

Sussex Miniature Locomotive Society Ltd

Issue No. 422
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BEECH HURST NEWS



Cover picture: -

New Locomotive: The latest addition to our locomotive fleet is Roy P's immaculate SECR 'C' Class. This fine piece of model engineering is seen crossing the transporter whilst on a test run back in May. Roy is planning for the locomotive to be entered into competition at Brooklands.

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Editor's Notes

As I write these notes, we have arrived at the penultimate week of August and it is warm, very warm in fact and sunny too! Despite the promise of a warm and wet summer, on the whole it has not been too bad and we should not complain. Even the upcoming Bank Holiday weekend looks reasonable throughout, so we are really being spoilt. Perhaps this is leading into a more unsettled September, which in previous years has tended to be one of the better months of the year! Anyway, let's enjoy it whilst it lasts because with the nights rapidly drawing in, we will soon be in autumn once again. Looking back over the past couple of months, and aside our regular running, things have been pretty quiet, only broken by a visit to the Lavender Line in mid-July and a Petanque match on the August club night. The next month or so however will be a little more hectic with a number of events planned, which I will expand upon later in this issue. I would also like to note that the last edition saw the start of the mass electronic distribution of this publication and apart from a few teething troubles with e-mail addresses the PDF copies appear to have got through without a hitch. Just over 30 newsletters are now sent this way, leaving circa. 55 to post in the normal fashion. You can of course access the newsletter archive in the members section of the website too. Looking back at the June edition and I would like to thank Dave Mattingley for his excellent article about the 10X injectors for his 'Britannia' locomotive and we look forward to seeing them in action for real in the very near future!

In this edition there is a write-up and picture from our visit to the Lavender Line back in July and Petanque match in August, along with a new series of articles about member's ongoing projects, which I would like to thank Dave Mattingley for suggesting. Also, following a suggestion by Steve T, I will be publishing extracts from the recent committee meeting minutes in forthcoming editions. This is not a new idea but one that has not been tried for a good few years, so hopefully it is useful to all members and supplements the full minutes which are displayed on the notice board in the comfy area of the clubroom. In addition to the above, there are also the usual writings and an updated Diary to take us through till Bonfire / Firework Night in early November, so please read on and enjoy...

Andrew

Chairman's Notes

How fast summer is racing along! By the time you read this, there will be just a month of running season 2016 to go! So far, although the early summer was wet and cool, the last few weeks have been nice. August has been good to us and we are currently up a little on last years fares. We are also looking very tidy all around and I would like to thank the Saturday morning gardeners for their efforts. Our last club night was spent in the company of our friends from the Petanque club. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all, playing a match, and then holding a BBQ together on our back lawn. Thanks to Lorema and Val for providing salad and desserts. I have had a lovely letter from Jack Pitt in which he told me he is getting an '08' shunter built by Compass House, especially to present to the club, in recognition of all the happy times he has spent with us all at Beech Hurst.

He says this is to go with the wagons and driving truck he has built and donated already to 'complete the set'. Our thanks go to Jack for his kind and generous gift which should be ready in October. Jack no longer drives, but he will come down to us whenever he can hitch a lift with his family! Enjoy the rest of our season...

Mike

Recent Committee Minutes

Minutes in Brief for the 9th April 2016

Trucks scraping the guard rail (to be looked into and a solution to prevent it)
A plasterer for the engine shed is still to be found
A letter is to be sent to the council regarding the fairground man
Raymond Halsall was elected as a new member
Concerns were raised about the rear footbridge being unsafe. It was agreed to tape off with the Danger No Entry tape until such a time that it is made safe
It was agreed to purchase a Tramming device for the Bridgeport Mill
It was agreed to purchase a micro gas bottle and burner for the workshop
A burst pipe from the main compressor to the Engine Shed was replaced

The following dates were also agreed:-

- A Beavers group are to visit Beech Hurst on the 7th June 2016 @ 17:30
- A Double Heading Day has been arranged for 12th June 2016
- A Little Engine Day has been arranged for the 25th June 2016
- A BBQ night has been arranged for the 25th June 2016
- A Little Engine Day has been arranged for the 3rd September 2016
- Next Committee meeting to be held on 14th May 2016

Minutes in Brief for the 14th May 2016

Mick Robinson was elected as a new member
A request to provide a steam loco for a photo shoot, Roy Preston to arrange
A request was received from an estate agent for a photo of an engine on the track, one to be picked from the records
Our Track Cleaner is to be loaned to the Chelmsford Society
A reminder is to be sent to members who have not renewed their subscription. A 30 day grace period was agreed
A Tramming device for the Bridgeport Mill has been purchased
A micro gas bottle and burner for the workshop has been purchased
It was agreed to accept Brian Joyce's offer to sell the Club his 5" 2-8-0 LNER loco with a price to be agreed

The following dates were also agreed:-

- The Chelmsford Society are to visit on the 11th June 2016
- The Yews Group are to visit Beech Hurst on the 25th July 2016
- The Petanque Club are to visit on the 4th August 2016
- The Basingstoke Society are to visit on the 24th September 2016
- Next Committee meeting to be held on 11th June 2016

(For more information please see the full committee minutes, which are displayed on the notice board in the clubhouse)

Workshop Training

It was agreed to start the training at the end of the running season on Sunday afternoons (times to be set).

