

Hampshire area Garden Railway Group

(incorporating the Hampshire area of the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers, and the Southdown Railway Co.)

Associate members of Fareham & District Model Railway Club



April 2008

Hello,

The big event from my point of view (and many of the rest of us) this month is that I've recently returned from the 16mm Association annual show at Stoneleigh, and instead of coming home thinking, "well, that could have been a fair bit better" we came home thinking we'd done pretty well, and from the hundreds of positive comments we've received, it's the best show ever. Our initial concerns included the possibility that it may have been a very good show, but a serious financial drain, or that the new much larger hall was impossible to fill adequately were unjustified, and basically we got it right! There were fractionally less folk through the door, but we paid out a lot less advertising to get them there, so that's fair enough!

I didn't spend too much (a pair of bolster wagons for Marguerite's W&L train was about it) but then I was busy for most of the day, seeing that layout operators weren't setting fire to things or breaking the venue's strict H&S guidelines.... It was a first in getting meths firing at Stoneleigh, on the heritage layout "Phurcombe Hall", which of course featured the loco of the same name that we used to see on Southdown at shows locally. Hopefully, having proved it is safe when done sensibly, we'll be able to do it again.

I hope there was room in the car on the way back, for those who car-shared, and that you hadn't bought too much to fit in the car. I do know there was a fair bit in ours, but that was all show related stuff, and of course we were staying over in the exotic Stoneleigh Park Lodge.... (such an exciting place most of us went to bed by 2130 on Friday night, but after spending most of the day setting up the show, we were cream-crackered!)

Just to remind Pete Woodcock what a completely assembled Accucraft Garratt looks like, here is one taken by Tim Roy, outgoing Association publicity officer. This layout had a Garratt and an Accucraft Baldwin circulating at the same time, and neither of them had any modifications, thus dispelling the myths that they don't work....

Since coming back from Stoneleigh, I know Paul Betts has made more progress at home, including running in the snow on his now completed circuit. Over the weekend I also managed to find some of my railway, and have now sourced drawings of how to make "points" to separate the proposed dual gauge



part of the top of my railway, so the 32mm and 45mm bits automatically go where they are supposed to. I found out at the show, that I have about a year to get this bit complete, as my quarry Hunslet will take a year or so before it arrives, but it will be good to be able to entertain visitors of both gauges. Many thanks indeed to Sean for fishing out the drawing of the turnout design. I now need to apply myself to the PC to draw it up to fit my railway.

If any of you want to see Paul at Portchester on Friday with the Association boiler testing kit, please let Paul know in advance, so he can bring it with him, to be prepared for any boiler or safety valve testing that you need.

If anyone would like to buy a Minicraft drill, and variable speed transformer, let me know, and I'll bring it along on Friday. One drill is brand new in its original packing, the other is a few years old, as is the transformer. £35 the lot, and that's a pretty good bargain!



My ugly Hudswell diesel had a go at “flying the flag” for Hampshire, but only managed a “Highly commended” in the MOTY competition, but when you see the loco that won the category, I'm not surprised.... all those moving parts inside, t'aint right you know... Mike Dunckley had a go on his first ever visit to the show, but like me, came away empty handed. Paul, you're going to have to build another Roundhouse Cup winner!

The view immediately above is of the hall about 1830, well after the show had finished, and while we were wishing desperately that we could go home.... I left there about 1900, to face a pretty dire journey home in the wind and rain, after a 0730 work start that day. the picture above right, is of the busy “Help and Advice” stand, which was a new departure, aimed at helping those who are new converts, and need a bit of guidance through their first steps in our hobby. It also allowed those sad folk who feel the need to speak to that old salt Gorton, to have their way.... We also ended up on the Railway Channel, so all in all, a success!

If anyone has any news of running sessions, or events, **please** let me know, and I'll add them to the next newsletter.

See you Friday!

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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: 11th April, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August, 12th September, 10th October, 16th November, 12th December. I'll be away for the June and September ones, so you can all do exactly what you want, then!

Details of Southdown's show attendances are here: <http://www.cslr.co.uk/southdownshows.htm>