

Blonay–Chamby Gala Weekend

Over the weekend of 10 and 11 September the Blonay–Chamby museum railway held a 1940's-themed gala weekend. Mark Smith was there to record the occasion.



Former Lausanne No.28 (SWS/SAAS of 1913) has recently been repainted. It looks resplendent in the sunshine which blessed the gala weekend. It saw occasional use on the Sunday, when an intensive timetable was in operation. No.28 also ran on the Bex–Villars Bretaye (BVB) railway during its career which ensured its eventual preservation.



The magnificent 1932-built former MOB FZe 6/6 No.2002 saw use during the Blonay–Chamby 1940s gala weekend. It was pictured propelling its mixed train from the Chaulin museum site during a complex shunt release manoeuvre on Sunday 11 September.



GFM Historic's 1943 built Ce 4/4 railcar No.131 was a guest visitor for the weekend. It followed the steam service hauled by BFD No.3 with a mixed train and is seen entering the station complex.



Former MOB BDe 4/4 No.3002 of 1944 was a guest and was used to haul trains on the Sunday. As the interior of the railcar was removed to facilitate works use on the MOB, only a lucky few were observed on board this vehicle. It was pictured stabled at Chaulin outside the exhibition hall. The front end betrays evidence of when the bodywork was modified to provide a bellows-type corridor connection with ABt3 3302 in 1974, enabling the pairing to run as a twin-set. On the same day, sister 3006 of 1946 was noted parked just outside the Vevey MVR platform, with the less visible side regrettably 'tagged' by graffiti artists.



The BC's magnificent former Brig-Furka-Disentis (BFD) HG 3/4 No.3 of 1913 was able to provide steam haulage for the first time in two months because of the fire risks during the summer. The bright sun and shining metalwork of the loco made photography a real challenge. The loco was pictured on the Sunday afternoon sunshine at Blonay, where the coaching stock was fly-shunted to enable the loco to run round its train.



A very smartly preserved Saurer lorry of 1940s vintage, in the livery of Guenin Frères, Tramelan was on display at Chaulin.



Former BOB He 3/3 No.29 (SLM/MFO, 1926) was engaged in shunt release working at Chaulin on the Blonay–Chamby Railway on Sunday 11 September, during the 1940's gala weekend.