

# **BEECH HURST NEWS**



**Cover picture: -**

*Ready For The Off:* Amongst many other jobs that were completed this winter was this long section of renewed track from the station to the steaming bays, the picture taken a couple of weeks ago shows the finished section, tried and tested in readiness for the new season.

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## **Editor's Notes**

Well here we are then, spring is most certainly with us and with the season now well under way we can look forward to another summer at last. Despite being very unsettled for the last few weeks, we have so far run every day as planned, with Easter Saturday the only day so far cut short because of nature! Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> was one day when we did get away with the weather, but the evening was freaky, with what looked like a shower approaching about 1730, that soon became a 3 hour deluge, flooding the park and by the Monday morning we had 3 inches of lying snow! Quite ridiculous for what should have been mid-April, not what it looked like, mid-January! All we can hope for now is a nice settled warm spell of weather to enjoy, this is Britain however, so fat chance!

The February edition seems a world away now, but thanks to Alan Garner, Fred Bailey, Chris Saunders, Enid Marten, 'Regulars' and 'Us' for that edition.

This edition also has plenty to offer with jokes courtesy of Ron Harris and Peter Marten, plus articles from 'Regulars' and 'Us'. There is an updated diary of events, plus a 'forthcoming events' page, articles on: subscriptions, elected officers, winter work, jokes, an updated stores, welding lessons etc, etc... so please read on and enjoy...

**Andrew & Mark**

## **Subscriptions**

If you have yet to renew your membership for 2006, then this will be your last newsletter! There have been some changes to the committee and other posts since the last newsletter in February (see elected officers page for details), so if you have subscriptions to pay, then either leave your cash or cheque at the club, marked for the treasurer or send your subscription directly to:

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And I will deal with them directly there.

**Andrew & Mark**

## **Chairman's Notes**

It is with enormous regret that I have to report that your committee has withdrawn the membership of three of our members. This follows more than a year or so of several episodes of verbal bullying and letters of complaint to the committee. Despite warnings being given the situation was not resolved, and in the present day this behaviour can never be acceptable.

I can assure you that we did not act lightly or without very considerable discussion and deliberation over this matter, over a long period.

The added repercussions of this stressful situation have been the loss of three valued members of the committee.

We have now co-opted three new members to help us until the next AGM when they will have to stand for election as usual. (See next article for details of changes)

I do not wish to dwell on these unfortunate matters any longer except to say that I believe the club can now go forward with a spirit of friendship and tolerance that should be the 'norm'.

On a happier note, I'm pleased to say that the running season has begun again and although the weather has been against us, we are off to a good start. This year the committee has authorised Daniel and Mark to drive 2 car steam trains alone in passenger service as they proved themselves very steady and capable last year with our non-steam motive power. I hope they enjoy their season.

The new boiler testing procedures are now coming into practice and Fred, Geoff and Steve are starting to get to grips with the new paperwork. Once up and running I think the new system will be very acceptable, and certainly for those boilers signed off for 4 years at a time for the hydraulic test, probably a little less demanding than before. Remember though a visual inspection and steam test will now be carried out each year.

As I write this, the sun has started to shine and I can see the first green shoots coming on the trees outside the window. I wish everyone a happy, sunny and enjoyable running season!

**Mike**

### **Winter Work and Running Season**

May we firstly thank everybody for all their hard work throughout the winter months and all the tasks that have been completed since October last year. The previous news' have given a more detailed overview of the work that has been carried out, and we thought as a close we would send out a general thank you for everybody's time and effort during the winter months, whether it be a long or ongoing project or just a one off quick task, they all count and are all equally important in keeping the club running and keeping the whole club and area we have in such a wonderful condition, many thanks again.

With regards to this season, we have got off to a solid start so far and have been very well supported with keeping the running book filled over the first few weeks. Hopefully we can keep it this way throughout the season, giving ourselves the pleasure of running the railway and the public the variety of trains that we tend to run now. Andrew, Geoff and Mike are your three Operations Managers again this season and if you would like to put your name in the book, then we will be very pleased to see you! Here's to another very busy and enjoyable season.

