

Chairman's Thoughts

What a lovely evening we had on Wednesday 18th June for our BBQ which was well attended with our own Members and the Gauge 0 Guild, Gauge 1 Association and MERG. Again our track and the 16mm Garden Railway were well used with members from the Gauge 0 Guild running some of their own locos on the 16mm track. I was kept busy keeping the flames burning under the BBQ and with the aid of Diane and Hillary the burgers and sausages went very quickly. I hope everyone left well fed. Thanks to the other ladies who kept everyone happy with cups of tea and cakes and not forgetting the washing up. Special thanks to Carole for cleaning the BBQ so well.

Please do not park on our turning circle or under the trees, the turning circle is for loading or unloading and the few limited spaces under the trees is for our less able bodied members. If you are able bodied please park your vehicle in our main parking area - it is only a short walk to the track - so as to leave the places for those who need it.

The station building has been repaired; we were able to jack it up with the aid of two timber legs bolted through the walls above the rotted boards giving access to remove the offending boards and replace them with new that I purchased from the original supplier who saved us delivery cost when he had a large consignment from his supplier in Holland. We only used two car trolley jacks for the lift and M6 x 150mm coach bolts to carry the load. I did however prepare the new timbers a few days prior to carrying out the work. Thanks to David Finn for the loan of the jacks and helping me on the day; also thanks to Paul Martin who has cleaned down the building and coated it up with Sadolin wood treatment. You can see the full story in pictures on page 4 of this issue.



Members should notice a difference in the Engine Shed as we have just installed the new light fittings, this has also sorted the tripping out of mains supply. I would like to thank John, Merlin and Bob for helping me with this task.

The beginning of **July** is going to be a busy time preparing for IMLEC 2014. Once again we do need your help on the 12th & 13th July to run the event successfully.

Please note that parking in our normal area is for **COMPETITORS** only on Saturday and Sunday of the event. There are no restrictions in the Littledown public car park on a Saturday or Sunday.

I know that the ladies are all geared up for making the sandwiches and supplying the cakes for the day. On the Saturday night we will be having a Fish & Chip Supper for all those who wish to attend. Irene Kent will be taking orders and payment on the Saturday, but it will only be fish and chips, also there will be limited evening running that night.

Our Charity Day will be on 4th August in aid of Green Cottage Riding for the Disabled, please come along and help us support this group. Finally, we are having an Open Day on Saturday 16th August.

Please do not forget that the AGM is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th July at Muscliff Community Centre, followed by a Bits & Pieces Evening, so bring along your latest projects to show.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

As we have had some new Members over the past year I've been asked to explain how the entrance bollard should be unlocked. **Please also remember that it must always be left locked - so lock it as soon as you have passed through the entrance.**

When unlocking the bollard it is imperative that you never, ever, take the padlock out! Unlock the padlock with your key and remove the key. Now simply give the padlock body a twist through 90 degrees anticlockwise while lifting it up so that you can slip the locking bar off the open end of the padlock hoop. Push the locking bar down to the ground, pointing towards the road and put one foot on it to hold it down. Lift the bollard up and then let it down gently into the park, keeping your foot on the locking bar. Reverse the procedure to lock it. **Do not ever remove the padlock from the bollard!**

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Insurance & Membership Lists

A copy of the Society's Insurance Policy has been placed in the desk in the Engine Shed. The original documents are held by the Secretary and can be viewed by arrangement. For Members wanting to run their locomotives at locations requiring evidence of Public Liability cover there are copies of the Certificate at the back of the same folder as the copy of the policy. This need to be signed by a Committee Member on an individual basis before becoming valid.

The new Application and Renewal Forms means we can keep our Membership List up-to-date. An abbreviated list, which omits addresses, can be obtained on application to the Secretary. A copy is kept in the desk in the Engine Shed.

George Wheatley, Secretary

Committee Matters

The July 2014 Committee Meeting will be held at the Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd July 2014. The Minutes of the July Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the July 2014 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 June 2014 will be clockwise. However, because of IMLEC 2014, July 2014 will also be 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 6th & 20th July 2014.

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

IMLEC 2014



The new Bournemouth Dynamometer Car has now been completed and has undergone a series of serious test runs with the Birmingham Car to prove the repeatability and accuracy of the electronics. We have now proved that both cars provide the same results and are interchangeable.

The event is to be run at Littledown Miniature Railway on 12th & 13th July 2014, so please keep these dates free in your diaries as we will need all the help we can muster to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

If any Member has a working refrigerator that they would be willing to let the Society have for the IMLEC weekend please get in touch with David Martin davidm@littledownrailway.co.uk We would like to have one in the marquee to keep the food cool.

B&DSME Diary Dates.

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| 12 th & 13 th July 2014 | IMLEC 2014; Littledown Miniature Railway.
Your help is needed over the weekend to ensure that this event is a success. |
| 16 th July 2014 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth BH9 3LR.
<i>AGM. Followed by Bits & Pieces. Bring something along to show.</i> |
| 7 th August 2014 | Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
<i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i> |
| 20 th August 2014 | Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway.
<i>Fish & Chips. More details on how to order next month.</i> |

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Grand Gala	July 26 th & 27 th
Autumn Run	September 20 th & 21 st
Humbug Day	December 20 th

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.

