

BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

White Out – We weren't sure what to use for the cover of this news, so decided on this image taken by Andrew on the last Sunday in February at around midday. It doesn't often snow at Beech Hurst, but it was that day, so much so that the station is only just visible in the blizzard!

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Editors Notes

Well here we are again, the winter season is over and by the time you get this newsletter, we will have completed nearly three weekends of running already! It is fair to say that the winter has been and gone with surprising speed and we are now looking forward to another six months or so of summer running. The weather has certainly played its part so far, with the front cover depicting the scene just one month before the start of running, yet Good Friday dawned bright, warm and sunny and in fact all six running days have so far been very pleasant and more akin to May than March(!) long may it continue.

Thanks to all those contributors to the February edition of the news, John Gange, Norman, Bob Youldon and Ray, plus the 'regulars' and 'Us'.

It would be fair to say that there have been a few changes since the last newsletter. The committee has changed somewhat, we have a new Chairman in Mike Porter, Vice-Chairman in Geoff West and the three vacant positions were filled by John West and Steve Turner (newly elected) and Andrew (re-elected), a full list of the officers positions and other positions will be listed in this newsletter. Also this time, we have articles by Mike Porter, Enid Marten, Bob Youldon, Alan Temple, Ray and Don Clarke with a short piece for the outgoing Chairman's notes. There are the regular features, an updated diary of events and a few articles by 'Us,' that is the editors, as well, so please read on and enjoy...

Andrew & Mark

Last Chance Saloon

For the minority of members who have yet to pay your subs' for 2005, this is your last chance, April will be your last newsletter. Alan Garner still has a few outstanding subs' and you now have a couple of weeks to pay up or you will be scrubbed from our membership list. Membership is £10 for 18-59yrs incl. And £5 for under 18's and over 60's and is a steal for that amount!!

Andrew, Mark and Alan Garner

Outgoing Chairman's Notes

After my ten years in high office(!) Mike Porter is taking over the reins. Over the ten years the club has seen many improvements and the members can give themselves a well deserved pat on the back for all of their work to make our railway one of the best in the country.

With work commitments at the weekends I find it increasingly difficult to devote enough time to the club and I know that Mike, with his excellent organisation skills, will make a good Chairman.

At the recent AGM we said goodbye to three committee members and welcomed back two previous members and one new. The club would like to thank Jim Clarke, Dave Keast and Vince Williams for all their work (on the committee and in the club generally) over the years. We welcome back John West and Geoff West, the latter in the position of Vice-chairman, and welcome anew Steve Turner. Andrew Brock was also re-elected.

We welcome two new members to the society, Tony Gilbert, a returning past member and Keith Sturt, better known as the Workshop Superintendent at the Bluebell. We hope they enjoy their membership.

Once again thank you for all the support over the last ten years and I will now leave the rest of the chairman's notes to your new chairman.

Don

Incoming Chairman's Notes

Can I begin by saying I much appreciate your vote of confidence in me to be your chairman for the coming year. Thanks for your many kind wishes, and I will do my best to maintain a "steady as she goes" hand on the tiller.

On behalf of everyone in the club, I'm sure I can say a big "thank you" to Don for taking on the chairman's role for the last 10 consecutive years, making him, I believe, our longest serving chairman, (after the late Dick Burge's nine years). I would also like to say a personal "thank you" to Don for the kind way he welcomed me into the job, and it has been a very gentlemanly "hand-over" of the baton! Don will of course continue to serve the club from the committee, and I'm pleased to say is continuing as social secretary. Our committee has also changed this year, and again on behalf of all, I would like to thank our hard working outgoing officers, Vince, Dave and James. We welcome in Steve Turner, John West and Geoff West, whilst Andrew has been returned to office. John West is now our house manager, so if you notice we are low on kitchen supplies, please mention it to John, and he is now also helping Steve as Workshop manager. Please help them in keeping the workshop clean and tidy. Geoff has taken on the role of Vice-Chairman this year, and Steve is also going to be busy as Signals Engineer. Allan K. has kindly agreed to continue as Signals Consultant and help Steve to get to grips with the intricacies of the system.

Looking back, your outgoing committee, under Don's stewardship, has been a dynamic one. I was considering what had been achieved by them and the "regular" members, in the time I can remember, and list a few things here.

A new station building and platform surface, water piping and "signage". The clubhouse all repainted inside and out, new kitchen floor, cooker etc, new toilet, workshop floors painted and new lockers in the engine shed. The trucks all repainted and lined, traverser and point refurbished. New paths along sidings, new concrete along side of shed road, new fence near carriage shed and car parking "tarmac". 50th club and 50th track celebrations, plus a new siding and a new storage shed. Also, now, we have made a start on signal refurbishment and work has begun again on new truck bogies and braking systems. Including all the regular maintenance jobs and continual track refurbishment, this is a considerable achievement.

