

Sussex Miniature Locomotive Society Ltd

Issue No. 408
April 2014

BEECH HURST NEWS

SUSSEX MINIATURE
LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY

BEECH HURST
HAYWARDS HEATH

**ANNIVERSARY OF
3½ & 5in. GAUGE
TRACK**

SATURDAY, 10th MAY, 1954-2014
at 2 p.m.

**Models Running All Afternoon
and from 2 p.m. SUNDAY, 11th**

PASSENGERS CARRIED

Cover picture: -

Special Occasion: With the 60th anniversary of the opening of the track now under a month away, plans are very much in hand for the special day on 10th May. Details for this and a planned itinerary for the day are included inside this edition...

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Editor's Notes

As I write these notes, spring weather has finally arrived and it has been a nice change over the past few weeks to see more of the sun! With the clocks having gone forward a couple of weeks ago it is also nice to have daylight into the evening too. The last couple of weeks of March were nearly as exceptional as the previous couple of months, except not for the rainfall. Balmy temperatures in the low 20's were experienced and it is a pity Easter was not early this year otherwise it would have been very pleasant indeed! That said, our first couple of weekends of the 2014 season have been steady enough and more importantly dry too, so we can't complain! Hopefully the 10th May special day will be equally good and as long as it is dry and not too cold then all will be fine! An article and itinerary for this event are included within this edition and if you would like to come along and be a part of it then there is still time.

From the February edition I would like to thank Dave M, Norman & Ray for their respective pieces...

In this edition, apart from the aforementioned 10th May details, there is part 2 of Norman's Sudan article, an updated Officer's, Director's & Jobs List for 2014, the final instalment of Winter Work, all the usual writings and a substantially updated Diary right through till September, so please read on and enjoy...

Andrew

Chairman's Notes

The running season for 2014 is now underway and off to a very good start, thanks in no small part to the better weather which arrived just in time!

At the AGM last month, Steve Steer and Steve Turner were voted back on to the Committee along with Nick Edwards who joins for the first time. We welcome him and say a big thank you to John West who stood down this year from the Committee after many years service. I'm happy to say that John is also recovering well from his recent heart surgery.

I would like to thank the other members who also put their names forward for election this year. Some years it has not been possible to find members willing to stand and voting has had to be 'en bloc' with no choice!

Following the AGM, the Committee decided to 'co-opt' Andrew Strongitharm for a one year position as another Committee member. It was thought that we need to 'bring on' our younger established members and anyway Andrew already sits on the Committee as Minutes Secretary.

Next month is our 60th anniversary of the opening of the track. The Committee has been finalising plans for this event which is timetabled for Saturday 10th May. Further details and an itinerary appear in this newsletter.

Other visits are planned again for this year along with another 'fun day' for the Club on June 20th / 21st when Steve Steer is putting together a '24 hour' running event (with different engines and drivers throughout a 24 hour period). Speak to Steve S if you would like to be involved. We will also have another 'Little Engine' passenger hauling day in August. So this year will be another busy one for the Club.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those members who have been involved with the workshop refurbishment. It has been a major task but we will soon have a modern, safe workshop fit for the 21st century! Special thanks to Peter Chapman, Mike Wakeling, Graham Mundy, Steve Steer and Steve Turner who have done a tremendous amount of 'hard labour' on the project.

Out on the track, Roy P is starting again on painting work in the long tunnel and if you are free to help at anytime please contact him. Volunteers on this never ending task are always welcome.

So with an eventful year in prospect, the sun shining (as I write!) and Easter coming, I wish everyone a successful and enjoyable 2014 season...

Mike

Club History

Continuing the series, you will find my next 2 pages (15 & 16) stapled to the rear of your newsletter, which follow the last 2 published in the December edition.

