

BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

Off & Running: With the 55th anniversary day well underway, Norman driving his Class 47 is seen leaving the station with another full load. A report on the day itself and evening BBQ, plus pictures, appears inside.

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Editor's Notes

We guess that with the August edition now with us that the summer of '06 is coming to an abrupt end fairly shortly. With the weather turning somewhat more unsettled and the cessation of the tropical temperatures we had a few weeks back, it is getting more towards the end of the summer rather than the middle of it, also with the Bank Holiday weekend all but a week away, that really spells the beginning of the end.

Thanks must firstly go to the contributors of the last newsletter, those being: Andrew, Enid Marten, Julian Atkins & Stephen Hutton, plus all the regular columnists and features, it was quite a bumper issue.

This issue is slightly more slim line, with Andrew and Ron Harris contributing, plus all the regular features etc... There are articles on our 55th anniversary day, bowls evening, aerial photo's, jokes, forthcoming events + an updated diary of events, including next weeks BBQ evening and a planned trip to the Malden club in early October, so please read on and enjoy...

Andrew & Mark

Forthcoming Events

Just as a quick reminder, as the next edition will not be published until mid-October, of a couple of forthcoming events. The first is on Saturday 26th August, when we have our traditional end of summer 'Bring Your Own' BBQ evening. We will light up from about 1800 that day and anyone is welcome, just bring your own grub and enjoy the evening. There will also almost certainly be a number of engines running that evening too.

The other event is a visit to the track at Malden in Surrey on 7th or 8th October. This year is a two day affair and is held at their track near Thames Ditton, adjacent to the South Western mainline at Hampton Court Junction. We will take a number of locomotives for all to enjoy and if it is anything like last year, then it will be a really good day. A bit nearer the time, say from mid-September there will be a list on the board in the clubhouse so we have a better idea of numbers likely to be attending. It is almost certain that we would visit on Saturday 7th, as there is less rush to get back and normally less traffic to contend with too, details at the club to follow shortly.

Details of the Bonfire and Nosh nights will then hopefully appear in the October edition, with firm dates.

Andrew & Mark

Congratulations

One other little piece of news is to congratulate Brian and Joan Taylor who have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Through these pages we would like to say many happy returns for reaching this milestone and to many more happy years of marriage. There are fewer and fewer couples who reach this kind of celebration nowadays and that makes this even more special.

Andrew & Mark

Chairman's Notes

August is here already and we are in the busiest part of our running season. After a wet spell earlier in the year, the weather had been hot and kind to us recently, but, as I write, our more usual summer weather has returned again! The park has been busy during the nice weather and our passenger numbers have been good.

Our 55th anniversary running day was very enjoyable in July, with 9 trains on the track at one time. It wasn't easy keeping them moving, but for the most part a train left the station on every yellow signal, and it was nice to do something different! The passengers also enjoyed it too, because even though we were loading the trains as fast as we could, there was a queue most of the afternoon! We also had a good number of locomotives on display in the steaming bays for people to view. In the evening we finished the day with a grand BBQ, complete with delicious desserts (thanks to Val and John) and it was nice to have some member's wives and families come and join us. As usual, it was dark when we finally cleared up and put everything away! Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day run smoothly and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

The July club night (first Thursday of each month) was taken up by an introduction to TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) welding. Norman's son-in-law Simon came to give us a talk on the basics & a few do's and don'ts and then we each 'had a go' under supervision. By the end of the evening I think most of us produced a weld of some sort (and burned a few holes here and there!). But now we know enough to practise ourselves. A most useful evening, and it was nice to have a good turnout to hear Simon's advice!

In August the club night was set aside to play bowls with our friends the bowlers (next door). They are most kind to us, providing cakes and goodies after many weekend matches and we in turn lend them our kitchen occasionally for their big events. They invited us to play bowls with them for a friendly match one evening, and by mutual agreement we arranged the August club night. They laid on refreshments for us and opened their bar and a very enjoyable evening was reported by all! We've promised to give them some rides when they have some visiting clubs later in the season! It's very nice that we are able to be good friends with our park neighbours!

Unfortunately, the weather turned sour on us for last Saturday's double heading plans, but Saturday 2nd September we have our big "double header £2 all day ticket" event to finish off the school summer holidays. Help always welcome with this one, which is traditionally our biggest passenger hauling day of the year!

Finally, thanks to everyone who has helped to make the season run so smoothly so far, and not only on the track! Behind the scenes Andrew & Mark work hard to keep the lawn and track circuit well manicured, Steve has finished the new truck brakes which are now under test, and John G has been painting and putting up the new guttering around the clubhouse.

After all this hard work, a little fun is in order, so don't forget our late summer BBQ on August Bank Holiday Saturday evening, from 1800.

Enjoy the rest of the season!

Mike

A short test for smart people

The following short quiz consists of 4 questions and will tell you whether you are qualified to be a professional. Scroll down for each answer.

The questions are NOT that difficult. But don't scroll down UNTIL you have answered the question!

