

# Beech Hurst News Sheet

Issue 11 – April 2024

## **Chairman's Notes:**

We were very lucky over Easter to have three dry, (and partly sunny), running afternoons, although the wind was cold! Nevertheless, the park was busy and so was our railway! I would like to thank all the members who came to help out and who made it a successful and enjoyable weekend. All the hard work through the winter had prepared us well, and a good team spirit kept everything running smoothly and safely. As I write this, it is raining again, so how fortunate were we with those dry interludes?

Looking ahead (to hopefully warmer days), I would like to remind you of the first of our social/running evenings on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Editor has put a note with the details below. We are also including a "Bits and Pieces" table for members to bring items to display. The evening will take place whatever the weather and, if wet, it will be a social event inside, and if dry, members can use the track for a fun run if they wish.

Just a reminder that gardening, track, and general maintenance is never ending and anyone who is free to help on Thursdays is most welcome to join the small, but hard-working mid-week gang. Saturday is predominantly our running day, and so there is less time or opportunity to get such jobs done then. Nick, Graham Mundy and John B. have been out driver training and I would like to encourage anyone on the "assessors" list to offer to help keep up with checks and records please.

## **Special event evening – 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May will be the first of the year's special events evenings. Val will provide Hot Dogs and Apple Pies. In order to gauge numbers, please put your name on the Club House board before Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

This is also suggested as a "Bits and Pieces" evening as the one Norman Payne planned for late last year was not possible because Norman was not well. So, please bring along something that might be of interest to Members.

Please note, the evening event will go on until 9 pm.

### **Roy P writes: Rail surplus to requirements**

We have 10 approximately 8 ft lengths of standard gauge rail which have been used but are in good serviceable condition, as shown on the right. These are being offered for sale at £2 each, or the lot for £15, cash on collection. If you are interested, please come to the Club on a Thursday or Saturday.



***Fantastic enjoyable Easter public running days***

With 16 different locomotive drivers, the three Easter public running days were well attended by the public and a great success. With tickets being sold both by card and cash, the Station Masters were kept busy, and it was nice to hear so much appreciation of the running from the public. Although the weather was good in that there was no rain, it was fairly cold but that did not deter the public. Thankfully, because of the amount of water and mud around the track, derailments were very few. Our thanks to all those who helped on and off the track over the weekend. Below and on page 3 are a few photos from the Easter running.





## *Easter photos cont'd*



### ***Roy P writes: Rail turning***

Another part of the track that has seen massive damage from excessive speed is the bottom curve after the bowling green straight, amazingly even to the point of it showing burring on the outside top corner of the rail. This section of rail has now been turned with the help of Tim, Mike P, Graham Miller, John G, John B, Tom C, Tom P, Norman, Cliff, Jim, Kevin and David Fry. Furthermore, this section of rail cannot be turned again because there is too much wear on the sides of the rail head. If turned derailment would be inevitable because the wheel flanges will strike the fishplate screw heads, this being one of the primary reasons for this session of essential rail turning.

# The SMLS Library

## ***Librarian Stephen Hutton writes:-***

The Beech Hurst Library contains a collection of books and magazines related to our club and its activities. They are in six cupboards, which are in the main body of the clubhouse. Each book has a unique number and location, which is why it is important to return them to the correct position.

Cupboards 1 to 4, to the right of the workshop door, are normally locked. A librarian/assistant librarian can unlock them on demand. These contain the more valuable books and bound magazines.

Cupboards 5 – 6, to the left of the workshop door are normally open. The contents are available for members to peruse whilst at the club, providing they return the book to where they found it in the cupboards (See also 'Borrowing a book'). All books have a shelf and number so they can easily be located.

## Index

There is a comprehensive index of the library contents by both author and title. The librarian will be happy to show you how to use it.

## Borrowing a book

Any member can borrow almost any book. A librarian/assistant librarian will issue it to you. You will need to sign for the book. It's then yours for up to 3 months, after which you need to return it to the club. Providing no one else has requested it, you can then renew it. On return, books must be signed in by the librarian or an assistant librarian.

## Magazines

The society currently subscribes to two magazines ('Engineering in Miniature' and 'Steam Railway') of which the latest two editions are left out in the club house for member's enjoyment. After this period, these magazines are stored in one of the locked cupboards. Loose club magazines must not leave the club. Please do not leave other copies of these magazines floating around the club house as it can cause confusion. Also, please note that it has been announced that 'Engineering in Miniature' will cease publication very soon.

Previous 'Engineering in Miniature's' and 'Model Engineers' are bound at which point they become available to borrow like any other books.

## ***Roy P writes:- Importance maintenance continues***

Work to keep everything in working order continues with John G and Jim seen here giving the leaf blowers a complete overhaul as part of general maintenance.

