

# SMOKEBOX JUNE 2013

## **Monthly Update**

Welcome to the June edition of Smokebox, this will be the last printed version as from July the Smokebox will be emailed to members prior to that month meeting. This change has been made for three reasons, to save the cost of Paper, Ink and my time printing twenty odd copies to bring to meetings only to find only half have been taken, I've tried only printing a few and then we have a large turnout so we run out. This way you will receive a copy whether you are here or not. It will be emailed in the form of a PDF File which you can open and read on screen or if you prefer print it out as a hard copy. In order for this to run smoothly I must have your up to date email address, there will be a print on the front table listing all known email addresses please check this listing to make sure I have the correct one.

For the small number of members who do not have access to email I will bring a few printed copies to each club meeting. In special circumstances I could by prior arrangement send a copy by post; please make sure I have your correct postal address.

## **Group Meetings 2013 Dates**

7<sup>th</sup> July - August No Meeting - 1<sup>st</sup> September - 6<sup>th</sup> October-PG - 3<sup>rd</sup> November-PG

Prayle Grove will be in attendance at our monthly meetings on the dates marked above with PG.

Prayle Grove, as many of you will know Graham has a problem with his feet which is affecting his mobility which in turn may affect Prayle Grove attending our meetings, if you would like to know if they will be at a particular meeting you should contact Carol via her email to check: [caroleast@me.com](mailto:caroleast@me.com)

## **Garden Meeting**

Once again John Rogers has offered to host an open day on his Garden Railway; due to space the invitation is limited to just 6 BAG members. John held an open day last year and it has to be said that the responses from BAGs members was disappointing just two of us turned up. As we don't have a club meeting in August I have suggested to John Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> If you are interested please let me know and I will put you down on the list, as I said 6 is the limit so let me know ASAP, if I end up with more names I will put them on a reserve list.

Pete Newman will be having his open evening of the Cut-throat Wood Railway on Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>, 18:00 until late. There will be running on small raised circuit of SM32 track, min 2'6" rad. Plus an opportunity to drive Operating 5" gauge trains, steam drives available also access to nature reserve for woodland walks. Some refreshments provided.

## **News from Cut-throat Wood:**

Pictures on our web site Gallery of last year's open evening, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, shows the last trains that ran over the whole SM32 line. No further services were run due to a growing interest in the 5" gauge line which led to a lack of debris clearance and track maintenance. A recently decision was taken to lift the unused ground level section to make way for the building of a new 5" gauge head shunt and siding. The Brandbright/Tenmile track was cleaned and repaired where necessary and most of it placed into storage. The large quantity of scenic slate around the line was recovered, washed and placed into 5" gauge wagons for transportation to the other side of the garden for future use. Recovery of the ballast was considered, but life is too short! The raised level return loop has been retained and a chord has been installed, using some of the lifted track, to provide a small continuous circuit. This also means there is now a triangle formation, so trains can easily be turned during a run. The siding at the far end is also still in place, and has proved to be a good place to fire up. Running my coal fired Fowler locomotive was never easy on the ground level line due to lack of access, so it is hoped that the high level circuit will mean it will see more steaming here in future.

### **Boiler Testing Update**

A new edition of the boiler test code was published by the Model Engineering Liaison Group, to be implemented from January 2013. The 16mm Association are continuing to state in their publications that our conditions are based on the 2008 edition of the code and that there is no change to our testing and certification procedure at the present time. So the BAG will continue running with our testing requirements unchanged until further notice.

However, if you wish to run on a Model Engineering Society track (such as our local Bedford MES one at Haynes) you may well be asked to produce boiler test documentation. The production of a 16mm Assn. steam test certificate should be acceptable.

All home built or modified boilers must be fully tested, this can be under either the 16mm Assn. or Sth. Fed. Scheme.

Commercial boilers come with hydraulic certificates, and our association also recommends a yearly steam test. This can be carried out by the owner and a record kept using the certificate available from the association web site or copied from the back page of the May 2012 Bulletin. It is good practice to ensure the safety valves are lifting correctly at the beginning of every steaming.

We continue to be affiliated to the Southern Federation, and I have a stock of the new documentation required to meet the 2013 rule book, so we can also test and certificate member's simple non-16mm scale boilers if required. b

I collected our newly calibrated test gauge at the AGM so we are back in business for another 2 years. Please contact me via e-mail if you require a hydraulic test, or a pressure gauge check, to ensure that I bring the test rig to the agreed BAG meeting.

Pete Newman  
Beds Group Boiler Tester

### **Steam in Beds**

I was hoping to have some news regarding extra space for SIB by using part of St Mary church but so far I have not heard anything, so watch this space. If we get their agreement it would mean that we would add further traders and possibly an extra layout to the show. If nothing comes of it we will be no worse off. If anyone has any other ideas how we could improve SIB please let me know.

### **Future Exhibitions**

I understand from Andrew Neal he will be taking Chalkwood to the following exhibition:

Saturday August 10th                      East Anglia Garden Railway Show  
Bressingham Steam Museum, Low Road, Bressingham, Diss

There are a few shows coming up in June and July which you may find of interest.

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|--------------------------|---|
| 15/16 <sup>th</sup> June | Gauge One Model Railway Association - Gauge One Expo 2013<br>Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire                            |
| 15/16 <sup>th</sup> June | Chatham & District Model Railway Club - Annual Model Railway Exhibition<br>Medway Park Leisure Centre, Mill Road, Gillingham, Kent                              |
| 29/30 <sup>th</sup> June | Evesham Vale Light Railway - Garden Railway Weekend<br>Sunday Evesham Vale Light Railway, Evesham Country Park, Evesham, Worcestershire                         |
| 13/14 <sup>th</sup> July | Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre - Rail Group - Railway Gala Weekend<br>Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre, Station Road, Houghton Bridge, Arundel, West Sussex |

**More details for these and future exhibitions can be found at [www.ukmodelshops.co.uk](http://www.ukmodelshops.co.uk)**

**Chris**