

THE NEW PINWOOD EXPRESS

Pinewood (Wokingham) Miniature Railway



ISSUE 40 - Spring 2014



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Images For This Issue Courtesy Of:

Colin Gross, Paul Konig, Matthew Quilliam

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Cover Photo:

Firing up for the start of the new 2014 season.

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EDITORIAL - Andy Cross

Here we go again! Even though this winter has been the wettest in memory, we seem to have survived remarkably well. Some great new additions to our facilities have taken place over the winter and we're up and running once more.

This year promises to be very busy, with all our birthday party slots filled well before the end of last year. We're also provisionally booked for the whole of 2015! We will also be hosting a 'Visitors Day' this year which we hope will bring some new and interesting locos to our track.

We will also be hosting a visit from the Goring & Streatley Photographic Society in June. This is of great interest to me and lets hope they come up with some great images for use in future editions of the NPE.



'The calm before the storm', a spot of lunch before Public Running in March

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL

Contributions for future issues of the New Pinewood Express are always welcome. Contributions can be in any form, but electronic copy is preferred. All material, including text and photographs, must be the submitter's own work or have written permission for publication. Submission also implies agreement that materials may be reproduced in other relevant model engineering and railway publications.

Editor: Andy Cross

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - AGM- Ray Grace

I am pleased to report that during 2013 we have seen a number of important projects involving trackwork, signalling and buildings completed. We have, therefore achieved some major improvements to the railway infrastructure. Members of your Committee continue to remain involved in the Pinewood site management and activities and maintaining close and cordial relationships with our neighbours. You will hear more of these developments in the course of this meeting I'm sure.

Our junior section continues to develop very satisfactorily with increasing involvement with our activities and taking on greater responsibilities in some areas. They are becoming increasingly competent, under supervision, during train operations and the ongoing maintenance of stock and infrastructure.



Really nice to see some of our further flung members locos on the track for Public Running

Operationally we have had a good year. Membership support for our Public Running and Birthday Party days remains good, but we can always do with more help, and passenger numbers and revenue were holding up well until the last two running sessions which were badly affected by wet weather. We have taken the opportunity to refine our passenger boarding and train dispatch procedures with excellent results. It has been particularly encouraging to see some additional help coming from member's families and to see more member's with their locos passenger hauling at these events. We must be particularly grateful, once again, for the help and support of our ladies, indeed I was delighted to see a few new faces this year. A big 'thank you' to them all!

There are, of course, many activities behind the scenes which must be recognised for their valuable and essential contributions to the Society. There are significant amounts of work done off-site by members at home covering the administration of our Society, our public events, our website, our finances, our publicity, procedure development, etc., etc. Thank you to everyone who supports the Society in this way. I must remind you that we still do not have a formal Secretary and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Paul Konig for stepping into this essential role in addition to his Treasurer responsibilities. We should have a stand-alone Secretary so I urge you all to consider if you will come forward to take on the role – I am told that it is not too onerous. Without these levels of support our society will be unable to function effectively nor raise sufficient income for us to continue to enjoy our hobby and railway without seriously expensive annual subscriptions.

At the end of May we hosted a very successful combined Ride on Railways (RoR) and Station Road Steam (SRS) owners day and we followed this in July when the Pinewood site held a 'Pinewood Festival' event. We participated fully and very successfully with the Festival arrangements by providing public running all day for which I want to thank the many members who came along to help make the day go so well. In 2012 we hosted a 'Ride On Railways' event, 2013 saw the Festival and RoR/SRS events and for 2014 we plan a visitors day in July for others in our hobby to come along and enjoy our excellent railway and its attractive woodland setting.

In December we had another success with our annual 'Santa Specials' days which, despite some early delays in accepting bookings due to the death of Dave Elen, rapidly booked to capacity and operated extremely well. Our passengers, the younger ones especially, really appreciated the introduction of the Reindeer stable tableau under the bridge and other improvements to the decoration of the woodland. We have to thank Andy and Colin and their helpers for that initiative – I wonder what treat will be waiting our riders next Christmas! While on the subject of Dave Elen's death I must record our thanks to Colin Gross for managing the bookings and Rosemary Brotherton and her daughter Helen for volunteering to man the ticket office for us all at relatively short notice and to Mike Konig for taking the Santa role on the second day.

