



Chairman's Thoughts

April 29th was the day of the Royal Wedding and not wanting to sit in front of the television, I decided the best thing to do on that day would be to run my Polly, so I phoned David Finn to see if he would be interested in running one of his locos.

What a great day we had, we did eight laps non stop in the first twenty or so minutes, we then arrived on for the rest of the day, only stopping to take on water and coal and to make a cup of tea. Unfortunately, making a cup of tea did cause a bit of a problem as we came back to two locos with just a glimmer of life in their fire boxes, but they soon revived and we were off round the track once more.

We did give a few passenger rides to those that had ventured out for the afternoon. Brian Merrifield turned up with a new prospective member and Dave took him around a few times - he did come back on the Sunday and went away with a Membership Form. We packed up just before 4.00pm and by that time we had lost count of the numbers of completed laps, but it was well over 30 plus. I know that some of our members do run at Littledown on days other than Sundays or Wednesdays and I can see the advantage of doing that as it gives you a chance to see what you and your loco are capable of. I must admit I was a little stiff after more than four hours of sitting on a driving trolley. The track is there for all to use, but you do need at least two people to operate it.

May Day - this also being our St George's Day run - was our first event of the season with a Cream Tea and cakes, but, unfortunately, no May Pole dancing. Thanks to Peggy and all the other ladies for the catering. John Trew was a little disappointed with the lack of fare paying passengers on the day, but all those who came did enjoy their rides. Last month I made the point about locos having to have enclosed ash pans. After some discussion at the last Committee Meeting it was decided that it mainly applies to the larger locos that run on the track, so please, those with 3.5" Gauge locos do not be put off by my previous statement. You run in the centre of the track and it is highly unlikely that you would drop large enough burning coals from your locos, but just be aware of the problem. I would, however, say if you have to rake out your fire this should be done at the platform and not while you are running. We will be having our Santa Run in December as usual, but the reason for mentioning it now is that we would like somebody to come forward and take on the task of buying and wrapping the presents this year. I look forward to a sack full of volunteers.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at The Littledown Centre at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25th May 2011.

David Martin

Editor's Ramblings

Only two pages this month! The Unloading Lift cover has now been fitted with a pair of 'worn out' Picasso tailgate gas struts with the idea that new ones would be bought once the system proved to be viable. However, as the old ones are capable of lifting the cover and locking it open, we won't need new ones. It takes quite a pull to start to close it and you do need to keep hold of the handle when opening it - don't let go!

Peggy would like to thank all those Members who provided cakes for the Cream Tea event and especially to the Ladies who helped in the kitchen.

Dick Ganderton

FunLec 2011

The call for entries for this event has been good with fourteen members putting their names forward. To give all the entrants a good run your Committee has decided to make this a two-day event to be held on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July.

Runs will be spread over the two days, so put the dates in your diaries **now!** More details for Competitors will be issued well in advance of the event. Come and have some fun at the track..

Barry Linger

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Bullet Points from the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 27th April 2011

- Further discussions took place about the proposed Junior Section.
- Dave Martin has looked at the request for an extension to the Station Building roof. A time frame for any work is yet to be agreed.
- Barry Linger has proposed some of the rules for the FunLec event.
- A new desk will be positioned in the Engine Shed, this will be for all the official papers needed for the running of the track, signing on book, risk assessments, new membership forms, etc.
- A proposal has been received from the Southampton Society to exchange a running Sunday with their members. Dates are to be agreed.

David Finn, Society Secretary

Model Engineering Events

- 22nd May 2011 Basingstoke & Dist. Model Engineering Society Visitors' Open Day, Unit 6, Viables Craft Centre, The Harrow Way, Basingstoke RG22 4BJ. 5" & 3 1/2" Gauge. Current Boiler Certificate required. Refreshments all day. To attend reply to the Secretary: Brian Fogg, 14 Fontwell Drive, Alton, Hants GU34 2TN.
- 4th & 5th June 2011 Taunton Model Engineers Model Engineering Exhibition, Heathfield Community School, Taunton TA2 8PD. Taunton ME will also be running their 5" and 7 1/4" gauge railway at Creech St. Michael with free rides for visitors to the Exhibition. Visit **www.tauntonme.org.uk** for details.
- 11th to 12th June 2011 North Wilts MES Rally Weekend, Coate Water Park, Swindon, Wilts. SN3 6AA (SN3 6AD with engines). 5" & 7 1/4" gauge ground level track. Valid Boiler Certificates required. Barbecue on Saturday evening from 6.00pm. To attend reply to the Secretary: Mrs. Hilary Foley, 5, The Butts, Crudwell, Malmesbury, Wilts. SN16 9HF. Tel: 01666 577596 E-mail: **hilary@nwmes.info**

Direction of Running

Sunday	15 th May	Clockwise *	Wednesday	18 th May	Anticlockwise
Sunday	22 nd May	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	25 th May	Clockwise
Sunday	29 th May	Clockwise *	Wednesday	1 st June	Anticlockwise
Sunday	5 th June	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	8 th June	Clockwise
Sunday	12 th June	Clockwise *	Wednesday	15 th June	Anticlockwise
Sunday	19 th June	Anticlockwise	Wednesday	22 nd June	Clockwise
Sunday	26 th June	Clockwise *	Wednesday	29 th June	Anticlockwise

* denotes 16mm Garden Railway open - weather permitting.

B&DSME Diary Dates

- 11th May 2011 Exbury Gardens Visit; 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm. Exbury Gardens, Exbury, Southampton SO45 1AZ. *Train rides, coffee/tea & biscuits and a short guided walk round the Gardens.*
- 18th May 2011 Monthly Meeting; 7.30 pm. Muscliffe Community Centre. *Simon Bowditch, Computer Design and Evaluation of Valve Gear and Valve Events.*
- 2nd June 2011 Tech-Chat (Informal Discussion Meeting); 7.00 for 7.30 pm. *Gordon Miles. Please let Gordon know if you are attending..*
- 8th June 2011 Annual visit to Gauge 0 Guild; Quarter Jack Suite, Allendale Centre, Wimborne 7.30 pm. *You can bring anything that runs on 32mm Gauge track to run on their Test Track.*
- 15th June 2011 Monthly Meeting; 7.00 pm. Littledown Miniature Railway. *Gauge 0 Guild & MERG visiting Littledown.*

Luscombe Valley Happenings

www.luscombevalleysteam.com

Summer Gala	July 30 th & 31 th
Autumn Run	September 10 th & 11 th
Humbug Day	December 24 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.

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