Steve T

Election of 'Officers' and 'Workers' for 2014

At our first Committee meeting following the AGM we always elect members to fill the Officer's & other 'Working' positions within the Club, this list is for 2014:

Chairman: Mike Porter

Vice-Chairman: Steve Turner

Secretary: John Baldwin

Minutes Secretary: Andrew Strongitharm

Treasurer: Andrew Brock

Other Committee Members in Addition to the Above Officer's:

Nick Edwards, Daniel Evans, John Gange, Graham Mundy, Steve Steer, Steve Turner & Andrew Strongitharm

Operations Managers: Nick Edwards, Daniel Evans & Mike Porter

Signals Engineer: Graham Mundy

Assistant Signals: Steve Turner

Workshop Manager: Mike Wakeling

Assistant Workshop: Steve Steer

House Manager: John West

Catering Manager: Val West

Stores Managers: Nick Edwards & Steve Steer

Social Secretary: Val West

Librarian: Ray Parsons

Assistant Librarians: Steve Turner & Geoff West

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Brock

Boiler Coordinator: John Richardson

Assistant Boiler Coordinator: Steve Turner

Boiler Inspectors: Mike Porter & Paul Tomlinson

Custodians of Club Steam Locomotives: Adam Cro, Nick Edwards, Daniel Evans & Andrew Strongitharm

Assistant Custodian: Laurie Anderson
Custodian of Club Electric Locomotives: Graham Mundy
Carriage Valeters: Graham Mundy, Ian Thompson & Sharon Thompson
Webmaster: Stephen Hutton
Clubhouse Cleaners: Nick Edwards, Daniel Evans & Mike Porter
Track Maintenance: Roy Preston
Carriage & Wagon Maintenance: Andrew Brock & Andrew Strongitharm

Any changes to the above will be communicated through the newsletter.

Andrew

Winter Work

Following the last newsletter, out on the day of our AGM, a further few jobs have been completed (or are still in progress) prior to the start of running as detailed below.

Outside, Roy P, Dave M and John G made some final adjustments and checked the track before the season opened. Since then, and as recently as last week, Roy has now started with some mid-week painting and adjustments in the long tunnel, which given the still wet ground is a bit of a messy job!

Also outside, Andrew S, Mike W, Steve S & I rubbed down and painted the footboards and handrails on most of the trucks in readiness for the new season. We were followed by Graham M, Ian & Sharon who then gave the trucks a deep clean to at least start the season with them looking very smart! Generally, and with care during the year, they do stay looking very smart most of the time.

Inside, the major work has still been with the workshop renovation. Steve T has spent a number of days at the Club during the last month supervising the installation of the new electrics and during the last fortnight Mike Wakeling, assisted at various times by Graham M, Laurie, Peter C, Steve S & I, has started to move machines back to their new positions, generally tidy up and begin the task of painting the floor. It was my intention from the last newsletter to produce a full and final update on the workshop renovation, however Mike W has asked for this to be postponed until the June edition by which time everything should be finished and a final plan of the new layout will be available for publication. As I write, the latest job has been the addition of ply boarding to the north facing wall, which will be used to hang hand tools from for ease of access and to readily see which ones are also missing! As of Good Friday the floor is now pretty clear too!

With the exception of the workshop report, Winter Work will now take its summer break and return again in the October edition towards the end of the year. Looking back, a lot has been achieved again this winter, from track, trucks and building maintenance to all the annual routine jobs which come about every year. A core group of 12 – 15 people do the vast majority of this work and through these pages we should all thank those who contribute during the often cold and dark winter days, sometimes out in all weathers to keep the place looking very smart. We are very lucky with what we have at Beech Hurst, however keeping it that way is not by any form of luck, just by pure hard work!

Andrew

A Trip to Sudan for Food Aid – Part 2 of 3 – By Norman Payne

Following the first article in the February edition, part 2 of Norman's trip continues below.

About a week after we left Sudan we flew back to Khartoum and stayed the night in the Meridian Hotel. We were surprised to see the dead donkey mentioned in part 1 still lying in the middle of the road attached to its cart! It had become a roundabout with traffic just going round it and because of the severe heat out there had become very unpleasant too!