I still need to remind all members that much of what I have mentioned could not have been achieved without the dedication and hard work of a relatively small number of members and, once again, I have to ask you to consider what time and practical support you can give to help spread the workload and the skills base by joining us on Wednesdays or on Sunday morning working sessions. Birthday party events also provide a good opportunity for would-be passenger haulers to come along with their locos and enjoy the experience.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of your Committee for their continued support and commitment during 2013 and all members and wives who have given their time at working sessions, birthday parties, Santa present buying, etc. It is this dedication and effort that enables us all to enjoy the benefits and facilities of our wonderful railway.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT - AGM

David Simmonite

It is pleasing to report that 2013 was another successful year with the public continuing to support us on running days despite some inclement weather. This does put pressure on motive power and personnel to staff the trains but the regular running of two trains on the loop and punching the tickets at the gates has enabled us to keep a good flow of public without any excessive queuing.

The Winter 2012/3 programme was split into two phases. Phase one was the replacement of steel rail with new 'ally' rail between station cross over and the bridge this was completed before the running season. Phase two the connection between Signal 13 on the up line and the bridge was completed in May 2013. Many complementary comments have been received regarding the riding qualities of our track. The comments gave rise to a desire to complete the main line but as there was no funding available this so it was achieved by replacing the remaining steel rail on the loop with ally track from platform two.

Shed 'C' is now complete enabling the club to store our passenger trucks in rakes of three plus a guards van. Care has to be taken when shunting the stock over the rudimentary but functional point work. The passenger trucks have been provided with new logos and numbered for correct storage.

During the year members have been forging ahead with the replacement of the wooden fence between the club and the square work which really enhances the approach to the station.

Work on the signalling has proceeded through the year largely below ground but for the mimic diagram which is mainly finished and is quite impressive.

There are no major works planned this year but as always our efforts must be to continue maintaining our valuable asset.



Joseph & Mathew assist Tony to steam up

INVITE TO GARDEN & WOODLAND RAILWAY (formerly Ted Martin's) - Paul Konig

We have received an invitation to visit the Garden & Woodland Railway in Thame. Our last visit there in 2009 was very well received by members

The date for this is 26th May (Bank Holiday). If you would like to attend please contact me by the end of April so I can give notice of numbers.



Paint clean? Check! Brass polished? Check! All systems go for Gentoo

A TRIP TO MALLARD 75 Matthew Quilliam

As I am sure you are aware, 3rd July 2013 was the day the world celebrated the world record for the fastest steam locomotive, Mallard. Because of school, I was unable to attend the celebratory event up in York, the gathering of all six remaining A4 Pacific's. However, there was a second event which was held in August which was in the middle of the school holidays, so the perfect time for me to go.



Dominion of Canada taken during a night time special, very illuminating!

After a long journey up to York on train after train (passing the sign marking where the record was set), we checked into our hotel room before heading off to the National Railway Museum to see the A4's. Well what can I say, other than that it was truly spectacular sight. One A4 is always a treat to see, but six towering giants all next to each other around the turntable was quite hard to believe. All day there was access to all six cabs, with the owners of the three operational locomotives present. Other volunteers were in the other cabs. There was also exclusive access across the turntable to view the locos and get as many good photos of them as possible! It was a shame that they hadn't removed the other engines out of the way, as Dominion of Canada was considerably hidden behind a big Chinese loco and viewing was restricted. Other parts of the museum (especially the shop) were decorated with the Mallard 75 logo and all sorts of retail opportunities were on offer including a specially commissioned Mallard beer! According to my Dad who took me on the trip, it was extremely nice!

A real highlight of the trip was the York illumination festival which is where key points around the town are lit up with gorgeous lighting. I found the Minster disappointing – the only lights that seemed to be on were the strip lights on the ceiling! However, the museum's display was a sight to treasure, and of course Mallard and her sisters weren't missing out! Sir Nigel Gresley was all opened up and dry ice was hidden inside making it look like it was in steam! The others had flashing lights, lit up cabs/fireboxes and the sound effects enhanced the displays. Of course the other locos were lit up too – King George V had its smoke box open and beams of lights shot through the many tubes, and the locomotive split in half had all the parts lit up with the appropriate colours representing water and fire. Unfortunately the dark didn't help the camera when trying to take any photographs, but we did get a few!

If you didn't go and see them then you missed a real treat. The final chance to see them all together was a week in February at Shildon before the Dwight. D. Eisenhower and Dominion of Canada began their journey back to their respective museums abroad.



Right, there's two of them, now how to get the other 4 in the picture?

JUNIOR ENGINEERS - Andy Cross

The lads have again worked really hard over the Winter, helping with all kinds of projects on the railway. As spring arrived they've really become aware of the amount of maintenance that not just our track, but our facilities in general require. I'm sure you will have all noticed the fences and woodwork around the place with a fresh coat of creosote. This is due to the Juniors really getting stuck in. It's nice to see them taking some pride in 'their' railway.

