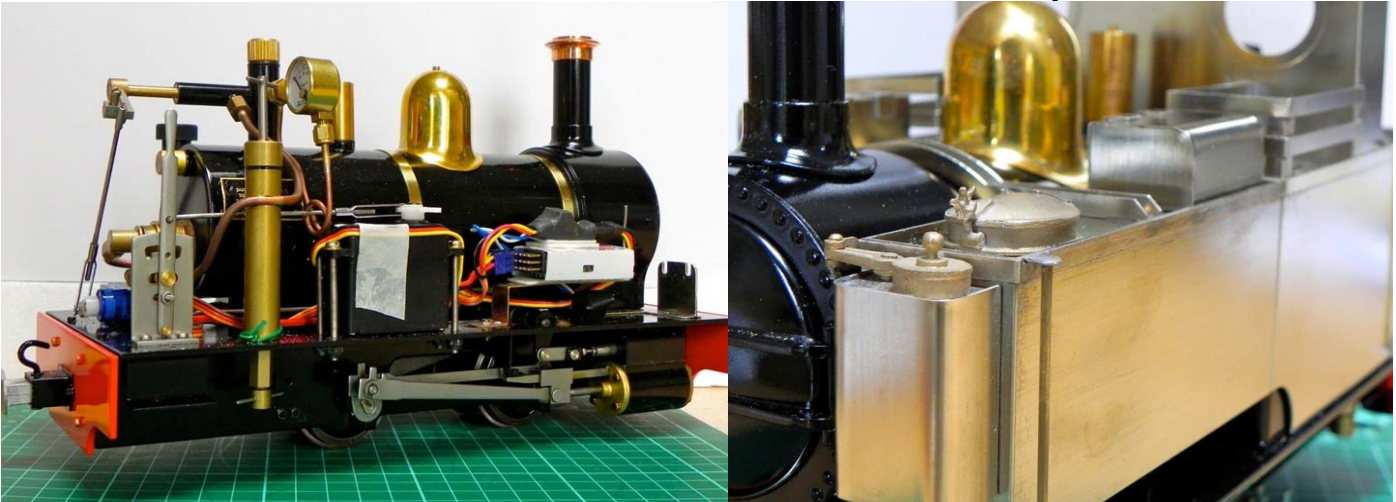


Hampshire area Garden Railway Group

(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



March 2011

Here we go yet again,

Well I've successfully avoided using any photos of my own stuff this time! Our header pictures are of work in progress by Michael Cooper, of his new loco based on an Accucraft Ragleth power unit, and a body kit from Mike's Models. It's looking pretty good, it almost seems a shame to paint that beautifully formed nickel silver bodywork. The loco has Planet 2.4GHz R/C, with an Anadel Models cruise control fitted. I spoke to Andy Bell of Anadel today, at Merstham, and he's looking forward to the Stoneleigh show with enough stock to sort us all out, and one or two recent releases to show us. I also saw a soon-to-be released kit in prototype form, that of a Wickham 27a railcar, on the IP engineering stand. This should be ready in time for Stoneleigh. Other things seen at today's all-day steaming event were the Accucraft NG15, now on general sale, and Carol's new Regner Shay built from a kit, with some additions, which looks rather fine.



Sean's been doing some production of his own, and a photo of some of his recently

weathered Binnie skips is below. I'm not at all sure how he goes about this, but at a previous Merstham event, I had great trouble persuading one gent that some of Sean's previous efforts were plastic, not real rusty steel. Sean is able to do this sort of weathering and "abusing" of rolling



stock for you, at very reasonable prices, so please contact him on 023 9238 0037 or via me.

Another new-ish release I've spotted recently is the DJB Penrhyn slate wagon, in revamped form with brass underframes, sprung couplings and removable Slaters wheelsets (which makes it a damn sight easier to paint the wagon when

you've built it!) I was saved from having to buy some of these by the fact that someone else had cleaned out their entire stock that morning.

