



West Midlands "N" Gauge Club

Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 4

Winter 2014/15

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This time the editor has given me really short notice to get my copy to him, so I have to take a break from preparing for our club's AGM. This will be our club's 19th AGM and I've been chairman for a lot more than half that time. Anyone can therefore see that next year is the 20th anniversary of the club which was started in 1995 – details about our history and layouts are on the club website – www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk
Any excuse for a cake...Ed.

It's a good time to reflect on everyone who has helped get the club to where it is today and to all the people we no longer see at our meetings either due to ill health, relocation or unfortunately death.

As we approach the festive season I want to thank personally everyone reading this newsletter – because whether you are active club member or someone miles away who is on our ever growing mailing list, you all help our small group in one way or another.

Have a Very Happy Christmas

Ken Jones
Chairman

HEADCODE

Welcome to the winter issue of 2014/15.

This issue, we have news of the clubs attendance at the NEC (It was lovely to see Waterstock in full operation again!). Some updates on Club members and their various activities, Chairman's notes as ever, and dates for our meetings for 2015. A short Christmas tale can also be found.

May I wish you all the best for Christmas and 2015.
Ed.

Volume 18 Issue 1 should appear in March 2015.

Copy deadlines are notional and don't really exist, but if they did they would be as follows for the next four issues.

Spring '15 Issue: 1st February
Summer '15 Issue: 11th May
Autumn '15 Issue: 17th August
Winter '15/16 Issue: 8th November

Chairman: Ken Jones

0121 777 7062

Email: westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Edgar Mason





THE CLUB LAYOUTS

Waterstock . . .

“Waterstock” went to the Warley show in November and performed well again. It hasn’t been seen on the exhibition circuit since 2011 due to cost of hiring transport. There has been really positive feedback from many people who stopped to visit the layout including the family of Mike Walker – our member who died so young.



As you can see, there was quite a press of people struggling to get a view of Waterstock. Despite its 22’ length. The new T shirts organised by Rodney (Thank you Rodney!) help to tidy up the back of the layout quite a bit. Photo’s courtesy of Vince.

Tipton Hills...

Has been out to a few exhibitions in 2014 including AMRTM and Super Sunday at The Wonderful World of Trains and Planes. It has been invited to the Birmingham show in 2015.



CLUB MEMBERS

Rodney and Christine Hodge have published their layout calendar for next year 2015.

Hawkins Halt will be appearing at various Pepper Pig themed events next year including:

March 7 & 8 GCR Quorn Pepper Pig Weekend
May 26, 27, 28 & 29 Mid Hants Railway PP Week
June 19, 20, & 21 East Lancs Railway PP Weekend
August 29, 30 & 31 GCR Quorn PP Weekend

Charleyville will be at:

April 11th Norwich Railway Heritage
Sept 11, 12 & 13 Swindon Steam

The Quarry will be at:

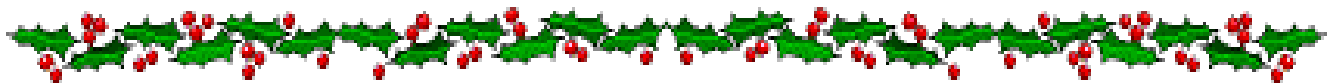
April 24, 26 & 26 Sutton Coldfield

All three layouts will visit Wonderful World of Trains and Planes on February 15th 2015.

Ken Jones will be updating his website in the New Year - his layout "Salverton" incorporating The Moving Bus System should be out again next autumn.



Ken is also taking his 'z' gauge layout to the WWTP event February 15th 2015.



BRANCLINES AND BYWAYS Ramblings off the cinder path

Breaking News from Ken Jones:-

B-T Models have released 3 Leyland Leopard with Duple Dominant body coaches.



Also, Oxford have made some recent releases...

The latest n gauge releases are in the shops:

NFG003 Pickfords

NTCAB004 Met Demolition

NUT003-A Midland Red - correct livery

NSCA004 Knights of old - originally scheduled for release in 2015

NFG002 Milk Marketing



Adrian Hall of the UK Model Shop Directory now sends out a free UK Modelshops newsletter each Friday - details from his site or our chairman.

Alternatively, [please click here](#).

TRIP WORKINGS

The club was heavily involved with the arrangements for Super Sunday, with many members taking their own layouts to the event. The management of TWWTP have made a donation to the club and we hope to use this to help fund "Waterstock" appearing at TINGS in 2015.

TWWTP are planning another event on Sunday 15th February 2015 aimed at the start of half term. Please support this and other events mentioned in this newsletter.

2014 PROGRAMME

All meetings are held at Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall, Park Lane West, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8LD, On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in each month, from 2pm to 5pm.

