



Chairman's Thoughts

St George's day this year falls on a Saturday the 23rd April, so we will be having our Cream Tea on Sunday 24th April. In the morning we will have a sale of copper and brass by Auction at about 11.00; details of the items for auction will be on the notice board in the next few weeks. This should be a good day to start the new running season.

It's hoped that on Sunday 17th we will have a session clearing all the loose branches that have accumulated over the winter from 10.00 am to enable the grass to be mowed inside and out of the track. Running of locos will not commence until the work has been completed, so it's in everybody interest to help if you want to run on that day.

We seem to have had problems with locks recently. Thanks to William for getting some tools to enable the Engine Shed door to be opened and repaired. It has been proposed that we have a spare set of keys to open up kept in a key box in the toilet section of the Engine Shed, so if we have problems again we could at least open up and run. Our existing padlocks could benefit from a bit of maintenance - a squirt of WD40 would help.

Stephen Robson, the speaker at last month's meeting gave a very interesting talk on Charles Rolls and Britain's First International Aviation Meeting and how he would like to get a more permanent memorial to Rolls set up in the Broadway near where the accident that killed him happened. He has been asked to come back next year and give us another of his talks on WW2.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

Charlie Betteridge tells me that Esso will soon be resuming their tours of the Fawley Refinery. If you are interested in going on one of these tours please contact Charlie and he will **try** to arrange a visit. I went on one of the previous visits that Charlie managed to organise and found it very informative.

Derek Sawyer, one of our newer members, was a locksmith in a former life. He has had a look at the Engine Shed lock and has cleaned the it out. He braved the stormy weather with George and they tried several keys in it. It is now working OK but may need a slight wiggle. He has taken all the necessary measurements and photos and has gone back to his old firm to see if he can get a new one. If he can't get one he will adjust the present one to be a lot better. Thank you Derek.

We still need a volunteer to organise the 'entertainment' at our monthly meetings. The last two meetings had very interesting speakers, both organised at short notice.

Dick Ganderton

Coach Trip To The Model Engineer Exhibition

Are you interested in a coach trip to the Model Engineer Exhibition at Brooklands in early September?

The cost will be £15 per person for the coach and we will need a minimum of 30 persons. The trip is open to friends and family.

If you are interested please let Phil Drake know by end of March.

Society Baseball Hats

John Roberts now has some club baseball hats in stock, 2-tone navy and royal blue, embroidered with the Society logo. He also has a stock of thermally lined woolly hats, also embroidered. All hats are £10 each.

He would also like to remind all Members that Society shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and jackets can be supplied and can include your name under the logo. See John at the track or contact him by e-mail sales@bearbiz.co.uk or telephone 023 8086 6002 or 07831 442250. There is a price list on the notice board in the Engine Shed.

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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 needs 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 April 2016 Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th April 2016. The Minutes of the March 2016 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the March 2016 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 2016 will be anticlockwise and April 2016 will 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 20th March 2016 and 3rd & 17th April 2016.

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

Boiler Testing

If you require a Boiler Test, please remember that you need to book it with one of the Boiler Testers. Also you should have all the paperwork with you - that's all the past Test Certificates and the *Written Scheme of Examination!* You have kept them, haven't you?

B&DSME Diary Dates

16 th March 2016	Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre. <i>Richard Knott's Annual Video Show.</i>
7 th April 2016	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>John Hoyle. Please let John know.</i>
17 th April 2016	Sunday. De-twigging. 10.00am. <i>Clearing of fallen twigs, etc. inside the track. Running will not start until this important job is completed!</i>
24 th April 2016	Sunday. St George's Day Cream Tea; 2.30pm. <i>There will be an Auction of useful copper materials at 11.00am.</i>
5 th May 2016	Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. <i>Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know.</i>

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 v10.11.2 El Capitan.



www.littledownrailway.co.uk

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

The Committee would like to remind Members that it is a condition of our Lease that they must only park their cars or motorcycles in the designated parking area. **There is to be no parking in the area around or near the Engine Shed, on the driveway or turning circle. There are no exceptions to this rule.** As soon as you have unloaded your engine and/or equipment you **must** move your vehicle to the parking area by the entrance gate. As parking spaces are limited please use the main Littledown Centre Car Park if you are not bringing a locomotive to run.

B&DSME Model Engineer Magazine Library

Please use the library as it is a wonderful source of information and there are many fascinating articles within. Please remember when borrowing a magazine from the Society's library, to complete the sign out sheet, which is attached to the storage cupboard door.

The library is updated regularly as new magazines are donated, so keep an eye on the index for the latest additions.

Please treat the magazines with care as many are fragile due to their age.

Peter Burton

16mm Update

Annual Boiler Testing for Under 3 bar litre Locos

This month's Update has been drafted by your 16mm Boiler Tester, Gordon Miles.

The team that drafted the latest *Examination & Testing of Miniature Steam Boilers BTC 2012* (the *Green Book*) did not contain a representative of the 16mm fraternity, otherwise we may have acquired a better system than that promulgated by the Southern Federation (SF). At Littledown we do our best to comply with the SF annual under 3 bar litre test requirements, but that does present me with a few problems.

- a. The testing is required annually for under 3 bar litre locos, admittedly it is only a steam test, whereas for those over 3 bar litre it is an annual steam test plus a 1.5 x hydraulic boiler pressure test every four years
- b. Most 16mm followers have a greater number of steam locos requiring annual testing. The testing itself does not take long, but the subsequent paperwork is a pain.
- c. I do try keep up-to-date and warn members when locos are due for test, but with such a large number of locos this is a daunting task.

The answer could be found in horse racing. All horses, irrespective of when they were born in the year, are all given the same birthday. I would suggest all steam tests are due on the same month each year. It would work like this; any steam test carried out within the first year of ownership would be valid until the following March, and then every March thereafter. I have chosen March because it is the start of the outdoor Garden Rail running season, there are less likely to be holidays interfering, and the weather is usually better. The scheme would start from March this year, 2016, but the full effect would not be felt until 2017.

I would be prepared to carry out a steam test on any Sunday or Wednesday during the month of March when I am at Littledown - not just 16mm running days - as I am not required to witness the loco in operation, just in steam with the safety valves lifting at the RED LINE marked on the pressure gauge. I do hope this arrangement meets with your approval. If you have any queries, or suggestions about these proposals, then please contact me.

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

Gordon Miles & David White

Littledown Railway Website

Peter Burton has volunteered to take over the management of the Web-site with immediate effect. Any member with ideas for changes or improvements to the layout or content for the Website should contact Peter.

Peter will also continue to manage the Littledown Railway Facebook Page and will be known as the Website Co-ordinator. Any material suitable for inclusion on the Facebook Page should be sent to Peter via e-mail.

Dick Ganderton, the *Newsletter* Editor, will continue to send the B&DSME *Newsletter* to James.