

Hello again from me, plus the usual greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. Well, I suppose the number one item is the July exhibition result. I'm very pleased to report that we did fantastically well. We made a profit for the first time in recent years, clearing over £900, though that may be reduced a little as there are some bills still to come in. Nevertheless, we are all delighted and have planned the 2011 exhibition for the same weekend, which will be Saturday 23rd July at the Weston Favell School venue again. Some of the other numbers were: over 500 people attended. There were 25 layouts with one making its exhibition debut and a dozen traders; one of them took more than £1,600 and all want to attend next year too. The planning process has now started rolling forward.

At our AGM in August, there were several committee changes. Ralph decided not to stand again as Chairman and this position was taken by Les. The club thanked Ralph for his five years as chair and he continues to be a valuable club member and NOGGie. Chris decided that two jobs was one too many and chose to remain as Treasurer whilst relinquishing his role as Exhibition Manager, which I've taken over after there were no other volunteers. So my Secretary position is now in the hands of Richard who isn't a NOGGie, but a double O-er. There were a couple of other non executive positions that swapped post holders.

During August, several members went over to Lavendon to install the two new loops and the opportunity was taken to replace one of the controllers which was found to have exposed asbestos behind the control knob. The work which included continuity testing of both circuits went well, and several poor bonds were found and rectified, though one of the R/H points I'd donated was unable to be used because it was found to be made of flat-bottomed rail which was incompatible with the rest of the track which was all bull head profile. After the first work day Roger went home and examined his second-hand collection and found a pair which we then installed the following Saturday. We now have two loops upon which we can set up stock while trains continue to run which makes operating it a lot less frantic. O gauge with screw coupling isn't something most of us can set up quickly; thankfully now we don't have to. Sunday 12th of September was the first open day when visitors to the centre would have been able to experience a more seamless train running experience. I'm still waiting for my chance to test it all out as I was on holiday and said date. However, fingers crossed for Sunday 10th October which is the last operating open day of the year apart from some Santa specials with the sit and ride section. During the improvements, we had to remove the ends of the makeshift platforms to get the track around them. This wasn't a big issue, as they were made from chipboard which had been out in the weather and had seen better days. We will get around to replacing them in the near future with something more durable.

After all the NOGGies missed last year's Telford show, we were all looking forward to getting there this year. Sadly, Chris had to pull out at very short notice in order to help fit out a shop, he and his girlfriend would be opening the following Saturday, but the rest of us went on one or other of the two days. I attended on the first day and attended Martyn Welch's weathering talk which I found of great interest as I'm doing a few light touches with Modelmates weathering dye, to some of my stock. I like those dyes as they can be applied in different ways for varying effects and are quite forgiving if you don't get it right. Just returning to Telford, we thought it was well organised and of a very good standard. We hope that one of the layouts on show there may well be at our exhibition next July.

Our club layout Kings Thorpe continues to make steady progress, though finding we were laying track two inches away from the correct back line the other week meant we had to lift and replace what we'd done. We have put the scissors crossover in and it looks rather splendid. Let's hope that when it comes to wiring it in the instructions supplied are accurate and comprehensive.

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