Typeset by Dick Ganderton in Helvetica using Adobe InDesign CS5 v7.0 on an Apple Mac mini 2.3GHz Intel Core i5 running Mac OS X v10.9.3 Mavericks.

Summer Holidays Running Rota 2014

Wednesday 30th July to Friday 5th September

As all seasoned Society Members know, each Summer during the two month School Holiday period a special effort is made to maximise our income from passenger hauling by running on Fridays as well as the usual Sundays and Wednesdays. Normally there are sufficient members available on Sundays, but to ensure we have a minimum team of four on each of the weekdays, each year I prepare a duty rota. This normally means each volunteer being prepared to help cover a running day not more than three times during the holidays. There are many regulars who volunteer year after year and will, I hope, do so once again this year, unless I hear to the contrary!

During the past year we have been fortunate in having many new Members join our Society to enjoy the good facilities provided. The income necessary to provide these facilities comes primarily from the public who pay to enjoy a ride on our railway. It follows that passenger hauling during the Summer is one of our most important commitments if the prosperity of the Society is to continue.

I would like every Member who has joined within the last year to consider joining this rota and to contact me if they feel able to do so, even if only for a single session. The more the merrier and the less onerous it will be for those who have already done it for years. I appreciate that those who are still working may not be able to help.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

John Hoyle

Frimley Lodge Miniature Railway Visitors Weekend

On Friday 8th August and Saturday 9th August Frimley Lodge Miniature Railway will be running our Visitors Weekend and we would like to invite members of your Society along to run their locomotives.

Full details of the club are available at www.flmr.org but in summary we have a 3,000ft continuous multi-gauge 3¹/₂" , 5" and 7¹/₄" track through the very pleasant woods in Frimley Lodge Park.

The web page www.flmr.org/page4/index.html gives details for visiting clubs, particularly the wheel standards and the owners of all locomotives (i.e. steam, diesel, petrol, electric, etc) must show a valid confirmation of insurance from their club. All steam engines must have for inspection a valid boiler certificate prior to running.

Unfortunately this year we are not able to offer any overnight camping or caravanning in the park as it is hosting a pop concert that weekend. Weather permitting we hope to close the event with a BBQ on Saturday evening.

Please reply to me at secretary@flmr.org if some of your members would like to attend with details of who will be coming and what locos they will bring. As there is a pop concert running we will be issuing passes for visitors to gain access to the park. Also, if you have any questions please e-mail me at this address.

Bob Croft, *Secretary, Frimley and Ascot Locomotive Club, which runs Frimley Lodge Miniature Railway, 0118 973 5243*

16mm Update

I have just been watching some of the planning and preparation work for The Glastonbury Festival, which is very similar to our own shindig, aka IMLEC 2014, admittedly on a very much smaller scale. It still requires a lot of forward thinking and planning, and the 16mm members have been doing their bit. We are replacing the badly laminated anti-vandal cover boards and re-painting all the boards to a uniform colour. In addition we have been helping out on other tasks, grass cutting, hedge cutting, general painting and preparing or constructing some of the equipment needed to run this event. Only time will tell if we have been successful.

In the meantime we have had some good 16mm running days including some newly acquired locos and recently constructed rolling stock. One thing we haven't seen, however, is visiting 16mm guests and their steam locos. Possibly the new pressure test regulations and the way they were being interpreted by various parties was discouraging this activity. The real situation is that if visitors have a valid 16mm or G1 certificate and they are prepared to steam up and allow myself or other nominated Boiler Tester appointed by the B&DSME to witness a Steam Test in accordance with the Southern Fed Regulations we are pleased for them to run at Littledown on that day. I (Gordon Miles) am aware this is not universally acceptable country wide to all 16mm & G1 members. As we are all Southern Fed members and the Insurers are happy to accept the 16mm & G1 Boiler Test Certificates why don't the Southern Fed?

On a lighter note we still intend to run on the First & Third Sunday each month weather permitting.

Gordon Miles & Dave White

Obituaries

Older Members will remember Eric Eustace. Eric, who died many years ago, suffered from muscular dystrophy, but this didn't stop him from making live steam models, seated in his electric wheelchair. His wife, Olive, often took him to Kings Park and it was Eric who introduced me to the Society. **Olive** died on 17th June aged 92.

Former Member **Peter Langdon** died recently. He did his apprenticeship with John Thompsons, the boilermakers, and remained in engineering design all his life. He was a Member until quite recently, when he had health problems.