The next day we went back to Atbara by train to be given the money for our stay. As we waited to be served in the bank we saw a snake like animal climbing up the inside of the wall and go into a crack within it. In England there would have been panic but no one took any notice of it! After leaving the bank we went to the railway works, where we stayed for a week, and started our work on the locomotives. Working with Sudanese people proved to be quite difficult because when asked to do anything their answer would almost invariably be 'tomorrow' (which we know never comes!). During our week in Atbara we lodged at the Nile Hotel and at the end of this stay we returned to Khartoum for the flight home.



Picture Above: One of the 'K' class locomotives Norman worked on in Sudan. The boilers from the locomotives had been removed and were now in transit to South Wales ready for repair. On arriving home we travelled to Tredegar in South Wales to start work on the boilers, which had arrived a few days earlier. To complete the work we rented a factory in Tredegar, however on arrival the boilers had been delivered to a car park and needed moving to our factory!

It was January, the weather was very cold and everywhere was covered with thick snow, including the boilers! This weather was hard to cope with having just arrived back from Sudan where it was hot. In order to move the boilers to our factory I took my Ferguson tractor to Tredegar and we set about the task of building a suitable trailer to carry them! One at a time the boilers were taken to the factory and work could now commence.

Each boiler required re-tubing (about 150 tubes in each) along with some replacement stays in their fireboxes. The stay renewal meant a lot of extra work, coupled with the need to have regular visits from the boiler inspector to check our work was satisfactory. To help carry this out I employed 8 men from South Wales, however each had to be trained in the skill of boiler repair, so this task was easier said than done! Each boiler was required by Sudan Railways to be issued with certification and once repaired they were hydraulically tested to 360lb sq" or twice working pressure. Fortunately we got on very well with the inspector and he commended us by saying that our standard of work was extremely good. Once the repairs were complete, the boilers were taken back to Port Talbot and loaded back on to the Food Aid ships bound for Sudan. With our task at this end complete, all that was left to do was to return to Sudan and check that the newly repaired boilers had arrived safely and been fitted correctly back to each locomotive – part 3 concludes in June...

Forthcoming Events

As this edition is delivered, there are but 3 weeks till our special day on 10th May. Final details have been pretty much set in stone and below in the 'Forthcoming Events' section are details and a planned itinerary for the day itself. It would be good to get as many members as possible up to Beech Hurst on the day and celebrate this special occasion. All we can hope for is a decent day!

Looking beyond the 10th, Chelmsford Club are due on 7th June for their annual visit and likewise I hope we can lay on some decent weather for our guests. Their visits in previous years seem to have been blighted by rain or wind, so with a bit of luck 2014 will be better!

The following Saturday we have been invited to visit the Chelmsford track and if you are interested in this visit then please add your name to the blackboard at the Club, details for which will appear in the next couple of weeks.

The mid-summer weekend has been pencilled in for a 24 hour fun run. Steve Steer proposed the idea and after agreement from Committee it is 'full steam ahead'! The idea is to start running at 17:00 on Friday 20th and including the passenger hours on Saturday 21st, we run till 17:00 on the Saturday, i.e. 24 consecutive hours! Time slots will be allocated for people to run their own or Club locomotives, so if you are interested in being a part of this then do let Steve know ASAP so final arrangements can be made. Details and a list of those participants will be on the blackboard in the clubhouse.

The following Friday evening (27th) we will be hosting our friends from the Lavender Line at Isfield for a buffet meal and evening run. This is always a good evening and so far we have not had a wet one. Hopefully 2014 will stay dry too!

The next day we have our mid-summer 'Bring Your Own' BBQ evening. The usual format will apply with onions and puddings provided, however you will need to bring the meat! With a bit of luck and a dry evening we should have some trains running too, and hopefully it will not be as bad as our previous BBQ evening last August, which was just wet but not rained off (we can't allow that)!

Into July and we have been invited to visit our friends at Colchester on Saturday 19th. Nearer the date, names will be required on the blackboard and I can safely say from our visit a couple of years ago it is a very nice set up and very friendly atmosphere too with damn good fish & chips for lunch!