**Andrew & Mark**

## Election Of Officers

Annually, after the AGM, the news always reports on the 'comings' and 'goings' of those on the committee and in positions within the club. The following is the revised list of who holds what position in the club:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Occupant</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	M.J. Porter	<u>JW</u>	<u>APB</u>
Vice-Chairman	G.A. West	<u>JWG</u>	<u>JW</u>
Co-opted to the Committee	J. Baldwin	<u>GAW</u>	<u>JW</u>
Secretary	J. Baldwin	<u>GAW</u>	<u>ST</u>
Co-opted to the Committee	N.S. Payne & P. Tomlinson	<u>ST</u> <u>GAW</u>	<u>JW</u> <u>JWG</u>
Treasurer	A.P. Brock	<u>ST</u>	<u>JWG</u>
Minutes Secretary	A.P. Brock	<u>GAW</u>	<u>JWG</u>
Operations Mgr's	M.J. Porter, G.A. West & A.P. Brock	<u>ST</u>	<u>JW</u>
Signals Engineer	S. Turner	<u>MJP</u>	<u>GAW</u>
Consultant S' Eng'	A.J. Killick	<u>ST</u>	<u>APB</u>
Workshop Mgr's	S. Turner & J. West	<u>GAW</u>	<u>JB</u>
House Manager	J. West	<u>ST</u>	<u>GAW</u>
Materials Manager	A.P. Brock &	<u>JW</u>	<u>GAW</u>
Ass' Materials Mgr	P.C. Marten		
Social Secretary	V. West	<u>GAW</u>	<u>JB</u>
News Editors	A.P. Brock & M.C. Allen	<u>MJP</u>	<u>ST</u>
Librarian	S. Hutton	<u>MJP</u>	<u>GAW</u>
Ass' Librarians	A.P. Brock, G.A. West & R. Parsons	<u>JW</u>	<u>ST</u>
Boiler Inspector	F. Bailey	<u>GAW</u>	<u>MJP</u>
Ass' Boiler Insp's	G.A. West & S. Turner	<u>MJP</u>	<u>JWG</u>
Cust'dns W'dale	A.P. Brock	<u>GAW</u>	<u>JWG</u>
Ass' Cust' W'dale	D. Evans		
Carriage Valeter	I. Thompson	<u>MJP</u>	<u>JW</u>
Web Master	S. Hutton	<u>GAW</u>	<u>JB</u>
Custodians of '08' & 'Growler'	D. Evans, J. B-Frost & A. Strongitharm	<u>GAW</u>	<u>MJP</u>

There have been quite a few changes since the last list was published this time last year. Firstly through these pages we would like to thank both John Ely in his capacity as Secretary and Alan Garner as Treasurer who do not wish to continue with these positions. John has been secretary for the past 11 years and special thanks go to John for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes with the secretarial work that none of us ever see. Also to Alan who has been treasurer for the past few seasons, a big thank you for all the banking, paying out and accounting that goes with that position.

The position of secretary has now been filled by John Baldwin, who has been co-opted onto the committee for the remainder of this year until the 2007 AGM. John's contact details will be circulated once we have got the paperwork etc... sorted out from the last committee meeting.

Andrew Brock has now filled the position of treasurer, Andrew's contact details appear on the front of every newsletter and he is also up at Beech Hurst most weekends on both Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to John Baldwin being co-opted on to the committee for the remainder of 2006/7 we also welcome Norman Payne and Paul Tomlinson and thank Don Clarke for his time on the committee in both capacity as Chairman and Social Secretary.

Other changes include the following: Andrew Brock (Materials Manager), Peter Marten (Assistant Materials Manager), Val West (Social Secretary), Geoff West (Assistant Librarian), Daniel Evans (Assistant Custodian of Wharfedale), Stephen Hutton (Web Master), Andrew Strongitharm (Assistant Custodian of '08' & 'Growler').

**Andrew & Mark**

### **Welding Lessons**

It is likely in the next few months or so that Norman Payne's son-in-law will be able to give some instructions in the use of the TIG welder that we possess at the club. So far since we spent a good deal of money on this kit only a small number of people have used it or have been willing to 'have a bash' so to speak without any formal instruction. It was agreed at the committee that this opportunity would be broadcast to all via the newsletter and anybody who wishes to be involved in learning the use of the TIG welder should put their names on the blackboard at the club so we have some idea of how many people would be interested and then we can make the necessary arrangements as to when this would be done. It is probable that groups of up to 6 or so at a time could be shown and therefore several sessions may be required, so if you are interested then please make yourself known and take the opportunity to learn this very useful piece of kit.