Because only a few members sent in e-mails I will ask again for members wishing to take advantage of the offer to please e-mail me at stevet50@btopenworld.com by the end of August 2016 so they can be discussed at the next Committee on 3rd September.

(It would help us if you could state if you wish to learn certain things or if there is anything in particular you wish to make so we can plan how and what Mike & I can arrange for each session).

Steve T

For Sale

The old 'Karcher' Pressure Cleaner is now surplus to requirements and is therefore open to offers. If you are interested in purchasing this item then please e-mail John Baldwin johnbaldwin241@btinternet.com or let one of the committee members know you are interested and state how much you are offering (e-mails can also be sent to Steve T stevet50@btopenworld.com) by the end of August 2016 so they can be discussed at the next Committee on 3rd September.

Steve T

Recent Social Events

The evening of Saturday 16th July saw SMLS members visit the Lavender Line at Isfield. This reciprocated their visit to us in early June and unlike that evening at Beech Hurst ours was warm and sunny with it! 13 members made the trip to Isfield and together with train rides along their 1 mile line; we were also treated to a lovely Sausage & Mash meal too. Quite a bit has altered there, both personnel and traction wise, since our last visit 2 years ago and it was interesting to see the changes at first hand. Their previous steam locomotive 'Austin I' has left the railway and is now back at Llangollen undergoing repairs. Instead, they currently hire an 0-6-0ST called 'Empress' (**see picture next page top**). This small but powerful locomotive is perfectly suited to the railway and it was nice to have a ride on a different machine this year. They have also taken delivery of another 'Thumper', no. '1118', which used to reside at the Dartmoor Railway before being moved to its new home at Isfield several months ago and joins their own home 'Thumper' '1133'. Unfortunately, neither was running during our visit. Despite being a relatively small operation it is always good to see how well kept the railway is with the station building a particularly good example. Through these pages we should thank the members of LLPS for opening the railway for us that evening and also for their top class hospitality throughout, which was very much appreciated by all our members. Thanks also to the 13 members from Beech Hurst for taking the time to support this social event and to Hamish, who made it 14 later on, with a passing visit in his new acquisition, a 1989 'F' reg' Ford Escort 'Bonus'! Takes me back to my childhood that car does and I am sure quite a few members reading this article too who would have driven or owned such a vehicle!



Our next social engagement was during the evening of Thursday 4th August when we were invited to play a Pentanque match against our friends from across the way, followed by a BBQ thereafter. Last years evening was very successful and 2016 was likewise with 8 'railwaymen' playing against the 'professionals'! It was a dry, sunny and reasonably warm evening throughout, which made it feel very pleasant as we took it in turns to play each team on the different 'terrains'. Success was mixed with scores ranging from +19 to -16 overall with Roy P & I faring the best in terms of the 'railwaymen' with a respectable +12 over 3 games. At the conclusion of all 3 round robin games, we then went back to our clubhouse to enjoy the BBQ, salad and puddings which had been laid on and by this stage of the proceedings were very welcome too! Thanks go to everyone from both Pentanque and SMLS for supporting this evening once again, especially to Lorema and Mike W for making the arrangements / food, to Val for further food preparation and to Geoff for preparing the BBQ itself, here's to 2017...

Andrew

Work in Progress

A new feature which has been suggested to me by Dave Mattingley is a regular bi-monthly column of updates on member's ongoing projects. A short snippet of say a dozen lines or so, accompanied by a picture or two would be ideal. With this in mind, Roy P & I have kicked this off with a couple of short pieces and pictures, which you will find below. If successful it would be good to keep this going in each edition with contributions from various members if possible. So, if you have something to write about let me know by the last week of October and I will include your piece in the October edition to be released on or just before Bonfire / Firework Night on 5th November.