The following Wednesday 23rd, we have invited Crowborough Club for a visit again this year following a very successful one last year on a very hot July Wednesday! Hopefully we can lay on something similar for them again this year!

After a 'break' during early August, we then have a double-bill on Saturday 23rd with a 'Little Engine' special day for the 14:00 – 17:00 slot featuring many small locomotives not normally seen in action at Beech Hurst. That will be followed by our end of summer 'Bring Your Own' BBQ during the evening. The BBQ format is as per June with onions and puddings supplied as long as you bring the rest! All we can hope for is a better day / evening than August 2013...

Finally for now is a return invitation to Colchester Club to visit Beech Hurst on Saturday 13th September. They had a very successful reciprocal visit a couple of years ago and hopefully it will be likewise this year. As with Chelmsford Club, we see many of our friends from Colchester at some of the exhibitions so it will be nice to welcome them to Beech Hurst to run their locomotives on our track.

The period between our AGM and now is generally fairly quiet for social events, however it will be quite a busy summer one way or another with the Diary for 2014 a pretty full one. Reports and pictures on all of the events listed in the Diary will appear in the June, August and October editions respectively. For sure the biggest day for us as a Club is the 10th May special and we have just got to hope for a good day weather wise! Outline details & itinerary for the 10th appear below.

- ***Details & Order of 60th Anniversary of Track Event / Ceremony:***

Further to the details already published, confirmed for the 10th May are:

- £1 fare or free ride for those who show 1954 coinage for original 6d fare.
 - 6 locomotives, one from each of the 6 decades (1954-2014) hauling trains.
 - Demonstration freight train running prior to passenger service.
 - Display of locos on Brian's siding, including 1 loco from 1954 opening day.
 - 'G' scale layout in car park (**provisional depending on availability**).
 - Re-enactment ceremony to be performed by Nicholas Owen (BBC News).
 - Special anniversary cake as per revised advertisement poster (see cover).
1. **09.00 - Onwards** Preparation for our big day (all volunteers welcome!).
 2. **12.40 - 12.55** Steam Locomotives are lit up.
 3. **13.00 - 13.30** Class 08 to haul demonstration freight train.
 4. **13.15 - 13.30** Nicholas Owen arrives and escorted by Chris Saunders.
 5. **13.15 - 13.30** Passenger hauling locomotives are put on the track.
 6. **13.35 - 13.40** All trains move off to the station.

7. **13.45** First passenger train (Ray / Black 5) is loaded with passengers ready for official send off after ceremony.
8. **13.50** Ceremony begins at station lead by Society Chairman (MP) who will introduce Nicholas Owen.
9. **13.50** Class 08 and goods train to be shunted to main carriage siding.
10. **13.50 - 13.55** Nicholas Owen to read out a pre-prepared speech about the Clubs history / significant past events.
11. **13.55** Nicholas Owen to cut anniversary cake, provided by Adam Cro.
12. **14.00** Nicholas Owen to wave off (green flag required) first passenger train to signify the beginning of the next decade of operation. The first train will comprise of Ray Parsons driving his 'Black 5' locomotive which, when waved away, will break ribbon tied across the track. As ribbon breaks, all locomotives present to sound whistles / horns.
13. **14.05** Nicholas Owen to ride (or drive) on second departure.
14. **Onwards - 17.00** Passenger trains run for normal 3 hour duration.

Diary of Events

- 1st May 2014 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900
- 10th May 2014 – 60th Anniversary of the Track Opening Special
- 5th June 2014 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900
- 7th June 2014 – Chelmsford Club to visit Beech Hurst from 1000
- 14th June 2014 – SMLS invited to visit Chelmsford Club from 1000
- 20th / 21st June 2014 – 24 Hour Fun Run from 1700
- 27th June 2014 – Lavender Line to visit Beech Hurst from 1800
- 28th June 2014 – Mid-summer 'Bring Your Own' BBQ from 1800
- 3rd July 2014 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900
- 19th July 2014 – SMLS invited to visit Colchester Club from 1000
- 23rd July 2014 – Crowborough Club to visit Beech Hurst from 1000
- 7th August 2014 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900
- 23rd August 2014 – 'Little Engine' Special Day
- 23rd August 2014 – End of summer 'Bring Your Own' BBQ from 1800
- 4th September 2014 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900
- 13th September 2014 – Colchester Club to visit Beech Hurst from 1000