Station Building Repairs



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Merlin's Mutterings

It appears that I might have to change my *Newsletter* column to Merlin's Moanings. I will tell you why. A couple of times in the past I have asked for trolley brake handles, coupling bars and coupling bar pins to be put away in the ice cream box at the front of the left hand tunnel when taken off for whatever reason, simple enough I would have thought. But **no!**

Last Tuesday, 1st July, I went into the Station building and on the shelf were two brake handles. After a few choice words I went to return them to the ice cream box and, surprise, surprise, no ice cream box! After a chat with the rest of our Tuesday Team we gave up. The Tuesday Team then had to take every trolley out to reach No. 4 trolley, which we had put out of order so that we could do a check on the brakes. Out came the first standard trolley coupled to a small one by a 2 foot long bar - strange. Out came the third one. Next was the fourth one and guess what - on top of this trolley was our missing ice cream box. Could Members who have anything to do with using trolleys please take a little time and think what you are doing. The system was working quite well, even before we became involved.

Some of you by now may have noticed that the bench has been de cluttered. Please keep it tidy. Anything left on this tidy bench that should not be there **will be disposed of**. We have left the floor in a mess to see if anyone bothers to sweep it.

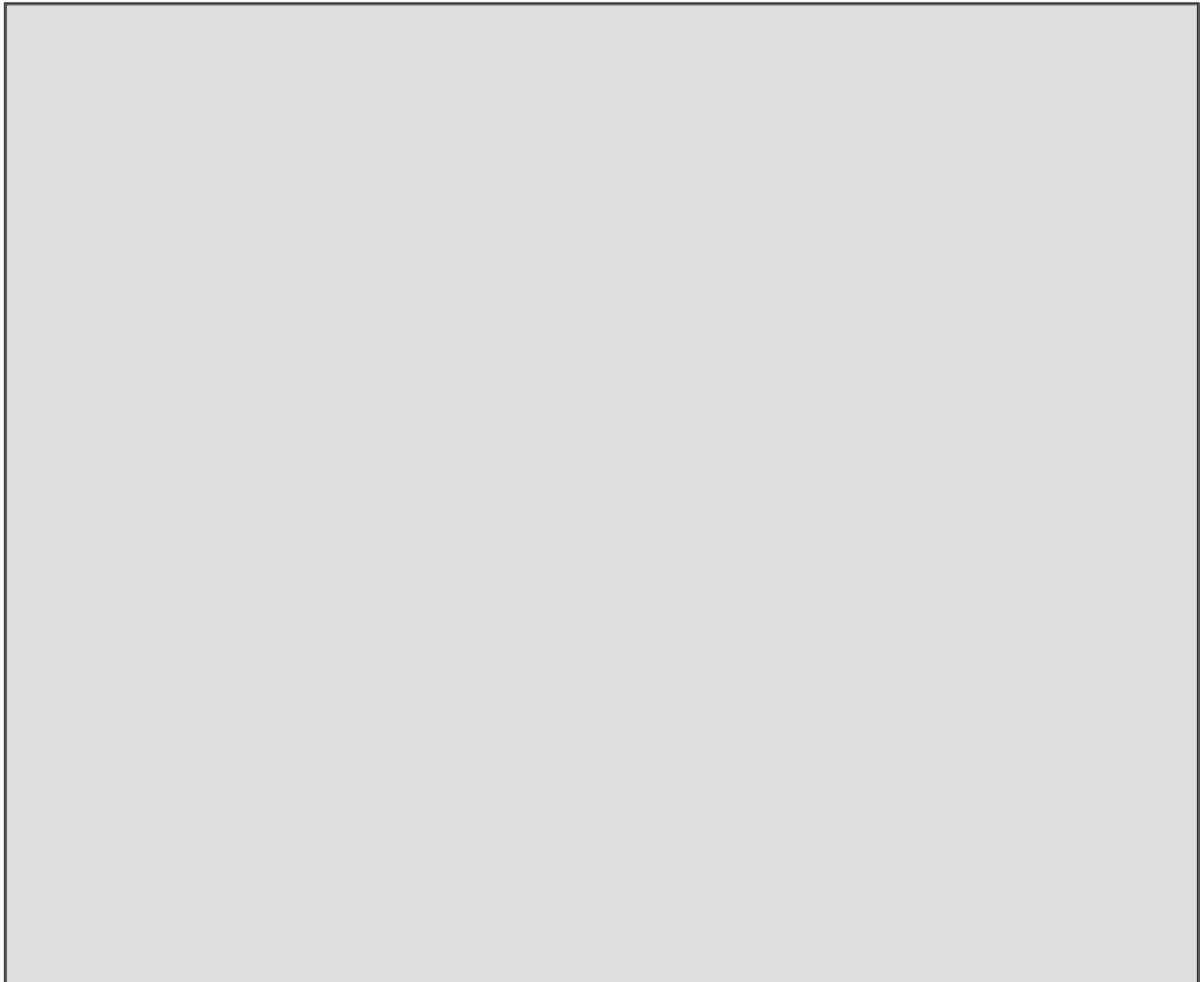
Merlin

Southern Federation Newsletter

The June 2014 issue of the Southern Federation *Newsletter* is now available to be downloaded from their website at

<http://www.sfmcs.co.uk/ydrRoot/newsLetters/minutes/201406.pdf>

A printed copy will be put on the Notice Board in the Engine Shed at Littledown.



Only five pages this month