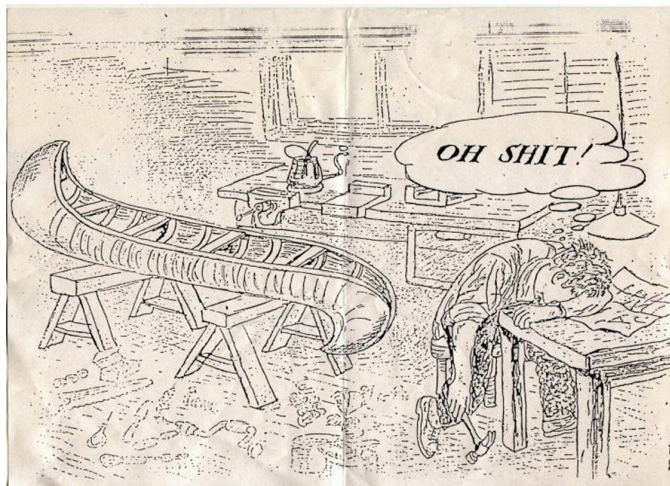
**Andrew & Mark**

### **Jokes**

A slightly different jokes page this time, with two pictorial jokes, courtesy of Ron Harris and Peter Marten respectively. Thanks for the following:



**Subject:** The first recorded case of Bird Flu in America...!



**Subject:** No caption required really! (Study the picture carefully!)

**Ron & Peter**



## **Forthcoming Events**

SMLS has been invited to the track at Pinewood near Wokingham on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June; this is the club that we visited a couple of years ago when SMLS took a coach trip to the Great Cockrow and also to Pinewood one Sunday. As yet no one has expressed an interest in making this trip and with it being on a Sunday I suspect that we will be busy enough at Beech Hurst anyway. If anyone does wish to visit then please see Andrew, Geoff or Mike at the club and we can make a list on the board and then contact Ivan Hurst with possible numbers.

It has been suggested that with the club celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year that we may like to have some sort of day or event for this. Jack Pitt suggested that we could incorporate our usual BBQ evening into this, and an idea that was mooted last weekend would be a one day special, probably on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, when we would look to run as many engines as is reasonably possible in service that day, followed by a 'bring your own' BBQ in the evening open to everyone to attend. At this stage this is only an idea and if anyone else has any ideas they would like to 'throw into the ring' then if they could see Andrew, Geoff or Mike before our next committee on 25<sup>th</sup> May then we can discuss this then.

There is also likely to be our usual end of summer 'bring your own' BBQ on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

The first weekend of September has for the last few years been a special running weekend, either Saturday or Sunday or both and it is likely that we would do something similar this time, whether it be a double-headed day, £2 all day fare or something along those lines has yet to be decided, more details in the June or August editions.

Finally we have also been invited to the Malden track this October. This visit is a bit of a way off yet, but if it is anything like last years it will be a very good day out, with plenty to see and do and fantastic hospitality, plus being spread over two days this year, should be a little less hectic on the track than last years event.

When we get any further dates to add to this section, we will duly publish them in the April edition of the newsletter or they will be advertised on the notice board in the clubhouse at Beech Hurst.

**Andrew & Mark**

## **Diary Of Events**

4<sup>th</sup> May 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

4<sup>th</sup> June 2006 – Invitation to Pinewood track, Nr. Wokingham, details TBC

6<sup>th</sup> July 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

8<sup>th</sup> July 2006 – Invitation for IoW, Maidstone & Pinewood to visit SMLS, TBC

Mid-July 2006 – Special running day connected to 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary, TBC

Mid-July 2006 – Bring your own BBQ evening – date and time TBC

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

26<sup>th</sup> August 2006 – Provisional bring your own BBQ evening – TBC

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> September 2006 – Special running day/weekend, details TBC

7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2006 – Visit to Malden track, Nr Surbiton, details TBC

N.B. Other events are not always shown in the diary of events because they have been arranged at short notice; check black/notice board at the clubhouse for more details.