Meeting dates for 2014: Confirmation pending.

January	3 rd	17 th	July	4 th	18 th
February	7 th	21 st	August	1 st	15 th
March	7 th	21 st	September	5 th	19 th
April	4 th	18 th	October	3 rd	17 th
May	2 nd	16 th	November	7 th	21 st
June	6 th	20 th	December	5 th AGM	19 th ?

Any changes to these dates will be notified on our website or in our (mostly) quarterly newsletter.

For more information, contact

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Email: westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

Please use the **rear entrance** to gain access to the church hall. If you are in doubt, please ring first, especially if you are travelling any distance.

TAIL LAMP by TB

Not So Silent Night

There is a Russian fable in which animals have the gift of speech at midnight on Christmas Eve. Last year I discovered that the same is true for model railways!

Not sleeping well, I went to make a drink and as I was passing my layout I heard quiet talking. A worker on the track was calling up to the signalman, "Eh Bobby, you've been at that window for four months. Get inside and pull your little levers?" He replied, "What's the use? No wires to the signals or rods to the turnouts! He works them all by magic." Another worker complained that his feet had been glued into the ballast for months, but the Stationmaster called down the platform, "What are you worried about? I'm older than you and we used to have our feet stuck in thick discs. They could move you about but it looked ridiculous." A lady on a nearby seat grumbled, "I wish someone would move me. I've been here since he put me here. My backside's gone to sleep."

From the autococh in the run-around a woman complained that she had been there for years and she "jolly well needed to 'go'," while the driver in the front cab wondered what his fireman was doing on the 0-4-2. "Fire will be out by now, I'm sure." At the platform the driver of the Prairie tank coupled to the B-set moaned, "Stuck here, instead of back at t' depot. Ash pan not dropped and no hope of enough coal to get back. What a railway!" In the B-set more passengers, also glued to their seats, complained about having been backwards and forwards to the fiddle yard without any chance of getting out. A truck murmured, "I've been in and out of these sidings seventeen times and never had the load looked at or emptied. Why am I just coming and going, always the same?" A low loader growled, "You've hardly anything in you. Look at this heavy road roller; it's been on me since he put me on the rails. I've never been moved; it's too tricky a shunting move to get me out of this corner, so here I stay."

Just then a rail creaked saying, "Why can't he put a bit of glue and some ballast chippings where he soldered wires onto me. Makes the place really untidy with bits of red and blue plastic showing". While a turnout blade said, "He's spent hours looking for faults in his electrics. Can't he see that slapping rust paint on us makes contact difficult?" A ground signal said, "My control wire came off six months ago! He's never replaced it. He thinks nobody will notice locos passing me when I'm



'on'." "Talking of locos" broke in the 0-4-2, "did you see that new one he tried the other day? Just out of the box and on to the rails. Nice and shiny, but he didn't make it like he made us". "Yes", the Station Master added, "That's the way it is now, ready-to-run they calls it. All very accurate I'm sure, but too squeaky clean and no effort."

Two new private owner wagons, shining in their printed livery chimed in, "We feel so out of place because you all look dirty like real railway vehicles, we just look new."

Then there was a general outbreak of shouting from the coach passengers stuck to their seats. I looked at my glass. I had sipped away all of the brandy, so I went back to bed, with a list of all the things that I had never got round to. Here was my New Year resolution.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Chairman or indeed any individual club member. On the other hand - they might. May also contain nuts.

DISTANT SIGNALS

**STAFFORD
MODEL RAILWAY
EXHIBITION**

2015

**FREE BUS SERVICE
FROM RAILWAY
STATION**
TIMETABLE ON WEBSITE

Saturday 31st Jan (10am to 5pm)
Sunday 1st Feb (10am to 4.30pm)

Stafford County Showground
ST18 0BD - Situated on the A518, 3 miles East of Stafford Town Centre

Adults £9
Accompanied Children just £1
Even BIGGER Than last Year
40 plus layouts - 45 plus trade stands - larger refreshment area

Extended FREE Parking
www.staffordrailwaycircle.org.uk/exhibition



The 40th Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Exhibition

Sat 7th - Sun 8th March 2015

VENUE - Hall 2, Stoneleigh Park Exhibition & Conference Centre
OPENING TIMES: SATURDAY 10am to 5pm, SUNDAY 10am to 4pm
ADMISSION: Adult £7, Concessions £6, Children £4, Family (2+2) £18

INCLUDING: Working layouts in many scales, extensive range of trade support & refreshments all in one hall.

PLUS: FREE PARKING & FREE PROGRAMME (while stocks last)