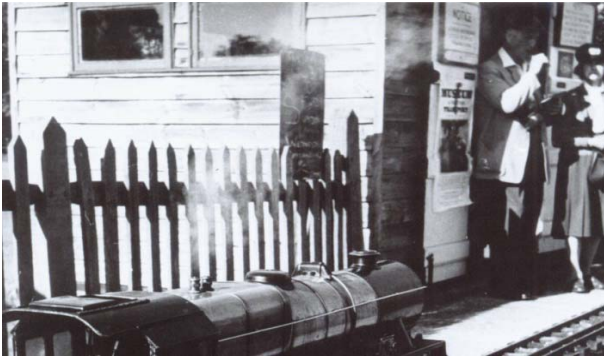
NB. Certain events may be organised at short notice and will not therefore appear in the newsletter. Please check black / notice boards in the clubhouse for details of such events.

Andrew

History of The S.M.L.S.

| Information Found | | | Names | Relevant Information | Notes | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Place | No | Date | | | | |
| News Letters 1954-62 Bound | 2 | 18 June 1955 | Ron Bostel (S.R.) Editor | Newsletter | A visit is planned to The Maidstone Society track on the 12th June 1955 | |
| | | | | | A C.U.D.C. Function will be held in the Park on the 2nd July 1955 | |
| | | | | | A C.U.D.C. Function will be held in the Park on the 9th July 1955 | |
| | | | | | A visit to our track is planned for The South London Society on the 24th July 1955 | |
| | | | | | A visit to our track is planned for The Croydon Society on the 11th September 1955 | |
| | | | | | The 2nd Club Loco Trials has provisionally been set for the 18th September 1955 | |
| | | | | | A visit is planned to The Maidstone Society track on the 4th September 1955 | |
| | | | | | The 30th ME Exhibition will be held between 17th & 27th August 1955 | |
| | | | | | Pop Watson is having a problem getting to the park & would appreciate a lift from any members passing his way. | |
| SMLS Committee Minutes 1951- 59 Bound | 14 | 20 August 1955 | 7 In Attendance | Apologies:- | K.N.Harris, A.C.Cornwell & Harold Lovell. | |
| | | | Leonard Whittington | Chairman & Treasurer | Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were read & confirmed as correct then signed by the Chairman. | |
| | | | | | The new signals (2 aspect) for the steaming bay & signals (3 aspect) to control the cutting above the bridge have been installed & are working fine. | |
| | | | Ernest Brown (Father) | Vice Chairman | The framework for the hut is now in position. (a slight change to the door position is needed) | |
| | | | Ron Bostel (S.R.) | Secretary | A further trolley is to be purchased from Jack Austen-Walton along with his driving truck at the same price of £10.0.0 each. | |
| | | | Arthur Ayliffe (A.E.) | Other | The new Club badges are to be ordered from Reliance Name Plates Ltd at a cost of £0.2.10d (22.5p) each member to be given free. | |
| | | | Alf Funnell | Other | The date of 17th September 1955 has been set for an after dark running section for members. (Grub & Tea supplied free) | |
| | | | Jack Austen-Walton | Other | The question of rules was raised, The Committee asked if we could get a copy of The Watford Society's Rules book to look at. | |
| Les Clarke (A.L.) | Other | The sharing of takings with other Club's was discussed & it was felt that it should be discussed at the next A.G.M | | | | |
| News Letters 1954-62 Bound | | 24th August 1955 | Ron Bostel (S.R.) Editor | Special Edition Newsletter | A visit from the S.M.E.E. to our track is planned for the 4th September 1955 | |
| | | | | | A visit from The Croydon Society is planned for the 11th September 1955 | |
| | | | | | The 1st Shovelcue will be held on the 17th September 1955 | |
| SMLS Committee Minutes 1951- 59 Bound | 15 | 10 December 1955 | 7 In Attendance | Apologies - Jack Austen-Walton | Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were read & confirmed as correct then signed by the Chairman. | |
| | | | Leonard Whittington | Chairman & Treasurer | The rules were discussed and as we had not received a copy of the Watford Society's yet we would compile our own. | |
| | | | Ernest Brown (Father) | Vice Chairman | The new badges have arrived & 1 was given to each Committee member. | |
| | | | Ron Bostel (S.R.) | Secretary | Charlie Killick was co-opted to the Committee and it was decided that all the control gear be moved into the station hut along with an illustrating diagram. | |
| | | | Alf Funnell | Other | During the discussion it was suggested that a 3 aspect signal to be put in the station for the starting of a run. | |
| | | | Harold Lovell (H.A.) | A new Committee member | An estimate from Stephen Knight & Co was to be asked for in conjunction with the station fence with horizontal rails with vertical concrete Pales. | |
| | | | K.N.Harris | Other | The station has now been completed except for the Cuprinol coating. | |
| | | | Allan Killick | Co-opted to the Committee | A date was set for the 4th February 1956 for the A.G.M.to be held in the Tea Room at Beech Hurst. | |
| A.G.M. Minutes | 4 | 04 February 1956 | 15 Members in Attendance | | Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were read & confirmed as correct then signed by the Chairman. | |
| | | | The New Committee for 1956/57 | | | Some small changes were made to the Committee. |
| | | | Leonard Whittington | Chairman & Treasurer | Service had been run every weekend for the season. | |
| | | | Ron Bostel (S.R.) | Secretary | The question of the use by other clubs was discussed, profit to be equally divided between visiting clubs & the SMLS. | |
| | | | Ernest Brown (Father) | Vice Chairman | Cheques to be signed by any 2 of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice Chairman. | |
| | | | Arthur Ayliffe (A.E.) | Vice Chairman | The water tank in the steaming bay needs to be raised & a new one erected in the station & coal to be available in the station. | |
| | | | A.E.Cornwell | Other | It was proposed that Rowland Emmett (Artist) be approached as the Club President. | |
| | | | Jack Austen-Walton | Track Manager | The Club hut & the steaming bays were now complete but the fencing was needed for the station. | |
| | | | Les Clarke (A.L.) | Other | Gilmour of Lewes had been commissioned to do the Fencing for the Station | |
| | | | Alf Funnell | Other | New signals for the east end of the Track were in hand. | |
| | | | K.N.Harris | Other | | |
| | | | Harold Lovell (H.A.) | Other | | |
| | | | Allan Killick | Other | | |
| | | | Major Best (P.W.) | New Committee member | | |

