399**, is on the 'Contacts' page of the Society's Website **www.littledownrailway.co.uk**

Membership Renewal Forms

The Committee has been mindful for some time of the need to rationalise how Subscriptions are paid and recorded and how we collect and maintain Membership Records. For 2013 all members are asked to complete and return a Membership Renewal Form together with their Subscriptions. If you do not do this then this will be the last you receive! If you've already done so you can ignore this. Thank you.

If any member has constructive ideas on improvements or alterations to the layout or contents, please contact me.

George Wheatley, Secretary

B&DSME Diary Dates

20 th March 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
4 th April 2013	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Gordon Miles
17 th April 2013	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre.
2 nd May 2013	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. J

More Dates For Your Diary

16 th & 17 th March 2013	6 th Modelling & Hobbies Exhibition. Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton SP2 0JS
5 th May, 7 th July 2013	Open Steam Days, Andover & Dist. MES. Upping Copse. http://79.170.44.83/asmes.org.uk/

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Cobweb Run	April 20 th & 21 st
Gala Weekend	July 27 th & 28 th
Autumn Run	September 7 th & 8 th
Humburg Day	December 21 st

Newsletter By E-mail

If you want to receive your copy of the Society's monthly 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.

Typeset by Dick Ganderton in Gill Sans using Adobe InDesign CS5 v7.0 on an Apple Mac mini 2.3GHz Intel Core i5 running Mac OS X v10.8.2 Mountain Lion.

I6mm Update

In the February Update we referred to the differing opinions with respect to the Southern Federation (SF) and I6mm Association interpretation of the under 3 barlitre test requirements. We were hoping that the SF AGM on Saturday 8th March would sort this out, or at least give some guidance, but no such luck. However, there is hope in that Nigel Town, Chairman and Technical Director of the I6mm Association has been elected to the SF Committee with a special interest in 'under 3 barlitre' matters. We now have a voice within the SF and it will take time to clear up anomalies caused by the Green Book.

I (Gordon) as the I6mm Boiler Tester for the B&DSME have already started to conduct the testing using the I6mm Association preferred single copy form, the main differences being the SF require two copies - one for the Owner and one for the Boiler Inspector/Society's records. As there is little difference in the forms themselves, I will use the SF two copy forms in the future so that members can operate their steam locos on any tracks operated under the umbrella of any I6mm Association or Federation members throughout the UK. A little more work, initially, for the Boiler Tester, but after the initial test and form generation then it will only require an annual steam up to be witnessed by the tester. It would greatly help my job if members, whether they be I6mm Association or B&DSME could present their loco details for their initial test with the following information:

- 1: Owner's name.
- 2: Name of manufacturer of loco.
- 3: Any previous boiler test certificates.
- 4: The boiler identification number.
- 5: The working pressure marked on the pressure gauge by a red line.

If you need advice or help with any of the above, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Then the only thing remaining for me to do is to observe you steaming up to lift the safety valve and check the general safety of the boiler fittings and fill in the details on the Test Certificate together with signatures of Owner, Tester, and Witness. This should only take about five minutes of your time for the initial test and virtually no time for subsequent annual tests.

Please remember we operate on the First and Third Sunday each month, weather or other commitments permitting.

Gordon Miles & Dave White

Merlin's Mutterings

Only trolley news this time. Seven out of the eight trolleys have now been overhauled up to what I call the first stage, ie. all wheels reprofiled, return springs fitted to the brakes and, of course, adjusted. A modification has also been fitted to the main bogie pivot

The eighth trolley, Number 2, was the original prototype and is slightly different. The main difference was the side panels, which are slightly shallower, so to bring this back to standard we have cut off the foot boards and have had two pieces of aluminium cut and formed to attach to the side panels - hopefully job done.

The next items to mention are the bars that couple the trolleys together. There were all sorts of odd bits in the ice cream boxes, which have now been sorted. Only use the bars which have been painted yellow to keep things standard. The bar which couples your engine/tender to the trolley may need to have a set in it and should be supplied by you, the engine owner, and kept as part of your running kit. Do not alter any bars which are painted yellow and are kept in the ice cream box in the tunnels. Some dos and don'ts, but not a lot to ask, so thanks.



John Hoyle took the photographs last Tuesday when we shared the Engine Shed with the mob.

Merlin

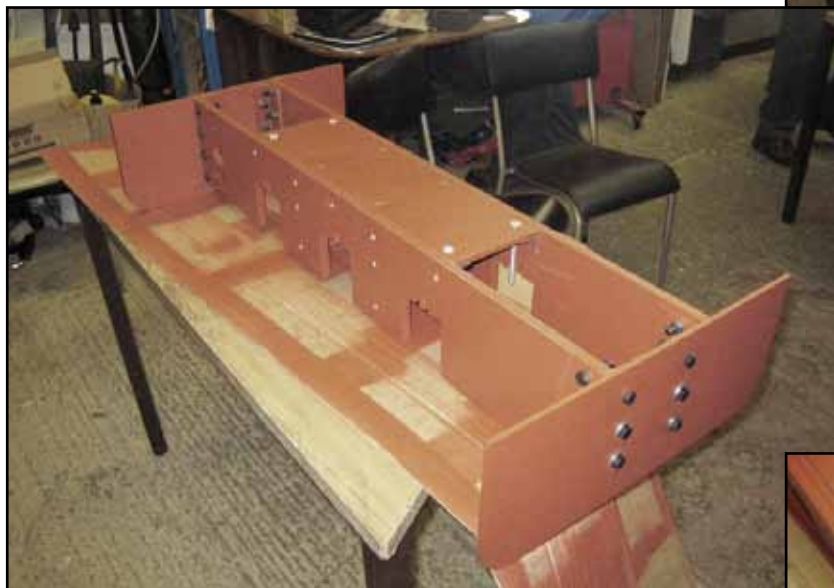


Littledown Castle Progress

A cold Tuesday morning saw the Engine Shed a hive of activity as the mob vied with the Trolley Gang for working space to erect the frames. A lot has been achieved and the chassis is now in the Engine Shed looking much more like a locomotive. It's also gaining in weight!

The next tranche of laser cut parts have been collected from the laser cutters and this means that we now have all the parts needed to get the chassis up onto its wheels.

John Hoyle took the photographs to show the progress so far.



Running Littledown Miniature Railway

Following representation from several members who want to use the track outside of the usual running days, the Committee considered the minimum numbers of persons needed for safety and security. A minimum of two adults can use the railway with the strict proviso that the Engine Shed, Toilet and Station must be securely locked at all times when unattended.

Tenth Anniversary Party

Wednesday, 3rd July, 2013 is the Tenth Anniversary of the Golden Fishplate Ceremony at the Littledown Miniature Railway, when, after just 51 weeks from the start of work by the contractor, the first train ran all the way round the new track. Of course, we will be holding a Party in the evening to celebrate this momentous event.

The party will be like our annual Christmas one with a buffet and Peggy will be posting a list of food in the Engine Shed nearer the time. Make a note of the date in your diaries.