We have had discussions earlier about possibly joining up with the Fareham and District model engineers, and it might be a good idea if those of you with an opinion on this were to come along on Friday and see if we can make progress. It would be good to see a fair bit more activity in our area, and maybe this is what it needs. One other aspect of increasing activity is for those of us who are planning garden running sessions to let a few others know, particularly so newcomers can see what other people's garden railways are like and get experience of running on a variety of tracks. That said, I haven't had a running session at home for over a year, so I need to get on and get my lawn finished so I can get at the railway, which does require it to not be raining for more than a couple of days! I am hoping to get this done in the next couple of weeks, so we can at least have some small informal sessions before too long.

I have at least made progress in the workshop, to the extent that my Barclay now has a smokebox and chimney, although the smokebox saddle was nearly there when my milling machine stripped a drive gear. I'm now waiting for a belt drive conversion to arrive from the USA.

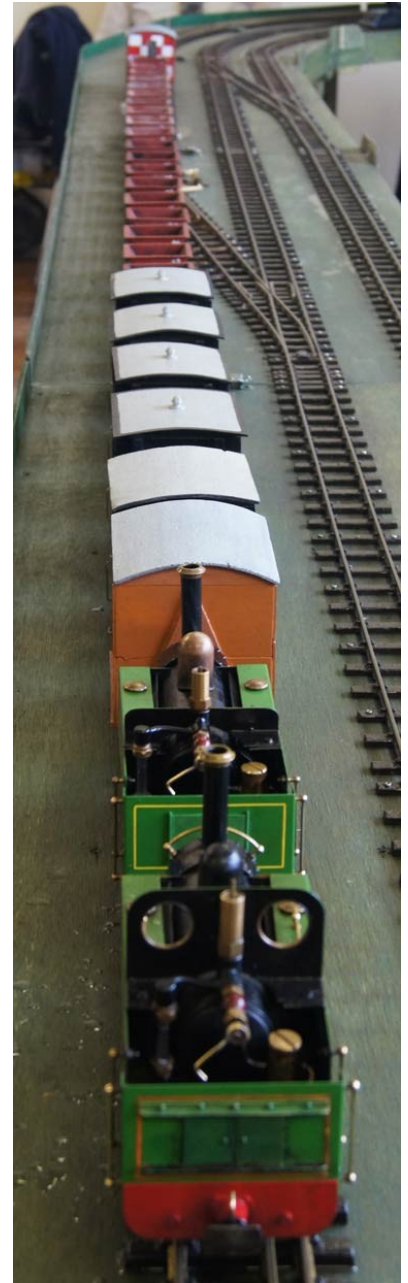
The picture alongside is to reassure those of you with less deep pockets, that you don't have to have fancy locos to haul long trains. Yes, that is a pair of Mamods hauling that lot. They were going round at a steady pace for quite some time on Prayle Grove, the layout that I had a run on with my Lilian, today.

We are still looking for stewards to help out for an hour or two at the show, which apart from being rewarding, is also a way to get in to the show free. All the details for anything to do with the show are in SMT or bulletin, or on the 16mm Association website. That includes Model of the Year competitions entries, which are at least guaranteed a trophy for the winners, as I've now collected them from the shop!

Hopefully someone may bring along something to run at our next session, maybe even me! Don't forget, if you've got something that needs a boiler test, let Paul Betts know in advance, so he can make arrangement to be there with the test kit. Anyone who wants to bring along something to seek advice on what to do with it, or how to fix it, feel free. There are bound to be one or two experts on hand.

That's about all I can manage for now, I do have some photos of one of our local MOTY entries, but I'm holding that over until I can announce its won its class... Just hoping! I hope you've all seen the article of Bob Petch's railway in SMT this month, and are inspired to get Hampshire noticed a bit more in our worldwide magazine.

See many of you on Friday 11th, I hope.



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PORTCHESTER Friday meetings: March 11th, April 8th, etc., on the second Friday of each month, from around 8pm. This means that those of you who are waiting for me when I turn up with the keys at about 7-50 shouldn't be suggesting I'm late!