Looking forward, whilst continuing to improve our infrastructure, we must also try to nurture a "next generation" of capable younger members. We have been lucky in the last few years to welcome several young members who have become great assets to the club, helping in many ways, both winter and summer.

These young members are now becoming very capable and talented in all aspects of running the railway. From the age of sixteen, they are, I understand, fully insured, and therefore able, with training, to use machines in the workshop. Perhaps one or two more of our capable members might give a little time, here and there, wet days, winter days, occasional evenings, and hour or two, to help them learn to use a drill/lathe etc with safety.

These are skills no longer, it seems, taught at school. It takes a long time and one-to-one attention, but can be rewarding for the teacher, pupil and, for sure, eventually, the club. I know they are keen to learn, can you help with a little of your time?

I wish everyone a very enjoyable running season in 2005.

Mike

Midnight Feast!



We know we do some weird and/or wonderful things from time to time, but this photo that we rediscovered recently was taken by Ray about 4 years ago during one of our BBQ evenings at Beech Hurst. The people down the lane had far more adventurous plans than just a BBQ however and turned out in tuxedo and ties, complete with a dinner table and candelabras to enjoy an

evening feast.

(**See Picture Above**). They dined until quite late and even remarked why we were still running on so long and even came up for a ride or two after they'd finished eating. We're not sure what the occasion was for them, but we doubt you will ever see anything like it again at Beech Hurst, except the odd 'dining train'!

We also received this from Ray a couple of weeks back. There was a contestant on Mastermind who chose Railway Locomotives as his specialist subject. Apparently there is a definition, included in the Oxford Dictionary, which says that a person who is a locomotive enthusiast is a 'Ferro Equinologist'. An 'Equinologist' is a person who studies horses and a 'Ferro Equinologist' studies the iron horse, hence a railway locomotive! You learn something new everyday!

Ray

Snow At Beech Hurst



Following on from the front cover we thought a quick article about the snow would be suitable, particularly as it seems few and far between nowadays. Having enjoyed a warm start to February, the remainder of the month was cold, with frequent snow, although it seemed to be hit and miss as to where you got it.

Further East, Andrew's Grandma who lives near Rolvenden in Kent had about

7" of lying snow at one time and yet about 40 miles East at Haywards Heath we had none! Even Ray's daughter, Sally, had a good covering of snow and that was near Heathfield, not far away, but it just didn't seem to settle here for long. The shot on the cover is typical of the quick blizzards we got and five minutes later it was all melted, what we need is a decent quantity to have

some fun and dust off any snow ploughs people might have in order to run the railway!

Andrew & Mark

For Sale

We have received this request from Alan Temple to advertise a couple of lathes and a horizontal mill for sale in the news, to give members first refusal. The details are shown below, together with a contact number for Alan if you are interested.

1. 5" Atlas Centre Lathe

Bench type, 1 1/2h.p., 2800r.p.m., 240v motor, 4-way tool post, Jacobs drill chuck, 5" 3-jaw chuck & 4" 4-jaw chuck. **Price £275 o.n.o.**

2. 5" Atlas Centre Lathe

Bench type, 2h.p., 1425r.p.m., 240v motor, 4-way tool post, Jacobs drill chuck, 6-way turret & lever cross slide. **Price £300 o.n.o.**

3. Collet Attachment For Above **£30.**

4. Centec 2 Horizontal Milling Machine, 2 Arbors, various cutters, homemade vertical head, box of cutters and bench mounted. **Price £250 o.n.o.**

5. Copper Tube, 4 1/8" O.D., 12swg and 28" long. **POA.**

If anybody is interested in any of the above please call Alan Temple on (01444) 244855.

