

Introducing the NOGGies

Hello to all other groups and members from the newly formed Northampton O gauge group. We are part of the Northampton and District Model Railway Club and at our last AGM a proposal to form the group was unanimously approved.

We are the largest single gauge interest in the club and as such have three loops of finescale O of the six on the club test track. The test track is a large 24' x 20' multi-sectioned affair with minimum nine foot radii to enable all locos and stock to run. It also caters for the OO gauge modeller and has one loop of G scale track which the club intend to lay an oval of N gauge line.

We've had an interesting year using four different venues. Our meeting place in the Camp Hill Community Centre was replaced with a newer version right next door last April and then at the end of the year, the club was contacted by the Borough Council because a former location we'd previously used, but had to vacate along with all other users had been rebuilt and would be ready for occupation. Were we interested in going back; we certainly were when we saw how much storage space was available. This has been a long-standing problem for the club, and I would imagine to lots of others too. We duly gave notice and moved in for the first time in early January. However, that wasn't the end of it, as the new building had many 'snags' which needed to be corrected before the Council would approve its use. Our Chairman came up with a quick fix that we could use whilst the building is put right; something for which we have no date currently, but though we cannot erect the test track, on the plus side, we are all digging out long forgotten kits and being very industrious in their construction; something we don't do as much of when the easy alternative is to watch something clattering around.

Last November, we had a very successful open day and this year it has given us the impetus to go for a full blown exhibition which will be at the Northamptonshire County Cricket Club (Wantage Road side) on Saturday November 24th. The cricket club is well signposted from all over the town and outskirts. So if you fancy a day out, why not come and visit us and see what progress has been made on the new club O gauge layout? This is a project we've had in mind for sometime now, but has had to be put on the back burner for a while because of the upheavals described earlier.

Whilst the Noggies may be in their first year, the club of which we are a part has recently celebrated 50 years young and by the time you read this we should have our own website.

Finally, I guess we ought to say thanks to the Sheffield O gauge group for the inspiration behind our nickname; thanks guys!

STEPHEN LLOYD.