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

The correct answer is: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Did you say, Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator? **Wrong Answer.**

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend... except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer: The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there. This tests your memory. Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross but crocodiles use it and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

Conclusion: According to Anderson Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong, but many preschoolers got several correct answers. Anderson Consulting says this conclusively disproves the theory that most professionals have the brains of a four-year-old!

Ron Harris

55th Anniversary Day

Having had mild celebrations for the 45th anniversary some ten years ago and follow a suggestion from Jack Pitt, it was decided that we would do something again this year to celebrate our 'Emerald' anniversary. Although not a big milestone, it was a chance to do something different and have some fun in the process. The idea of the day was to have as many engines public hauling as was possible, in fact 10 did so, to have engines on display for people to view and to finish the day with a BBQ for everyone to enjoy, in addition we also decorated the station with bunting borrowed from the bowls club and had a union flag flying from the steaming bays to add a little colour to the place.



In fact all in all, the whole day went very well indeed, with 9 trains on during the afternoon time and about 8 engines also on display on the steaming bays + Big Boy on the siding round the back, everything seemed to work quite well, we did have to start dispatching two trains per section for a while as the queue was becoming very long, inflated somewhat by the arrival of a large wedding party, and with that many engines on the track, section space became increasingly short, but for the most part the service ran well and everybody had their fair share of loads. We finally finished passenger service by about 1715 and then set about getting the BBQ ready for later on, it was a bring your own type BBQ, with drinks and puddings provided 'on the house' and organised by John & Val. With several engines still in steam in the evening too it made for a very pleasant atmosphere and we guess we finally finished by about 2230. A particularly tiring day, but nevertheless a very enjoyable one and thanks must go to all those who helped prepare, advertise and run everything before and during the day itself.

Quite what the 60th will bring we're not sure, it is a bit of a way off yet, but will be a massive milestone for the club and in a few years time we will have to think how it can

be celebrated.

Pictures over leaf courtesy of Stephen Hutton:

Top – Ray passing the clubhouse with another full load of passengers behind the 'Black 5'.

Middle - Peter Marten pointing the way forward with his '08', ably assisted by John Gange driving the clubs '08' at the rear, complete with wedding guests.

Bottom – The BBQ in full swing in the evening.

Andrew & Mark

Aerial Photographs



Many at the club were surprised a few weeks back, when a photographer and his wife turned up one Saturday afternoon, started setting up a camera on the end of a pole that must have been about 50 feet off the ground by the bowls clubhouse in readiness to take some photo's of the park, bowls and the trains. It would appear that the cover of the next Haywards Heath handbook should be of a photograph of the bowlers, part of the park and the trains running round. It is sort of a promotion of the park, bowls club and railway all in one and the finished publication then gets delivered to all address' in the RH16 postcode area. A similar handbook is also to be produced for Cuckfield and Burgess Hill, but we are not sure whether that would

feature Beech Hurst as well. We have recently received the Haywards Heath edition at the club and it does indeed feature a nice cover colour photo of the park, bowls club and railway. Bearing in mind how many people discover the park by chance and who live in Haywards Heath, this can only improve our popularity further and hopefully encourage further usage of the park too.

A copy of the handbook, plus several additional photo's sent by the cameraman are at the club and you can see the railway in a whole new perspective.

Pictures Above courtesy of the cameraman:

Top – Andrew driving Paul's Britannia, with a bowls match in the foreground and a family party in the background.

Bottom – Paul driving his own engine on the same afternoon, passing the steaming bays, towards the station.

Andrew & Mark

Bowls Evening



Our August club night was of a slightly different format this time, with a pre-arranged friendly fixture against the bowls club. The evening provided the chance to meet and socialise with the bowling club and for many of our own members to sample the delights of bowling for the first time. We started at about 1830 and paired

up with two bowlers and two members together to form a team, using four rinks we then played ten 'ends' to find a winner. It was really enjoyable to be honest and I think that despite some initial reservations we 'held our own' and played quite well, in fact by the end of the games it was more of a case of trying to hang on to our members and stop them defecting to bowls!

Pictured Above: Two rinks of action, with Andrew having just bowled.

A light buffet supper and the use of the bar in the clubhouse then followed up the match. I am sure I speak for everyone who took part in saying that it was a very enjoyable evening, perfect weather and a really nice atmosphere, with a little competitive spirit added in for good measure, through these pages I would like thank the bowls club for the initial invitation, the match, the food and top hospitality throughout, many thanks again. I would also hope that we enjoyed it too and that something like this could be arranged again next year.

Andrew

Diary Of Events

26th August 2006 – Bring your own BBQ evening – Will start at approx 1800.

2nd September 2006 – £2 all day special event + all trains doubled headed.

7th September 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

30th September 2006 – Visit of IoW, Maidstone & Pinewood clubs to SMLS.

5th October 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

7th or 8th October 2006 – Visit to Malden track, Nr Surbiton, details TBC.

****Names and numbers required by mid-September****

2nd November 2006 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

28th Oct' or 4th Nov' – Provisional dates for 'Bonfire/Beans and Potatoes' 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