Work in Progress – SECR 'C' Class Lamps – By Roy P

I decided my SECR 'C' Class loco needed some lamps of the correct design. Unlike the LCDR lamps on 'Europa', which are round bodied, the SECR Wainwright lamps were square bodied but similarly painted red. I needed two with red lenses for the tender and two with white lenses for the loco. I obtained a scale drawing from an old article by F.C. Hambleton in Volume 86 of the Model Engineer, published back during the war. I machined the main bodies on a stick of brass, putting in the old tin plate folds as shown below during the early machining stages. The back bracket, lens holder and ventilator were all machined separately with the latter two having spigots to locate in holes in the bodies (the first picture shows the holes for the lenses). The bronze wire handles and the back bracket were attached using 1/32" rivets and Loctite. The lenses were machined from Acrylic and polished using Brasso. They were attached to the bodies using Araldite as Loctite reacts with the Acrylic. An intermediate aluminium foil backing the lenses helps to retain the lens colour.

Pictures Below: The stick of brass partly machined and a finished rear lamp.





Picture Above: The finished white lamps on the front of the loco.

Work in Progress – 5" Flatbed Wagon – By the Editor

Until recently, rolling stock had not really been my thing however inspiration has to come from somewhere and in my case from the wagons that Jack Pitt has built for our Club. To that end I have started my own small collection to run with 'Railmotor'. My latest acquisition is a part-built and quite old '17D' chassis with flatbed wooden top, which I bought about 3 years ago as a rusting rolling chassis. As with these things you have a deadline in mind, only to miss it by a mile and wonder where you have gone wrong! In my case I have re-made too many bits and there in lies a problem! Over the past 8 weeks I have cleaned & painted the chassis, re-made a new frame for the wooden planks, which are at least original but now treated and new stainless buffer retaining screws. I am now drilling the beams to add bronze bushes for the aforementioned retaining screws to run through. In the home straight, completion 'should' be for 'Little Engine Day' next Saturday. 1 wagon down, another 1 to go, tbc... **Picture Below:** Nearly there!





Pictures Top to Bottom: By chance, Roy P was at Beech Hurst on the day that the oak tree by the steaming bays was being felled and managed to capture the pictures above. Unfortunately this old giant had succumbed to disease and therefore had to be removed.

Forthcoming Events

Next Saturday 3rd September we will be holding our second 'Little Engine Day' of 2016 and hopefully this one will be a little drier than our last attempt back in June! A fortnight later and we are in the final processes of organising our display at the Brooklands Exhibition over the weekend of 17th / 18th September. Details for this are still a little sketchy, even at this late stage, but we now have sufficient models and crew to do all 4 days, including set up on the Thursday. What we do know is that entrance to the exhibition will be at normal Brooklands prices (circa. £15.00) but will include access to all their exhibits; buses, cars and planes etc..., so on the face of it good value if you have enough time to see all this in one day! Time will tell how this works out and a full report will appear in the October edition...

The following weekend, our last of 2016, sees a double-bill on Saturday 24th. Firstly, the previously advertised visit of Basingstoke Club to Beech Hurst has now been moved back to the 24th rather than the 17th due to commitments at their end and our display at Brooklands. They will run during the day and then later on a run by 'Big Boy' is planned from 17:00 till dusk. To enable this, it is planned to bring the locomotive down especially from South Yorkshire for this run, its first at Beech Hurst for quite a few years and since its sale. Because of the logistics this might well be a one off or not repeated for a while, so if any members wish to see the locomotive in steam and running at its former home track, this will hopefully be your opportunity! It is planned for 'Big Boy' to arrive around lunchtime, so will be static in its siding at the rear of the clubhouse during the afternoon prior to its evening run. Hopefully we get a nice day for both visits... Finally for now, and Bonfire / Firework Night has been pencilled in for 5th November. The format will be as per previous years with fire, food and then fireworks thereafter. To assist with catering, a list will be on the blackboard from early October and if you intend to partake in this event then please let us know by adding your name to the list in good time. Also, donations of money for fireworks and wood for the bonfire are always welcome and please see myself at the club prior to the day if you can offer either (or preferably both) of the above!

Andrew

Diary of Events

1st September 2016 – Club Night – Will start at approx. 1900

3rd September 2016 – 'Little Engine Day' from 1400

15th – 18th September 2016 – SMLS to display at ME Exhibition at Brooklands

24th September 2016 – Basingstoke / Big Boy to visit Beech Hurst from 1000

5th November 2016 – Bonfire / Firework Night – Will start at approx. 1800

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

Andrew

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Rear Cover picture: -

The Real Deal: With the front cover in mind, it is not often I can then find one of my own photos of a full size loco to match a newly completed model. However, on this occasion the only surviving SECR 'C' Class happens to reside at the nearby Bluebell Railway and therefore my picture archives of this fine Victorian machine are plentiful. Pictured above, '592' bursts out of Sharpthorne Tunnel heading north with a demonstration hand crane train. With worn tyres and a soon to expire boiler certificate, '592' will only be operational for a short while longer before she is retired for an overhaul...