At our March Public Running you may have noticed the Junior section out trackside in their 'hi-viz' vests. This was a trial run for our new communications system for running days. Each of the lads was equipped with a walkie-talkie and then positioned at key points around the track. If there was a problem with a train they could then easily contact the Station, to let them know what was happening and call for help. This proved itself to be very useful on at least 2 occasions during the running session. I received very positive comments from both members and committee about this and we will work closely with the Juniors to refine the process throughout the next few months. Well done lads!



Colin showing Matthew and Sam how to fire up

VISITORS DAY 1st JUNE 2014 - Paul Konig

Following on from the universally well received Polly, Ride On Railways, and Station Road Steam owners' rallies held at Pinewood over the past few years, this year we are extending an open invitation to clubs societies and model engineers to join us on our June members running day.

We have already posted details of this event on the 7 1/4" Gauge Society website and informed Model Engineering and Engineering in Miniature, but past experience leads us to believe a personal approach is best. So, if you have a friend or colleague, Club or Society, to whom you would like to extend an invite please do so. We do need to have an understanding of overall numbers so please inform me of your approaches, their contact information, and whether they will attend or not. Contact details can be found in the front of this magazine

An information sheet has been prepared and this will be circulated to registered visitors prior to the event.



Roger and Tom with Roger's Holmside after it's first firing in 7 years

PUBLIC RUNNING - Ray Grace

At the 2013 AGM an issue was raised from the floor regarding opportunities to broaden the number of locomotive owners hauling passenger trains on public running events ('Birthday Parties' and 'Public Running').

Your committee developed a proposal for a roster system which was trialled during 2013 and is now being used for the 2014 season.

If you own a locomotive and would like to participate in the hauling of passenger trains please email me

Please advise me of your locomotive class, your provisional availability for dates in 2014, together with any preference for Birthday Party or Public Running. Also if your locomotive is less powerful than some let me know if you might be willing to double-head with a loco of similar size.

We are seeking to operate the roster on the 'third Sunday in the month' until October.

If you are in any doubt, we consider that the Birthday Party sessions are an excellent opportunity for smaller locomotives and/or those wishing to gain some experience of passenger hauling.

Once we have a 'feel' for the numbers of interested owners we can further develop the roster and discuss additional information including haulage power and any other requirement with you.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me - either by email, phone, or on site.



MORE CAKE VICAR? - Andy Cross

Junior Engineer Joseph's mum Lorna is taking part in the London 'Moonwalk' on 10th May, walking 26.2 miles - through the night - to raise awareness and funds in the fight against Breast Cancer.

As part of her fund raising activities she is to get baking and will be bringing some homemade cakes to Pinewood on our May members' running day, Sunday 4th May. They went down a treat last year! If you would like to bring some change down with you on the day and contribute to this worthy cause, simply by enjoying some delicious cakes it would be most appreciated. Thank you.

If you would like to find out more information on this charity fundraising event, please see the following website: www.walkthewalk.org/Challenges/TheMoonWalkLondon



mmmmmm cake!

KONIG'S KOMEDY KORNER - Ed

Usually we find a picture of Paul doing something ridiculous, or sitting on an incredibly undersized loco (which of course makes Paul appear to scale). However, this time we could not resist this image of Tim from last year's October public running. Sorry Tim!



PINEWOOD PUBLIC RUNNING OIC ROSTER - 2014

DATE	OFFICER IN CHARGE	ASSISTANT
April 20th	David Simmonite	Nigel Jaques
May 18th	Andy Cross	Colin Gross
June 15th	Ray Grace	Peter Downes
July 20th	John Keane	Martin Barratt
August 17th	Derek Tulley	Roger Marney
September 21st	Richard Smith	Mike Cole
October 19th	James Jarvis	Trevor Hill
Santa Specials		
December 7th	Paul Konig	Andy Cross
December 14th	Ray Grace	John Bradshaw

Please note: if you are unable to attend on the date shown in the roster, or would like to volunteer for a role, please let Ray Grace know as early as possible.

PINEWOOD DIARY DATES - 2014

DATE	EVENT	
April 6th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
April 20th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
May 4th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
May 18th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
June 1st	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
	'Visitors Day'	
June 15th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
July 6th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
	'Family Day'	
July 20th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
August 3rd	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
August 17th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
September 7th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
September 21st	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
October 5th	Members Running	10.00 - 16.00
October 19th	Birthday Party	11.00 - 13.00
	Public Running	13.30 - 16.00
December 7th	Santa Specials	11.00 - 15.30
December 14th	Santa Specials	11.00 - 15.30