



Chairman's Ramblings

A difficult October since Carol and I returned home from Hong Kong has left me with limited time to write many Ramblings for this *Newsletter*, so I would just like to bring you up to date with a few things that are going on.

On the Committee front I am pleased to tell you that Peter Burton has been appointed Vice-Chairman and that our 'track man', Bob Devereux, has returned to Committee. However, I was disappointed to learn when I returned that David White had stood down from the Committee. We should all thank David for his Committee work over several years and hope that he will remain a valuable Member of the Society for many years to come. For now Glyn Tandy will report to Committee on 16mm matters.

As mentioned before we have concerns about security and Members locking up the track when they leave. George has produced a document reminding everyone what needs locking up and this is in the Engine Shed. Please refer to it before you drive away and remind yourself that the site is secure.

The Committee discussed First Aid provision at their last meeting. For our own information only it would be useful to know how many of you hold current First Aid Certificates. Could you e-mail me please on the e-mail address below.

Santa Trains are set for Sunday 11th December and David Martin has been doing a great job in getting things organised. Thanks David. Also don't forget the pre-Christmas social at Muscliff on 21st December. Please bring some seasonal food and remember that Irene would appreciate items for the Christmas Raffle.

Have a good month.

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Littledown Castle

Those of you who visit the track regularly will know that Littledown Castle has been in use for over 18 months and that improvements have been made to it whilst in service. Yet there was still quite a lot to do to finish it off and to repair damaged paintwork. With this in mind the loco was retired from duty temporarily on Monday 7th November for this work to be done over the next two weeks.

The time will shortly be here when *Littledown Castle* is finally finished, having been in the pipeline ever since the Committee approved the idea of building a new club locomotive as far back as July 2011, 5½ years ago. It was my fate to have been appointed Project Manager of this enterprise and so now I would like firstly to express my sincere thanks to Barry Linger, Alan Hodgson, Ron Challoner, Bruce Baker, Derek Sawyer, Phil Drake and Bob Devereux without whose support the loco would never have been designed and built. But I must single out for special thanks my good friend Dick Ganderton, who single handedly designed the petrol/electric propulsion system and has been the one Team Member who has seen the project through with me from start to finish. There have been several other members who have contributed to the project on occasions and I would like to thank them all most sincerely for their support.

I won't elaborate too much on the journey we have all been through, suffice it to say that to design and build a new locomotive from first ideas to completion has been quite an experience for me as a non engineer! Countless meetings at my home, developing drawings to work from, then research into a suitable petrol engine, discussions and development of the electrical system, choice of suitable electric motors, building the chassis, production of a definitive aluminium body and by no means least, painting the finished article!

All that is now nearly done and *Littledown Castle* will be there for all to enjoy, but please look after it appropriately, respecting it as you would your own locomotive. The last 18 months have shown that this is not always done, so please take a few minutes to clean it regularly before use, oil the coupling rod reservoirs and ALWAYS USE the adapted filler spout to fill the tank with petrol, not with a funnel. Petrol will and has been spilt and it will ruin the paintwork over time. Should you spill petrol, nevertheless, **DO NOT RUB IT OFF**, just leave it to evaporate.

Maybe I can now concentrate on a project of my own!
With best wishes.

John Hoyle

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.

Ron Barson, Secretary

Committee Matters

The next Committee Meeting will be held in Training Room 1, The Littledown Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th December 2016. The Minutes of the November 2016 Committee Meeting will be available for perusal at the December Meeting and in the Engine Shed.

Ron Barson, 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 November 2016 will be anticlockwise and December 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 28th November 2016 and 4th & 18th December 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?

If you are presenting your loco for its 4-yearly Hydraulic Test please note that you cannot expect the Boiler Tester to provide the necessary blanking plugs. You should have a complete set of blanking plugs for each of your locos, one of which must have a **male** 1/4" x 40TPI fitting to allow the connection of the test pump and gauge. The threaded portion of this should be at least 3/8" (10mm) long with a 60 degree countersink to take a standard nipple.

Please pump the boiler up at home to check that there are no leaks.

Boiler Testers

Dick Ganderton dick.ganderton@me.com

Bob Devereux

Mike Mortimer

Barry Linger

Gordon Miles (16mm locos only)

B&DSME Diary Dates

16th November 2016 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth BH9 3LR.
Kevin Patience: The infamous 'Man-Eaters of Tsavo' - the story of the building of the 'Lunatic Line' across British East Africa at the end of the 19th Century.

1st December 2016 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
John Hoyle. Please let John know.

13th December 2016 Santa Special; Littledown Miniature Railway. (Note this is a Sunday event!)
Volunteers needed for this event.

21st December 2016 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliff Community Centre, Shillingstone Drive, Bournemouth BH9 3LR.
Christmas Party. Please bring seasonal food and cakes. Irene would appreciate items for the raffle.

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 v10.11.6 El Capitan.

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 *Model Engineer* library is fully up to date. Please treat the magazines with care as many are fragile due to their age. *Peter Burton*

Merlin's Mutterings

Although roughly two years have passed since David Finn and myself were involved with the trolleys and decided to make some parts interchangeable there still seems to be a little confusion about same. One member was sorting through the stack of seats to find Number 2 seat to fit Number 2 trolley. This, of course, is no longer needed as all eight seats are interchangeable with all eight standard trollies. Just for information two of the trolleys are 1" longer than the other six so Graham Carpenter undid the upholstery, cut 1" off the base boards and re did said upholstery. I then took the locating pads from the baseboard and re positioned them, the result - eight standard seats.

We then turned our attention to the removable back rests, these are now interchangeable with one exception - Number 2, this one has to have the one listed Number 2 only. Perhaps for the benefit of the more recent members Number 2 trolley was the first one built some years ago and of course is called the prototype one, it does differ slightly in one or two places from all the others. *Merlin*



www.littledownrailway.co.uk

Come and meet Santa
On Sunday 11th December at
Littledown Miniature Railway
The Littledown Centre



10.30am – 2.30pm £6.00 per child
All Adult Passengers £1.00

Children will receive a gift. Mince Pies for Mum & Dad

Advanced bookings recommended

Payment in advance

No Credit Cards

For details call 01425 620749

07879 355399



Bournemouth & District Society of Model Engineers