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>ST</u> | <u>GAW</u> |
| Vice-Chairman | G.A. West | <u>JW</u> | <u>ST</u> |
| Secretary | J. Ely | <u>DFC</u> | <u>GAW</u> |
| Treasurer | A.F. Garner | <u>GAW</u> | <u>JWG</u> |
| Minutes Secretary | A.P. Brock | <u>JE</u> | <u>AFG</u> |
| Operations Mgr's | M.J. Porter, G.A. West & A.P. Brock | <u>GAW</u> <u>DFC</u> <u>AFG</u> | <u>ST</u> <u>JWG</u> <u>JW</u> |
| Signals Engineer | S. Turner | <u>GAW</u> | <u>AFG</u> |
| Consultant S' Eng' | A.J. Killick | <u>AFG</u> | <u>DFC</u> |
| Workshop Mgr's | S. Turner & J. West | <u>DFC</u> <u>AFG</u> | <u>GAW</u> <u>JE</u> |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| House Manager | J. West | <u>MJP</u> | <u>GAW</u> |
| Materials Manager | P.C. Marten | <u>ST</u> | <u>JE</u> |
| Ass' Materials Mgr | V. Williams | <u>JWG</u> | <u>AFG</u> |
| Social Secretary | D.F. Clarke | <u>MJP</u> | <u>GAW</u> |
| News Editors | A.P. Brock & M.C. Allen | - <u>AFG</u> | - <u>MJP</u> |
| Librarian | S. Hutton | - | - |
| Ass' Librarians | A.P. Brock, D.G. Keast & - | - | - |
| | R. Parsons | <u>AFG</u> | <u>MJP</u> |
| Boiler Inspector | V. Williams | <u>ST</u> | <u>DFC</u> |
| Ass' Boiler Insp's | F. Bailey, G.A. West, P. Creelman & - | - - - | - - - |
| | A.J. Killick | <u>GAW</u> | <u>MJP</u> |
| Cust'dns W'dale | J.M. Clarke & A.P. Brock & D.G. Keast | - - <u>DFC</u> | - - <u>GAW</u> |
| Carriage Valeter | I. Thompson | <u>GAW</u> | <u>APB</u> |
| Web Master | D.G. Keast | <u>APB</u> | <u>GAW</u> |
| Custodian's of '08' & 'Growler' | D. Evans & J. Bowyer-Frost | - <u>JWG</u> | - <u>GAW</u> |

In addition to the above, Andrew Brock was re-elected and Geoff West, John West and Steve Turner newly elected to the committee at the AGM and were subsequently happy to continue with their officer's posts for the duration of their term on the committee. Andrew Brock has subsequently volunteered for the one-year term left vacant by the resignation of Vince Williams from the committee and will be up for re-election next year, this is to keep the 3 per year rotation the same each year.

Andrew & Mark

Can You Help?

At the last couple of committee meetings the 2nd 50 years book has been discussed. Peter Marten has worked very hard to put together the written section of the book from the news' and minutes of that time. We are now looking for photographs of memorable events from the period 1976-2001 for a pictorial section in the book. Jim Clarke has agreed to produce a front cover for the book and what we now need are pictures for inside. If you have anything of that nature you can either bring them to the club for copying/scanning or e-mail to either Andrew or Mark via the newsletter, they can then be sorted and the most popular and relevant ones can be used in the final production, they can be of anything, so get hunting and see what you have!

Andrew & Mark

Operation's Report

This year, we have a change to the "Ops." management. Dave is taking a break from "Ops." duties and I have been joined by Geoff and Andrew, so we are spreading the load a little.

This should ensure that, even when one or the other of us is away for work or holidays, for 99% of the running season an Ops. Manager is present. Our thanks to Dave, and a welcome to Andrew and a welcome back to Geoff!

As I write this, we have just started our running season and just finished our Easter weekend. Thanks to John Ely and the excellent publicity we received in at least three newspapers, and thanks to some fine and often warm weather (not though Easter Sunday!). Also thanks, not least, to all those who turned out to drive, guard, man the station, and assist in many ways, we carried record numbers of passengers and are off to a cracking start to the 2005 season.

It is a tribute to the cleanliness of the engines that the track is still very clean and dry and grease/oil free. Your Ops. Managers are very grateful and ask everyone to please continue to religiously clean all wheels before using the track and shed road.

We were also impressed that everyone kept to a nice, steady pace when passenger hauling. Last year we had particular concern, when running our "Sunday", anticlockwise, direction, with the speed some trains were coming around the "clubhouse bend" and over the point and traverser. So far, much better this year! I would like to remind everyone that, for safety's sake, this bend, (running anticlockwise), should be taken at only walking pace. You must be able to stop your train within the distance you can see to be clear! Nuff sed!

A final note to all drivers who may not yet be aware of the small modification to the call-on signal. In the last year or so, when running three or four passenger trains we have had the option of setting the "call-on" signal to continuous yellow to allow trains onto the station section and avoid "back-up" around the track. Whilst successful, it did perhaps encourage drivers to take the "clubhouse bend" too fast knowing that there would not be a "double" red facing them by the steaming bays. This year we will no longer generate this system whilst running in the "Sunday" direction, although a permanent "call-on" may still be used when running "Saturday" direction, especially on visitor days when so many engines may be on the track together. (We feel it can be used safely in this direction, without encouraging speeding, as the signal is so close to the station platform).

Now, in the "Sunday" direction, our signals department has "moved" the "call-on" track cut-out section to the end of the station platform. Provided all trains in the station section are now within the station itself, the "call-on" will generate and another train can enter the section. If a train is waiting to enter the station or there is any problem (derailment etc) on the stretch from the steaming bay signal to platform, the call-on will not operate and a "double red" will show. Drivers may no longer therefore expect a guaranteed non-stop run around the clubhouse and into the station section, the first part of which is now "signal protected" again.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable season.