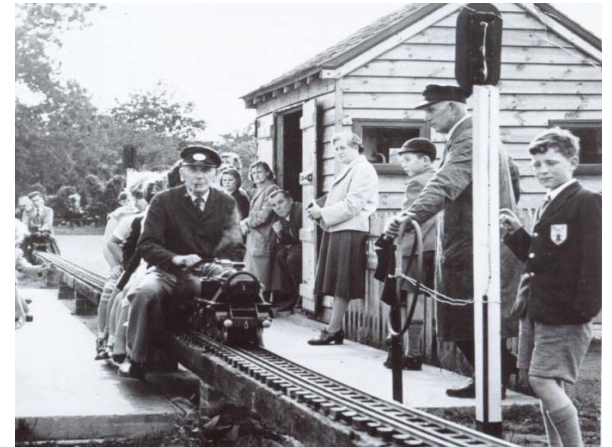
History of The S.M.L.S.



The Old Station in Service - Mid 1950's
(IPB-0004)



The Old Station in Service - Late 1960's
(IPB-0812)



The Old Station in Service - 1957
(IPB-0008)



The Old Station in Service - 1960's
(IPB-0516)



The Old Wooden Bridge - Early 1954
(IPB-0003)



The Old Wooden Bridge - Late 1954
(IPB-0079)