**Andrew & Mark**



## Additions to the Materials Store

Andrew recently obtained the following materials and sundries from Maidstone and EKP supplies, the latter being an absolute pleasure to deal with, having been recommended by Ron Harris, they have not only got a very good range of stock, but as I found, if you order on the morning of one day, the package turns up on the morning of the next, all the way from deepest, darkest Devon!

Anyhow, the list below can be added to the others published in the December and February news' to give our latest stock. There are one or two other bits that are still required, but they will either be ordered or obtained from the Harrogate exhibition in a couple of weeks' time. Please see either Andrew or Peter Marten at the club for your requirements in the meantime.

**NB** A word of warning however, I recently purchased the Olives and Nuts from Maidstone engineering. They were labelled as 3/16" (0.1875") pipe, but Ray took one to try on 'Martlet' and we then discovered that they are actually bored 5mm (0.196"), a difference of some 10 thou, that silver solder would barely take up, I suspect that all of the fittings may well be heading metric, which is fine in the case of 5/32"/4mm, but for most of the imperial sizes they are not that close to the metric equivalent and therefore not suitable for imperial pipe. Unless of course the pipe will soon be metric only as well, one can only wonder! The only way out would be to do as I do and 'D.I.Y.!' A bit time consuming though!

<b>Mild Steel</b> - 1/8" dia x 6 lengths	13p per 12" length
7/16" dia x 3 lengths	68p per 12" length
<b>Silver Steel</b> - 1/2" dia x 2 lengths	781p per 13" length
<b>Stainless Steel</b> - 1/8" dia x 3 lengths	67p per 12" length
3/16" dia x 3 lengths	65p per 12" length
1/4" dia x 3 lengths	118p per 12" length
5/16" dia x 3 lengths	155p per 12" length
3/8" dia x 3 lengths	204p per 12" length
7/16" dia x 3 lengths	332p per 12" length
1/2" dia x 3 lengths	436p per 12" length
<b>Brass</b> - 1/4" x 1/4" x 1/16" angle x 5 lengths	107p per 12" length
5/16" x 5/16" x 1/16" angle x 5 lengths	175p per 12" length
<b>Bronze</b> - 1/8" dia x 3 lengths (PB102)	147p per 12" length
3/16" dia x 3 lengths (PB102)	212p per 12" length
1/4" dia x 3 lengths (PB102)	247p per 12" length
5/16" dia x 3 lengths (PB102)	376p per 12" length
3/8" dia x 3 lengths (PB102)	486p per 12" length
1/2" dia x 3 lengths (PB102)	593p per 12" length
1/4" HEX x 3 lengths (Colphos 90)	304p per 12" length

**Comsol & Flux** - 1 pot of comsol flux + 2 x 2' lengths of comsol TBCp

**Rivets** - Brass: 3/64" and 1/16" x 3 packets 137p & 137p per 100  
Copper: 1/16", 3/32", 1/8" x 3 packets 131p, 174p & 231p per 100

**Nuts & Olives** - 3/32", 1/8" & 5/32" x 10 each 57p, 59p & 59p each pair

**Mild Steel Bolts** - 2BA x 1/2" Hex head x 100 768p per 100  
5BA x 1/2" Hex head x 100 552p per 100  
7BA x 1/2" Hex head x 100 768p per 100  
8 BA x 1/2" Hex head x 100 768p per 100

2BA x 1/2" Socket CSK x 10 23p each  
2BA x 1/2" Socket Cap x 10 16p each  
8 BA x 3/8" Socket Cap x 10 26p each

**Stainless Steel** - 5/32" A/F Hex x 3 lengths 175p per 12" length  
3/16" A/F Hex x 3 lengths 102p per 12" length  
1/4" A/F Hex x 3 lengths 123p per 12" length  
5/16 A/F Hex x 3 lengths 164p per 12" length

**Stainless Steel Bolts** - 4BA x 1" CSK x 20 29p each  
4BA Nuts for above 10p each  
5BA x 1" Cheese head x 10 27p each  
5BA Nuts for above 10p each  
6BA x 1" Cheese head x 10 27p each  
6BA Nuts for above 11p each  
7BA x 1/2" Cheese head x 10 25p each  
8BA x 1/2" Cheese head x 10 25p each  
8BA Nuts for above 23p each  
10 BA x 1/2" Cheese head x 10 31p each

**Andrew**