Mike Porter, Andrew Brock & Geoff West

Winter Work

This is the last of the winter work columns for this season. Since the issue of the February newsletter no major work tasks have been completed.

The remaining month before the start of the new season was spent tidying the place up, the odd painting and cleaning job etc... The last two weekends were then used to test the signal system and get everything 'fired up' again in readiness for Easter. Thanks must go to everyone who has input time and effort over the last 5 months to keep the place up to scratch and make improvements where necessary. Although the running season is always important, certainly from the enjoyment of running and earning money to keep the club in a top notch state, the winter months are essential just to keep everything up to scratch. It can be hard sometimes to make the improvements we would like because it is enough work just to keep the club running let alone starting new projects too. We would think it is fair to say that in terms of track, clubhouse, facilities and location we have probably the best raised track in the country and one of the best if you include ground level ones. It is only thanks to that hard work that it is possible to say that and explains why the Easter weekend was so busy at Beech Hurst because so many local people appreciate the facilities the park has and the railway we run in it. How many other towns have such an attraction for people to enjoy(?) and a park that is kept the way Beech Hurst is? We are very lucky and should enjoy what we have.

Again thanks to all those who have helped during the winter and the Winter Work column will again re-appear in the October edition.

Andrew & Mark

Jokes... (Well Sort Of!)

Test for Dementia

Below are four (4) questions and a bonus question. You have to answer them instantly. You can't take your time, answer all of them immediately. OK?

Let's find out just how clever you really are.

Ready? GO!!! *(scroll down)*

First Question: You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

Answer: If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person and you take his place, you are second!

Try not to screw up in the next question.

To answer the second question, don't take as much time as you took for the first question.

Second Question: If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Answer: If you answered that you are second to last, then you are wrong again. Tell me, how can you overtake the LAST Person?

You're not very good at this! Are you?

Third Question:

Very tricky maths! Note: This must be done in your head only.

Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it.

Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000 Now add 10. What is the total?

Did you get **5000**?

The correct answer is actually (see below)

Don't believe it? Check with your calculator! Today is definitely not your day. Maybe you will get the last question right?

Fourth Question:

Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Answer: Nunu?

NO! Of course not. Her name is Mary. Read the question again

Okay, now the bonus round:

There is a mute person who wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing one's teeth he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper and the purchase is done.

Now if there is a blind man who wishes to buy a pair of sunglasses, how should he express himself?

He just has to open his mouth and ask, so simple.

KEEP THIS GOING TO FRUSTRATE THE SMART PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE!

Answer to Question 3: 4100!

Thanks to Enid Marten for that one. We thought it was quite good!
How many did you get right?

Enid Marten

More Jokes...

WHEN I GO

I'm going to buy a crocodile
And keep it at the zoo,
Until I kick the bucket,
Then here's what you must do.
Don't bury or cremate me,
Just feed me to the croc,
I hope it won't upset you,
It isn't meant to shock
It may sound unconventional,
I hope it's not too gory,
To make my plan successful
We must call the reptile Laurie.
As St Peter takes my details,
When I reach the Heavenly
Gate I can tell him, without lying,
I'm the **Poet Laurie ate.**

Bob Youldon

Social Scene

Listed below is the updated diary of events for most of this summer, as far as we have got dates. Most of the visits out, i.e. Isle Of Wight, Leatherhead and Pinewood will be the normal ad-hoc format of some engines and transport arranged accordingly. The invitation to the 'Manor Railway' at Billingshurst has been specially arranged by John Ely and we are supposed to let the organisers know if some or any people are intending to go. The BBQ is free and the 10 ¼" railway will run into the Sunday evening, incorporating a 1:30 gradient! If anybody is interested in this, it would be handy to let John know ASAP, so he has an idea of the numbers and can pass that information on.

Andrew & Mark

Diary Of Events

24th April 2005 – Visit to IoW track, Broadfields, Cowes, IoW, details TBC.

5th May 2005 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

21st/22nd May 2005 – ‘Southern’ Open Weekend at the Leatherhead track, TBC.

30th May 2005 – Special Event Day – Details TBC nearer the date.

2nd June 2005 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

4th June 2005 – Visit to SMLS by IoW, Pinewood & Maidstone clubs, TBC.

12th June 2005 – Invitation to BBQ at ‘Manor Railway’ – details above, TBC.

18th June 2005 – ‘Bring Your Own’ BBQ evening – Will start from approx. 1830.

18th & 19th June 2005 – Invitation to Canterbury Club special day.

3rd July 2005 – Invitation to Pinewood Club, details TBC.

7th July 2005 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900.

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